

5th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 5th AGM was held at 4pm on Monday 3rd October 2016 at the ACC in Liverpool, during the ECC 2016.

Mr Allan Wilson (BAC President) chaired the meeting and 24 other members were present.

Members of the Executive present included:

A Wilson, S Mehew, K Ellis, P Cross, A Cropper, L Smart, H Glencross, T Giles, H Burrell

A signed attendance list is available.

1) Apologies for absence

None received

2) Minutes of the last annual general meeting

Agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

3) Matters arising

No matters other than those on the agenda.

4) Treasurer's Report

KE

It was noted that the finalised financial report would shortly be posted as they were currently with the Association's chosen accountants Ellis Atkins and they had no concerns with the accounts. Due the healthy financial situation of the BAC accounts, the Treasurer proposed that membership structure and fees would stay the same for 2016-17; this was agreed unanimously by those attending. When the final accounts were received they would be made available to members.

The Treasurer reminded members about the availability of bursary monies and encouraged members to apply.

5) Membership Report

LS

The current BAC membership stands at 493. We continue to receive a steady number of applications for membership but the number of Consultant and Cytoscreener members has fallen due in part to retirements and consolidation of laboratories. LS encouraged members to invite their colleagues to join the BAC. Renewal letters will be sent out week commencing 9th October 2016.

6) Publications and Website

PC

WEBSITE

It was encouraging to note that the revised Association website developed in partnership with Art One Zero was resulting in a regular posting of news articles and other media. Christian Burt currently adds most of the material. Membership was encouraged to send articles for posting to the Association office.

SCAN

Two well received issues of SCAN this year, thanks to Andrew Evered and Sharon Roberts-Gant for their Editorship. Mr Evered was standing down as a joint Editor and for now, Mrs Roberts-Gant would continue as the solo Editor. The Chair expressed his gratitude to Mr Evered for his work with SCAN and declarations of interest in the role of joint Editor are welcomed. SCAN is currently a 2x a year printed publication, the editor plans to ask the membership if they wish to continue to receive SCAN in printed form or electronically.

CYTOPATHOLOGY

Thanks were extended to Professor Mina Desai for all her hard work during her term as Editor of Cytopathology and her intention to step down was recorded. Professor Michael Sheaff has been appointed as the new Editor and will start in Jan 2017.

Once again, the impact factor of the journal had increased – to 1.7%

7) BAC Chairman's Report

PC

A Chairman's report would be issued with the annual renewal letters. Parts of this full report are outlined below.

The BAC Chairman expressed his thanks to the Executive Committee for their work over the last year.

“Thank you to the two Executive members who are stepping down from the Executive committee. Alison Cropper has been involved with the BAC since its beginnings; and with the NAC for many years prior to that. Alison has been the driving force behind many of the educational and conference events the BAC has organised.

Her energy and skills will be much missed, and to ensure we do not lose them altogether we have co-opted Alison back on to the Executive to help ensure we can continue to deliver high quality events, and help develop these skills within the new Executive. Thanks must also go to Tom Giles who has also been involved with the BAC since its start, and BSCC previously

Tom has been behind several initiatives, often in tandem with the RCPATH and IBMS, and he again will be a big loss. The Executive have, however, recruited two new Executive members: Dr Tony Maddox and Alison Malkin who were welcomed to the Executive.

The last year has been a momentous one in UK cytology. The decision to move to primary HPV screening will dramatically change the landscape of cytology within the UK, and especially for those involved in the laboratory aspect of the cervical screening programmes. The reduction in overall cytology workloads will continue, as will the move to laboratory consolidation. When I started out in cytology in the mid-eighties, there were about 200 laboratories in England delivering cervical screening and soon that could be down to 12-14.

Any change is challenging, not only professionally, but even more so if it directly affects cytology staff with uncertainty as to their own futures. The BAC will continue to represent and lobby for such changes to be delivered in a well thought out and timely way.

It is gratifying to see the take up of the ASD Qualification in NG cytology as well as the DEP qualification. These reflect the development of non-gynaecological cytology skills within the UK, but also no doubt, reflect staff wishing to enhance their cytology skills given the changes with the delivery of cervical cytology. The joint statement on *The role of Biomedical Scientists within the provision of NG cytology services*, which was initiated and led by the BAC, and which had RCPATH and IBMS support, is an advance in clarifying a grey area, but also hopefully a model for future working.

The delivery of the 40th European Congress of Cytology (ECC 2016) has been a major effort over the last two years. Attracting world class speakers, producing a balanced and comprehensive scientific programme, and delivering this logistically cannot be underestimated. I am particularly indebted to the commitment of the organising committee, and also our Professional Conference Organisers who we recruited to assist us."

8) Any other business

A question was raised from the floor with regard to promoting membership from areas other than "traditional" cytology. In section 3.1 of the current constitution it states: "Membership shall be open to anyone in the field of cytopathology or related areas who has an interest in assisting the Association to achieve its aims and is willing to adhere to the rules of the Association" and it was agreed unanimously that the Association would welcome members from the fields of molecular pathology, genetics and HPV research (as examples).

The BAC will be holding a companion symposium during the Joint meeting of BDIAP and the Pathological Society in Belfast on 23rd June 2017.

The President closed the AGM by giving his personal thanks to Dr Paul Cross for being the driving force behind a successful ECC 2016.

9) Date and time of next Annual General meeting – will be held on 4th November 2017 during the scientific meeting in York