

British-American Parliamentary Group



Annual Report & Draft Accounts 2023-24

(For the year ended 31 March 2024)

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PERFORMANCE REPORT

Foreword to the Accounts

Introduction

The British-American Parliamentary Group (BAPG) was formed in 1937 to promote closer relations and understanding between Members of both Houses of Parliament of the United Kingdom and Members of both Houses of Congress of the United States of America by providing opportunities for discussion on problems common to both countries and for the exchange of visits and information. The BAPG Objectives, Activities and Rules were formally adopted on 5 July 1967 and have since been subject to minor amendments, with the latest in 2018.

The BAPG acts as an autonomous body within Parliament. It appoints its own administrative staff to carry out its objectives and the rules of the BAPG define the limitations on its powers.

The management of the BAPG is vested in the Executive Committee. The Honorary Secretary, who is a member of the Executive Committee, is primarily responsible for the BAPG's activities; the Administrator, who is an official of the BAPG and is not a member of the Executive Committee, is responsible for the executive work of the BAPG. The Chair of the BAPG is the Prime Minister. The two Vice-Chairs from the House of Commons are normally of Cabinet and Shadow Cabinet rank.

Principal Activities of the British-American Parliamentary Group

The format of the annual programme of activities has historically consisted of: one Annual Parliamentary / Congressional Conference; one 'familiarisation' visit to the United States, run conjointly with the United States Department of State and the United States Embassy London, for members with no or little prior experience of the US to learn about the US legislative process and the cultural and political influences in US society; attendance at a biennial course conducted by the Institute of Politics at the Harvard Kennedy School for newly elected Members of Congress. In off years, we would look to undertake an ad hoc thematic visit to the United States in conjunction with the FCDO and US posts to look at a particular policy issue (budget allowing). Also, every four years, during a Presidential election year, we would look to send members to the Democratic and Republican National Party Conventions to see Presidential candidate selection.

Various other activities are held in the United Kingdom with distinguished visitors from the United States.

In 2023-24, it was the turn of the Senate BAPG to host the Annual Parliamentary / Congressional Conference in the US, but the Democratic leadership in the Senate has not yet appointed a new chair to the Senate BAPG to succeed Senator Patrick Leahy's (D-VT), who retired from Congress in January 2023, after having served 21 years as chair or vice chair of the Senate BAPG. With the role vacant, it has not been possible to organise a conference.

We had also hoped to host the deferred 2022 Annual Parliamentary / Congressional Conference here in the UK with a delegation from the US House of Representatives, but our US counterparts were not able to organise a delegation for the scheduled dates of the exchange.

This year, we facilitated two specialist delegation visits to the US, one of which had originally been intended in 2022-23 financial year, but crossed over into 2023-24 financial year (the scheduled dates postponing from March to April 2023):

In April 2023, four members took part in a specialist delegation visit to Texas in conjunction with the British Consulate General Houston to better understand the commercial opportunities afforded in the region and the political power that sits outside the beltway.

In March 2024, four members took part in a specialist delegation visit to Kansas and Missouri in conjunction with the British Consulate General Chicago to look at how American industry and agriculture is regenerating and to explore the opportunities for Anglo-American cooperation.

In July 2023, five members participated in the annual ‘familiarisation’ or legislative exchange co-sponsored with the US Department of State and the US Embassy London to learn about the US legislative process.

Relationship with the House of Commons Commission and House of Lords Commission

The BAPG is funded mainly by a grant from the House of Commons Commission and the House of Lords Commission in the proportion 70:30. The BAPG submits a detailed income and expenditure budget together with bids for expenditure on a rolling three-year programme, usually in September each year, or at the request of the Clerks of the Overseas Offices, who are the budget holders on behalf of the House of Commons Commission and House of Lords Commission. Approval of the budget and the amount of the grant for the coming year is agreed in the first quarter of the following year. The grant is normally paid in one instalment, usually in April each year. In 2023-24, both Houses paid additional in-year funds in February 2024 to cover the additional cost of a pay award to the Administrator in line with the House of Commons pay award to all its staff.

Results for the Year

The Statement of Comprehensive Net Income (page 17) shows that the BAPG had a net operating surplus of £9,924 for the year 2023-24 (in 2022-23 the BAPG had a net operating deficit of £65,078). The Parliamentary grant for the year was £131,256 (£127,261 was received in April 2023 and £3,995.14 was received in February 2024 (in 2022-23 the grant funding was £124,765). As of 31st March 2024, the BAPG holds £118,907 in reserves (page 17). This includes £26,405 for the deferred 2022 Annual Parliamentary / Congressional Conference in the UK, £40,000 for the 2023 Annual Conference with the Senate BAPG in the US and £14,274 to fund the anticipated budget shortfall in financial year 2024-25 so that the Group may deliver the BAPG’s traditional programme of activities.

While the reserves currently exceed the expected one fourth of maximum annual funding, the BAPG plans to draw down on the reserves in 2024-25 financial year, circumstances permitting.

Prompt Payment Initiative

In line with best commercial practice, it is BAPG policy to pay bills in accordance with contractual conditions. Where no such conditions exist, it aims to pay within 30 days of receipt of goods and services or on presentation of a valid invoice, whichever is the later. During 2023-24, no interest has been paid to suppliers for the late payment of invoices.

Reduction of Carbon Emissions

In line with government policy, the BAPG used to off-set its carbon emissions from flights via the purchase of Gold Standard Certified Emissions Reduction (CER) credits, facilitated by the Government Carbon Offsetting Facility, under the Kyoto Protocol’s Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

UK government policy is no longer centred on carbon offsetting, now focusing on methods to reduce carbon emissions, via measurement, baseline and continuous improvement/reduction, as well as using greener forms of energy.

The BAPG plans its programme of activities mindful of this policy, through measures such as flying delegates to the US in Premium Economy, travelling by train internally in the US, where possible, and arranging ground transport with lower polluting vehicles.

Going Concern

The Accounting Officer considers the BAPG a going concern, given the business involvement established in BAPG events, via financial sponsorship, as well as the expected continuation of funding from the House of Commons and House of Lords. The BAPG's grant funding is paid by the House of Commons (70% share) and the House of Lords (30% share) and is included in their supply estimates each year along with those of the three other like grant funded interparliamentary groups (BGIPU, CPA-UK and BIPA). The BAPG received 50% of its maximum annual funding allowance 2025-26 in Q1 and is submitting a request for the balance of funding in Q3. The BAPG is currently preparing a Funding Request for the 2026-27 financial year, to be submitted to the Parliamentary Budget Holders in mid-September 2025. A decision is expected from the House of Commons Commission and the House of Lords Commission in early January 2026. A final Request for Payment of the funding allowance 2026-27 will be submitted in March 2026, with the expectation of payment in April 2026. We are confident that the going concern assumption remains appropriate for the preparation of the financial statements.

Sir Christopher Chope, OBE, MP (Accounting Officer)
20th October 2025

ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

Statement of Accounting Officer's Responsibilities

Under the Financial Memorandum, the House of Commons Commission and the House of Lords Commission have directed the BAPG to prepare for each financial year a statement of accounts to the year ended 31 March. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of BAPG and of its income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year.

In preparing the accounts, the Accounting Officer is required to:

- give due regard to the procedures laid down in the Financial Memorandum, including relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- make judgments and estimates on a reasonable basis;
- state whether applicable standards have been followed and disclose and explain any material departures in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the BAPG will continue in operation.

The Executive Committee has appointed as Accounting Officer, the Joint Honorary Treasurer of the opposite party to the Honorary Secretary, The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP. The responsibilities of an 'Accounting Officer' include responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the BAPG's grant funding, for keeping proper records, for safeguarding the BAPG's assets, as set out in the Financial Memorandum agreed between the BAPG, the House of Commons Commission and the House of Lords Commission, for ensuring that the annual report and accounts as a whole is fair, balanced and understandable and for taking personal responsibility for the annual report and accounts and the judgments required for determining that it is fair, balanced and understandable.

Provision of Information to Auditors

As far as the Accounting Officer is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the BAPG's auditor, the Comptroller and Auditor General and the National Audit Office (NAO), are unaware. In addition, the Accounting Officer has taken all the steps necessary to make himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the BAPG's auditors are aware of that information.

Governance Statement

The British-American Parliamentary Group (BAPG) maintains a system of governance that supports the achievement of the objectives and activities of the BAPG, whilst safeguarding the public funds and assets in a manner that is consistent with the Financial Memorandum issued by the House of Commons Commission and the House of Lords Commission for the use of the Group's grant. In discharging its responsibilities, the BAPG has had regard to the principles of the Corporate Governance Code for Central Government.

Governance Framework

The BAPG acts as an autonomous body within Parliament. The management of the BAPG is vested in an Executive Committee. The Honorary Secretary and Joint Honorary Treasurers, who are nominated by the Executive Committee and ratified each year at the Annual General Meeting as additional members of the Executive Committee with full voting rights, are primarily responsible for the Group's activities. The Chairman of the Group is the Prime Minister. The two Vice-Chairs from the House of Commons are normally of Cabinet and Shadow Cabinet rank.

The Group's rules are set out in a single constitutional document and detail the administrative arrangements and membership of the Group.

The day-to-day activities are the responsibility of the Administrator who is employed by the Executive Committee and operates under the general direction of the BAPG Officers to implement its policy decisions.

The Group's rules provide that the Executive Committee shall meet four times a year, between one year's AGM and the next. The Executive Committee may determine a time and place for an Annual General Meeting of members to which it submits a report of its proceedings. The rules also allow for the Executive Committee to call Special General Meetings to consider and determine any matter of interest and importance that may arise.

None of the members of the Executive Committee received a remuneration for their role. Details on the composition of the Executive Committee and meeting attendance can be found on pages 8 and 9 respectively.

Parliamentary Accountability Disclosures (subject to audit)

Losses or special payments

There were no write-offs, losses or special payments requiring disclosure during 2023-24 (nil in 2022-23).

Fees and charges

Fees and charges are not relevant to these accounts.

Remote contingent liabilities

There were no remote contingent liabilities as at 31st March 2024.

OFFICERS' & MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2023-24

Honorary Joint Presidents	The Speaker of the House of Commons The Lord Speaker
Honorary Vice-Presidents	The Rt. Hon. Dame Margaret Beckett, DBE, MP The Rt. Hon. Ian Blackford, MP The Rt. Hon. Sir Iain Duncan Smith, MP The Rt. Hon. the Lord Falconer of Thoroton, KC The Rt. Hon. the Lord Hague of Richmond The Rt. Hon. the Lord Howard of Lympne, CH, KC The Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt, MP The Rt. Hon. the Lord Jopling, DL The Rt. Hon. Ed Miliband, MP The Rt. Hon. Andrew Mitchell, MP The Rt. Hon. the Lord Owen, CH The Rt. Hon. Dominic Raab, MP The Rt. Hon. Sir Keir Starmer, KCB, KC, MP Stephen Flynn, MP
Honorary Chair	The Prime Minister
Honorary Vice-Chairs	The Rt. Hon. James Cleverly, MP The Rt. Hon. David Lammy, MP The Rt. Hon. the Baroness Jay of Paddington
Honorary Secretary	The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP
Honorary Treasurers	The Rt. Hon. Sir Greg Knight, MP Sir Christopher Chope, OBE, MP

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

House of Commons

Government	Opposition
Rehman Chishti, MP	Yvonne Fovargue, MP (Labour)
Philip Davies, MP	The Rt. Hon. John Healey, MP (Labour)
The Rt. Hon. Chris Grayling, MP	The Rt. Hon. Dame Diana Johnson, DBE, MP (Labour)
Stephen Hammond, MP	The Rt. Hon. Kevan Jones, MP (Labour)
Jack Lopresti, MP	Chi Onwurah, MP (Labour)

House of Lords

Conservative	Labour
The Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate	The Rt. Hon. the Lord Anderson of Swansea, DL
The Rt. Hon. the Lord Haselhurst	The Rt. Hon. the Lord Robertson of Port Ellen, KT GCMG
Liberal Democrat	Cross Bench
The Lord Fox	The Earl of Devon

Secretariat: Hannah Mitchell

* Further details on the Executive Committee's meeting attendance is given below (page 9).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Executive Committee 2023-24 met on: 17th October 2023; 12th December 2023; 27th February 2024 (postponed from 6th February 2024) and 14th May 2024.

The Annual General Meeting, at which the current Executive Committee was elected, took place on 12th July 2023.

The following indicates attendances at the Executive Committee meetings since the last AGM:

The Rt. Hon. the Lord Anderson of Swansea, DL	0/4
Rehman Chishti, MP	1/4
Sir Christopher Chope, OBE, MP	3/4
The Rt. Hon. James Cleverly, MP	0/4
Sir Philip Davies, MP	0/4
The Earl of Devon	2/4
Yvonne Fovargue, MP	3/4
The Lord Fox	1/4
The Rt. Hon. Chris Grayling, MP	3/4
Stephen Hammond, MP	4/4
The Rt. Hon. the Lord Haselhurst	4/4
The Rt. Hon. John Healey, MP	2/4
The Rt. Hon. the Baroness Jay of Paddington	3/4
The Rt. Hon. Dame Diana Johnson, DBE, MP	0/4
The Rt. Hon. Kevan Jones, MP	1/4
The Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate	4/4
The Rt. Hon. Sir Greg Knight, MP	2/4
The Rt. Hon. David Lammy, MP	3/4
Jack Lopresti, MP	3/4
Chi Onwurah, MP	4/4
The Rt. Hon. the Lord Robertson of Port Ellen	3/4
The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP	4/4

Relationship with Sponsor: House of Commons Commission and House of Lords Commission

The House of Commons Commission and House of Lords Commission provide funding to the BAPG by way of a grant in the proportion 70:30.

The BAPG's relationship with its funding sponsors is embodied in a Financial Memorandum.

The Financial Memorandum defines the group's status and governance arrangements, its funding, budgeting and planning requirements, financial controls, requirements for audit and assurance, other provisions, details of the services provided by both Houses and delegated financial authority. In summary, the Memorandum ensures that BAPG's activities are funded, governed, and audited transparently, with strong oversight from Parliament, while maintaining its independence.

The Financial Memorandum is reviewed at least once every three years. A new version of the Memorandum was introduced in April 2012, which strengthened financial reporting and set limits on reserves. Reviews followed in 2013 (light touch, minor amendments), 2016–17 (more substantive updates, audit-related improvements), 2020–21 (clarifications and new House policies across all inter-parliamentary groups), 2023-2024 (substantive changes: moving forward the annual funding request deadline, with the possibility of extension; accordance with precautionary exclusion actions taken against any member of either House in its activities; formal record of Parliament's practical support to the IPGs (office space, passes, payroll, IT, etc)).

The Clerks of the respective InterParliamentary Relations Offices (formerly the Overseas Offices) attend meetings of the BAPG Executive Committee to provide assurance to the House of Commons Commission and House of Lords Commission that funding is being disbursed in accordance with the purposes and principles set out in the Financial Memorandum as well as to provide such advice and assistance as requested.

The Executive Committee appoints an Accounting Officer from its membership, normally one of the Officers (either of the Joint Honorary Treasurers or the Honorary Secretary) to ensure that the uses to which the Group puts funds received from the grant are consistent with the purposes for which the grant was given and comply with any conditions attached to them, including the provisions of the Financial Memorandum.

The BAPG's accounts and the activities that underpin them are currently subject to external audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General supported by the National Audit Office (NAO). The NAO carry out their audits in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (UK) and each year report the results of their work to the BAPG's Executive Committee.

Internal Audit services of both Houses may also be used to provide assurance to the sponsors and to the BAPG Executive Committee. The Internal Audit services have the right of access to all the BAPG records, operations and physical properties of the body and to the Executive Committee members, employees and contractors, as set out in the Financial Memorandum. An internal audit was last carried out in 2017-18 to provide assurance that the governance processes in place were adequate to leave the Accounting Officers of each House able to discharge their responsibility to 'ensure prudent management of grant in aid funds, achieve value for money, and ensure that grants are used as envisaged while allowing recipients reasonable freedom to take their own decisions'. Following the audit, the internal audit team reported that they were "able to provide substantial assurance that the processes in place within BAPG result in the intended objectives being achieved." There has been no recent work undertaken by the internal audit team on the BAPG. Furthermore, there have been no changes in process since the Independent Auditor's last review.

The Group's Governance Activities in 2023-24

The Executive Committee met virtually on four occasions in 2023-24 to consider matters that are set out in the Annual Report of the Executive Committee. Amongst other things, the Committee examined the Group's draft programme of activities for the present year and estimated costs; reviewed the Group's budgetary position and forecast budget for 2024-25; analysed the Group's accounts for 2022-23 and the annual report of the Honorary Secretary, as well as other matters for discussion and endorsement by the Annual General Meeting.

Quality of Data

In advance of each Executive Committee meeting, an extract of the Treasurer's Report is circulated to the committee, detailing the current finances of the Group, the known liabilities for the year to 31st March and the anticipated balance at the year-end, after the costs have been deducted. This is accompanied by a copy of the Minutes of the last meeting and a summary of the activities that have taken place since the last meeting and those planned for the future. The Committee is also sent at periodic intervals updates on the Group's membership figures and a copy of the Group's latest Risk Register for review. This data information assists the Committee in discharging its responsibilities and achieving the objectives and activities of the BAPG, whilst safeguarding the public funds and assets in a manner that is consistent with the Financial Memorandum and the principles of the Corporate Governance Code for Central Government.

Risk Management

The risk management process is the responsibility of the Executive Committee and it oversees a risk register which identifies and evaluates possible risks to the Group and sets out the internal controls or mitigating actions in place to manage the risks. These risk management and internal control systems have been in place for the year under review and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. It is the responsibility of the Committee to regularly appraise the existing risks and to recommend action where necessary. Importantly, this process is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level, rather than to eliminate all risk. In doing this, it can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

The risk register currently identifies 13 risks which fall within the low risk areas after mitigating actions have been taken. The major operational risk is management override of controls. Management is in a unique position to perpetuate fraud because of its ability to manipulate accounting records and prepare fraudulent financial statements by using its position to override controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. This is mitigated by the segregation of duties; most payments are by cheque (except for the Administrator's net pay, which is paid by Standing Order every month; Employer and Employee pension contributions, which are required by the Cabinet Office to be paid on-line and exceptional ad hoc on-line payments, when 'fast payment' is required), which require two of three signatories. Furthermore, there are agreed authorisation/delegation limits on financial expenditure, as detailed in the annex of the Financial Memorandum.

An ongoing area of significant concern, which the BAPG Executive Committee is monitoring, is the future sustainability of the BAPG's traditional programme of activities. After five years of no inflationary uplift to the grant (2010-2015) and a 2% cap to the uplift in 2022-23 and 2023-24 financial years, at a time of unprecedented inflation in the UK and US, representing a real cash cut to funding, the current base line grant is no longer sufficient to fund the BAPG's traditional programme on a four year cycle. This is evidenced by the BAPG's reliance on reserves to make-up the budget shortfall. We anticipate by 2027-28 financial year, when the Annual Conference reverts to the United States for the next two years (with added airfare and hotel accommodation costs), insufficient reserves to make up the budget shortfall and having to request to the Parliamentary authorities an increase in the Group's baseline funding going forward if we are to continue to deliver the BAPG's traditional programme of activities.

In 2016, the BAPG Executive Committee considered other possible sources of finance to help offset the anticipated budget shortfall, including inviting business involvement in BAPG events. We have since had some success with this, particularly in respect of the 2017, 2018 and 2021 Annual Conferences, which were hosted in the UK, and the annual reception for the American Ambassador. While we cannot guarantee this revenue stream for future activities, particularly when the Annual Conference is hosted in the US, we will continue to utilise it as an option when we can, to help reduce programme costs and leverage funds for the BAPG's core function of establishing people to people relations via exchange of visits.

Overall, given the business involvement established in BAPG events, as well as the expected continuation of funding from the House of Commons and House of Lords, we are confident that the going concern assumption remains appropriate for the preparation of the financial statements.

Personal Data Related Incidents

The BAPG had no personal data-related incidents during the reporting year.

Changes to the composition of the Executive Committee up to the signature date of the Accounts 2023-24

The Group's Annual General Meeting 2023 took place on 12th July at which members of the 2023-24 Executive Committee were elected. All existing Members of the Executive Committee 2022-23 were re-elected, excepting Conor McGinn, MP (Labour) and Gavin Newlands, MP (SNP), who both stood down from the committee at the AGM. The Rt. Hon. John Healey, MP (Labour) and Dr. Lisa Cameron, MP (SNP) were elected to the vacant positions. Note, Dr. Lisa Cameron, MP later defected to the Conservative Party in October 2023 and in so doing nullified her position as an opposition MP on the BAPG Executive Committee. The place remains vacant on the committee. Also, The Rt. Hon. Esther McVey, MP (Conservative) was appointed a Minister in the November 2023 cabinet reshuffle which meant she could no longer serve as a member of the BAPG Executive Committee thereby creating a vacancy on the government side, which remains vacant.

The BAPG Vice Chairs in the Commons, The Rt. Hon. Ben Wallace, MP (Conservative) and The Rt. Hon. John Healey, MP (Labour) both completed their three year terms at the AGM in July 2023 and were succeeded by The Rt. Hon. James Cleverly, MP (Conservative) and The Rt. Hon. David Lammy, MP (Labour).

Review of the Effectiveness of the Governance

The Accounting Officer has responsibility for maintaining effective governance and periodically to review the processes and procedures that are in place. The Accounting Officer's statement is set out below.

My review of the BAPG's governance is informed by the deliberations of the British-American Parliamentary Group's Annual General Meeting, the decisions of the Executive Committee, as well as the views of the Administrator, the Honorary Secretary and fellow Joint Honorary Treasurer of the BAPG, who have day to day responsibility for the governance processes and procedures.

I have also had regard to guidance on internal control and financial management issued by the House of Commons Commission and House of Lords Commission, under the auspices of the Financial Memorandum, as well as the comments made by the external auditors, the Comptroller and Auditor General, supported by the National Audit Office (NAO), in their audit of the BAPG Accounts and the activities that underpin them, which is carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) and each year reports the results of their work to the BAPG's Executive Committee. As far as I am aware, there have been no significant internal controls issues raised during the year.

On an enduring basis, I advise the BAPG's Executive Committee on the implications of the periodic reviews of the BAPG's governance processes and procedures. I intend to ensure that the BAPG continues to maintain a reliable system of governance.

I consider that the Executive Committee has an effective stewardship over the resources of the Group.

Sir Christopher Chope, OBE, MP (Accounting Officer)

20th October 2025

THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH-AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

Opinion on financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of the British-American Parliamentary Group for the year ended 31 March 2024 under the Basis of Agreement.

The financial statements comprise the British-American Parliamentary Group's

- Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2024;
- Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure, Statement of Cash Flows and Statement of Changes in Taxpayers' Equity for the year then ended; and
- the related notes including the significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in the preparation of the financial statements is applicable law and UK adopted international accounting standards.

In my opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the British-American Parliamentary Group's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and its net operating income or the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the HM Treasury's Government Financial Reporting Manual as adapted or interpreted for the Houses of Parliament context and the Financial Memorandum as approved by the House of Commons Commission and House of Lords Commission.

Opinion on regularity

In my opinion, in all material respects, the income and expenditure recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

Basis for opinions

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs UK), applicable law and Practice Note 10 *Audit of Financial Statements and Regularity of Public Sector Bodies in the United Kingdom (2024)*. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of my report.

Those standards require me and my staff to comply with the Financial Reporting Council's *Revised Ethical Standard 2024*. I am independent of the British-American Parliamentary Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK. My staff and I have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, I have concluded that the British-American Parliamentary Group's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on British-American Parliamentary Group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

My responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Accounting Officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

The going concern basis of accounting for the British-American Parliamentary Group is adopted in consideration of the requirements set out in HM Treasury's Government Financial Reporting Manual, which requires entities to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements where it is anticipated that the services which they provide will continue into the future.

Other Information

The other information comprises information included in the Annual Report but does not include the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. The Accounting Officer is responsible for the other information.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in my report, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

My responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the parts of the Accountability Report subject to audit have been properly prepared in accordance with HM Treasury's Government Financial Reporting Manual as adapted or interpreted for the Houses of Parliament context; and
- the information given in the Performance and Accountability Reports for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and is in accordance with the applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which I report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the British-American Parliamentary Group and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified material misstatements in the Performance and Accountability Reports.

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters which I report to you if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the British-American Parliamentary Group or returns adequate for my audit have not been received from branches not visited by my staff; or
- I have not received all of the information and explanations I require for my audit; or
- the financial statements and the parts of the Accountability Report subject to audit are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- the Governance Statement does not reflect compliance with HM Treasury's guidance.

Responsibilities of the Accounting Officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Accounting Officer's Responsibilities, the Accounting Officer is responsible for:

- maintaining proper accounting records;
- providing the C&AG with access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;
- providing the C&AG with additional information and explanations needed for his audit;
- providing the C&AG with unrestricted access to persons within the British-American Parliamentary Group from whom the auditor determines it necessary to obtain audit evidence;
- ensuring such internal controls are in place as deemed necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements to be free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;

- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view in accordance with HM Treasury's Financial Reporting Manual as adapted or interpreted for the Houses of Parliament context;
- preparing the annual report in accordance with HM Treasury's Financial Reporting Manual as adapted or interpreted for the Houses of Parliament context; and
- assessing the British-American Parliamentary Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Accounting Officer anticipates that the services provided by the British-American Parliamentary Group will not continue to be provided in the future.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with the applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)).

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting non-compliance with laws and regulations including fraud

I design procedures in line with my responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud. The extent to which my procedures are capable of detecting non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud is detailed below.

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, I:

- considered the nature of the sector, control environment and operational performance including the design of the British-American Parliamentary Group's accounting policies, key performance indicators and performance incentives.
- inquired of management, and those charged with governance, including obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation relating to British-American Parliamentary Group's policies and procedures on:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud; and
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations including the British-American Parliamentary Group's controls relating to the British-American Parliamentary Group's compliance with the Financial Memorandum agreed with the House of Commons Commission and House of Lords Commission, and Managing Public Money inquired of management, and those charged with governance whether:
 - they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
 - they had knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
- discussed with the engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, I considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the British-American Parliamentary Group for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas: revenue recognition, posting of unusual journals, complex transactions and bias in management estimates. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), I am required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

I obtained an understanding of the British-American Parliamentary Group's framework of authority and other legal and regulatory frameworks in which the British-American Parliamentary Group operates. I focused on those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the British-American Parliamentary Group. The key laws and regulations I considered in this context included HM Treasury's Government Financial Reporting Manual as adapted or interpreted for the Houses of Parliament context, Managing Public Money, employment law and tax legislation.

Audit Response to Identified Risks

To respond to the identified risks resulting from the above procedures:

- I reviewed the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described above as having direct effect on the financial statements;
- I enquired of management and those charged with governance concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- I reviewed minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and the Executive Committee and internal audit reports;
- I addressed the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements on estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

I communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential risks of fraud to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my report.

Other auditor's responsibilities

I am required to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to give reasonable assurance that the expenditure and income recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control I identify during my audit.

Gareth Davies

Date

Comptroller and Auditor General

National Audit Office
157-197 Buckingham Palace Road
Victoria
London
SW1W 9SP

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure

For the year ended 31 March 2024

		2023-24	2022-23
	Note	£	£
Income:			
Parliamentary grant	2	(131,256)	(124,765)
Other operating income	2	(1,863)	(1,897)
Total operating Income		(133,119)	(126,662)
Administration costs:			
Staff costs	3	48,657	46,466
Other administration costs	4	24,822	22,638
		73,479	69,104
Programme costs:			
Programme costs	5	51,689	123,496
Total operating expenditure		125,168	192,600
Net operating (income)/expenditure		(7,951)	65,938
Bank interest received		(2,435)	(1,062)
Corporation tax payable		462	202
Net (income)/expenditure		(9,924)	65,078
Comprehensive net (income)/expenditure		(9,924)	65,078

The notes on pages 21 to 25 form part of the accounts.

Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended 31 March 2024

		31 Mar 2024	31 Mar 2023
	Note	£	£
Current assets:			
Trade and other receivables	7	20,229	13,992
Cash and cash equivalents	8	216,516	80,702
Total current assets		236,745	94,694
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	9	(117,838)	(7,711)
Total current liabilities		(117,838)	(7,711)
Assets less liabilities		118,907	86,983
Taxpayers' equity:			
General fund		118,907	86,983
Total taxpayers' equity		118,907	86,983

The notes on pages 21 to 25 form part of the accounts.

Sir Christopher Chope, OBE, MP (Accounting Officer)
20th October 2025

Statement of Cash Flows

For year ended 31 March 2024

		2023-24	2022-23
	Note	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net income/(expenditure)		7,951	(65,938)
Adjustments for non-cash transactions – audit fee		22,000	21,000
Decrease/(Increase) in trade and other receivables	7	(6,237)	(10,912)
(Decrease)/Increase in trade and other payables	9	110,127	(11,265)
Remove increase in trade and other payables relating to non-operating activities		(260)	(146)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities		133,581	(67,261)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Net cash outflow from investing activities		-	-
Cash flows from financing activities			
Interest received		2,435	1,062
Corporation tax paid on interest received		(202)	(56)
Net cash inflow from financing activities		2,233	1,006
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the period		135,814	(66,255)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	8	80,702	146,957
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	8	216,516	80,702

The notes on pages 21 to 25 form part of the accounts.

Statement of Changes in Taxpayers' Equity

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	General Fund
		£
Balance at 31 March 2022		131,061
Non-cash charges – auditor's remuneration		21,000
Net expenditure for the year		(65,078)
Balance at 31 March 2023		86,983
Non-cash charges – auditor's remuneration	4	22,000
Net income for the year		9,924
Balance at 31 March 2024		118,907

The notes on pages 21 to 25 form part of the accounts.

Notes to the Accounts

1. Statement of accounting policies

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the 2023-24 Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) as adapted or interpreted for the House of Commons context which applies International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Where the FReM permits a choice of accounting policy, the accounting policy which is judged to be the most appropriate to the BAPG for the purpose of giving a true and fair view has been selected. The policies adopted by the BAPG are described below. They have been applied consistently in dealing with items that are considered material to the accounts.

a. Impending application of newly issued accounting standards

IFRS 17, which will replace IFRS 4, is currently expected to be implemented in financial year 2025-26. The standard applies to issued insurance contracts and the reporting of these in the financial statements to provide comparability and increase transparency. BAPG does not act as an insurer in any insurance contracts, so there should be no impact on 2025-26 accounts

1.1 Non-current assets

Immaterial items of office equipment are written off as expenditure, in full, in the year of acquisition. There have been no new assets purchased in 2023-24.

1.2 Operating income

IFRS 15 (Revenue from Contracts with Customers) is applied as standard and sets out the key recognition and measurement criteria in respect of income.

Such income relates directly to the operating activities of the BAPG and principally comprises of Parliamentary grants, Annual Subscriptions, Life Subscriptions, donations and interest on the bank deposit accounts.

Parliamentary Grant income is recognised in full in the financial year to which the grant relates, with any amounts received in advance or after the year-end deferred or accrued respectively.

Annual Subscriptions cover a 12-month period from 1st April each year. Annual Subscriptions paid between 1st January and 31st March each year are treated as subscriptions paid in advance (deferred income).

Income received from Life Subscriptions is deferred over a period of 10 years (two terms of Parliament) and released on an annual basis.

1.3 Gains and losses

The BAPG does not regularly experience gains or losses but these would be recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Income.

1.4 Taxation

From 6 April 2016, banks and building societies have paid gross (untaxed) interest on savings accounts.

The 2023-24 Accounts show gross interest received of £2,435 as a result, the total tax liability for 2023-24 is £462 (2022-23 £202 liability) based on a Corporation Tax rate of 19% for 2023-24; 2022-23: 19%.

1.5 Expenditure

The British-American Parliamentary Group pays all the associated costs of events it organises, however, where it collaborates with a partner, such as BritishAmerican Business or The Ditchley Foundation on an event, and their guests join BAPG members at the event, they may cover the cost of venue hire and refreshments.

2. Income

	2023-24	2022-23
	£	£
Parliamentary Grant	131,256	124,765
Annual Subscriptions	995	1,035
Life Subscriptions	794	752
Donations	74	110
Total	133,119	126,662

3. Staff numbers and related costs

Staff costs comprise:

	2023-24	2022-23
	£	£
Wages and salaries	35,568	33,677
Social security costs	3,630	3,554
Other pension costs	9,459	9,235
Total	48,657	46,466

There is one part-time member of staff at the BAPG responsible for the day-to-day administration.

4. Other administration costs

	2023-24	2022-23
	£	£
Sundry	1,350	283
Insurance	1,328	1,210
Website costs	144	145
Non-cash items:		
Auditor's remuneration	22,000	21,000
Total	24,822	22,638

5. Programme costs

	2023-24	2022-23
	£	£
Annual Parliamentary / Congressional Conference	95	26,066
Specialist Delegation Visit(s)	31,131	50,157
US Midterm Election Event	-	1,448
BAPG / US Department of State Co-Sponsored Visit	20,129	32,498
Harvard new Members of Congress orientation programme	-	13,163
Hospitality	334	164
Total	51,689	123,496

During the year, the BAPG undertook the following visits to the US:

A specialist delegation visit to Texas in April 2023;

The annual BAPG / US Department of State co-sponsored Legislative Exchange to the US in July 2023;

A specialist delegation visit to the US Midwest (Kansas and Missouri) in March 2024;

The deferred 2022 Annual Parliamentary / Congressional Conference was scheduled to take place from 22-24 April 2024, but was subsequently postponed by the House BAPG, due to not being able to organise a delegation in time for the scheduled dates of the conference.

6. Financial Instruments

IFRS 7 (Derivatives and other Financial Instruments) requires disclosure of the role which financial instruments have had during the period in creating or changing the risks an entity faces in undertaking its activities. The BAPG has limited exposure in relation to its activities.

Liquidity risk

The BAPG was financed by a grant from both Houses of Parliament. As such, it was not exposed to significant liquidity risks.

Interest rate risk

The BAPG was not exposed to significant interest rate risk.

Foreign currency risk

Foreign currency would not usually form part of the Groups assets or liabilities and as such it is not exposed to any significant exchange risks.

Credit risk

The BAPG was not exposed to any credit risk.

7. Trade and other receivables

	2023-24	2022-23
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Prepayments	19,800	13,992
Other Receivables	429	-
Total	20,229	13,992

8. Cash and cash equivalents

	2023-24	2022-23
	£	£
Balance at 1 April	80,702	146,957
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	135,814	(66,255)
Balance at 31 March	216,516	80,702
The following balances at 31 March were held at:		
Commercial banks and cash in hand	216,516	80,702
Balance at 31 March	216,516	80,702

N.B This includes the HOC share of the grant funding for 2024-2025 financial year at £109,534 (received 28th March 2024).

9. Trade and other payables

	2023-24	2022-23
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other Payables	5,188	4,256
Deferred Income	112,650	3,455
	117,838	7,711

Of the £3,455 deferred at the end of 2022-23, £45 annual subscription income and £752 lifetime subscription income was recognised as income during 2023-24.

Deferred income at 31 March 2024 comprised £3,116 relating to subscriptions, and £109,534 grant income from the House of Commons, received in March 2024, but relating to 2024-25 financial year.

10. Related-party transactions

The House of Commons and the House of Lords are regarded as related parties, providing grant to the Group under the terms provided by the Financial Memorandum. In addition, the House of Commons provides free accommodation to the Group as well as accounting services at the year end.

The House of Commons and House of Lords provided the BAPG with a combined grant of £131,256 in 2023-24 (£124,765 in 2022-23).

In addition, during March 2024, the BAPG also received £109,534 grant income that relates to the 2024-25 financial year. This has been deferred at year end.

During 2023-24, the Group entered into related party transactions worth £596.41. This figure comprises £285.27 paid to the House of Lords and House of Commons Catering Services for the provision of hospitality to BAPG visitors, £33.77 for in-house printing and £277.37 on small gifts. (2022-23: £4,541 total related party transactions comprising £4,278 for catering, £92 printing and £171 on sundry items from the Parliament shop).

The Officers and members of the BAPG Executive Committee do not receive a remuneration for their role.

11. Events after the reporting date

In accordance with the requirements of IAS 10, post Statement of Financial Position events are considered up to the date on which the accounts are authorised for issue by the Accounting Officer. This is the date of the Independent Auditor's report of the Comptroller and Auditor General. I can confirm there are none.

ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP (not subject to audit)

2-6 April 2023

Four BAPG members: Robert Courts, MP, Jane Stevenson, MP, Alex Davies-Jones, MP and the Lord Watts, visited Texas to better understand the commercial opportunities afforded by America's second largest (and fastest growing) state and the political power that sits outside the beltway as well as establish a political/parliamentary relationship with Texas state legislators, particularly around influencing policy debate on climate change and energy transition.

The group visited Houston, Austin and Dallas in a programme arranged by the British Consulate General Houston, in conjunction with the BAPG.

Robert Courts, MP has written a report on the visit which is available from the BAPG Secretariat.

19th April

As part of its work on climate change this year the LSE Phelan US Centre held an essay competition for Masters' students with the prompt, 'What responsibility does the US have to the rest of the world on climate change?' and invited the BAPG to host a presentation of the winning essay as a way to engage students with MPs and the policymaking process.

We are grateful to BAPG members, The Rt. Hon. Greg Clark, MP (Chair, Select Committee on Science and Technology) and Matt Western, MP (Shadow Minister for Higher Education) for hosting the presentation in Parliament joined by Kerry McCarthy, MP (the Shadow Minister for Climate Change) and The Rt. Hon. the Lord Haselhurst (member of the BAPG Executive Committee). The essay competition winner Oscar Parry and runner-up, Jibran Raja, engaged in a robust Q&A session which highlighted the value of hearing the voice and insights of students on important issues.

24th April

The BAPG Administrator met online with Rory Newbery and Sydney Smith of the Cultural Affairs team at the US Embassy to discuss the arrangements for this year's US government sponsored Legislative exchange to the US.

27th April

The BAPG Administrator met with the NAO to discuss the audit of the BAPG Accounts 2021-22, which was almost complete.

27th April

The BAPG Administrator met with the new Head of InterParliamentary Relations in the House of Lords, Susie Latta, to discuss the work of the BAPG and its programme of activities.

28th April

The BAPG Administrator hosted Debbie Gebhardt, the former Chief of Staff to Rep. Tom Petri (former chair of the House BAPG), who was over from Washington DC visiting the UK.

3rd May

The BAPG Administrator met with the Editor in Chief of Politics Home and The House Magazine, Mr. Alan White, and the Director of the London POTUS Group, Professor Mark White, to discuss a 60th anniversary feature on the life and presidency of John F Kennedy for the House Magazine to run in the 19th June issue, a week prior to the panel discussion event in the River Room.

3rd May

The BAPG Administrator met online with Mr. Matthew Morgan, the Head of Visitor Services, to discuss the forthcoming visit by US Members of Congress on 8th August and by US Fulbright Scholars on 6/7 September.

15th May

At the request of the Joint Defence Staff at the British Embassy in Washington DC, BAPG Officer, The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP, hosted senior Rear Admiral John A Okon, Director, Warfare Integration Directorate, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, on a visit to Parliament with a short tour followed by informal drinks on the terrace.

16th May

The BAPG arranged tickets to the Commons gallery for Professor and Head of the Department of Political Science at Montana State University, Dave Parker, and 20 students.

1st June 2023

BAPG members were specially invited to an LSE Phelan United States Centre discussion event titled 'Global Governance in an Age of Fracture' on whether support for international institutions such as the UN and WTO can be revived or if the postwar rules based order is now so fractured that we are likely to get more international and domestic buy-in starting a new. Speakers included Charles A Kupchan, Professor of International Affairs in the School of Foreign Service and Government Department at Georgetown University and Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. Professor Peter Trubowitz, Professor of International Relations and Director of the Phelan US Centre at the London School of Economics and Political Science and Associate Fellow at Chatham House, chaired the discussion.

12th June

BAPG Officer, The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP, and the BAPG Administrator met with the new Deputy Director Americas at the FCDO, Iain Griffiths, together with the leads in the North America Department, Tom Newton and Charlotte Dixon, to discuss the BAPG and its programme of activities and visits.

13th June

The Interparliamentary Relations Office (IPRO) launched a strategy for interparliamentary engagement of the House of Commons Administration and a new Interparliamentary Engagement Hub (intranet landing page), to which the BAPG Secretariat was invited to attend.

14th June

The Secretary of State for the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, The Rt. Hon. James Cleverly, MP, hosted a reception at Lancaster House, to which BAPG members and the BAPG Secretariat were invited.

15th June

At the request of the British Embassy Washington DC, the BAPG arranged a tour of Parliament for Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders and accompanying persons hosted by BAPG Executive Committee member Philip Davies, MP.

15th June

BAPG Vice Chair, The Rt. Hon. the Baroness Jay of Paddington, together with The Rt. Hon. the Baroness Anelay of St. Johns and The Rt. Hon. Dame Diana Johnson, DBE, MP, met with the new chair of the US Congressional Women's Caucus, Rep. Kat Cammack (R-FL), to see if there was interest in resuming bilateral engagement between women legislators on each side of the Atlantic, which had commenced in the last Congress. There was enthusiasm to establish a regular online forum with the wider membership and agreement to meet again to determine a suitable date and subject for the first forum.

27th June

The British-American Parliamentary Group, in partnership with the Archives and History APPG, the London POTUS Group and National Archives, hosted a panel discussion event in the River Room of the House of Lords on 'the life and presidency of John F. Kennedy' with a distinguished panel of speakers to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in November 1963.

The panel included: Fredrik Logevall, the Pulitzer Prize-winning Laurence D. Belfer Professor of International Affairs at Harvard Kennedy school and author of the bestselling *JFK*; Professor Barbara Perry, Director of Presidential Studies at the University of Virginia's Miller Center and author of sixteen books (including several on the Kennedys) and Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman, Emeritus Professor of War Studies at King's College London and author of *Kennedy's Wars* and many other influential works.

We are most grateful to Executive Committee member, The Rt. Hon. the Lord Robertson of Port Ellen, for chairing the discussion and to Chris Evans, MP, Chair of the Archives and History APPG, for introducing the discussion. Also, to the Lord Speaker, The Rt. Hon. the Lord McFall of Alcluith, for generously allowing the BAPG to host the event in the River Room and for formally welcoming guests to the event.

28th June

The BAPG arranged PMQs tickets for members of last night's JFK panel: Professor Fredrik Logevall and Professor Barbara Perry together with Professor Mark White, Director of the London POTUS Group.

28th June

The Ambassador of the Embassy of the United States of America, the Honorable Jane D. Hartley, hosted a reception to celebrate the 247th anniversary of the Independence of the United States of America at Winfield House to which BAPG members and the BAPG Secretariat were invited.

4th July

At the request of the office of the Tennessee Secretary of State, the BAPG arranged PMQs tickets and a tour of Parliament for Representative Greg Martin of the Tennessee General Assembly and accompanying persons. We are most grateful to The Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate for kindly conducting the tour of the Palace.

5th July

A pre-departure briefing meeting took place with the participants of the 2023 IVLP Legislative Exchange to the US (16-25 July) attended by officials from the US Embassy, from public affairs and the political section. The Rt. Hon. Chris Grayling, MP kindly chaired the meeting.

12th July

The BAPG hosted the First Lady of Texas, Cecilia Abbott, the Secretary of State of Texas, Jane Nelson, and

accompanying officials visiting London on a trade focused mission. The Governor of Texas, Greg Abbott, was also meant to have been present, but had to remain in Texas due to legislative business.

Arrangements were made for the delegation to watch PMQs followed by a small lunch in their honour, when they were joined by the BAPG Officers, along with the three MPs who recently took part in the specialist delegation visit to Texas in April (Robert Courts, MP, Jane Stevenson, MP, Alex Davies-Jones, MP) and The Rt. Hon. Esther McVey, MP and Philip Davies, MP, members of the BAPG Executive Committee.

12th July

The Group's Annual General Meeting took place at which members of the Executive Committee 2023-24 were elected. Mr. Speaker kindly presided.

Following the AGM, members were joined by the Deputy Chief of Mission of the United States Embassy, Matthew Palmer, who gave a briefing on US foreign policy priorities.

16-25 July

The annual Legislative Exchange to the US took place in conjunction with the United States Department of State and the American Embassy London to acquaint BAPG members with the American political system at the federal, state, and local levels, with an emphasis on the role and organization of Congress. The visit included a short time with a Member of Congress in their district.

7th August

At the request of the British Embassy Washington DC, the BAPG hosted Rep. Lizzie Fletcher (D-Texas) and accompanying persons on a tour of Parliament. We are most grateful to The Lord Fox, a member of the BAPG Executive Committee, for kindly conducting the tour.

8th August

The BAPG had the pleasure of hosting 26 Members of Congress led by Rep. Steve Scalise (R-Louisiana) and Rep. Terri Sewell (D-Alabama) who were in London to take part in the 'Transatlantic Capital to Capital Exchange' conducted by The Ripon Society and the Franklin Center for Global Policy Exchange.

Following a guided tour of Parliament, the congressional delegation met with officers and members of the British-American Parliamentary Group in the Grand Committee Room to discuss a range subjects including: transatlantic trade, supply chains, Ukraine, energy sufficiency, defence/security cooperation and China amongst others. We are grateful to The Rt. Hon. Sir Conor Burns, Trade Envoy to the USA for Regional Trade and Investment, for chairing the discussion.

31st August

At the request of the British Embassy Washington DC, the BAPG hosted Senator Jon Ossoff (D-Georgia) and accompanying persons in Parliament by way of a tour given by the BAPG Honorary Secretary, The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP, followed by refreshments on the terrace.

6th September

The Embassy of the United States of America hosted a welcome reception in honor of the Minister Counselor for Public Affairs, Mr. Rodney Ford and Cultural Attaché, Ms. Pam DeVolder at Wychwood House, to which BAPG officers and members were invited.

7th September

The BAPG Honorary Secretary, The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP, together with the BAPG Administrator met with the new Chief of the Domestic Political Unit at the US Embassy, Matt Jones, and Political Specialist, Justine Lancaster, to discuss the BAPG and the current US and UK political landscape.

19th September

On confirmation of the appointment of Rep. Bob Latta (Republican – Ohio) as the new chair of the House of Representatives BAPG delegation, the BAPG Honorary Secretary, The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP, and the BAPG Administrator met with Congressman Latta's Chief of Staff and Legislative Director to discuss 'next steps'.

20th September

BritishAmerican Business held an event to launch its 2023-24 Policy Agenda at ACCA, the Adelphi, to which BAPG members and the Secretariat were invited.

21st September

The BAPG hosted the 2023 intake of US Marshall Scholars on a tour of Parliament followed by a Q&A exchange with the BAPG Honorary Secretary, The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP. In the evening the FCDO hosted a welcome reception for the Marshall Scholars in Durbar Court to which the BAPG Honorary Secretary and Administrator were invited.

2nd October

The BAPG Administrator met virtually with the leads of the Association of Marshall Scholars to discuss the planned AMS Legislative Exchange in the UK 12-16 January 2024 and BAPG participation.

4th October

The BAPG Administrator met with the Chief of Staff to Congressman Joe Wilson (R-South Carolina), Jonathan Day, to discuss possible collaborative opportunities.

5th October

The BAPG Administrator hosted officials from Public Affairs and the Political Section of the US Embassy on a tour of Parliament.

Also that day, the BAPG Administrator hosted the wife and family of Congressman Morgan Griffith (Republican-Virginia) on a tour of Parliament.

12th October

The BAPG Administrator hosted a virtual meeting with the HMG officials leading the upcoming FCDO sponsored visit to the UK by Colorado agriculture stakeholders together with the Senior Clerk of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, Sean Kinsey, on expectations for the round table meeting with Parliamentarians on 17th October involving BAPG members and members of the EFRA Select Committee.

17th October

At the request of the US team at the FCDO, the BAPG arranged a round table meeting between a delegation of Colorado agriculture stakeholders and Parliamentarians, including the Chair and members of the Select Committee on Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The delegates were policymakers from the Colorado Department of Agriculture, local state legislators, representatives from the Farm Bureau, and academics from the land grant university, who were visiting the UK on a FCDO sponsored fact-finding mission around the UK-Colorado Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), with a particular focus on sustainable agriculture policy.

We are grateful to BAPG Executive Committee member, The Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate, for chairing the meeting.

17th October

A meeting of the BAPG Executive Committee took place.

18th October

The BAPG arranged two tickets to PMQs for Maryland Delegate Kym Taylor and her husband Steve at the request of the US Embassy.

25th October

BAPG Vice Chair, The Rt. Hon. The Baroness Jay of Paddington, and BAPG member, The Rt. Hon. the Baroness Anelay of St. Johns, met for the second time with Rep. Kat Cammack (Republican, Florida), Chair of the Congressional Women's Caucus, to discuss the details for a future online forum involving the wider BAPG membership and the US Women's Congressional Caucus.

7th November

State opening of Parliament.

8th November

A meeting of the interparliamentary engagement strategy steering group took place, attended by the BAPG Secretariat. The purpose of the meeting was to present feedback on the implementation of the interparliamentary engagement strategy and to review plans for evaluation of the strategy after six months.

20th November

The BAPG were delighted to host senior Member of Congress, Rep. Jim Himes (D-Connecticut), in Parliament. Rep. Himes is co-chair of the UK Caucus, Ranking Member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and a member on the Financial Services Committee. The BAPG hosted a small lunch for Rep. Himes after which he attended Defence Questions.

21st November

The BAPG Administrator met with David Hirst, the Deputy Head of the Interparliamentary Relations Office, to feedback on the Interparliamentary Affairs Forum.

23rd November

An introductory meeting took place between the BAPG Administrator and Ed Beale, the new head of the Commons InterParliamentary Relations Office and Budget Holder, to discuss the BAPG, its programme of activities and funding.

28th November

The BAPG Honorary Secretary, The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP, together with the BAPG Administrator met with Tom Newton, Deputy Head of the US and Canada Department, and Solene Garrow, US Economic and Trade Desk Officer, of the FCDO to discuss the proposed BAPG specialist delegation visit to the US Midwest in the Spring, to hear about the US Department's work and exchange notes on US politics.

28th November

The BAPG Honorary Secretary, John Spellar, chaired a report back meeting with the participants of the 2023 International Visitor Leadership Programme (IVLP) Legislative Exchange to the US in the summer, attended by senior officials from the US Embassy, from Public Affairs and Political Affairs.

29th November

The London POTUS Group hosted an online event with Sir Nigel Sheinwald who reflected on the presidencies of George W. Bush and Barack Obama from his vantage point as the UK Ambassador to the United States of America between October 2007 and January 2012, to which BAPG members were specially invited.

12th December

A meeting of the BAPG Executive Committee took place.

13th December

The BAPG hosted a bilateral meeting with the US Chamber of Commerce's US-UK Business Council. The Council brought 15 senior executives from a range of sectors representing major US investors in the UK, who were interested to discuss: the state of play in US-UK relations from the Members' perspective, the current domestic political environment, regulatory challenges and opportunities for US companies in the UK, and avenues where our two countries might better cooperate on third country issues. Companies represented included: Brown-Forman, Caterpillar, Cigna Healthcare, Coinbase, Dow, Johnson & Johnson, JP Morgan, Morgan Stanley, MSDr, PhRMA, UPS and Viatrix. The BAPG was also pleased to arrange for the delegation to go to PMQs, courtesy of the Speaker, The Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle, MP.

19th December

The BAPG Honorary Secretary, The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP, and the BAPG Administrator met virtually with the US Economic and Trade Desk Officer at the FCDO, Solene Garrow, together with the Consul General of the British Consulate General Chicago, Alan Gogbashian, and the Consul – Senior Trade Policy Adviser, Tim Bakke, to discuss the planned thematic visit to the US Midwest in March. The British Consulate General Chicago proposed an alternative programme to visit Kansas and Missouri in place of their original proposal to visit Michigan and Illinois.

21st December

The BAPG Administrator met online with the Deputy Consul General of the British Consulate General Chicago, John Murphy, and the Consul – Senior Trade Policy Adviser, Tim Bakke, to discuss the logistical arrangements for the upcoming BAPG specialist delegation visit to Kansas and Missouri in March.

9th January 2024

The BAPG Administrator met virtually with the Chief of Staff to Congressman Bob Latta (R-Ohio), Rebecca Angelson, to discuss the feasibility of an exchange with the House of Representatives BAPG in the UK in the Spring.

10th January

The BAPG hosted a tour of Parliament for a group of North American rabbis from the Hebrew Union College visiting the UK to meet some of their British counterparts. We would like to thank Baroness Merron for kindly conducting the tour on behalf of the BAPG.

12th January

The BAPG Administrator met virtually with Hrag Varjabedian, Program Officer, Office of International Visitors at the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State, to discuss the 2024 annual IVLP Legislative Exchange.

13-16 January

The Association of Marshall Scholars hosted its annual legislative exchange in Oxford and London. British Parliamentarians including officers and members of the BAPG Executive Committee took part in an exchange with US Members of Congress co-chaired by Rep. Mark Green (R-Tennessee) and Rep. Jim Himes (D-Connecticut). As part of the programme, the AMS hosted a reception in the Speaker's State Rooms on the final evening, Monday, 15th January, to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the first US Marshall Scholars to the UK, to

which the wider BAPG membership were invited, providing an opportunity to meet the US Members of Congress.

17th January

The BAPG Secretariat ran a BAPG information stand in Portcullis House to promote the interparliamentary group and its programme of activities, including upcoming visits to the US.

2nd February

An introductory meeting took place between the MPs selected to take part in a BAPG specialist delegation visit to Kansas and Missouri, 10-14 March 2024, and the leads at the British Consulate General Chicago, HM Consul General, Alan Gogbashian, and the Consul Senior Trade Policy Adviser, Tim Bakke, to discuss the Consulate's proposed programme and the MPs particular interests and priorities.

6th February

The BAPG Administrator met virtually with the Chief of Staff to Congressman Bob Latta (R-Ohio), Rebecca Angelson, who asked if it would be possible to push back the dates of the proposed exchange from 22-24 April to 24-26th April due to two Republican Members of the House BAPG delegation from Pennsylvania having Primaries on 23rd April and the Democratic co-chair preferring to do the exchange later in the week.

6th February

The BAPG in partnership with BritishAmerican Business hosted the annual reception for the American Ambassador, H.E. Jane D. Hartley, in the Speaker's State Rooms, by kind permission of Mr. Speaker. BritishAmerican Business had 50 or so members of its business community join BAPG members in meeting the Ambassador who was accompanied by 20 or so senior officials from the Embassy. BAB arranged with Amazon UK to financially sponsor the event.

7th February

The BAPG hosted a delegation of Texas State Legislators in Parliament, who were on a British Consulate General Houston sponsored visit to London, Manchester and Liverpool, to give the state legislators a better sense of how the UK government works and to reinforce that they have a role in international trade. The Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate kindly took the group on a tour of the Palace, which was followed by tickets to PMQs. The Rt. Hon. Sir Conor Burns, MP, Trade Envoy to the USA for Regional Trade and Investment, hosted a small luncheon afterwards for the delegation in the Palace.

8th February

The BAPG Administrator met virtually with Tim Bakke, the Consul – Senior Trade Policy Adviser at the British Consulate General Chicago, and Jan Bauer, Consul|UK Government Office - Minneapolis/St. Paul, to discuss an upcoming visit to Parliament by a delegation from the US Midwest to discuss an initiative to add a UK Green Shipping corridor between the US and the UK and establish a regular trade route between the UK and Midwest US states via the St. Lawrence Seaway. The BAPG were asked if it could assist in arranging a roundtable meeting with MPs who had ports in their constituencies (Liverpool and the Thames Estuary) which would stand to benefit from the initiative and to also arrange a tour of Parliament for the delegation.

14th February

The Royal United Services Institute hosted an off the record roundtable discussion with The Hon. Anne Witkowski, Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilisation Operations, U.S Department of State, entitled 'From Stabilisation to Strategic Prevention' at its offices on Whitehall, to which two BAPG members were invited to attend. Places were confirmed for The Rt. Hon. John Spellar, MP and the Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate.

20th February

The BAPG hosted a trade/foreign policy focused group of congressional staffers in Parliament who were visiting the UK on a British Embassy Washington DC sponsored mission. The BAPG arranged a tour of Parliament followed by a round table meeting with BAPG members in the Palace. The delegation were interested to discuss a variety of aspects of the UK-US relationship, including cooperation on Ukraine, China – AUKUS, and wider economic security. We are grateful to Sir Christopher Chope, OBE, MP for chairing the meeting and to Philip Davies, MP; The Lord Fox and The Rt. Hon. Liam Byrne, MP, Chair of the Business and Trade Select Committee, for giving the time to come and meet the delegation.

21st February

The BAPG Administrator hosted Mark Rebstock, Vice President / Deputy Director of the Meridian Center for Global Leadership in Washington DC (the organisation which arranges the national programme and internal travel for MPs taking part in the annual IVLP Legislative Exchange to the US, co-sponsored with the US Department of State and the US Embassy London), in parliament, taking him on a tour followed by tickets to PMQs, courtesy of the Commons Speaker.

21st February

The BAPG arranged for a delegation of trade/foreign policy focused congressional staffers to meet with senior clerks from the Foreign Affairs, Business and Trade Select Committees and the House of Lords International Relations and Defence Committee.

27th February

The BAPG assisted the FCDO in hosting a delegation from the US Midwest who were visiting the UK to discuss an initiative to add a UK Green Shipping corridor between the US and the UK and establish a regular trade route between the UK and Midwest US states via the St. Lawrence Seaway. The BAPG arranged a tour of Parliament and round table meeting with MPs whose constituencies may stand to benefit from the trade route: Liverpool and the Thames Estuary in the first instance. We are thankful to the Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate for kindly conducting the tour of Parliament for the delegation and chairing the following round table meeting.

27th February

A meeting of the BAPG Executive Committee took place.

28th February

The Rt. Hon. the Baroness Jay of Paddington and The Rt. Hon. the Baroness Anelay of St. Johns, the Parliamentary leads on an initiative to foster a dialogue between women legislators on each side of the Atlantic on issues of common interest, met online with Gill Furniss, MP, Shadow Minister for Pensions and Chair of the Women's Health Group, to prepare for an upcoming online forum with US counterparts on 'women's health care and the importance of screening in preventing illness'. Gill Furniss had kindly agreed to do the opening UK scene setter.

6th March

At the request of the US Embassy London, the BAPG arranged tickets to PMQs for two Embassy officials in the Speaker's Distinguished Strangers' Gallery, by kind permission of the Speaker of the House of Commons, The Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle, MP.

6th March

The LSE Phelan US Centre kindly extended an invitation to BAPG members to its 'Super Tuesday' hybrid event, 'Déjà vu all over again? Super Tuesday and the race for the presidency' at which a panel of eminent academics and journalists reflected on the US presidential primary results and gave their predictions for the general election.

8th March

A pre-departure briefing meeting was held for the MPs taking part in an upcoming BAPG visit to the US Midwest led by John Murphy, Deputy Consul General, and Tim Bakke, Consul - Senior Trade Policy Adviser, of the British Consulate General Chicago.

10-14 March

The BAPG sent four members to Kansas and Missouri to look at how American industry and agriculture is regenerating and to explore the opportunities for Anglo-American cooperation.

The visit arranged with the British Consulate General Chicago provided the MPs with an opportunity to engage with the heart of America, highlight existing areas of UK/US collaboration in the region, build parliamentary links with both States, learn how federal funding programmes have impacted the region and explore opportunities for increased trade and investment.

We are grateful to the British Consulate General Chicago for the time it gave to the visit, particularly with so many other demands on its time. The MPs came away with new insights into the US-UK trade and economic relationship and the key political trends leading into the November 2024 US elections.

13th March

The BAPG hosted the winner and runners up of the LSE Phelan US Centre annual Essay Competition, which is run across the LSE to all Masters' Students, who are invited each year to write about an important global issue that involves the United States. This year the essay prompt was: "How should the United States work to shape the future of capitalism in this age of insecurity?" and the winner and runners up of the competition came to Parliament to present their essays to BAPG members with an interest in economic policy. We are grateful to The Rt. Hon. Ranil Jayawardena, MP, member of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee and LSE alumnus, for chairing the meeting.

14th March

The BAPG Administrator met virtually with Laura Saunders, Head of International at the Conservative Campaign Headquarters, to discuss invitations for two BAPG members to the 2024 Republican National Convention, 15-18 July, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to take part in the International Democracy Union (IDU) programme for international visitors.

14th March

The BAPG Administrator met virtually with Evelyn Okello-Boafo of HOC Finance, who prepares the BAPG Accounts to discuss the timetable for preparation of the BAPG Accounts 2023-24.

19th March

BAPG members were invited to a London POTUS Group online event with Professor Andrew Rudalevige, Thomas Brackett Reed Professor of Government at Bowdoin College and distinguished scholar who specializes in the modern American presidency, who gave a talk on 'The 2024 Campaign for the White House and How Donald Trump would use Presidential Power in a Second Term'.

25th March

At the request of the British Defence Staff United States at the British Embassy Washington DC, the BAPG arranged a tour of Parliament and tickets to the Commons gallery for two senior members of staff to Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY) and Rep. Michelle Fischbach (R-MN).

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE GROUP DURING 2023-2024 (not subject to audit)

The Annual General Meeting of the Group took place on 12th July 2023 at which the Speaker of the House of Commons, The Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle, MP, presided.

It was reported that in the 12 months from April 2022 to April 2023 there had been one Annual Conference in the UK, the deferred 2021 Annual Conference, with a delegation from the US Senate. We had hoped to also host the 2022 Annual Conference in the UK with a delegation from the US House of Representatives, following the US Midterm Elections, but the meeting had to be deferred due to the House BAPG not being able to organise a delegation for the scheduled dates of the exchange. In all, 18 members had visited the US during the year under the auspices of the BAPG.

During the 12 months to April 2024, regretfully there had been no Annual Conference, either with the Senate or the House of Representatives, despite our best efforts. The underlying issue has been a delay in the appointment of a Democratic lead in both the Senate and House BAPG delegations, without whom we can plan a conference. The Democratic leadership in the House of Representatives has now appointed a co-chair to the House BAPG delegation (in late January 2023) and we are trying to determine suitable dates for an exchange, complicated by general elections in both countries. The Senate leadership has not yet confirmed a Democratic chair for the Senate BAPG delegation, but we hope progress will be made on this following the US general election.

Despite there being no Annual Conference, we have had the opportunity to engage with US Members of Congress visiting the UK, meeting with 26 Members of Congress in August 2023, led by Rep. Steve Scalise (R-Louisiana) and Rep. Terri Sewell (D-Alabama), who were in London to take part in the 'Transatlantic Capital to Capital Exchange' conducted by The Ripon Society and the Franklin Center for Global Policy Exchange and also by way of an exchange hosted by the Association of Marshall Scholars in January 2024 in Oxford and London co-chaired by Rep. Mark Green (R-Tennessee) and Rep. Jim Himes (D-Connecticut), attended by BAPG officers and members.

In all, 13 members had visited the US during the year under the auspices of the BAPG.

There were the following visits to the US:

- In April 2023, the BAPG sent four members to Texas to better understand the commercial opportunities afforded by America's second largest state and to establish a political / parliamentary relationship with Texas state legislators.
- In July 2023, five members with no or little prior experience of the US, went to the United States with the BAPG to take part in a US government co-sponsored 'International Visitor Leadership Programme' to learn about the American political system at the federal, state and local levels, with emphasis on the role and organisation of Congress.

- In March 2024, the BAPG sent four members to the US Midwest, to Kansas and Missouri, to look at how American industry and agriculture is regenerating by leveraging traditional strengths in agricultural innovation to unlock funding from federal funding programmes, to build Parliamentary links with both States and to explore the opportunities for increased trade and investment.

In February 2024, the BAPG partnered with BritishAmerican Business in co-hosting a reception for the American Ambassador, H.E. Hon. Jane Hartley, in the Speaker's State Rooms by kind permission of Mr. Speaker. Ambassador Hartley brought along with her 19 senior members of staff from the Embassy to meet Parliamentarians and leaders of US / UK business to establish contacts and discuss matters of common interest. BAB arranged payment of the refreshment costs.

Over the year, the BAPG has been pleased to host VIPs from the United States at the request of the Foreign Office, the American Embassy or directly from the offices of U.S. legislators. Arrangements were also made for the Marshall Scholars to visit Parliament and to meet with a Parliamentarian for a question and answer exchange.

Contact with the United States Embassy in London has been well maintained throughout the year and a significant part of our programme is dependent on good liaison with both the U.S. Embassy and the Foreign Office. Our extensive thanks are due to the North America Department at the Foreign Office for the very informative briefings which they are always kind enough to provide for BAPG delegations and to the British Embassy in Washington D.C. and the Consulates across the USA for their very great input into the programmes arranged for our delegations. We are grateful for all their very considerable help that they give to the BAPG thereby enabling us to maintain our programme from year to year.

We are also extremely grateful to the Speaker of the House of Commons and CPA-UK who kindly provide gallery tickets for visiting Americans.

Members may wish to be reminded that information about the Group's forthcoming activities can be found on the All Party Whip from time to time. We also e-mail members to alert them to BAPG notices on the All Party Whip.

Members who need further information should telephone 020 7219 6209 or e-mail bapg@parliament.uk. The Group's office is at Richmond House on the Parliamentary estate.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE BRITISH-AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 12TH JULY 2023 AT 3.30 P.M.
IN THE JUBILEE ROOM**

The Speaker of the House of Commons, The Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle, MP, welcomed everyone to the AGM.

He drew members attention to the list of Apologies set out on the chairs.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were conveyed from the Prime Minister together with 23 others.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting, having been circulated in the Annual Report at pages 41-51, were approved and signed as a true record of the proceedings.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting, which were not due for discussion under a later item.

4. To Receive the Annual Report from the Executive Committee for April 2022 to April 2023 and the Accounts for the Year Ending 31st March 2023

The Chair advised that although this came under one agenda item, it was in fact in two parts: the first being the Annual Report and the second being the Accounts.

The Chair called on The Rt. Hon. John Healey, MP, Joint Honorary Vice Chair, to report on the work of the group during the period April 2022 to April 2023.

Mr. Healey welcomed everyone and thanked Mr. Speaker for agreeing to preside at the AGM, members were very grateful to have him here.

Mr. Healey reported that the written report of the last year is in the Annual Report on pages 36-40.

Mr. Healey drew out some highlights from that report. During the 12 months to April 2023, there had been one Annual Conference with Americans. It was the 2021 Annual Conference, which had been of course deferred by the pandemic, with a delegation from the Senate.

We had also hoped to host the 2022 Annual Conference with a delegation from the US House of Representatives following the US Midterm Elections, but in the end, had to defer the meeting due to the House BAPG not being able to get a delegation together in time.

The deferred 2021 Annual Parliamentary / Congressional Conference was held in London and West Sussex from 1st to 3rd September 2022. While we had at one time expected nine Senators

to take part in the exchange, in the end six Senators came, accompanied by their spouses and staff. Notwithstanding that, they were very senior Senators, including the President pro tempore and Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vermont), and the Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Richard Shelby (R-Alabama). There were some very productive discussions over a couple of days conducted at the Home of Rolls Royce Goodwood, the luxury car maker, and Wilton Park, a government conference centre, set in the South Downs National Park.

We also had 18 members visit the US during the year by means of the following visits:

- In May 2022, the BAPG sent six members to San Francisco, Sacramento and Los Angeles to look at zero emission & autonomous vehicles policy, regulation, and commercial opportunity, arranged by the British Consulates General San Francisco and Los Angeles, in conjunction with the BAPG.
- In July 2022, after a hiatus of two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, eight members with no or little prior experience of the US, went to the United States with the BAPG to take part in the regular US government co-sponsored 'International Visitor Leadership Programme' to learn about the American political system at the federal, state and local levels, with emphasis on the role and organisation of Congress.
- In early December 2022, four members attended the Harvard University Institute of Politics' Bi-Partisan Programme for Newly Elected Members of Congress as observers. The British Members of Parliament are the only foreign legislators invited to observe the programme and it provides an unrivalled opportunity for members to develop contacts with new Members of Congress at the start of their careers. The programme comprises intensive seminars on major public policy issues such as foreign policy, health care and the federal budget, led by prominent scholars and practitioners representing viewpoints from across the political spectrum and workshops focused on the "how" of getting things done in Washington, led by current and former senior officials from Congress, the White House, cabinet departments, regulatory agencies, and the national media.

In October 2022, the BAPG partnered with BritishAmerican Business (BAB) in co-hosting a reception for the new American Ambassador, H.E. Hon. Jane Hartley, in the Speaker's State Rooms by kind permission of Mr. Speaker. Ambassador Hartley brought along with her 19 senior members of staff from the Embassy to meet Parliamentarians and leaders of US / UK business to establish contacts and discuss matters of common interest.

In February 2023, the BAPG in partnership with Wilton Park, an executive agency of the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, hosted a reception event 'Highlighting the Transatlantic Relationship' in the Speaker's State Rooms, with kind support from Virgin Atlantic. The American Ambassador, H.E. Hon. Jane Hartley, joined Shanker Singham, CEO of Competere, in conversation on the state of the transatlantic relationship, which was followed by a networking reception.

Over the year, the Group has been able to arrange meetings/tours/lunches for visiting U.S. Members of Congress/State legislators/other visiting US VIPs and this is a part of the Group's role which we are always keen to expand and develop.

The Group's complete list of activities for the year are shown on pages 26 to 35 in the Annual Report. They show the contribution the Group has made over the year to promoting good relations with the US and the role which the Group has played in the programmes of American visitors.

Mr. Healey paid tribute to the co-operation which the Group had received over the year from the American Embassy, particularly from the Political and Cultural Affairs Departments, and also for the support from the Charge d'Affaires, a.i. of the US Embassy, Philip Reeker. We are also indebted to the North America Department at the FCDO and to the British Embassy in Washington D.C. on whom a significant part of our programme is dependent. The British Embassy is particularly helpful when it comes to arranging meetings and other aspects of any programme for BAPG delegations to Washington D.C. as are the Consuls-General in other parts of the US.

Mr. Healey ended by thanking the Administrator on behalf of the Group. He commented, she is the one person who keeps so much of everything we are able to do going, which was warmly supported by members.

The Chair thanked the Vice Chair and confirmed there were no questions before inviting the Joint Honorary Treasurer, John Spellar, to present the Accounts.

Mr. Spellar thanked the Speaker for presiding over the meeting. He reported that the Accounts appear on pages 3-25 in the Annual Report of the Executive Committee 2022-2023.

He advised that normally the Accounts would have been audited and certified by the NAO, but post pandemic, it has been dealing with a backlog and has pushed back audit of the BAPG accounts to after the main House of Commons and Lords Annual Reports and Accounts have been certified. However, we can still endorse the Accounts, subject, of course, to their certification by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

He proposed going through the Accounts and drawing members' attention to one or two of the issues there.

If members look at cash in the bank, we have got a balance of £80,702 there; £75,543 was held with RBS, £4,858 with NatWest and £301 with Nationwide.

Cash has reduced by £66,255 in the year, because of expenditure, which obviously post pandemic had moved up compared with previous years and that obviously has impacted on our reserves.

We would like to thank the House authorities for being understanding in being able to move monies between years, recognizing the extraordinary circumstances, which we were facing.

Members can then go through, look at Programme Expenditure, Income from the previous year - once again, we highlight to you that Life Subscriptions income is treated as a pre-payment over a period of ten years with 1/10th of income received released each year - Staff Costs. He endorsed what John Healey had said regarding the superb work that is undertaken by the Administrator in doing this, particularly with some of the difficult times with delegations with regulations that we have had to go through, and so on.

He thought the rest was really pretty unexceptional and wished to move endorsement of the Accounts.

Mr. Speaker invited any questions on either the Annual Report or the Accounts, of which there were none. There was unanimous agreement to accept the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts 2022-23, subject to their certification by the Auditor General.

5. To Ratify Vice-Presidents and Officers proposed by the Executive Committee

The Chair announced that the Executive Committee had recommended that the following should be re-elected as Vice-Presidents of the Group:

The Rt. Hon. Dame Margaret **Beckett**, DBE, MP
The Rt. Hon. Ian **Blackford**, MP
The Rt. Hon. Sir Iain **Duncan Smith**, MP
The Rt. Hon. the Lord **Falconer** of Thoroton, KC
The Rt. Hon. the Lord **Hague** of Richmond
The Rt. Hon. the Lord **Howard** of Lympne, CH, KC
The Rt. Hon. Jeremy **Hunt**, MP
The Rt. Hon. the Lord **Jopling**, DL
The Rt. Hon. Ed **Miliband**, MP
The Rt. Hon. Andrew **Mitchell**, MP
The Rt. Hon. the Lord **Owen**, CH
The Rt. Hon. Dominic **Raab**, MP
The Rt. Hon. Sir Keir **Starmer**, KCB, KC, MP

And that, Stephen **Flynn**, MP, in his position as leader of the SNP Westminster Group, be elected as a Vice President, as is the tradition with the leaders of the main opposition parties.

The Chair put forward a formal motion that they be passed, which was unanimously agreed.

The Chair on behalf of the group paid tribute to The Rt. Hon. the Baroness **Boothroyd**, OM, a former Vice President (2000-2023) and Joint President (1992-2000), who had sadly passed away on 26th February 2023, and also to The Rt. Hon. the Lord **Morris** of Aberavon, KG, QC, a former Vice President (2011–2023) and longstanding member of the BAPG Executive Committee (2002-2011), who sadly passed away on 5th June 2023. They were both extremely supportive of the group and its objectives and will be greatly missed.

The Chair reported that there will be a memorial service that will be announced to both at some point. The chair invited members to remember them.

The Chair then moved on to the Officers of the Group, seeking to formally ratify their appointments in their respective roles.

The government Vice Chair, The Rt. Hon. Ben **Wallace**, MP, has now completed the third year of his three-year stint. He is always most supportive of the Group and we are most grateful to him for having been our Vice-Chair during this time.

The Rt. Hon. John **Healey**, MP, Opposition Vice Chair, has now completed the third year of his three-year term. He has given the Group a great deal of his time and support over the years, including chairing Executive Committee meetings, hosting events and always being happy to give both help and advice when asked.

It is incumbent on the Executive Committee to recommend their successors.

In the role of BAPG Government Vice Chair, the Executive Committee recommend, The Rt. Hon. James **Cleverly**, MP, the Foreign Secretary, and in the role of Opposition Vice Chair, the Executive Committee recommend, The Rt. Hon. David **Lammy**, MP, Shadow Foreign Secretary, each for the term of three years.

The Chair confirmed their acceptance, which was unanimously agreed.

The Vice Chair from the House of Lords, The Rt. Hon. the Baroness **Jay** of Paddington, has completed the second year of her three-year term. We are most grateful to Baroness Jay for her support of the group's affairs; participating in Parliamentary / Congressional conferences, chairing online briefings and discussion events for the Group and leading on an initiative to establish a series of exchanges dedicated to exploring issues of common interest between women legislators on each side of the Atlantic.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Greg **Knight**, MP, the Honorary Secretary, has completed his eighth year in that office, which has a maximum term of eight years. The Group has been hugely fortunate to have such a dedicated and hardworking Honorary Secretary who has given an enormous amount of his time to the Group's affairs.

In accordance with rule 8 (b), the Executive Committee recommends that The Rt. Hon. John **Spellar**, MP, previously Joint Honorary Treasurer to the BAPG, should become the new Honorary Secretary and that The Rt. Hon. Sir Greg **Knight**, MP, should become the new Joint Honorary Treasurer, alongside Sir Christopher **Chope**, OBE, MP, who we are extremely pleased has agreed to continue in the role.

We are very grateful to Sir Greg, John and Sir Christopher for the considerable amount of time they have given and continue to give to the Group's affairs and the hard work which they do is very much appreciated.

The Chair put the motion to the meeting that those Officers should be approved for the year ahead, asking if everyone was content or against. There was unanimous agreement that the Officers be approved.

6 To Elect 18 Members to serve on the Executive Committee 2023-24

The Chair advised that under Rule 8a, 18 members were to be elected to the Executive Committee, consisting of 12 members from the House of Commons – of which there were to be six members from the Government Party and six members from the Opposition Parties – and six members from the House of Lords, the proportion of which, is determined by the Lord Speaker and representatives of the parties and groups in the House. That being: two Conservative, two Labour, one Cross Bench and one Liberal Democrat.

In relation to the election of members from the House of Commons, as we have received only six nominations from the Government Party and only six nominations from the Opposition Parties for the Committee this year, the following members are elected unopposed to serve on the Executive Committee until the AGM in 2024:

Government

Rehman **Chishti**, MP
Philip **Davies**, MP
The Rt. Hon. Chris **Grayling**, MP
Stephen **Hammond**, MP
Jack **Lopresti**, MP
The Rt. Hon. Esther **McVey**, MP

Opposition

Dr. Lisa **Cameron**, MP (SNP)
Yvonne **Fovargue**, MP (Labour)
The Rt. Hon. John **Healey**, MP (Labour)
The Rt. Hon. Dame Diana **Johnson**, DBE, MP (Labour)
The Rt. Hon. Kevan **Jones**, MP (Labour)
Chi **Onwurah**, MP (Labour)

In relation to the House of Lords, as we were not oversubscribed for the places available, the following members are elected unopposed to represent the House of Lords on the Executive Committee until the AGM in 2024:

Conservative

The Lord **Kirkhope** of Harrogate
The Rt. Hon. the Lord **Haselhurst**

Labour

The Rt. Hon. the Lord **Anderson** of Swansea, DL
The Rt. Hon. the Lord **Robertson** of Port Ellen, KT GCMG

Crossbench

The Earl of **Devon**

Liberal Democrat

The Lord **Fox**

The Committee would like to take this opportunity record its warm thanks to Conor **McGinn**, MP (Labour) and Gavin **Newlands**, MP (SNP), who have both stepped down from the committee. We are most appreciative of the support they have both given and hope they will continue to take an active interest in the affairs of the Group.

7. Any Other Business

The Chair called on the outgoing Honorary Secretary, The Rt. Hon. Sir Greg Knight, MP, who wished to make some announcements.

Sir Greg mentioned a few items:

Members are invited to stay on after the AGM to meet the Deputy Chief of Mission to the US Embassy, Matthew Palmer, who will be joined by the Minister Counsellor for Political Affairs, Joe Pennington, and Political Specialist, Justine Lancaster, for an informal discussion on US foreign policy priorities and the US political landscape.

16-25 July 2023

Six out of an original eight Members of Parliament, with no or little prior experience of America, will travel to the United States to take part in an annual US government sponsored International Visitor Leadership Programme (IVLP), to learn about the US Legislative Process. The programme will open in Washington DC and comprise an overview of the federal system of government and how the various branches of government interact. This will be followed by meetings at key US government departments and with congressional counterparts. The middle weekend will be spent with a Member of Congress in his/her home district and the final two days will be spent in Boston where the participants will reunite to examine a state capital legislature and other issues of interest.

8th August

The BAPG is making arrangements to host a large delegation of Members of Congress who are visiting London to take part in the 'Transatlantic Capital to Capital Exchange' conducted by The Ripon Society and the Franklin Center for Global Policy Exchange. The Ripon Society is an American centrist Republican public policy organization and think tank and the Franklin Center is an American non-partisan public policy organization.

They have confirmed to date 32 Members of Congress taking part in the conference (23 Republicans and nine Democrat members) who will be accompanied by nine congressional staffers. The congressional delegation will first be given a guided tour of Parliament followed by a bilateral meeting with Parliamentarians at 2pm in the Grand Committee Room. If members expect to be around then and interested to meet the congressional delegation, would they please let the Administrator know? It may be helpful to know that they only have an hour for the meeting and we have already had quite a good response. Provisional topics signposted for discussion are: transatlantic trade, supply chains, Ukraine, energy sufficiency, defence/security cooperation and China, time allowing.

September / October

We are very excited to be planning with the Chair of the Congressional Women's Caucus, Rep. Kat Cammack (R-Florida), a series of online exchanges dedicated to exploring issues of common interest between women legislators on each side of the Atlantic. The first online forum is planned for September / October and the date will be confirmed in the coming weeks.

Annual Parliamentary / Congressional Conferences

The core of the BAPG's programme is alternate Annual Conferences with the House of Representatives and the Senate. The meetings are held in the U.S. and the UK, alternating every two years.

We hope to host the deferred 2022 Annual Parliamentary / Congressional Conference this (financial) year as well as send a delegation to Washington DC to meet with Senators as part of the 2023 Annual Conference. Both are dependent on the leadership in both Houses of Congress appointing a new chair to the respective BAPGS, which has been delayed since the start of the new Congress in January 2023. As soon as the Chairs have been appointed, we can work with their respective offices to determine suitable dates for the exchanges.

Through the Chair, Sir Greg wished to thank Ben Wallace, John Healey, John Spellar, Sir Christopher Chope and the Administrator for the work they have done during the year and for the support they have given to him.

In closing, Sir Greg reminded members that Group functions/visits are always advertised by means of the All-Party & Associated Group Notices, the BAPG website www.bapg.org.uk and via email to the BAPG membership.

The Chair thanked Sir Greg and invited any questions about the forward programme, of which there were none.

The Chair asked members if they had any other business that they wish to raise before he closed the meeting.

The Chair thanked the Administrator for all the work that she does, which was much greatly appreciated.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.50pm

X--X