



**Geographical  
Association**

## **(UNCONFIRMED) MINUTES OF THE 2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the Geographical Association was held on Thursday 16 April 2009 at 3.15 pm at the Weston Hall, University of Manchester

**PRESENT:** Margaret Roberts, President (Chairing the meeting)  
Brian Ellis (Honorary Treasurer)  
Professor David Lambert (Chief Executive)  
45 other members signed the attendance register (see list appended to these Minutes)

Guest: Steve Brace (RGS-IBG)

In attendance: Frances Soar (GA Membership Services Manager, taking the Minutes)  
Alan Parkinson (GA Secondary Curriculum Leader)  
Ruth Totterdell (GA Publications and Journals Manager)

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Pat Cleverley, Mick Dawson, Sheila Jones, Sheila Morris

### **1 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Submitted: Minutes of the AGM held on 27 March 2008

The Minutes were taken as read and approved by the meeting, to be signed by the President as a true record.

### **2 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

There were no matters arising from the previous Annual General Meeting, other than those covered elsewhere on the agenda.

### **3 REPORTS**

Submitted: The Geographical Association *Detailed Annual Report* (Report of the Trustees) for the year ended 31 August 2008; *Annual Report Highlights 2007-08*

#### **(i) President**

The President, Margaret Roberts, thanked everyone who works for the Geographical Association: the GA's employees, especially Lucy Oxley (Events Manager); volunteers serving on GA committees and working groups; and other members who contribute through consultations and at the Annual Conference. Mrs Roberts commented on the cooperation between GA staff and volunteers. She recognised all the people who freely give an enormous amount of time to the GA. The Annual Conference, for example, depends on the members who run conference sessions. At the 2008 Conference in Guildford, with a record attendance of delegates, over half the Conference sessions were run by volunteers, including many GA members. Volunteers have also helped influence Government policy by contributing to the GA's responses to formal consultations, and have written GA publications including the current *KS3 Toolkit* series and individual publications such as Eleanor Rawling's *Planning your KS3 geography curriculum*. The Worldwide programme also depends on its volunteers. Mrs Roberts attended the GA's recent Worldwide Challenge weekend at Malham, one of two Worldwide Challenge weekends run by the Worldwide team this year. Members are crucial to

the GA, and although membership figures have been declining in recent years the good news is that the present membership is buoyant, lively and active. The GA would like all schools to be involved in the GA. Part of the current *Action Plan for Geography* is a joint exercise with the Royal Geographical Society to reach those schools who are not members of either the GA or the RGS-IBG. Within the GA, a 'Strategy' group set up by the GA Governing Body is looking at the future of the GA and what kind of organisation the GA will be. The membership will be consulted about this. For example, members attending the Annual Conference are being invited to complete a questionnaire about membership benefits. This was available on the GA exhibition stand and Mrs Roberts urged people at the AGM to encourage other delegates to complete and return it.

(ii) Chief Executive

The Chief Executive, David Lambert, drew attention to the Trustees' *Detailed Annual Report* for the year ended 31 August 2008 and the *Annual Report Highlights 2007-08* summary. Professor Lambert said that 2007-08 had been a very successful year for the GA, thanks to the leadership and commitment of volunteers and the GA's talented and hard working staff. He singled out Richard Gill, the GA's Business Manager. Without Richard's calm and collected approach, and his understanding of how to run a small business, the GA could not have achieved all it had during the year.

Professor Lambert referred to his own role, undertaken on a part time (0.5) basis since September 2007 when he also became Professor of Geography Education at the Institute of Education, University of London. This has been a very demanding situation, requiring adjustment with regard to the GA Chief Executive role, which now involves more strategic oversight and leadership. He thanked the GA staff for their support in this, especially John Lyon, GA Programme Director. Professor Lambert invited all present at the AGM to his inaugural professorial lecture at the Institute of Education on 23 June 2009, an occasion that would be a celebration of the strength of geography education.

The second phase of the DCSF funded *Action Plan for Geography* began in 2008, the GA and the RGS-IBG having been successful in bidding for funding through to 2011. The impact of the APG can now be seen in successful projects such as the Chartered Geographer and CPD (online and face-to-face). Overall impact will be measured in many different ways, and will be enhanced by other projects such as the GA's manifesto for geography and subject-based KS3 support funded through CfBT. It is acknowledged that the geography support, provided by the GA, has been second to none.

Other successes during the year included the relaunch of *Geography*, a significant development which is beginning to show results in the form of new subscribers. The new *Geography* is intended to contribute to the professional conversation between academic communities and the GA hopes that all members will want to add *Geography* to their subscriptions.

The GA's publications programme continues apace, with real progress made. New titles include *Caring for our World* and the *KS3 Toolkit* series. Professor Lambert thanked Alan Kinder for his work on the latter.

Gathering together the many ideas for *A Different View*, the GA's 'manifesto' for geography, had been hard work but would open up a conversation about geography in education. The manifesto was possible only because of the GA's strong financial position and its confidence in having something to say.

Looking ahead, Professor Lambert referred to the planning currently underway through the Governing Body's 'Strategy' group. The GA was planning for the period after the end of the *Action Plan for Geography*, and would need to respond to changes in the curriculum and in teachers' work, whilst holding on to the GA's core ideals.

Professor Lambert drew attention to the House of Commons Children, Schools and Families Committee Fourth Report (National Curriculum) published in March 2009. The GA's evidence to the Committee was published as part of the Report. Professor Lambert said that the Report was very interesting, with recommendations regarding ITT, CPD and curriculum design that reflect the GA's own position as stated in the Manifesto.

(iii) Honorary Treasurer

The Honorary Treasurer, Brian Ellis, introduced the financial statements from the GA's Trustees' *Detailed Annual Report* for the year ended 31 August 2008. He also tabled a summary paper *The Financial Year 2007-08* and a paper *GA Income Trends 2002-08*, drawing particular attention to the following points:

Over the years 2003 to 2007 the GA's trading account was in surplus, but this surplus will be needed to cover anticipated deficits in the coming year. Financial outcomes for the GA are very variable from year to year, and the Honorary Treasurer must ensure that members are aware of this.

The GA's annual turnover is now almost double that of 2002-03, and well over half of the current income (c. 58%) is 'project' income. This raises an important issue for the GA: project income is very volatile and the time spent bidding for project funding needs to be balanced against the time spent delivering projects.

The GA's target for investment income (excluding bank interest) each year is currently a minimum £20,000 (gross), which was achieved in 2007-08. The capital value of the GA's investment has been falling in recent years, but now appears to have 'bottomed out'. However, the GA's investments in shares are now only at their original purchase value. The Patrick Bailey bequest was invested in property shares, which have fallen to around half of their original value. The value of the GA's investments has fallen by c. £167,000 during the year under review.

The GA's reserves have doubled since 2002, which provides an essential cushion for years when the GA cannot make a trading surplus.

Membership figures have fallen over recent years, and may now be at their natural level.

The *Detailed Annual Report* was submitted to the GA Governing Body on 8 November 2008. The Governing Body made the following points:

- Membership subscription income is unlikely to increase, and it may be necessary to review the membership benefits offered as part of basic subscriptions.
- The GA's publications policy will be reviewed, ensuring that the GA takes account of what sells, what is good for the profession, and what format (electronic, print, etc) is appropriate for each product.
- Medium term strategies need to provide for the generation of new project income.

- Additional income streams may need to be created, possibly including sponsorship. Ideas for possible sources of funding would be welcomed.
- Future action plans must be prudent
- The GA's investment policy will be reviewed.
- The GA's reserves policy will be reviewed and will comply with Charity Commission advice

Finally, Mr Ellis paid tribute to Richard Gill, who prepares all the GA accounts and ensures that all GA income and expenditure is very carefully managed.

#### **4 ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2008**

Resolved: That the Geographical Association *Detailed Annual Report* (Report of the Trustees) for the year ended 31 August 2008 be adopted. (Prop: Brian Ellis, Sec: Peter Fox, carried *nem con*)

#### **5 SUBSCRIPTION RATES 2009-10**

In accordance with Statutes 4 and 20 (iii), subscription rates determined by the Governing Body on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2009 were submitted to the AGM for approval. The new rates (below) represented an increase of approximately 3.0% on the 2008-09 rates. The Governing Body determined that GA members paying their subscriptions by Direct Debit should be given a discount such that they pay the published 2008-09 rates.

	One Journal (Geog or TG)	Two Journals (Any two)	Three Journals (Geog + TG + PG)
Group	£81.00	£116.00	£139.00
Full	£57.00	£81.00	£105.00
Associate	£28.50	£40.50	£52.50

PG only (Group)	£36.50
PG only (Full Personal)	£34.50
PG only (Associate)	£28.50

Resolved: That the subscription rates for 2009-10 determined by the Governing Body be adopted. (Prop: Brian Ellis; Sec: Peter Fox, carried *nem con*)

#### **6 SPECIAL RESOLUTION**

The President reported that, under Standing Order 18, a formal review of the GA's Statutes & Standing Orders must be carried out at least every three years. The present Statutes and Standing Orders were approved in 2005 and last amended 2006. Following a formal review in 2008, the Governing Body had recommended the following amendments to the Statutes & Standing Orders, details of which had been issued to GA members with the notice of the Annual General Meeting.

##### **Statute 3**

**Section A, paragraph (ii)** After 'to receive one copy of the current issue of' Delete 'GA News' insert 'GA Magazine' After 'members' change 'area of the GA website' to 'areas of the GA websites'

**Section C, paragraph (ii)** After 'to receive one copy of the current issue of' Delete 'GA News' insert 'GA Magazine'

After 'members' areas of the GA' change 'website' to 'websites'

**Section C, paragraph (vii)** After 'to receive current issues of' Delete 'GA News' insert 'GA Magazine'

After 'members' areas of the GA' change 'website' to 'websites'

**Section E paragraph (ii)** After 'to receive one copy of the current issue of' Delete 'GA News' insert 'GA Magazine'

After 'members' areas of the GA' change 'website' to 'websites'

**Insert new Section F as follows:**

F Joint Membership Membership of the Geographical Association may be extended to members of other organisations under terms to be determined in each case by the Governing Body.

**Statute 5** After 'A, B, C, D' delete 'and E'. Insert ', E and F'

**Statute 6 B** After 'to elect up to' delete 'three'. Insert 'five'

**Statute 10**

Paragraph (iv) After 'the Honorary Editors of the journals and' Delete 'GA News' insert 'GA Magazine'

Paragraph (vii) Delete.

**Insert new Statute 26 as follows and re-number subsequent Statutes:**

Branch affiliation – 26 With the consent of the Governing Body, a Branch meeting the conditions set out in Statutes 23 and 25 may be affiliated to the Geographical Association and use the 'affiliated to the GA' logo.

**Standing Order 5**

Delete paragraph (ii) 'the Vice Chair' and re-number subsequent paragraphs

**Standing Order 6**

Paragraph (i) After 'Association' add 'and the list of Education Committee Phase Committees, Working Groups, Communication Boards and Working Parties'

Add new Paragraph (vi) the annual election of a Vice Chair, Education Committee, from the Education Committee membership, subject to the approval of the Governing Body.

**Standing Order 8**

**Section A**

Paragraph (i), second sentence. After 'Such Phase Committees' delete 'shall be'. Insert 'are currently'

Paragraph (iii) At the beginning, insert 'Chairs and'

**Section B**

Paragraph (i) After 'geographical interest, and these' delete 'shall be'. Insert 'are currently'.

Paragraph (a) Delete 'Field Studies'. Insert 'Learning Outside the Classroom'

Paragraph (c) Delete 'Environmental and Sustainable Development Education'. Insert 'Education for Sustainable Development'

Paragraph (f) Delete whole paragraph and re-number subsequent paragraphs

Paragraph (iii) At the beginning, insert 'Chairs and'

**Section C**

Paragraph (i) After 'at the disposal of the Association, and these' delete 'shall be'. Insert 'are currently'

Paragraph (d) Delete 'GA News'. Insert 'GA Magazine'.

Second sentence, insert at the beginning: 'Chairs and'

**Standing Order 11 B**

After 'The following Officers shall be elected' add 'by the general membership'

Paragraph (ii) Heading: after 'Chair' delete 'and Vice Chair' After 'The initial' change 'terms' into 'term'

The proposed amendments had been designed to achieve the following constitutional reforms:

- Update references to *GA News* now that the members' newsletter is established as *GA Magazine*
- Provide for joint membership arrangements with other organisations
- Update references to one GA 'website' to cover all GA websites
- Increase the possible number of Honorary Vice Presidents from 3 to 5
- Provide for (new or existing) local geography associations to be formally affiliated to the Geographical Association as GA Branches
- Make clear that the lists of Phase Committees, Working Groups and Communication Boards are 'current' rather than perpetual
- Provide for the Vice Chair of the Education Committee to be elected by and from fellow members of the Education Committee, rather than by and from the general membership
- Remove the separate officer post 'Chair of the Conference Board', which has proved redundant because the Senior Vice President/President has always served in this role.
- Make clear the role of the Education Committee in the appointment of Chairs for Phase Committees and Communication Boards

Resolved: That the GA's Statutes and Standing Orders be amended, subject to approval by the Charity Commission, as described in the attached paper. (Prop: Margaret Roberts; Sec: Jeremy Krause, carried *nem con*)

The President thanked Jeremy Krause for chairing the Governing Body working party set up to review the Statutes and Standing Orders.

## **7 INTRODUCTION OF PRESIDENT FOR 2009-10**

Margaret Roberts introduced the GA President for 2009-10, John Halocha, who takes over as GA President on 1 September 2009. Mrs Roberts said that she first met Mr Halocha on a cliff near Exeter, at a GTE Conference. His qualities of enthusiasm, commitment and ability to get really involved would ensure that he would be a good GA President. His career had included teaching geography at the King's Grammar School, Peterborough and deputy headships in two schools. He decided that a move into ITT would give him greater opportunity for influencing geography education. He began his career in teacher education at Westminster College Oxford, before moving to the School of Education at the University of Durham and then to his present post as Reader in Geography Education and Head of Geography at Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln. He has published three books on geographical education and primary education, as well as numerous chapters in books, journal articles and teaching materials. He is Honorary Secretary to the British Subcommittee of the International Geographical Union Commission on Geographical Education.

## **8 ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The President announced results of Officer elections as follows:

Chair, Education Committee 2009-12	Alan Kinder
Vice Chair, Education Committee 2009-12	Fred Martin
Elected Member of Governing Body 2009-12	Philip Maudsley (following a ballot)
Junior Vice President 2009-10 (to become Senior VP 2010-11, President 2011-12, Past President 2012-13)	Fran Martin (following a ballot)

## **9 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS FOR 2009-10**

PKF (UK) LLP were reappointed as Auditors for 2009-10 (Prop: Margaret Roberts; Sec: Brian Ellis, carried *nem con*).

## 10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Two new Branches had affiliated to the GA since the last AGM: East Hertfordshire and Chester. Plymouth Branch has folded.

(ii) It was noted with sadness that the following members had died since the last AGM: Graham Corney, May 08; Neville Grenyer, 1 May 08; Liz Essex-Cater, 23 May 08; Duncan Fuller, 3 Oct 08; John Pearson, 2 Dec 08; Marguerita Oughton, 26 Dec 08; Ronald Puddephatt, 14 Jan 09; Bernie Ashmore, 26 Jan 09

The President paid a particular tribute to Duncan Fuller, who had been a contributor to the 2008 GA Annual Conference.

## 11 VOTES OF THANKS

(i) The President noted with thanks the service to the GA given by the following people who would shortly be retiring from their present GA role:

Tina Horler (retiring from the Governing Body on 31 August 2009)

John Hopkin (retiring as Chair of the Education Committee on 31 August 2009, and taking up office as Senior Vice President on 1 September 2009)

John Davidson (retiring as Vice Chair of the Education Committee on 31 August 2009)

Rachel Bowles (retiring as Chair of the Early Years and Primary Phase Committee in May 2009)

Fran Martin (retiring as sole Editor of *Primary Geographer* on 31 August 2009 and taking up office as Junior Vice President on 1 September 2009)

Fran Royle (GA staff Publications and Conferences Manager, who had planned to retire in May 09 but who had agreed to continue working full time until January 2010 to help cover Anna Grandfield's maternity leave)

(ii) John Halocha thanked Margaret Roberts for her leadership as President during the year.

12. The President closed the meeting at 4.07 pm.

## MEMBERS SIGNING ATTENDANCE LIST AT THE GA AGM, 16 APRIL 2009

1. Lesley Warner
2. Maureen Weldon
3. Tina Horler
4. Sue Lomas
5. Ruth Potts
6. Bill Mead
7. Kate Russell
8. Paul Baker
9. Judith Mansell
10. Angus Willson
11. David Cooper
12. Neil Simmonds
13. John Hopkin
14. Julia Legg
15. Andrea Tapsfield
16. Kevin Cook

17. Peter Fox
18. Jeremy Krause
19. Alan Marvell
20. Sophie MacDowall
21. Emily Richardson
22. Mel Norman
23. Steve Rawlinson
24. Simon Catling
25. Niki Whitburn
26. John Halocha
27. John Lyon
28. Tom Biebrach
29. Bob Lang
30. David Rayner
31. Kathryn Stephenson
32. Rachel Bowles
33. Chris Kington
34. Justin Woolliscroft
35. Alan Kinder
36. Martin Shevill
37. John Davidson
38. Helen Martin
39. Sarah Haynes
40. John Westaway
41. Anthony Barlow
42. Paula Owens
43. Wendy North
44. Fran Martin
45. Paula Richardson