



OPA Chairman's Annual Report for the year 2021

We have completed another extremely challenging year during the Covid period since March 2020 but I am pleased to report that we still managed to hold another Zoom event in March 2021 and a delayed AGM meeting in September 2021 which had originally been planned for May 2020 and then failed to take place in early 2021 due to Lockdown. Also we managed a short Council Meeting prior to the delayed AGM in late September 2021 and then in early December a full Council Meeting at Roots & Shoots Training Centre in Kennington which was held successfully.

We have started with the initial Zoom events to keep Members informed on the subjects of Buy Outs by Barnett & Waddingham and then the Pension Protection Fund staff returned in late 2020 to bring us up to date on its progress in addressing the latest defaults arising from the UK Steel Industry and the emerging debacle arising with the Carillion collapse which has endangered at least six Construction Industry Pension Schemes which had been taken over as a result of the Contractors merger/acquisition.

It is becoming very evident that the BuyIn and BuyOut Markets are likely to experience a considerable increase in Funding requirements during the next 4/5 years as many schemes reach Maturity and face Failure or Change of Employer and also require refunding to change over to an annuitant basis with a Specialist Insurer.

In 2021 we experienced some changes in Personnel and Member representation. Firstly the British Airways Engine Section committee decided that now they had achieved its objective of winning back its Cost of Living increase award made by its Trustees. The award had been rejected by the BA Board and Chief Executive Willy Walsh in 2011/12. The High Court had in 2020/21 decided that the award was fully justified and the Pension Fund Trustees had the authority to make the Award. As a result of the legal success its Committee thanked OPA for its support but decided that it would not continue its membership. Its Chairman had undertaken a Presentation on the 10 year battle in early 2020 just before the Covid close down.

Secondly unexpectedly and tragically we lost our greatly valued Treasurer John Scholey in late August. This loss has created a number of challenges on the Administration & Finance side which we have managed to address but we find our management capacity limited looking ahead at OPA's future. Covid has also reduced our Membership numbers.

Peter Austin Chair OPA

April 2022