UNITED KINGDOM EVALUATION SOCIETY

2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

13:00 – 14:00

4 June 2020

Via Zoom Teleconference

**Chair : Dr Tim Chadborn, UK Evaluation Society President**

Present: Directors - Tim Chadborn (President), Bridget Dillon (Vice President), Julian Barr (Immediate Past President), Tracey Wond (Treasurer), Andrew Berry (Secretary). Council Members - Rebecca Adler, Matthew Baumann, Bev Bishop, George Bramley, Emma Gibbard, Matthew Hill, Tarran Macmillan, Jessica Ozan, Steve Powell, Sergio Salis, Matthew Terry, Pete Welsh

Apologies: Natalia Chivite-Matthews, Meera Craston, David Drabble, Colin Jacobs, Murray Saunders, Helen Simons

1. **Welcome**

Dr Tim Chadborn, Chair, welcomed everyone to the AGM

1. **Minutes of 2019 AGM**

The minutes were agreed as a true record of proceedings.

Proposed by : Matthew Terry

Seconded by : Julian Barr

The proposal was unanimously carried.

1. **Matters arising from Minutes of 2019 AGM**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting.

1. **President’s Report for 2019**

The President presented a report of the Society’s activities during 2019, highlighting points under the following headings :

Response to COVID-19

* COVID-19 had disarrayed plans but driven innovation
* Conference had been postponed to 26-27 May 2021 – carrying over theme, speakers, and some of abstracts
* Council Members have done a great job in enabling Community and content by way of webinars, training, journal club and other events
* Membership is stable
* Finances in order despite being affected by COVID

Celebrating success of 2018/2019

* KPI’s in 2016-19 Business Plan : Finance; Membership; Professional Development; Consultation and Comms
* Technology : fit-for-future website; membership platform; banking; Digital Evaluator Magazine
* Personalisation : have consulted widely and listened a lot, now need to speed up action on members views
* VEPR becoming established
* Society Administrator in place
* Developing links with civil service organisations and the third sector
* Improved quality and number of conference abstracts and more success with sponsorship
* Grown more of a UK focus, less driven by international developments
* Advised on Magenta Book
* Larger Council and more active Council Members

Looking forward

* Interim Business Plan, longer-term business plan will be developed through 2020
* Mission and offer
* Sustainable finances
* Smart governance and management – efficient and participatory processes
* Council Meetings 14 July and 13 October, and Council Elections autumn 2020
* Conference 2021
* Focus on value for members and impact/Community and content are King !
* A more active Society requires more active management and direction, which requires more person-time and funds

Dr Tim Chadborn voiced his appreciation for inheriting the Society in a good place, and wished to thank his fellow Directors, Society Administrator, Council Members and Council Convenors for all their hard work in contributing to the success of UK Evaluation Society.

1. **Treasurer’s Report for 2019**

Dr Tracey Wond presented a report outlining the current financial position of the Society, highlighting that the breakdown of income in 2019 was as follows :

Membership £23,380

Conference £68,538

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Total Income £91,918

The overall expenditure for 2019 was £88,570, therefore giving a small profit of £3,352, which is better than the previous year. A breakdown of expenditure showed significant investment in Society enhancements – the website; moving The Evaluator Journal to digital format; Go Membership platform; and new administrative arrangements; which were planned expenses.

A financial overview of the 2019 Conference showed a healthy surplus of £14,961.

It was noted that finances are still fragile and need to be carefully monitored.

It was further noted that The Society’s accounts were available on the website.

It was proposed by Andrew Berry, and Seconded by Bev Bishop that the Accounts be formally adopted.

1. **Secretary’s Report for 2019**

Results of 2020-21 Council Elections

Andrew Berry reported on the results of elections. There were 9 vacancies:

7 council members whose term of office had ended

1 resignation

1 co-opted member resignation

All 9 Council Members were elected unopposed

3 co-opted members were renewed

Andrew identified members who held positions as Directors and Council Members.

1. **Working Group Updates**

A MEMBERSHIP GROUP

Rebecca Adler gave an update from the Membership Working Group and reported that whilst the Society had roughly the same number of paying members, this year the count included members who are part of institutions. The new Go Membership platform allows these members to be separately identified.

A major activity of the Council has been transitioning to the new way of managing the membership. It has enabled Council to be closer to the membership as it supports easier membership management, communication with the entire membership and event management. Feedback is welcomed as work continues on exploring its functionality and usability and the Society is still in the process of figuring out how this platform can best support the organisation.

A membership pack which is updated every 6 months has been put together and going forward it is hoped to use Go Membership and the Membership group to have more regular contact with society members to understand different needs to help shape UK Evaluation Society activities

B EARLY CAREER EVALUATORS GROUP

Tarran Macmillan advised this group was launched at Conference 2019, aiming to bring together members from across sectors in terms of thinking about the support new evaluators required, specifically from UK Evaluation Society.

It currently comprises a small number of UKES members from across academic, government, private consultancy and charity sector evaluation roles. The membership has increased from 4 to 11 members, and continues to grow. The group has met 5 times and delivered an initial webinar “Navigating the evaluator/project team relationship and the evaluators role in keeping an objective, unbiased position when carrying out internal evaluations”.

Going forward the group will advise the UK Evaluation Society Council regarding the needs of early career evaluators and link in more closely with the Young Evaluator of the Year Award.

C THE EVALUATOR AND OTHER CHANNELS

Andrew Berry reported that The Society has some great platforms already to build upon.

The Evaluator is a long-standing established benefit for the membership, the third edition in the new format on “Ethics” will be published shortly which includes articles on : Evaluation ethics and children; Literature on Evaluation; Ethical dilemmas; UK Evaluation Society Ethical guidelines; Why evaluation should be submitted to the ethics committee. The Society also has e-newsletters; website blogs; LinkedIn group; Twitter; Youtube, recordings from events hosted; Evaluation Journal.

If there is any interest in sharing content, please get in touch with Andrew Berry, Bev Bishop or Sharon Scotcher at hello@evaluation.org.uk.

Dr Tim Chadborn expressed The Society’s appreciation to Bev Bishop who does a great job editing The Evaluator, and Andrew Berry for doing sterling work on the digital front of the Society.

D VOLUNTARY EVALUATOR PEER REVIEW (VEPR)

Matthew Terry took over last year as Co-ordinator, and explained VEPR is a review process which involves reflective practice to support individuals through their professional development.

The original intention was for the next round of VEPR to run in the lead up to Conference and for certificates to be awarded at that time. Applications have been slow to come through undoubtedly due to the Coronavirus situation, so the application window has been left open at this time. However, 3 applications have been received and they are about to start the review process. Applications will be accepted as and when they are received so Matthew encouraged members to continue to promote VEPR through normal networks.

There has been a lot of interest in individuals becoming reviewers but given the slow up-take of applicants Matthew has not progressed these.

Matthew was appreciative of Bridget Dillon’s insight into how peer reviews and professional development processes work in other Societies, and is now in touch with Mark McGuire who runs the VEPR process for the European Evaluation Society.

Dr Tim Chadborn encouraged Council Members to promote this and participate as an example to the membership.

E ONLINE JOURNAL CLUB

George Bramley talked through the pilot process of 6 sessions over the summer and the autumn at lunchtime, a new format to share learning amongst Society members. Other time slots will also be considered, American authors’ contributions are likely to be held mid-afternoon. It is open to members and authors (who are not necessarily members).

6 authors of journal articles have been invited to make presentations and put forward questions they would like to discuss. A variety of formats are being explored, the first one is to be held on 17th June, Kathryn Oliver will present some slides outlining the content of her paper “Evaluating unintended consequences: New insights into solving practical, ethical and political challenges of evaluation”. Other authors who have agreed to participate are : Valerie Pattyn; Andrew Koleros; Cheryl K Baldwin; Barbara Befani

There is also an option for members to put forward a paper which has been influential in their evaluation practice.

Dr Tim Chadborn noted this was a great innovation, and commented how fantastic and unusual it was to get an author coming along to a book club!

F LEARNING EVENTS

Bridget Dillon advised that the Society were endeavouring to increase the number and variation in format of learning events:

Webinars – The Society is open to suggestions for good speakers and interesting topics; and also to other disciplines who are also engaged in evaluative thinking but perhaps don’t self-identify as evaluation individuals.

The Next webinar is on 9th July “Kids Rule OK !”

Masterclasses – from September onwards. The Society is embarking on a partnership with CECAN, there will be sessions all day, first one is likely to be on Process Tracing, another on QCA, and the third one on Bayesian Update by Barbara Befani

Panel Discussions – a number of people have made suggestions for this year’s conference which will be followed up, all ideas welcomed.

In conversation with …. Somebody who is a hugely experienced evaluator, or a well-known personality who has engaged or has engagement with evaluation

The Society is very happy to consider many and varied formats and to see which ones are favoured. Some will undoubtedly be more suited to smaller, membership groups, others for attracting a wider audience.

Evaluators’ WeBiBar **–** A pilot which is being hosted 5-6 pm generally on a Thursday, once a month. There have been two successful ones already, on “Communicating Truth to Power” and “Learning from Failure”, it is an informal space which is lightly moderated to encourage an exchange of experiences. Bridget set out the format these WeBiBar sessions take.

Coming up on 30th June – Evaluation Quiz (with a twist), and future topics “Trials and tribulations of managing an evaluation” and “Evaluating Influence”.

These are for members only in part because The Society wishes to make some offerings very clear for members and partly because the numbers need to be manageable however this could be made available to a wider audience at a future date.

Dr Tim Chadborn thanked Bridget for the tremendous enthusiasm and energy she was devoting to these events.

The Chair offered the opportunity for any questions and comments – none were put forward.

The Chair proposed a vote of thanks to all members of the Council who were contributing in so many ways to the success of the UK Evaluation Society, which now has a strong foundation for the future.

1. **Any Other Business**

As there was no other business the Chair closed the meeting.