

Paper Industry Technical Association

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Dear Member,

Notice is hereby given that the:

18th Annual General Meeting of the **Paper Industry Technical Association (PITA)**,
(a Company Limited by Guarantee (*Company Number: 04300838*)
& a Registered Charity (*Charity Number: 1093335*))
will be held Virtually

on

Friday, 11th December 2020 commencing at 12.00 hours

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AGENDA

- 1) Apologies for Absence
- 2) Approval of Minutes of the 17th Annual General Meeting
- 3) Chairman's Report
- 4) Adoption of Chairman's Report and presentation of Accounts to 31st December 2019
- 5) Election of Directors
 - a) Election of National Chairman
 - b) Election of Deputy Chairman
 - c) Re-Election of Financial Director
- 6) Appointment of Accountants
- 7) Any Other Business



2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held online, Friday, 11th December 2020, 12.05 hrs

MINUTES

1. Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

2. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting (5th December 2019 at Vernacare, Bolton) were distributed to Members prior to the meeting. Voting for approval:

Proposed by Daven Chamberlain Seconded by Graham Moore No objections

3. Adoption of Chairman's Report & Accounts for 2019

Mr. John Kirby, the National Chairman, read his report to the meeting, a copy of which will be reproduced in the 2020/2021 PITA Annual Review.

Mr. Stephen Hutt then commented upon the Accounts for 2019.

Voting for adoption of both reports:

Proposed by Stephen Hutt Seconded by Tim Klemz No objections

4. Election of Directors

Mr. Barry Read proposed block re-election of all existing officers, en masse, due to the unprecedented circumstances created by COVID-19 and to ensure business continuity.

Mr. John Kirby (as National Chairman)

Mr. Tim Klemz

Dr. Graham Moore (as Immediate Past Chairman)

Mr. Martin Wroe

Mr. Stephen Hutt (as Financial Director)

Proposed by Barry Read Seconded by Daven Chamberlain No objections

5. Re-Appointment of Auditors

Mr. Barry Read recommended Horsfield and Smith continue as Auditors for the Association.

Proposed by Barry Read Seconded by Martin Wroe No objections

6. Any Other Business

There being no other business to report or discuss, the meeting closed at 12.23hrs.

Daven Chamberlain
11 December 2020

No one would have believed that the twentieth year of the second millennium would be a year of such unprecedented change in nearly every area of life. The concept of 'Social Distancing' and 'bubbles' were introduced into everyday conversation as families, friends and co-workers were separated by the 'SARS-CoV-2' virus which arrived in the UK towards the end of January and has subsequently had a profound effect on the way we live our lives, go about our business and travel, both nationally and internationally. It is an immense relief that as we gather today, the first viable vaccines to arrest this terrible plague are starting to be circulated and those most vulnerable are being vaccinated.

In the face of such unprecedented change, your Association has resolutely continued to do what it is good at and, although the obstacles have been 'challenging', the PITA Office Team has carried on undaunted to prepare for more rewarding days. As National Chairman, I would like to publicly thank Helen, Daven and Barry for the resilience they have shown during 2020 on behalf of all of PITA's Board of Directors.

For PITA, one of the biggest disappointments was that Covid-19 restrictions marred our centenary year and we were unable to mark the momentous year with a special conference and share the celebrations with our members. One hundred years of serving members is certainly something not to be forgotten and I am sure that as soon as conditions permit we will find a way to share the members and look forward to the next century.

When I sat down to prepare this year's report, I decided to look again at our vision for the association which is

“The Dissemination of Information and Research for the Benefit of the Paper Industry and Associated Industry's at large, to the General Public (in particular Younger People) through Training Courses, Seminars, Conferences, and The Journal Paper Technology”

I asked myself if the statement is to be relevant for our association today and, if so, what are we doing to achieve results through our activities?

Whilst much can be learnt from our historical experiences, constant looking back can have a negative effect in the face of fear of failure, change can be resisted and in today's unprecedented climate overtake us as we seek to adapt to the new needs of our members.

I am pleased to say that this has not been the case with your Association and throughout all this time your association has quietly gone about its business, working to minimise operating costs, working even harder to prevent a serious erosion of Association funds and, perhaps most importantly, underpinning the confidence in the future of Papermaking in the UK, Europe and even further afield.

It is fair to say that not every member of the Board of Directors shared the belief that PITA could lead an international research and development project to explore the benefits of 'Digitally Twinning' a modern paper machine to reduce Steam Consumption and, hence, production costs. Yet, here we are nearly twelve months into a three-quarter of a million-pound project (twelve months made all the more challenging by the ever-present virus), with a team of technicians spanning industrial, international and generational borders doing just that. PITA

is no longer merely disseminating information and research, your Association is proactively contributing to that pool of information.

In 2020's financial performance, we can already see the benefit of diversifying our activities, albeit lessened by the distress caused by Covid-19. Your Association will be proactively seeking out future opportunities for collaborative R&D projects and where necessary will increase our resources as more projects are identified and secured.

Less anybody believes otherwise, let me assure you that this work is arduous and time consuming, but innovation is totally in keeping with PITA's Mission Statement and has the potential to provide a genuine benefit to our industry.

We should not forget PITA's 'traditional' activities and in, 2020, we have:

1. Published seven magazines, containing over 550 pages packed with the latest technology, news and developments in the industry continues to punch well above its weight internationally. Paper Technology plays a vital role in communicating with our members and through paid subscriptions contributes to the finances of the Association using the medium which is at the centre of everything we do i.e. Paper!
2. Published twenty-three Newsletters, packed with local news and shorter articles relevant to our membership, including over eighty health and wellbeing articles to help members through the lockdown.
3. Over one hundred industry related news stories have featured on the PITA website and we have supported the efforts of our Corporate Members by highlighting their activities.
4. Corporate Membership of the Association has increased as organisations recognise the importance of PITA as a conduit to market.
5. We have started and will continue to transition our training offering to an online digital format, which has already widened the audience significantly (our last course was joined by delegates from France and Belgium).

Over the past few years, we have seen associations similar to PITA fall by the wayside and be lost forever, whereas our small office team has responded to the challenges, developed solutions and kept life in the Association, whilst moving into a virtual workplace and embracing the Digital Revolution

I hope that by the conclusion of this AGM you will appreciate the efforts of the Board of Directors and small team in the PITA (Virtual) Office who have answered to call to address the numerous challenges that have been presented and strengthened the business as we move into the next one hundred years.

I can only conclude this report by reiterating my praise for the individuals involved in PITA, their enthusiasm and innovative thinking, by thanking you, our members, who continue to believe in and support the principles that PITA stands for, by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and looking forward to the New Year and the inevitable return to normality.

Thank You

John Kirby (PITA National Chairman)