



## The Campaign for Homosexual Equality (CHE)

### CHE Research Trust (CHERT)

## Minutes of the 2022 Annual Conference

(Comprising CHE's 50th Annual policy-making conference and the public launch of CHERT)

Held at the Community Hall, St Anne's Church, Soho, 15 October 2022

Present: Peter Burman (PB), Ross Burgess (RB), Mark Delacour (MD), Simon Ives (SI), Glenys Parry (GP), Rainer Schulze (RS), Nettie Pollard (NP), Nick Billingham (NB), and George Tregaskis (GT), 10 other CHE members and 8 guests; also Michael Steed (MS) via Zoom. Those mentioned above by name were members of the CHERT Board and/or the CHE Transition Team.

### 1 Conference Opening

- 1.1 The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m., following a joint meeting from 1 p.m. of the CHERT Board of Trustees and the CHE Transition Team.
- 1.2 Apologies were received from 7 other members, two of whom had asked for proxy votes, and from Peter Tatchell and two other people.
- 1.3 Peter Burman was appointed to chair the Conference sessions.
- 1.4 Nick Billingham, Ross Burgess, Barry Cutler and Dave Latchem were appointed to form the Steering Committee.
- 1.5 Notification was received of an emergency motion on the subject of *Amiable Warriors*.

### 2 CHE Annual General Meeting

- 2.1 The **minutes of the 47th Annual Conference**, held on 14 December 2019, were approved. (Note: the 48th and 49th conferences, due for 2020 and 2021, were not held because of Covid 19.)
- 2.2 PB introduced the **report of the Executive Committee and Transition Team**, as described in the CHE Annual Report for 2022, pages 14 to 18.
- 2.3 MS introduced **CHE's Memorandum of Wishes for CHERT** (CHE Annual Report, Pages 7 to 9). He explained that this document could not be regarded as instructions to the CHERT Trustees, whose powers and duties are defined by law and by its Charitable Objects; its aim was to describe what were CHE's intentions in setting up the charity, for the benefit in particular of new Trustees who might be appointed in the future. The Conference approved the adoption of the Statement of Wishes.
- 2.4 RB, as Treasurer of CHE, introduced CHE's **Statement of Accounts** for 2019–22 (CHE Annual Report, pages 22–23). During the current financial year (to 31 December 2022) there had been continued income in the form of subscriptions from members and royalties from ProQuest for digitised versions of CHE publications, giving a current balance in excess of £85,000, but with expenses for the Conference and for printing still to be deducted. NB proposed a vote of thanks to Ross Burgess for his work as Treasurer, and NP commented that RB had largely been running CHE since the

death of Griff Vaughan Williams in 2010. RB proposed that the statement of accounts be approved; this was seconded by NB and approved by the meeting.

- 2.5 The meeting agreed to adopt the **CHE Annual Report** as a whole.
- 2.6 PB asked the Conference to stand to remember those who had died over the past year, including:
- Bill Nash (LGBT-friendly lawyer)
  - Jonathan Miller (CHE Vice-President)
  - Donald West (Vice-President)
  - Terry Sanderson (gay writer)

## 2.7 Emergency motion

- 2.7.1 Peter Scott-Presland (PSP) proposed the following Emergency Motion, supported by five other members:

**In the light of recent discussions between Rainer Schulze, representing CHERT, and Peter Scott-Presland (author) about CHE'S history project, Amiable Warriors, this Conference confirms its commitment to seeing this project through to its completion, and instructs the CHE Executive Committee to provide for printed copies of further volumes as well as digital versions as agreed with the author; to advertise and promote the book as widely as possible; to "ring-fence" sufficient funds to complete the contract agreed with the author, and to enable the publishing, printing and advertising of the work; and to keep the CHE supporting membership apprised of the project.**

- 2.7.2 Clare Truscott said it was important to secure the legacy of CHE, not just as a three-volume book, but in an online format and as a slim one-volume paperback.
- 2.7.3 NP commented that GLF lasted only for three years, but two recent substantial books had raised its profile to the extent that it was being revived. *Amiable Warriors* ought to be raising the profile of CHE in a similar way – print as well as digital is needed
- 2.7.4 NB asked what timetable will PSP be working to for any later volumes?
- 2.7.5 RS said it is important that the work PSP has started should be concluded and then popularised, but a business plan is needed, recognising that the market has changed since the project was started.
- 2.7.6 RB announced that we have recently ordered a sixth impression of Volume One to be printed; Gays the Word bookshop have ordered four copies.
- 2.7.7 PSP said that the whole idea of a complete record is important, including the detail of what people were doing in their local towns, which is where the good stories are. But he needs a supporting team of roles such as editor, fundraiser, indexer. Mark Healey suggested he could help set up a working group.
- 2.7.8 PB invited PSP to deliver a series of three online lectures to publicise the story of CHE.
- 2.7.9 The emergency motion was passed.

## 2.8 Presentation to George Tregaskis

- 2.8.1 GT was presented with a certificate, signed by PB as Chair of CHERT, saying:

This Certificate is awarded to

**George Tregaskis**

Campaigner since 1967, and CHE Executive Committee Member since the 1980s  
in recognition of his long service to CHE

- 2.8.2 He was also presented with a signed copy of *Amiable Warriors*.

## 2.9 Motion on transfer of funds

2.9.1 The Executive Committee proposed the following motion, which had been circulated to all members in advance:

**This Conference authorises the Executive Committee to transfer sufficient funds to the CHE Research Trust to enable it to fulfil its charitable objects, while retaining funds to pursue other activities.**

2.9.2 A vote was taken amongst members of CHE in the room voting by voting card, plus MS voting by Zoom, and two members voting by proxy. The result was: 20 in favour and none against; the motion was declared carried.

## 2.10 Constitutional Amendment

2.10.1 The Executive Committee proposed the following motion, which had been circulated to all members in advance:

**This Conference agrees to amend the CHE Constitution by replacing the existing Constitution in its entirety with the new Constitution as detailed in the CHE Annual Report 2022, pages 5–6.**

2.10.2 In response to a query from PS-P, the meeting agreed that the new CHE would be expected to publish annual audited accounts.

2.10.3 A vote was taken amongst members of CHE in the room voting by voting card, plus MS voting by Zoom, and two members voting by proxy. The result was: 16 in favour, none against, and 2 abstentions; the motion was declared carried.

## 3 Completing the transition

3.1 In consequence of the Constitutional Amendment:

- the existing CHE Trustees and Executive Committee (together comprising the Transition Team), demitted their posts.
- The members of the CHERT Board of Trustees became ex officio the new CHE Executive Committee.
- the officers of CHERT became ex officio the equivalent officers of CHE (PB as Chair, RB as Secretary, MD as Treasurer).
- the members of CHE additionally became Associate Members of CHERT.

## 4 Public launch of CHERT

4.1 The six members of the Board of Trustees introduced themselves to the meeting.

4.2 NB noted that we owed enormous gratitude to Anna Durrell for her work during the 1980s, when she was a full-time CHE employee and ran the national office. He proposed that the EC should write and thank her for her contribution to CHE.

4.3 Mark Healey noted that there has recently been a substantial increase in hate crime, particularly against transgendered people. He has asked for support from this from the Home Office but none has been forthcoming. MD agreed to liaise with him on this.

4.4 All involved in the Conference were thanked for their contributions.

4.5 The Conference concluded about 5 p.m. and was followed by light refreshments and networking.