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Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting 14th September 2026

The meeting at 7:30 pm in Emmanuel Church, Holcombe, BL8 4NB was attended by Dorothy France, Gloria Jackson, Jim Needham, Dorothy Needham, Melanie Plumley, and John Ramsbottom. It began with opening remarks from the President, Mel Plumley. She commented on the problems faced by the BDOA and to give historical context, played a video made in 2021 for the IAO as a contribution to an RCO podcast. It can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/cmgLEVO99BE>. With a first AGM in 1946 and despite coming close to closing a few years ago, the BDOA had managed to continue. Despite occasional highlights, often when the members attending an event were outnumbered by a local congregation keen to hear their organ played by a range of organists, the few members attending meetings now made it difficult to justify continuing to make arrangements with venues.

The 2026 AGM had disappointing support and subsequent consultation between the key officers and other committee members resulted in the decision to hold this Extraordinary General Meeting to decide the future of the BDOA. A few items of formal EGM business were dealt with. Apologies for absence were received from Anne Bainbridge, Thomas Jones, Edward McHale, Marc Murray, Chris Price and Brian Smith. The minutes of the 18th May 2026 AGM had been circulated and copies were provided on paper. They were corrected to record a missed apology from Marc Murray and the President signed a copy as they were agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising other than the EGM business to follow.

Melanie Plumley from the chair made the proposal "The BDOA is no longer a viable organisation and arrangements should be made to dissolve the Association". The proposal was seconded by Gloria Jackson and approved unanimously. Copies of the Constitution had been circulated and the President drew attention to paragraph 13 which defined the arrangements to be made upon any winding up or dissolution. It reads "If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Association, there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever the same shall not be paid to nor distributed among the members of the Association, but shall be given or transferred to some other charitable institution having objects similar to the objects of the Association".

A discussion followed on the features of the other two IAO affiliated groups in Greater Manchester, the Oldham Rochdale & Tameside Organists' Association (ORTOA) and the Manchester Organists Association (MOA). The meeting agreed unanimously that the BDOA had greater synergy with the MOA. The President and Secretary were therefore authorised to enter into discussions with the MOA to make arrangements for the BDOA membership to be part of an expanded MOA group.

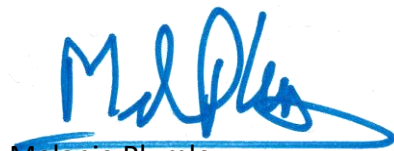
It was agreed that the assets of the BDOA (which are solely the cash in the bank) could be transferred to the MOA but not quite entirely into their general funds. A small part should be used to cover the first year membership fees of the enlarged group for those former BDOA members who had already paid their 2026/7 subscriptions. The balance of the BDOA money should be used to found a scheme to provide organ tuition to young organists, early in their playing careers.

It was agreed that once funds have been transferred in accordance with the final agreement with the MOA, the BDOA bank account should be closed.

A copy of these minutes will be provided to the secretary of the MOA to facilitate discussions with them. They will also be sent to the IAO to give notice of the ending of the affiliation of the Bolton & District Organists' Association as a separate group. A further copy will be provided to the Charity Commission as part of the process of notifying the end of the BDOA as a registered charity. These minutes will also be made available to the BDOA bankers, Lloyds Bank plc for the purpose of informing the eventual account closure process.

Thanks were expressed to the President and for her previous work as Secretary in keeping the BDOA functioning and a specific request made that these comments were included in the minutes.

The President thanked all those who had supported by BDOA and to those attending this sad meeting which was declared closed at 8:28 pm.



Melanie Plumley
President
(15th September 2026)