

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday 24 June 2025

SUMMARY NOTES

Update from Auditors

The Auditors are not yet in a position to submit their report due to delays in receiving information from the Branches and Central Office. They have not raised any concerns and expect to submit the report early July, ahead of the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Strategy update

The Board discussed the progress of each Strategy working group.

- **Membership:** So far this year membership numbers are 3,105 - of which 1,092 have renewed membership and 79 are new members for 2025. As a comparison, membership numbers in June 2024 were 2,936.
- **Communications:** Work is continuing on the development of a new website for the BPF. Funding of £22k has been attained to pay for the project.

A few Trustees requested training on how to use social media, but especially Facebook.

Trustee Recruitment process

The number of candidates for the Trustee elections this year has been low. There will be two new Trustees joining the Board in September. The Board will review the rules relating to the recruitment process, but they should only be changed if and when the Fellowship has a firm plan. A working group was formed to decide whether the Board needs to change the rules to ensure the Fellowship's systems allow for the strongest possible Board.

The Strategy working groups should continue to engage interested individuals who may be identified as potential Trustees. Two people have already expressed an interest and will be invited to Central Office for face-to-face meetings.

Report from the National Treasurer

A report produced by the National Treasurer for the Board showed the BPF's financial position as of 31 May 2025 was comfortable. As the Audit was still ongoing the numbers reported were provisional. The Fellowship currently has a deficit for its national programme, but this is expected to be reduced further when other monies and investments are received.

Branch/Region Finances update

The Board discussed the importance of Regions and Branches spending BPF funds appropriately and being guided by the Fellowship's Branch Rules. It is the Trustees—not the Branch Officers—who hold ultimate responsibility for ensuring that Trust funds are used appropriately, whether those funds are held in Branch accounts or elsewhere.

A Branch Officer meeting has been scheduled for 3 July, with all Treasurers asked to attend. It has become apparent that different Branches interpret spending practices in varying ways.

The Fellowship will produce some Branch spending guidelines to outline appropriate uses of funds. These guidelines will be finalised after the Officer meeting.

Branches with limited or no funds are encouraged to apply to the Branch Support Fund.

CEO Operations Update

Banking Matters: Branches most likely to be able to complete online forms will be identified, to help streamline banking processes.

Other updates:

- Kripen Dhrona will be interviewed on *Radio Decorum* on Friday 27 June at 3pm.
- The National Indoor Games for 2026 have been confirmed and will take place at the Marriott Hotel, Leicester on 20-22 March 2026.

Advisory/Expert Panel and EPU Update

Advisory/Expert Panel: Staff and key members of the Expert Panel will meet on 25 June to discuss its future. Attendance has been low for some time, and the Panel has not been functioning effectively.

EPU Update: Kripen and Trustee, Frances Quinn attended the AGM held in Burgos, Spain, from 29 May to 1 June. It was a highly informative and engaging meeting. The next AGM will take place in Copenhagen, with an opportunity to tour the facilities of the Danish Society of Polio and Accident Victims (PTU).

1947 polio epidemic commemoration and other recognition schemes

It was proposed the EPU's 2027 AGM is held in London, to mark 80 years since the polio epidemics of 1947. A two-year planning period is necessary to organise a commemoration.

Orthotics – work with BAPO

Members are increasingly facing challenges with orthotics, which has been identified as an area of notable dissatisfaction. The Board agreed the Fellowship should launch a campaign on this issue, with clearly defined objectives and target audience.

Global Polio Eradication efforts

The Board agreed the Fellowship should continue supporting polio eradication efforts and maintain clear messaging about the importance of polio vaccinations for the UK audience.

Any Other Business

Jerry Hutchinson will be stepping down as a Trustee in September. This will be his final Board meeting. Jerry was thanked for his significant input to the Fellowship as a Trustee. Jerry thanked the Trustees for their support.

Next Board meeting

18 September from 12noon to 12:15pm (a shorter session, held straight after the AGM).