

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF VERBATIM REPORTERS

137th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held in the Calthorpe Suite
The Best Western Plough & Harrow Hotel,
135 Hagley Road, Birmingham, West Midlands, B16 8LS

on

Saturday, 14 September 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nicole Harrison (President)
Leah Willersdorf (Skype) (Vice-President)
Mary Sorene (Secretary/Treasurer)
Alan Bell (Council)
Georgina Ford (Council)
Ian Roberts (Council)
Natalie Bracken
Victoria Davies
Ian Dawson
Nicola Dutton (Skype)
Rachel Lloyd
Caryl Sorene
Kath Sykes
Richard Ward
Julie Whitaker
Samanta Huggins (Guest)

The AGM commenced at 2.04 pm

Welcome and introductions

THE PRESIDENT: Welcome, everybody. I have written a speech, and I am not very good at speeches, and I don't like public speaking at all, if any of you have figured that out by now, so I'm going to try and go.

All I have to do is say welcome. Rachel Lloyd is taking the note for us, so please remember when the time comes for any discussion to state your name and speak one at a time. The Secretary will read the notice to open the meeting.

(THE NOTICE WAS DULY READ BY THE SECRETARY)

Apologies for Absence

THE PRESIDENT: Now, we have apologies for absence.

THE SECRETARY: I have a list: Rebekah Roberts, Sharon Golder, Linda Nicholls, Susan McIntyre, Margaret Beaumont, Joanne Petre, Cindy Wu, Karen Wedge, Jenny Chandler, Ann Lloyd, Miriam Weisinger, Michele Sowerby, Claire Hill, Michael Laidlaw, Mirella Fox, Stephanie Stamp, Nia Davidson, Wendy Osmond, Deirdre O'Malley, Melanie Ball, Christine Lawton, Jean Lukins, Stephanie Stamp, Shirley Tanner, Heather Casali, Lisa Cordaro, Patricia Atherton, Carol Evans, Hilary Maclean, Helen Davies, Andrew Roberts, Lynn Taylor, Michele Coffey, Pauline Miller, Sandra Glenny, Amanda Bavin, Dawn Scott, Chris Armstrong, Caroline Booth, Laura Harrison, John Larking, Andrew Howell, Audrey Shirley, Sara Buzuk, Tom Chamberlain, Sheryll Holley, Cecilia Sweetman.

THE SECRETARY: Do members have any to add? Has anybody told you that they are not coming so we should add them in?

VICTORIA DAVIES: Was Sarah Edwards on that list?

THE SECRETARY: Thanks. I have a feeling she has given them, and if I have missed them out, I'm sorry. Thank you.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: Was Julie Smith mentioned?

THE SECRETARY: Thank you. Any others? No others. Okay, so that is the list of those who have sent their apologies for not coming.

Minutes of last meeting

THE PRESIDENT: Perfect. The minutes of the last meeting, we have circulated them to the members via the website. Are they agreed? That is last year's meeting minutes. Anybody anything to say about them? In which case, do you care to sign them at the end and today's date?

(THE MINUTES WERE AGREED and SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT)

THE SECRETARY: Thank you.

President's Address

THE PRESIDENT: I now get to do my speech. I just wanted to start out with it has been a great year for me. I didn't expect to be elected last year, and I wanted to thank everyone who voted for me. I started off my presidency having a knee injury and tried to muddle through the first couple of months before my operation in November.

In October, the first thing I did as President, Mary and I went off to Istanbul to the Intersteno committee meeting. It was an absolutely amazing experience and great opportunity to get our name out there and also to do a lot of networking. It was very fruitful. I was able to ask Carlo to speak at our BAW that we were organising and learned quite a lot about voice respeaking. I met a few Americans who were doing voice respeaking which I thought was quite interesting.

November saw me pretty much out of action after my knee operation. Couldn't think straight; had too many drugs that were making me happy.

Then in December, we had our Council dinner at an Italian restaurant, Casa Mamma. It was a lovely evening with people who attended, and there was lots of laughs and good banter all around.

We have also had several Council meetings throughout the year, and we had a lot of working groups to work on the syllabi and tweak it. We have a few more tweaks, but it is ready to go online. I am also on a couple of committees, and one is working closely with the NRCPD, both the practitioners' forum and also the CPD working and steering group. I have also kept my eye on the DAG, and that deals with the higher education and the lack of support for students regarding payments, cancellations and absenteeism. That is more for the STT side of things. That seems, in the last week, to really be going downhill. That is all I am going to say, so not good.

Then we had some sad news about Frances Dobson passing away. I was able to

attend her funeral. She had an amazing life. I never realised half of the things that she did and accomplished in her life. She was my mentor when I first came here in 1996, and I was able to shadow her at Chelmsford Crown Court and picked up a lot of good things from her. She was very helpful and knowledgeable in her profession. She always posed thought-provoking questions to Council and was challenging when needed. I found out her favourite song was the Pink Panther theme tune, which if any of you knew who Frances was, she used to be a musician before she went into court reporting. Her husband was also a musician. At the end of her funeral, the theme tune of the Pink Panther was played. It was just such a perfect send off for her. It was really, really good.

I will come on to the BAW. That was very interesting. It was a very time-consuming affair. I am usually very good at hosting parties and thought it would be a piece of cake to do. The very first thing is we lost the venue that we originally booked. The hotel overran on their refurbishment, and I think we were a little bit behind in getting out the notices and things like that for the BAW, but I think it went off really well. We had some great feedback; some positive and negative. We have taken all of that on board to improve the next BAW in 2021. I just want to say thank you to the President's Committee that was assembled and all the help in putting together the great Awareness Week that we had.

We had our summer drinks shortly afterwards which was not very well attended. We have noted that for future drinks evenings maybe not to put it so close to a big event.

We have also appointed this year a permanent social media person for BIVR. If you wondered why the President hasn't been doing all the posts and stuff, that is because Leah continued to do it. Then after a while, we figured it was best to have one social media person putting everything on to promote us in all the different areas of social media. Leah very kindly agreed to do this, so I am very, very grateful to her. Thank you, Leah.

Speaking on social media and technology, we also have hired a new web designer called Bulldog. If you would like to look the website up, you can. It is <http://bivr.bulldogweb.co.uk/>. That is the temporary one. We also have a working group that's inputting and critiquing in the design process. We hope to show you in the very near future, so watch this space. I am very impressed with it so far. You guys can all look at it yourself if you want to.

The next thing is a huge congratulations to Rachel for passing her exam and now becoming a full member of BIVR. Very well done to you and for also taking the notes today. Congratulations also to Georgina and Sheryll for competing in the Intersteno speed exams in Italy straight after the BAW, and then Georgina taking her RMR and passing that from the USA exams. Yay to both of you!

One of the things that we dealt with as a committee was we had a complaint from a member about the tape transcriptions – how poor the quality was of the tape transcriptions and shuffling of papers. They gave us a whole list. We've written to Dame Macur, and we've chased her up twice so far. The last one was a recorded delivery, and we've still not received anything, so we will continue with that, and hopefully we can get somewhere with that. Apologies for it not happening as of yet.

I'm sure that I've forgotten something, and I will remember it whilst I'm having my drinks in the evening. I just wanted to say some thank-yous to people as they have been extremely helpful to me throughout this year:

All the Council members for all your great efforts throughout the year and the members who have been on the working groups for all their time and effort in helping in this great profession.

Leah, our Vice President, and Mary for all their extra help on the BAW, and to Leah for guiding me through what being a president should be. I hope that I have done well for you and for the members.

Mary, for all the extra help with all the little and big things that needed to be done and the helpful reminders for me. You were never a pain, Mary, I promise.

That is pretty much it. We have been really busy this year.

Leah and Nicola, all we are going to do is put the website up on the screen to just have a look at. Leah, obviously you know what it looks like. Nicola, if you want to just look it up, it is <http://bivr.bulldogweb.co.uk>.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: Just to point out, it is the developmental one, and it's being built, so nothing is final. It is work in progress still, just so you know. By all means, if people have contributions, then please put them in writing to us.

THE PRESIDENT: Natalie's question, Leah, was: Is it possible to see the changes that we have made so far?

NATALIE BRACKEN: Anything major?

ALAN BELL: You can see it is much more information.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: Not like a Track Changes thing. The biggest thing we are trying to do is the Reporter Search, so that page is worth looking at.

One other thing is because all members aren't on social media, one thing we think will work is having blogs that people will be able to subscribe to, so that should a job come up --

ALAN BELL: Rather than by clicking on a map, you can search for the type of work you want to find.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: -- Mary, me, whoever, posts about it and that will automatically go out to those who subscribe to that job blog category. I hope that makes sense.

THE PRESIDENT: I was not on the working committee for it. It was Leah who does all the social media and things. Victoria, you are on it, and also, I think, Rebekah was on the working group, so thank you very much.

This was all due to feedback from last year's AGM, why we started looking for a new website. We were having a lot of problems. Lots of issues with that, so we have now moved and got everything on it. I don't know if, Victoria, you want to add anything?

VICTORIA DAVIES: Just that it's going to be fantastic!

LEAH WILLERSDORF: And that way, that will go out to ALL members who choose to opt in to that blog. It's not a "blog blog" per se but a type of blog.

THE PRESIDENT: I know we also want to try to add the webinars on. We want to start doing webinars for people with CPD.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: Members have to help us help them. We can't do it all, i.e., so if they opt in, they will get the job opportunities.

VICTORIA DAVIES: We wanted to take out a bit of geographics and the regional thing that was on the past website. So I might be in Manchester and I wouldn't get a job that was offered in London but it might be something that I would do, but people wouldn't know.

ALAN BELL: That has gone from the search now.

VICTORIA DAVIES: So now it's all in there. You've got to opt in.

ALAN BELL: It didn't work anyway because the name bar was covering half the country.

THE SECRETARY: They didn't actually click on the map.

NATALIE BRACKEN: On here where it has the different services, with all the different

services -- so say a job comes in, how are you going to know -- say because I would like to do deposition work, I can do daily transcripts, webcasting and qualified real-time reporter. How would I make sure that I got -- am I only limited to one category? How is it going to work with jobs then?

VICTORIA DAVIES: You would subscribe to the individual blogs. You won't get a job for the tape transcription panel unless you want it, so you have to subscribe to it, so you will go on to subscribe to deposition blog, speech-to-text.

NATALIE BRACKEN: How do I do that? When it's ready, it will be that we all have to fill it in?

VICTORIA DAVIES: The onus is on the member, when it is ready, to say I want to be this, that, and the other.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: You should only be listing the work which you are competent to do. For example -- and I'm not technically talking about Natalie --

VICTORIA DAVIES: We are putting the onus on the member.

NATALIE BRACKEN: It's got here "Services".

LEAH WILLERSDORF: -- somebody who does STT and has only done that for 15 years and not produced a verbatim official transcript should NOT be listing themselves in Verbatim Court Reporting work.

NATALIE BRACKEN: Is that because it's got here -- the example is "Emma Tuck, Services Offered", and then it has got "American Depositions". So where it says, "Services Offered", I would click on what I am competent to offer services in myself. That is what you are saying?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

THE SECRETARY: They would be added by us into that area of work if they confirm that they're competent to do it.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: BIVR has to have a say in that as well. Somebody who is an STT member will be listed under STT. Not Verbatim Court Reporting, unless they successfully pass that portion of the membership.

THE PRESIDENT: It is still a work in progress. We are just at the beginning stages of getting what we want in there and the spec and everything done and working with it. We're also going to add a payment option portal for that so you can make your payments by that once we get our CPD and stuff like that up. And then also, for

me, what I have asked for on a personal thing is your yearly subscription, where you always have to make a payment -- it is not renewed -- I want it to automatically update for me personally just so I don't have to remember to do it in January. So I just want a rolling-over one.

GEORGINA FORD: Can we add a CPD tracker for each individual reporter on the website?

LEAH WILLERSDORF: I will ask.

GEORGINA FORD: I thought I would mention it while I thought of it. I know on the NCRA website, once you have logged in to your personal page, they call it "Transcript", which is all your points and things. Something similar might be useful for people who need it.

THE SECRETARY: I belong to NCRA with my CRI qualification and if I log in I can check where I am at with my points, which is 30 hours over three years. I can see where I am at and it has the expiry date. Of course, BIVR does not have a CPD requirement at the moment.

VICTORIA DAVIES: One thing I would like is an advertisements kind of page. So if you have got people who are offering their service, like scopists in America, if they could advertise their services to us -- I mean, it would be closed to the public, so you would only see it if you were a member. Those kind of services. Technical hardware kind of advert-type things. Just that option. Just for the members, not a public area.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: Would you want us to charge people to advertise their wares? I think we should.

GEORGINA FORD: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. In agreement.

GEORGINA FORD: Maybe not charge scopists to advertise.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: Okay, I will add that to the list.

CARRYL SORENE: Assuming the scopists generally aren't under the Reporter Search.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: I am misunderstanding, I think. Victoria is suggesting to have a place to advertise for non-members. Is that... Yes?

VICTORIA DAVIES: Where non-members can advertise their wares to us. Whether that is hardware, editing services, proofing services, anything like that.

KATH SYKES: Can you recap about the blogs and saying what kind of work that you are competent to do? Just recap on that because I'm not comfortable. Saying that, for instance, the majority of my work currently is speech-to-text but I am a qualified verbatim reporter. In my opinion, I should still be able to put that in my blog if I choose to do so. I don't think that should be subject to someone else saying whether I am still competent.

THE PRESIDENT: I think what we are saying is if you have only done speech-to-text reporting for the last 15 years, you might have, 20 years ago, been in court and done depositions and then moved to the STT side. For you to go back and still say, "I can do depositions, I can do court work," and you have not done it or produced a transcript in 15 years, what we're saying is, you should not be marking yourself as that because you have not done that, until you either refresh, shadow somebody or whatever to be able to get back into that arena. If I have explained myself correctly.

KATH SYKES: I understand what you are saying. I disagree with it.

GEORGINA FORD: This is more pointed towards the people from the BBC who have left who have only done captioning and want to go into something like taking a deposition where they have never done it before. I think that is more where we are coming from. Obviously, if you have not done something like a deposition for many years, you probably would want to shadow someone first, just to get back into it.

KATH SYKES: I would do that for a deposition because I haven't done depositions, so I accept that I would need to shadow somebody. But just to go to a normal court hired by a private lawyer, I am perfectly competent at doing that, so I do feel uncomfortable.

THE SECRETARY: We are relying on members to be not just truthful but realistic in their capabilities and not to put down every option going when, frankly, they have not done it, but, "Oh, I might like to do it one day," so they could get a job. We should be doing our due diligence.

Say somebody, not you, went off on a job and either had never done it before or had not done it for 20 years and they fall down on the job, it then reflects on us and the whole profession; so we do rely on people to be realistic in their aspirations.

KATH SYKES: I accept that, but that is not as I understood it the way it's been read out.

THE PRESIDENT: I apologise, then. Sorry.

KATH SYKES: It's not your fault, Nicole.

GEORGINA FORD: We will tweak the wording.

KATH SYKES: You have what has been prepared.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: We want to protect members from going into an assignment which they know nothing about. For example, in depositions, not everyone knows they have to swear in a witness, nor what the oath is, nor marking exhibits.

ALAN BELL: Also, just things like, for instance, I worked for 20 years for Marten Walsh Cherer. It was a closed field; I was only working for them. I did lots of depositions. Jenny had this thing: we only do British spellings. Well, you don't do that now, but if somebody goes back into a deposition field and they turn out a whole transcript with no Zs in it and double Ls instead of single Ls for "travelling" and that sort of thing, they're going to be picked up on for that, so it's just knowing background procedures.

KATH SYKES: I accept that, and I personally have never done a deposition, but UK court reporting, I am competent at doing that, and I wouldn't expect to have to jump over a hoop to be able to say I can do that.

THE PRESIDENT: That is not what we are saying. We are saying put down what you know you are competent in. I used to sit in court and do live writing all the time. I haven't done it in 15 years. I am confident I can go back and do the job, but I am not confident about going back and doing a transcript. I have only had to edit speech-to-text, so me having to go and put a transcript together and whatever, I just want to write on someone's back for a few days, get my shadowing in and think, "Yes, I know what I'm doing."

VICTORIA DAVIES: To flip it on its head, it is the same as somebody who has been in court forever seeing a job that comes out: "STT conference next week". "Oh, yeah, I can do that." And then they turn up, they don't know where to sit, they don't know the terminology, basic deaf awareness, the language in that arena.

THE PRESIDENT: It is not directed to STTs. It's vice versa. If you have only come in - - what Georgina said about the BBC, to then go in to do depositions when you have not done it, you need to --

KATH SYKES: But they would need the qualifications, surely, to say they have done it?

VICTORIA DAVIES: But that is another thing; what is the qualification? We're accredited verbatim reporters, but at the minute there seems to be no distinction between

just doing captioning or speech-to-text. I could turn up somewhere and say, "I'm a member of BIVR," and I am, but I might never have done that type of thing before.

NATALIE BRACKEN: I think probably the fairest way, obviously, is, from what we are all saying -- because I started to raise it about the services provided and stuff and how would it work -- I think the fairest way, and from listening to everybody, is that we all have to put our own case forward and say, "I've got my QRR. I've got this. I've done transcription for this many years," and then you then tick the boxes, I guess. I like the idea it is separated.

I have not done depositions yet, but I am interested in getting into them, but I would want to shadow and learn how to do it first. I don't want my inbox filled with things that don't relate to me. I think it is really good, but it will have to, I think, be done on a person-by-person basis.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: Kath, it is more for those who are only STT members of BIVR, i.e., have only STT membership.

Exactly, Victoria. Someone who has the QRR, never done STT but only court; same thing. Agreed.

There's a distinction in the Mem & Arts.

THE PRESIDENT: I think that is down to each member, Natalie. Put that in your bio on the Reporter Search. That is the "More Details" at the end of the line, I think. I do not have the development website up.

This is the very beginning. We are at baby stage-type thing. Like we said, if you want to go and look at it, anybody has things to contribute, just write to Leah, or the Secretary, and Mary can pass it on to the working group.

NICOLA DUTTON: My understanding of what you are saying is that I have to now pass a verbatim court reporting membership exam, even though I worked in court before captioning/STT and spent many years doing transcription and now cover court work. Is that right?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

ALAN BELL: That is not what we are advocating at all. We are not saying that existing members should do extra exams to qualify for the different areas.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: I think so, Nicola, yes. Mary or Nicole will confirm: Nicola is an STT member, I believe.

NATALIE BRACKEN: I think it is what I was saying. We have all got to put forward, like Nicola's saying, "I have done court work. I trained in 1990." We have all got to put forward what we do, and then BIVR ticks those things saying yes to whatever.

VICTORIA DAVIES: To me, it is being sensible. The last official court reporting transcript you did might have been 15 years ago, so does that qualify -- I don't mean qualify as in a qualification, but does that mean if a job came in, they want to daily transcript for a week next week, you think, "I've done transcripts. I can do that"? You are a court reporter but are you qualified to do that particular job? It's being realistic.

THE PRESIDENT: It's not capable because you know you can do the job.

NATALIE BRACKEN: It is whether you have done it.

THE PRESIDENT: I would not be able to produce a daily transcript right now because I have not done it in 15 years, but if I shadowed someone I would, and I probably would pick it up, like riding a bike, quite quickly to say, okay, I'm, you know...

ALAN BELL: It is not about policing it. People should be aware of what they are up to speed on. Now, for me, I have not been in court for six years. I would still say I am in touch with how to produce a court transcript, but it is not the sort of work I am going for. It won't be too long down the line before it is ten years since I've done it, so that is how you can fall behind.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: But in BIVR, if you are an STT member, i.e. you have done an STT membership exam, though you have worked in court, I think you can only go on the Reporter Search as STT. It is then up to the member to add in their bio they have done court reporting in the past.

NATALIE BRACKEN: So you won't receive jobs for dailies?

THE PRESIDENT: That bio links to the reporter search.

THE SECRETARY: As an STT.

THE PRESIDENT: Which is what Leah's typing.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: I don't think that would be right, in the above scenario, Natalie.

NATALIE BRACKEN: So I won't get any jobs for doing court work?

VICTORIA DAVIES: Is "court work" the wrong terminology?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

NATALIE BRACKEN: Is it realtime?

VICTORIA DAVIES: No. Verbatim reporting, it might be. You are not actually in a court, but you are doing verbatim reporting.

ALAN BELL: There are lots of settings.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: You are a Verbatim Court Reporter member, Natalie.

VICTORIA DAVIES: I think it's probably less confrontational to flip it. You have got somebody in Manchester Crown Court thinks, "I am going to do STT", and they go along to that first job, they have never done it before. They can do everything on this, they can do a lovely note, but they want to know where handicapped people sit. They will sit at the back and then they won't do this and that. They have got the wrong colours. It is just being sensible and just being prepared, really, I think.

NATALIE BRACKEN: But it just means that I won't get offers of realtime. I see there is not a services for transcription there, like digital audio transcription, but I know it is all under development. There were only four things there.

THE PRESIDENT: This is just at the baby stage. If that is something that we could add --

NATALIE BRACKEN: I do transcription all the time, and I do court transcription, digital court transcription.

THE PRESIDENT: That is something we can look into adding.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: But if you are a Verbatim Court Reporting member, Natalie, you will get all the jobs if you opt in.

NATALIE BRACKEN: But then I can't opt in for speech-to-text via BIVR.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, you can.

NATALIE BRACKEN: Okay. Sorry.

THE PRESIDENT: You can be what you want to be, as long as you are competent.

KATH SYKES: It was the policing of it. When it was first raised, I got the impression

because I might not have done a court transcription for the last few years, then I wouldn't be allowed to put in the blog that I could do that, and I feel I can do that, and I am qualified to do that.

GEORGINA FORD: The point is you are sort of -- I hate to use the word -- self-identified but as being able to do that. So you are taking the responsibility on yourself to say, yes, I am competent to do this. Then if we should get a complaint, say --

THE SECRETARY: I am sure we won't.

GEORGINA FORD: I am sure we won't, but it is just you have to be able to say with confidence that you can work in that particular area. We want to have a level of protection for members.

NATALIE BRACKEN: Because the job is coming through BIVR. I get that.

KATH SYKES: I want the clarification on that. How is BIVR going to police it? It's the policing of it.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: Yes, Georgina. We, as the Institute, have to abide by your category in the Mem & Arts.

NATALIE BRACKEN: I think this conversation has come about because, when it was being explained, it said, "If you've not done court work for 15 years, you cannot do it."

THE PRESIDENT: It is just being mindful of -- don't go in the deep end if you have not been in it for 15 years because you are only going to do you a disservice and towards BIVR as well, towards the Institute. We are kind of going around in a circle. We've done it before, but we've not done it for 15 or however many years. That's all we're saying.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: Couldn't have put it better myself, Nicole.

VICTORIA DAVIES: Cobbling together STT notes is not making a transcript.

NATALIE BRACKEN: No.

THE PRESIDENT: No. That is all we are really saying. If you want to go do it, ask to shadow somebody before you jump in at the deep end, again if you have not done it. Yes, we know you are qualified in doing it, but if you have not done it for... You want repeat business. Do you see what I mean?

RICHARD WARD: Just adding into the mix, if somebody has not done something for 20 years and then they go and shadow, will there be a record of that shadowing

to then –

THE PRESIDENT: That's for your CPD, for you to put down.

RICHARD WARD: That will add to the policing from you guys.

GEORGINA FORD: I am not liking the term "policing".

ALAN BELL: I'm sorry. I came up with that because I thought it was saying the opposite.

VICTORIA DAVIES: Richard, if you shadowed for a week and then your first job was the job from hell and something happened, and they came to BIVR and said, "We got Richard through you, and this happened and that happened," we could say, "Richard, what happened?" You could say, "I did my shadowing, but on this day, X, Y and Z happened." So you have covered your bases, and BIVR can come back with an answer to say why; "Well, he was competent. He knew what he was doing. It's just that your witness couldn't speak straight words," etc.

THE PRESIDENT: It happens.

ALAN BELL: You do get those jobs from hell. I did a deposition like that recently. It was financial services. They were reading out lots of transcripts from online chatrooms where the traders had been involved. The witness in this deposition had agreed with his attorneys that he would be pleading the Fifth. So he read the whole wording of that out on his first answer, but they had agreed beforehand that every answer thereafter where he didn't want to answer, he would just say "Fifth". So because the questioning attorneys knew that, they were reading their questions from a script. I was like, what the hell?

And it was realtime, and they could see I wasn't anywhere near getting it, but I knew there was no point trying to stop them. They were in the flow. That is the kind of day you can be faced with. And if that was your first deposition after a break, you would feel like jumping out the window.

NATALIE BRACKEN: I think it more applies to depositions, I'd say.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: That will also go on the website, Victoria. There will be a section of, for example, a "Court Transcript v STTR Transcript"; an "Editor v Scopist", just questions like that.

CARRYL SORENE: Were editors or scopists going to be included on that, or anywhere? It would be reporters looking for them.

ALAN BELL: I think we should have a "Find a Scopist" as well.

THE SECRETARY: I think we are supposed to be. I think we are going to have every category of membership.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: For all categories, there will be search pages.

NATALIE BRACKEN: What about pen writers?

LEAH WILLERESDORF: Transcribers, editors/scopists, everything.

THE SECRETARY: If I was still reporting as a pen writer, because I am a pen writer member on BIVR then I would be under the Verbatim Reporter.

LEAH WILLEERSDORF: We are inclusive, after all.

ALAN BELL: But not realtime.

THE SECRETARY: But obviously I never was realtime, even when I did the machine.

GEORGINA FORD: So a pen writer wouldn't opt in to the realtime blog, but they can log into the other ones.

THE SECRETARY: Kath, I believe you are a member on what used to be called CAT, and so you would be on the Verbatim Reporter one. You are also qualified on STT because you are a member of NRCPD, so we can't exclude you, obviously, from either of those.

THE PRESIDENT: Can I move this on because it is 3 o'clock. Any more questions about anything?

NATALIE BRACKEN: Do you not want to stand any more, I take it then? Because you aren't on the list. Before we get to voting, or anything, is it that you don't want to?

THE PRESIDENT: For personal reasons, I can't. Sorry. I have loved it. Like I said, I've absolutely loved it, but --

NATALIE BRACKEN: I just thought because we did extend Leah's term.

THE SECRETARY: By Special Resolution.

THE PRESIDENT: You have to do a Special Resolution, and you can't do it. That would go out. Natalie wanted to ask a question, why I wasn't standing again for next year as President.

NATALIE BRACKEN: Not why, but...

THE PRESIDENT: How come I'm not.

NATALIE BRACKEN: Yes.

THE SECRETARY: We have just gone back to the regular rules.

THE PRESIDENT: Anything else anybody wants to say? Questions that you have for us?

VICTORIA DAVIES: About the website?

THE PRESIDENT: Anything.

VICTORIA DAVIES: Was that the end of the AGM?

THE PRESIDENT: No. We are not close!

THE SECRETARY: It is questions on the President's speech.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, on my President's speech, because I have forgotten one thing.

NATALIE BRACKEN: Just about where you said about there was a complaint about transcription and with papers and all that kind of thing. I do a lot of transcription work. I have issues with channels. You have to keep swapping channels.

Are you also targeting the transcription companies, rather than the people that are -- when you said you had written to that lady, Dame somebody --

THE PRESIDENT: It is the court we were concerned with when they were divvying out the work.

ALAN BELL: She is the one who is in charge of making sure that it is recording properly, if you like.

THE PRESIDENT: She is the top-notch, is why we went to her because everything would filter down. She filters it, so we needed to go to the top, and that is where we went, to the top.

THE SECRETARY: It is the Ministry of Justice who puts all this in place, and if they don't put the proper logs in place or if they don't have all the proper procedures, then whatever agencies they are dishing the work out to, they are just getting what they are being given by the MoJ. So we have gone to the top and she has not

answered.

NATALIE BRACKEN: Would it have a bit more sway if you could approach the top five, or whatever you would call them?

ALAN BELL: It is a fair point.

NATALIE BRACKEN: I am constantly complaining.

ALAN BELL: Then go back on that.

THE SECRETARY: We can try that avenue next with the next President.

NATALIE BRACKEN: That's my questions finished.

VICTORIA DAVIES: Just about the mention of the NCRA. I think we should congratulate Leah and Georgina for presenting at the annual conference this year. We are such a small body and to have two speakers at a prestigious event like that, I think it is fantastic. It is great representation for British reporting.

And also congratulate Georgina on the RMR because if you have heard some of that dictation, it is absolutely brutal.

GEORGINA FORD: I do have some if anybody wants to listen.

VICTORIA DAVIES: To do that, it's just hats off.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: Thanks, Victoria.

THE PRESIDENT: There is one other thing that I have forgotten.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: Clap for Georgina.

THE PRESIDENT: There was one thing I did forget to mention. It was the Betty Willett Award that we have started. We had a few nominations and Council felt that it had not gone above and beyond what we normally do and, therefore, we have decided, as Council, not to award one this year.

VICTORIA DAVIES: Does the qualification for the award need re-looking at? Because I nominated somebody this year, and if they don't meet the mustard for that after their history, I am wondering, looking around -- not particularly just in this room, but association-wide I am wondering who will meet that in the future. At the minute, I can only think of two people who I think have gone above and beyond.

I am not sure whether we are going to do Claire, person X, person Y, maybe one other, and then it will just be a dead duck if we have set the scope that high.

THE PRESIDENT: We can, at the next Council meeting, have a discussion to say and discuss that and see.

JULIE WHITAKER: Does it have to be annual? Can it be periodical and have it when somebody does something outstanding?

GEORGINA FORD: I think that is what we were looking at.

JULIE WHITAKER: We feel like we are forced to just nominate someone.

GEORGINA FORD: This year, we have looked at who had been nominated and the sort of things that had happened during the year, and we did not feel anything was special enough to maybe top what had happened with Claire getting it before. Obviously, Betty was the very, very first sort of recipient. Maybe we do need to look at it again, but I don't think we have to do it every single year. Maybe if we have just one person being nominated, that is a pretty good indication, even if there had not been anything particular in that year but it was throughout a period of time.

THE PRESIDENT: Also, don't forget you cannot vote for Council members and Council members cannot nominate. It is only for the wider membership.

KATH SYKES: Can you nominate a Council member?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Council members cannot be nominated.

NATALIE BRACKEN: And that is not fair, especially if you've done a lot of work in a particular area.

GEORGINA FORD: That is the point of being on Council. So you are on Council to do that, but it is a way of members who aren't on Council to sort of recognise each other.

VICTORIA DAVIES: To me, if you want to keep it live and current and a long-term award, I am not sure whether there is a group that will look at what has happened in the year and maybe put a short list together, three people. Just like in every other kind of awards thing where people vote on, do you want A, B, or C to win this year.

Either that, or it's just going to die out, I think.

NATALIE BRACKEN: Can you not have more than one person in a year? Say two people were amazing.

THE PRESIDENT: I do like the idea. If people nominate, we will discuss about opening it up to the members to vote for them.

VICTORIA DAVIES: No, I didn't mean that. Maybe if Council or there's a committee that will have a broader view and think, A, B, and C have been particularly whatever this year, and then you put it out to the members.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay. You are asking for Council to nominate three people?

VICTORIA DAVIES: Not necessarily Council but a group.

NATALIE BRACKEN: A nominations committee.

VICTORIA DAVIES: And they can see what has been happening and have a discussion and think, these are three people this year, and put it out to members to choose from those three.

GEORGINA FORD: Or maybe even you could look at awarding it to, say, a team of people who have been working on a particular conference, say, that was particularly outstanding or very difficult or got a lot of coverage for BIVR, say, and actually award it to an events team, so then it can go to more than one person in a year.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: We can take noms every year if there is one, or are any, and give it due consideration.

So are you saying, Victoria, Council looks at what's been done in the year, and Council makes a shortlist and then puts it to the Membership?

VICTORIA DAVIES: Yes, but I am not even saying Council. I'm just thinking now Georgina and Leah represented us at the NCRA, which I think is a massive thing to have their own slot, but because they are on Council, they can't be nominated. But what they did wasn't part of Council duties or their BIVR duties. It is the nuances like that where you are a Council member and you can't be nominated, but you might do something like that which surely deserves some kind of recognition.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: I don't think a team award is a way forward, but I think it's something Council can discuss. But when we put in the Bugle to ask people to contact us, PLEEEEEEEEEASE contact us!!!

VICTORIA DAVIES: I did do.

THE PRESIDENT: But very few did. That's the problem.

NATALIE BRACKEN: How many did?

THE PRESIDENT: Two. You can send it out so many times. It was in the Bugle reminder. We can, as Council, only do as much as we can do. When we ask for things, or whatever, and we get no replies, there is --

NATALIE BRACKEN: Why I didn't nominate anybody was because I don't know really know what everybody's been doing or what they have achieved, particularly. I know, obviously, with Georgina and Leah because you are on Council.

Maybe it is something to have on the website that, during the year, I say I worked with Victoria and she was amazing. What do they call it?

THE PRESIDENT: Accolades.

ALAN BELL: If you think that somebody's working really well, that might be a good thing to get in touch with Mary and say, "This might be a good thing for the next Bugle."

THE PRESIDENT: Email us and say, you know, "Victoria's done brilliantly." If anybody feels that and you think she's done brilliant, just type an email saying a nomination. That is what it's all about. It is not for you to wait right before the AGM for it to happen. If you are there in the moment and think, wow, this was really hard, this person has just done outstanding work, write to Mary and say. Mary will collate them, and then we'll look through them.

THE SECRETARY: And it can possibly be put as a blog, as an accolade on the website as well.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: We can only do what you guys help us with. We can have a Colleague Corner or something on the website.

ALAN BELL: Yes.

VICTORIA DAVIES: Just going back to this NCRA thing and the recognition, I felt, personally, it wasn't promoted enough on social media by BIVR, or even by AVSTTR, that we did have these representatives there.

THE SECRETARY: I think Leah put it out quite a bit.

VICTORIA DAVIES: She didn't, no. Not beforehand, and I think it was mostly on her personal page and obviously on Georgina's personal page. I don't know whether that is just a thing of, well, I can't be seen to say, oh, this is fantastic that we've

got this representation because it's me doing it. It's that kind of double jeopardy.

So I think things like that, there should have been a big build-up saying, "This is amazing for BIVR that we've got these two representatives at such a worldwide..." -- I know it's American. And the same with Intersteno. When we've got the opportunities, we really need to push ourselves.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: I think with the Intersteno afterwards, it does get a bit difficult, but I take those points on board, for sure. :-)

THE PRESIDENT: Sheryll was also at Intersteno. I think we were promoting the BAW, and literally immediately on the Friday, people were flying over as well, so I think we did promote it after ours because we obviously put ours first in it.

VICTORIA DAVIES: We can have a billion Tweets a day.

THE PRESIDENT: We have kind of gone on and it is 3.15 p.m. All questions done and everything?

There is a plaque that we have that we are going to give to Claire for when she hands back the glass thingamajig. That is what we have done for her.

VICTORIA DAVIES: She's getting that picture of it?

LEAH WILLERSDORF: Yes, can we have a picture for the socials, please? Of the plaque.

THE SECRETARY: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: She will hand back the glass thing and have that for a keepsake.

THE SECRETARY: I will hand it around. You can all have a look at it.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there a possibility we can take a five-minute break, and then we will come back with the rest of the AGM and start with the Treasurer's Report.

(SHORT BREAK)

Treasurer's Report

THE PRESIDENT: Now I would like to call on the Treasurer's Report.

THE SECRETARY: The report and accounts have been previously circulated. I emailed them to everybody. It is just a question of approving them. I haven't brought

copies because people just leave them behind. They don't really want them. They have been supplied.

Any questions on them from when you looked at them? Do you approve them? Does anybody not approve them?

Approved nem. con.

Special Resolutions

THE PRESIDENT: Voting for Council members was referred to in the notice. There were no nominations, but we've now had one resignation, namely Ann Lloyd. That is it. We would like to thank Ann for all her hard work and services over the last 18 years as a Council member. She's been President twice in that time. Thank you very much.

NATALIE BRACKEN: Has she left BIVR?

THE SECRETARY: No, just resigned from Council.

GEORGINA FORD: How many does that leave on Council?

THE SECRETARY: One less than before.

GEORGINA FORD: I walked into that one.

THE SECRETARY: I think it might be eight now. I think we had nine before.

THE PRESIDENT: Miriam is not stepping down from Council as such, but she is taking a back seat with Council-related issues, and she is going to deal only with being the Chief Examiner. She has quite a lot of work on right now and she can't do any more than that is what she said. We didn't want to lose her as a Council member nor as the Chief Examiner.

Also, another thing to mention quickly is Orla does not want to be considered for President for this year either, so please don't vote for her.

THE SECRETARY: Now we vote for the resolutions.

THE PRESIDENT: Special Resolutions.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: Who are the three candidates?

THE PRESIDENT: Georgina, Ian, and Alan.

(ALAN READ THE SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS)

THE SECRETARY: With those in mind, could we vote for that? Who is for the vote? To change it from "Tape Transcriber" to "Audio Transcriber".

I've got some proxy votes to count.

THE PRESIDENT: I have two more proxy votes.

THE SECRETARY: Any against? I believe I have one against on the proxy.

Number 1 is agreed.

THE PRESIDENT: That was unanimous?

THE SECRETARY: Unanimous.

Resolution 2.

(ALAN READ RESOLUTION 2)

THE SECRETARY: All in favour? Anybody against?

That has passed.

(ALAN READ RESOLUTION 3)

NATALIE BRACKEN: Is that saying that editor and scopist are the same thing?

THE SECRETARY: We thought they were, but some people prefer the word "scopist", so we decided to change it, rather than have it oblique, editor/scopist.

NATALIE BRACKEN: I think that they are different. I think a scopist does less of a job than an editor.

THE SECRETARY: No.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: Again, it will be explained on the website. There is no difference. We had it in a Bugle previously.

VICTORIA DAVIES: I think "scopist" is more international.

THE SECRETARY: It is understood by others to be a scopist than an editor.

THE PRESIDENT: How many people are agreed?

THE SECRETARY: I have proxy votes here for and one against.

THE SECRETARY: It's passed, but with one dissenting.

(ALAN READ RESOLUTION 4)

THE SECRETARY: Voting for? Anybody against?

THE PRESIDENT: Two for.

THE SECRETARY: Nobody against. All the proxy votes are for.

That is the resolutions done. Thank you, Alan. Sterling stuff. Now it's the President one.

Election of President for the present year 2019/2020

THE PRESIDENT: Now we need to elect a President, and Mary is going to walk around with the voting slips.

ALAN BELL: There are two candidates on here who don't wish to stand.

THE SECRETARY: It has already been referred to by the President.

THE PRESIDENT: At the time the notice went out, we were not told.

THE SECRETARY: The people on the slip include Orla Pearson and Miriam Weisinger who, for completeness, are on there, but they do not wish to be voted for.

(VOTING TOOK PLACE)

THE PRESIDENT: As we are waiting for the votes to be tallied, I just wanted to mention one thing. We are presenting at a thing called LAWBizTech on 23rd October. Mary's going to be presenting and we are going to tell them we are still here, we are still alive, we are still kicking; "Don't forget if you want greatness for your transcripts."

Someone's had to pull out of taking the note for it. Alan's had to pull out. We have asked one person but they have not committed yet. If anyone would like to come and take a note for us, it would be very, very helpful and great for CPD, if that is what you are looking for. Don't all rush at once.

NATALIE BRACKEN: What time is it?

THE PRESIDENT: It is in the morning. It is 23 October in the morning in London. It's a 45-minute slot; an hour tops.

THE SECRETARY: I doubt very much if my presentation will last that long but there could be some questions. It is a PowerPoint with, effectively, Text on Top demonstrating real-time capability so the lawyers can see this is what you could be having.

ALAN BELL: I was going to do realtime to iPads and have a couple of small laptops there with speech-to-text screens so they could see the same thing but in different formats, so nothing too technical. Mary supplies the presentation to you. I have got a copy of it already.

THE SECRETARY: I read it out at a reasonable pace, and I think I managed to drag it out for about 15 minutes or so.

ALAN BELL: There is plenty of preparation available for it. Be prepared for words like "supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" if somebody shouts it out in the audience.

THE PRESIDENT: And don't forget the Welsh one.

THE SECRETARY: "Llanfair PG" is the short version.

The votes are in.

THE PRESIDENT: We are ready to tell you who our new President is. I will read the numbers out. Twenty people for Georgina, three people for Alan, zero for Orla, one person for Ian and none for Miriam. Welcome, Georgina.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: Congratulations, Georgina.

Date and location of next Annual General Meeting

THE SECRETARY: We need to know the date for the next AGM if we've got it, or we decide later.

GEORGINA FORD: We will decide later.

THE PRESIDENT: One of the things brought up was September is a very difficult month for people to get to...

LEAH WILLERSDORF: Re the next AGM, due to the lack of physical attendance this year, would it be wise to perhaps revert to the other time of year we used to hold the

AGM? Say we did it in March, that doesn't have to mean the new President's tenure finishes in March 2020; we just need the membership to agree that the current presidential term would go until, say, May 2021. Or was it March? I can't remember. There may be an issue submitting the accounts, I don't know.

THE SECRETARY: We used to have April or May.

VICTORIA DAVIES: Is it the time of year, or is it the location?

THE SECRETARY: We don't know. We had it in Birmingham before. We had quite a good turnout.

VICTORIA DAVIES: This isn't even in the city centre, is it?

THE PRESIDENT: The reason why I did it here was I knew there would be parking and we got a very good rate. I know the lady who works here is why.

VICTORIA DAVIES: It is an awful location for me. It is easier for me to get to Milton Keynes.

THE PRESIDENT: Duly noted with that. Last year a lot of people were saying, "Please get it outside of London."

VICTORIA DAVIES: If you check the minutes, I did say "Don't go out of London" just for the sake of other people because they don't turn up.

JULIE WHITAKER: People always say, "Not London", and then they don't come.

THE PRESIDENT: We took a chance because we had not only yourself, but a few people mentioned to me, "Can we do it outside of London?" We have had it there the last four years.

JULIE WHITAKER: I wasn't one of them.

THE PRESIDENT: Whoever it was said, "Can we..." --

VICTORIA DAVIES: Whoever it was who's not here.

GEORGINA FORD: It might be worth checking.

THE PRESIDENT: I think I also had private messages to me as suggestions saying, "Please move it out." I don't know if I've kept them or not. So I thought, duly noted. Done. I listened to the members who said to move it out. We will decide on a date later.

Any Other Business

LEAH WILLERSDORF: I have some AOB.

THE PRESIDENT: While Leah types that, Victoria, you said you had something to mention.

VICTORIA DAVIES: It is just about what I perceived as a data breach that I don't think was effectively managed at all. If you remember that the invitation for this came out, and I clicked "Add to Google Calendar" which, unbeknownst to me, put me as the organiser, and I was getting all messages saying, "Sorry, I can't come." "What time does it start?" I thought, "Why are you asking me?"

I let Mary know that I suddenly realised it has made me the organiser. I had two emails off people saying that I personally, because I was the organiser, and there was a string of emails attached, had committed a data breach which I think it was with all the emails on it. One of them was from someone who I don't know if you ever got to the bottom of who that was?

THE SECRETARY: No, we didn't.

VICTORIA DAVIES: And the other one was something that they didn't realise they had copied me into. It was an agency forwarding everything to somebody else in that agency and saying, "I don't think BIVR or Palantype" – meaning me – "should have done this, but this is a great list of people for our records in the future."

THE SECRETARY: I did ask you who that was, but you didn't reply.

VICTORIA DAVIES: I said I didn't want to because then I'm committing a further data breach, I think. I copied you into the one that we don't know who that was.

THE SECRETARY: Just for the record, for some reason, nobody knows why, my iMac, iCal calendar request -- which did have all the lists on, I agree -- when it reached you turned it into a Google Calendar and sent it from your computer to this person because that email came back to you. I have no idea why or how. So strictly speaking, it wasn't BIVR's breach.

VICTORIA DAVIES: It was because you -- I told you of my concerns, and there was absolutely nothing sent out to people to say, look, we're sorry about this. We don't know how it's happened, but it's nothing to do with me personally. So it looks like to this agency and to this other person, who I don't know who that is --

THE SECRETARY: I don't know who this agency was, so we couldn't write to them.

VICTORIA DAVIES: You knew there were on that list. Really, a BCC should have gone out to say sorry about that previous email. We don't know what's happened. It's nothing to do with me. And then it came out again, after I had said that there was this data breach. The exact same thing came out again with a whole list of names a second time.

THE SECRETARY: It seemed to generate itself. You said it was multiplying.

ALAN BELL: I tried duplicating it myself.

THE SECRETARY: It was still generating something.

ALAN BELL: No, I didn't say anything like that.

THE PRESIDENT: How this started was when we were at the BAW, TALLsmall Productions, one of their things was generate emails -- to get a quicker and better response out of people was to do a Calendar invite. I thought, I have learned something. When I started doing the Council meetings, I was then inviting everyone. Obviously, the emails were all on it because we're Council members. As a Council, we discussed. There was not a data breach from us in that sense because -- a few years ago, someone asked for all to be blind-copied. We used to send out everything blind-copied. You could get that list by yourself by going into the Reporter Search individually. We have no agencies on our books.

VICTORIA DAVIES: You have people in agencies on books.

THE PRESIDENT: We do, but we are not breaching. If that agency uses those emails where they got -- as an individual, they are breaching the data protection, not us.

VICTORIA DAVIES: You have breached your data because you've not protected the information that you've got. It doesn't matter that it has come from a suggestion by TALLsmall. The fact is that it happened --

THE PRESIDENT: It's not a suggestion by them.

VICTORIA DAVIES: The fact is that it has happened and it wasn't dealt with appropriately, I don't think. There are still people on there who probably think that I populated all these emails and let everybody have them, whereas it's absolutely nothing to do with me, and that wasn't made clear at all.

THE SECRETARY: I think we took the view that the least said, soonest mended, but we can put out something --

THE PRESIDENT: If you feel we should put something --

THE SECRETARY: -- to exonerate yourself.

VICTORIA DAVIES: I think it should have been done at the time because you say about the Reporter Search, you can find everyone's details there; not everyone subscribes to the Reporter Search.

THE PRESIDENT: There's only very few who don't subscribe to the Reporter Search.

VICTORIA DAVIES: And now that agency and everybody else has got their details.

THE SECRETARY: Other members who happen to be in agencies.

VICTORIA DAVIES: I just want it noted that I was very disappointed at the way it was handled. I thought it was abysmal.

THE SECRETARY: Okay. Noted. Thank you.

ALAN BELL: We certainly did discuss it and we did definitely take advice.

VICTORIA DAVIES: But no-one fed that back to me, and I was the figurehead for it.

THE SECRETARY: Other people also because Ian also received -- he suddenly was made --

NATALIE BRACKEN: I had one from Ian.

THE SECRETARY: Eventually, I managed to work out that I needed to take it off my iPad and iPhone, delete it off my calendar from there. Then I believe it stopped generating itself. It was unfortunate. I didn't have -- still don't have Google Calendar on. I have to download the app, apparently, to get it. And, for that, I can make it a blind copy, so I will learn how to use that and make sure they don't all go out again.

But if we need to cover ourselves in any other way, certainly, the President took advice and was told we had not --

THE PRESIDENT: I took advice from two companies and one business, one agency -- from Miriam, who is an agency -- and she said we did not breach anything. I spoke to two companies giving them a scenario of what happened and they said because it's internal, we have not breached anything.

JULIE WHITAKER: People are now thinking Victoria has. She has been tarred as somebody who breached data.

THE SECRETARY: I did write to that firm. I emailed them.

VICTORIA DAVIES: Which firm?

THE SECRETARY: The one that sounds like some Scottish... What were they, Ian? Can you remember? Whatever that strange name was. I emailed them and asked them, "Who are you, and how do you know any BIVR members?" They just didn't answer, so I have no idea who they are. You said they must be in BIVR's email address. They're not. Never heard of them.

LEAH WILLERSDORF: I just have something to say on this issue. As Council members, we are also individual members of the Institute. It is very rare with our current Council that any of us disagree on anything; however, as a member, and taking my Council member hat off, I have to say I disagree with Council's view on this issue. GDPR issues aside, the fact that members' email addresses were visible from the get-go of the Google Calendar Invite was, and is, wrong in my opinion.

As we all know, not all members opt in to have their details listed on the public BIVR directory, commonly referred to as "the Reporter Search". Now, because of that, I am of the view that means those members have not given express permission for their details, i.e. email address and phone number, to be disseminated in any fashion by the Institute, whether within or outwith the Membership.

Imagine a situation where, for example, one member had history, i.e. a beef, so to speak, with another member, or even agency owner (whether a member or not), going back years and they had gone to great pains to distance themselves from each other, to the point where one or both had changed their emails at the time. With the situation which has occurred, the Institute has potentially allowed those email addresses to be made "public", albeit to members.

Yes, I'm aware that not all email addresses were visible on the invite, just simply the names of some members, but the fact that ANY email addresses are visible to others is not protecting members' interests in my opinion.

If I was a member who had opted out of being on the public BIVR directory, I certainly would not expect my email address to be made public anywhere by the Institute, whether to only the Membership or not. I think this is something we must look into being more cautious and aware of. It's not just about GDPR; it's about protecting members' personal data full stop.

THE PRESIDENT: As me not being President any more, all I can say is we'll take it back to Council and discuss it further and go from there.

GEORGINA FORD: We will make sure that we have some not stock responses, but we

will try and think of future scenarios and how we react to them. I will put that at the top of the list for the next meeting.

THE PRESIDENT: In an overall thing, I did... I wasn't worried about having someone else's email. For me, it goes over my head. I did like the calendar invite for me to then put straight into my calendar because then it's immediate for me. If not, I think, yes, I can do that. I don't reply, and then I don't put it in my calendar, and then I don't go, and I like going to the drinks and things that we do.

I think we have looked at and it is something -- I think you did mention about a good workshop to do. It is something good. I looked into a bit more once it happened. You can blind-copy. Because Mary put it on an iPad invite, I had no idea because I don't have iPad. I couldn't look to see how that happened. I know on the email you can blind-copy people in, but it's such a long list. She has to do it in four different sections. That is probably why everyone didn't get everything. It was in sections as such.

I think, overall, I liked doing it that way. I thought it was very good to put in. We got quite a lot of responses quicker on the AGM notice in that sense. Apologies for what's happened.

Any other business?

LEAH WILLERSDORF: Re the Bugle: I think we need more informative things to go in the Bugle. The membership won't know but may be able to tell that I stepped back from doing the Bugle this year. It really is some feat to put together, but I'm wondering if perhaps we settle on the dates four times a year, like the 15th of January, April, July, October just as an example, and we remind members so that if THEY have contributions or if they want to be Member of the Moment, they can send their contributions in in good time. There can never be too much to read in a BIVR Bugle!

THE PRESIDENT: I know the Member of the Moment and things, I wrote to several people asking, can you just answer these few questions? "Yep, I can do that for you." Didn't get anything back.

I know social media is good and you put it all on there, but if you could do that, we could just have a nice, gentle reminder on the Bugle, and what have you, so then it is all in one place in that sense.

Anybody anything else? Do I get to officially close?

THE SECRETARY: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: I get to officially close the AGM at 4.11 pm. Thank you very much for coming.

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