

## AIACE-UK AGM 27 April 2022

### Unforeseen Circumstances

Dear Members,

I am sorry to have to inform you that our speaker for the AGM next week, Michael Clarke, former Director of the Royal United Services Institute, has had to withdraw for compelling personal reasons. He has kindly offered to address us at a later date and we will invite him to do so at a future General Meeting.

However, and despite the short notice I am delighted that our Committee member David Harley has volunteered to address us on the pertinent theme “In dark times, what can be done to resist the abuse of political power?”.

David worked for the European Parliament for 35 years in various posts including Spokesman, Director of Press and Media and Deputy Secretary General of the Parliament. His book “Matters of record – Inside European Politics” was published last year and reviewed in AIACE’s VOX magazine.

The AGM will open at 10h30 with David’s presentation which we hope will give rise to a lively discussion. After a short break at about 11h45 we will start the business meeting.

### **Committee Election**

As you are aware, one of the most important tasks of the AGM is for the membership to elect a committee to steer the work of the branch for the coming year. For the past two years the pandemic has disrupted this process and indeed our 2020 AGM, scheduled to be held in Newcastle was cancelled altogether. Last year we met on the Zoom platform and this year we are doing the same.

In each of the last two years by the deadline fixed for submitting candidatures exactly twelve candidates had applied for the twelve posts available. This meant that contested elections were unnecessary and the list of candidates (including members of the outgoing committees who had indicated their willingness to continue) was approved by the 2021 meeting on a show of hands as allowed by Article 12 of our Constitution.

This year two members of the 2021 committee are standing down and, by the deadline for candidatures, thirteen candidates had come forward including ten members of the outgoing committee standing for renewal. Unless one of the candidates stands down, this therefore entails a contested election as envisaged by the second paragraph of Article 15 of the Constitution.

That paragraph provides that “In the event of a contested election the members of the Committee shall be elected by a *secret ballot* of members *present at the AGM*” (emphasis added).

After careful consideration the committee has decided, with regret, that those conditions cannot be met at the forthcoming virtual meeting. First, the words “*present at the AGM*”, given their

ordinary meaning, must be interpreted as referring to physical presence and not “virtual presence via a meeting platform”. This is supported by the Charities Commission guidance which provides that important decisions should not be made by electronic vote unless the organisation’s governing document expressly allows this.

Secondly, a satisfactory secret ballot could not be organised over Zoom as it at present stands. The voting system allows for choices to be made between only ten options and, furthermore, it is not a secure system (for example there is no way to ensure that each participant votes only once and does not use multiple devices to access the meeting).

If one of the candidates *does* decide to stand down, we will submit the remaining twelve candidates to the approval of the meeting by the same procedure as last year, i.e. a show of hands. This would, we submit, provide certainty and ensure the successful continuation of the work of our branch for the coming year.

In the alternative, we would ask the meeting to approve the continuation of the committee in its present composition (i.e. the ten candidates for renewal and the two co-opted members) until the next general meeting which will hopefully be in the Autumn and in person allowing a normal election by secret ballot to take place if necessary.

In the meantime, the Committee will prepare proposals to amend our Constitution to take account of the possibilities offered by virtual meetings and in other respects (Article 13).

I look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to the meeting.

Best regards,

Tom Kennedy  
Chairman, AIACE-UK

## AIACE AGM 2022, 27 April

The meeting will be held by Zoom – please use the link below

### AGENDA

10h30 – Presentation by David Harley, “In dark times, what can be done to resist the abuse of political power?”

11h45 – AGM Business

1. Apologies for absence
2. Outgoing Committee’s report (sent by email or post)
3. Election of new Committee – see list of nominations below
4. JSIS matters
5. Questions and issues from the members
6. Any Other Business

### Item 3 – List of nominated candidates for the National Committee

<i>Nominee</i>	<i>Role in AIACE</i>	<i>Proposer*</i>
Andersen, Pernille	Coopted to National Committee, Pensions Ambassador	Martin Clegg
Claxton, John	Committee member, Connect coordinator	Brian Porro
Clegg, Martin	Committee member, Pensions ambassador, AIACE International Bureau member	Belinda Pyke
Cornelius, Jane	Committee member, Membership Secretary	Melanie Leivers
Hocken, Michael	Committee member, JSIS ambassador, AIACE International Bureau member	Martin Clegg
Hull, Robert	Vice Chairman of Committee, delegate to AIACE International	Michael Hocken
Huyton, Alan	Committee Secretary, Webmaster/Email /Zoom coordinator, Scotland group convenor	Grant Lawrence
Kennedy, Tom	Chairman of Committee, delegate to AIACE International	Robert Hull
Mayorcas, Pamela	Convenor London and Sussex groups	Maria Bottono
Porro, Brian	Committee member, JSIS IT helpdesk	Alan Huyton
Pyke, Belinda	Committee member, Vox coordinator, delegate to AIACE International	John Wiggins
Savoia, Emanuela	Coopted to Committee, Membership Secretary	Jane Cornelius
Wiggins, John	Committee Treasurer.	John Claxton

\* First proposer only indicated

**Zoom Connection (waiting room available from 10h15) : click on the following link or use the meeting ID/passcode:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86599934878?pwd=TkplL1JQd1BsblCdGRKNUNDMTIEUT09>

Meeting ID: 865 9993 4878

Passcode: 624961