



Annual General Meeting

3pm on Thursday 17th July 2025
at the Railway Industry Association

Minutes

1. Welcome and Confirmation of Quorum

Chair Richard Smith welcomed members and thanked the Board and Secretariat for their support. It was confirmed that the meeting was quorate, with 14 proxy votes and 24 members present in the room, exceeding the requirement of 15.

2. Members Present

The following members attended in person:

- Richard Smith (Road Haulage Association)
- Simon Hollingbery (British Cleaning Council)
- Donna Rickaby (PAGB, The Healthcare Association)
- Edmund Proffitt (British Dental Industry Association)
- Fran Barnes (Horticultural Trade Association)
- Jacqueline Grove (Scaffolding Association)
- Jane Sartin (Flexible Space Association)
- Julia Garvey (British Educational Suppliers Association)
- Morag Garden (English Whisky Guild)
- Rich Smith (Energy UK)
- Lorna Williams (The Adhesives & Sealants Association)
- Steven Mulholland (Construction Plant-hire Association)
- Malati Parekh (ABTA, The Travel Association)
- Robert Candy (Scaffolding Association)
- Andy Fenner (The Short Term Accommodation Association)
- Robert McIlveen (Mineral Products Association)
- Ashley Gasson (ADS Group)
- Darren Caplan (Railway Industry Association)
- Graham Warren (ASESA)
- Margaret Fitzsimons (Electrical Distributors Association)
- Nick Dancer (Freelancer and Contractor Services Association)
- Paul Swindon (Bingo Association)
- Layla Williams (BIVDA)
- Tim Doggett (Chemical Business Association)

3. Approval of Minutes from 2024 AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 4 July 2024 were unanimously approved by a show of hands and proxy votes.

4. Treasurer's Report

Tim Doggett presented the Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025. Members heard the positive financial progress, including a reversal from a previous deficit to a stable position, thanks to operational efficiencies and membership growth. The accounts were unanimously approved.

Tim gives thanks to Richard, Julia and other fellow board members

Thank you to members and partners of TAF and to Emily, Harry, Aoife and Erika from TAF.

5. Chief Executive's Report

Harry Shackleton outlined key achievements and priorities, including:

- Sustained membership growth despite economic challenges
- CRM implementation and brand refresh
- Flagship events generating over 40% of revenue

Aoife Doherty:

- Initiatives like Women in Trade Associations (WiTA), 30 Under 30, and the Young Professionals Network

Emily Wallace:

- Call for engagement with the TAF Marketplace
- Emphasis on engaging larger associations and improving the visibility of trade associations' value.

Question raised from TAF member Darren Caplan (RIA): is there a progress update about the work TAF is doing to raise the value of TAs to government?

Response: TAF has been disappointed by the lack of interaction from the Department for Business and Trade and asked whether other members have contacts that TAF can use to engage with the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) or other government departments. This was in response to concerns raised about the disappointing level of engagement from DBT and TAF's aim to rebuild those connections.

6. Board Elections

Richard Smith gives thanks to Claire Short for her time on the board.

The results of the recent Board elections were announced. The following appointments were approved:

- **Ellen Daniels** (British Compressed Gases Association) – re-elected
- **Angela Oliver** (British Florist Association) – newly elected

The vote was unanimous, with 24 members present and 14 proxy votes.

7. Co-opted Board Members

It was noted that the Board had three recommendations for one co-opted space to be considered at the September 2025 Board meeting. The Board remains open to further applications from interested parties.

8. Any Other Business

No further business was raised. Richard Smith closed the meeting by thanking members for their ongoing support and encouraged continued feedback and engagement with TAF's activities and services.

Meeting closed.