

## **British Focusing Association AGM 11th May 2025**

**In attendance:** See screenshot

**Apologies:** Amona Buechler, Locana, Collette Cameron, Peter Afford, Lucy Hyde, Naomi Silverly Isla Macdonald, Sarah Hadfield.

### **Last AGM**

The minutes of the last AGM meeting were agreed and there were no matters arising

### **Officer reports on the last year**

No comments or questions - just thanks to the officers for the excellent reports

### **Election of officers**

The following all agreed and thanked for their willingness to stand for another year:

**Membership secretary:** Sarah Paul is continuing in the role

**Website admin:** Claire Wyatt is continuing as is the support team

**Webmaster:** Atulya is continuing in that role

**Sofa people:** Fiona is resigning, Celia is standing until the end of 2025 supported by Marion Winslow, Fiona, Lisa Blaine, Helen Bower and Locana. In January 2026 Locana and Collette will become sofa people. Peter Afford has also volunteered to be a back-up person.

Fiona was thanked for her work on the sofa.

**Summer school** organising is going well but 40 more tickets need to be sold to get to break even - so please everyone talk to people about it - there are lots of resources that people can email to others. Peter (Gill) will send these out to the whole membership

Gordon does a great job with the **newsletter** when he is able. At the moment he is not well so the newsletter is on hold. When he is working on the newsletter he needs help. Susan Jordan offered to help.

### **Subscription fee**

Membership fee: After a full discussion it was agreed to increase the membership fee to £60. People who cannot afford the £60 will be given the opportunity to pay what they can - this could be achieved through a coupon code.

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### **Listing fee**

It was agreed to trial an additional £30 website listing fee for a one year period. This fee will be requested from all who want to be listed at the same time of year (eg April). Everyone's profile will stay live whether they pay or not. Next year BFA will consider whether to take down listing for those who haven't paid.

There was a discussion on whether further consultation was needed on the proposal for a listing fee - it was decided that, because it is voluntary and a trial, that isn't needed.

Some people value having their name on the BFA website as a means of validating their qualification - even though they are not actively offering focusing services at this point in time. Perhaps a simple list of names on the website (without location, contact details, photo or outline of services offered and specialisms) could meet that need (without attracting a listing fee). It was agreed to consider this possibility in a year's time when the listing fee trial is being reviewed.

### **Treasurer**

Agreed to pay a treasurer £20-£25 per hour (depending on experience) up to a maximum of £750. They will be supported/overseen by Peter Afford. (someone to double check with Peter that this is ok with him). If they want to spend some of the £750 on a book-keeper, that would be up to them. In addition BFA will pay for an accounting software package, if the treasurer feels that would be helpful.

It was agreed that it was necessary to have someone else who is a bank signatory and can make payments. Perhaps this could be Peter Afford.

To recruitment, BFA will put this out to membership first, second to people known by the membership and thirdly more widely.

Much thanks to Greg/Ceri for all his work as treasurer last year - including his contribution to the events. In addition Fiona will write a letter of thanks and a gift voucher for £100.

### **Complaints**

Susan Jordan will put together a working group on this topic that will take forward work already done, outline issues and present written proposals for discussion. This will report back to the membership via email in three months' time.

### **Community Platform**

Helen proposed introducing a community platform that could be used by various different groups (eg website, events). It could include a group for non members.

An example of a platform is 'Circle'. This would replace the Gaggles Group.

Harriet, Celia, Paula and possibly Marion will join Helen in exploring this further. Helen will also put a message out on Gaggles inviting others to take part.

### **Skills directory**

Helen will create a google form to pull together information about members skills. Perhaps Naomi might help.

### **Events Organiser**

No one has come forward to be an events organiser - but there are people who are willing to organise individual events. Decision was taken not to pursue trying to find an Events Organiser.

Helen has created a guidance document for events organisers on pricing an honorarium payments.

Suggestion to have a meeting on the last day of the summer school of people who are interested in organising future events. Paula Charnley, and Ella Higgs have already offered to join the group.

Organising next year's BFA annual gathering - we need someone to do that, so that it doesn't fall on the sofa people. Marion Winslow is checking out a possible venue.

**Date of Next Annual General Meeting – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026.**