



Minutes of the 2023 Marlborough Brandt Group Annual General Meeting

Held via Zoom: 06/12/2023 at 6 PM

1. Welcome and Apologies

Alex Davies (AD) (Chair) welcomes the members of the Marlborough Brandt Group (MBG) who are present. The other Trustees present, James Busby (JB), and David Johnson (DJ) introduced themselves. Trustee Max Gajadharsingh (MG) sent his apologies (proxy vote given to AD).

Apologies were received from Nick Hunt and Rosemary Davies.

Other apologies were received from Tom Tuckwood at Venture Force.

2. Agreement of Agenda

The agenda was agreed, all in favour no abstentions.

3. Approval of last AGM Minutes

The previous AGM minutes were approved, all in favour, no abstentions, and signed.

Update on actions:

- AD has been to Gunjur following Covid restrictions and a report has been shared with Trustees and the Membership. <https://www.mbg.org/news>
- A new cheaper insurance provider has been secured more than halving this cost.
- OUTSTANDING: a formal strategy review has not been completed
- MG joined as a new Trustee and other people have been approached.

4. 2023 year in review

AD gave an update of the past year which will be covered in the 2023 MBG Annual Report.

In addition to ongoing grant making, there have been three group trips supported by MBG to Gunjur including a Summer Trip from St. John's School, Marlborough of 20 students, two teachers and two leaders from Venture Force.

Thanks to the work for MJ, MBG now has an excellent new website and AD confirmed that the documents and images from the old site have been downloaded and saved.

5. 2022 Annual Report

The 2022 MBG Annual Report was acknowledged by the AGM.

6. The 2022 Signed and Audited Accounts

The proposer for approval of the 2022 accounts: JB, seconded: MB, all in favour, no abstentions.

The 2022 accounts we approved.

AD confirmed that MBG remains in a stable financial position in line with its long-term strategy. This year MBG distributed more funds than it brought in, the spending was in line with the published grant making strategy in the Annual Report.

7. Position of Trustees

Re-election (as longest serving Trustee) – Alex Davie (Chair)

Was duly re-elected as Chair as proposed by JB and seconded by DJ, all in favour, no abstentions.

Re-election – James Busby

Was duly re-elected a Trustee as proposed by DJ and seconded by AD, all in favour, no abstentions.

AD confirmed that another Trustee re-election would happen in the 2024 AGM in line with the MBG Charity Guidance Document.

8. Trustees Standing Down

DJ, having been a Trustee for four years said he was no longer able to give the time that is appropriate and would stand down. DJ confirmed he would stay on until a replacement Trustee is found and will review in six months' time. AD thanked DJ for his support for MBG as a Trustee and as a past TARUD volunteer and group leader.

MG has taken a role overseas and asks to take on a silent Trustee role for a year and will review this position in a year's time at the next AGM. His proxy vote, if needed, is passed to the Chair. AD thanked MG for his support this year, especially in building a new website from MBG.

The Trustees discussed possible replacement candidates.

[An action for all trustees to reach out to contacts, past volunteers, and leaders to secure new trustees in the next six months.](#)

9. Strategy Review

The Trustees discussed the existing MBG strategy.

It was agreed that a strategy review needs to be held, a carried over action from last year. All trustees to reach out to external contacts who do not have a history with MBG and could facilitate a review.

AD confirmed that charity can exist in its current state for another 10 years.

The trustees discussed the gradually changed nature of youth trips from volunteer led, home stay, one month summer trips to now teacher and external leader led, based in the community centre for two weeks which, due to summer flights now costing over £1,000 will need to another time of the year. The trips certainly remain more impactful and high quality than similar trips on offer for young people, which are now ubiquitous, but is the level of cultural impact achieved appropriate to the cost and effort, though the direct cost to MBG is low.

There is also a desire to recognise the carbon impact of flights to The Gambia, the value of TARUD and Gunjur Project as project co-ordinators on the ground in Gunjur and consideration of opportunity cost of what the money we have is spent on.

All acknowledged that the past six years, especially with the support MBG was able to give during the Covid pandemic, was of high impact and certainly evidenced the ongoing value of the charity.

10. Questions and Any Other Business

None.