

British Andrology Society

Annual General Meeting The Blair Bell Conference Centre Liverpool Women's Hospital

Friday 8th November 2002 17.30 - 18.30

Minutes

Present: Drs. I.Lewis-Jones(Chairman), M.Curry (Treasurer), L.Robertson (Secretary), M.Griffiths(Programme Secretary), N.Monks, I.Brewis (Committee Members), 8 members.

1. Apologies for absence received from Tony Hirsch
2. 2001 AGM Minutes were accepted

3. Chairman's Report

Dr Lewis-Jones stated that he was encouraged by the number of people registered for the meeting (74). He felt that in part this was due to the publication of meeting abstracts. This was the first time BAS had published Annual Meeting abstracts and he extended his thanks to Henry Leese, as Editor of *Human Fertility*, and Melanie Griffiths, Programme Secretary, for getting this venture off the ground. He explained that although it was appreciated that BAS did not address a purely Human field of research *Human Fertility* represented the best option for the Society.

Dr Lewis-Jones stated that recruitment was a priority for the Society. Dr Fazeli, currently the Membership Secretary, was continually updating the Membership List to ensure all members received the Newsletter etc.

Throughout the year BAS representatives had been active on various Committees and working with various organisations. Dr Lewis-Jones cited NEQUAS, HFEA, CHILD. Dr T Hirsch has represented BAS on the committee preparing NICE guidelines and had sent a report to Dr Lewis-Jones which will be communicated to the membership by way of the Newsletter.

Dr Lewis-Jones reported that the Education sub-committee had set up the Association of Biomedical Andrologists for the purpose of organising training and accreditation for seminologists. BAS was currently in negotiation with ABA over the transfer of equipment. It was hoped that the two bodies would cross-fertilise and work closely. It was anticipated that there would be cross-representation on the Committees.

Dr Lewis-Jones extended thanks to Dr Monks for organising the Newsletter. He also thanked Dr Robertson (Secretary), Dr Curry (Treasurer) and Dr Griffiths (Programme Secretary) for their contribution throughout the year.

4. Treasure's Report

Dr Curry presented the Treasurer's report (copy attached). He reported that the financial situation was stable with a Current Account balance approximately the same as last year. Meetings had yielded a total income of 4,799.97. Committee expenses were up on last year reflecting the activity of the Committee but approximating costs over the previous 5 years. Newsletter costs had increased; a distribution cost was now built in. Three travel grants had been paid and a fourth had been approved for payment. Website costs were up reflecting the cost involved in the new website start-up. Total income was 8944.97, expenditure 3613.14 and balance 10,519.33.

Business Reserve Account had earned a modest 86.32 in interest and stood at 21016.51. In relation to the purchase of microscopes etc for Semen Analysis Training Courses Dr Curry

reported that 10,871.94 had been spent and that in total 11,000 had been repaid by the Ed-Com. This money had been transferred back into the Business Reserve Account. It was foreseen that this equipment would be transferred to the ABA, taking into account depreciation. Details had not been finalised.

Dr Pacey commented that the income stream lost to BAS by the formation of ABA had a limited life anyway and perhaps there would only have been an income from basic semen analysis courses for another year or two.

Dr Curry went on to discuss the issue of forming a Limited Company. He stated that involvement in large Joint Fertility Meetings raised new issues because of the size of budget involved and the potential for making a loss instead of a profit. BAS was presently unincorporated. If the Society was pursued for debt all members were potentially liable. He explained that it would be desirable for the BAS to become a Limited Company as had the other Fertility Societies. Dr Lewis-Jones put the matter to the floor. There were no objections.

Dr Curry explained that BAS had not paid tax for some time. The accountant was currently trying to clarify the situation. BAS had operated a Charitable Account in the past but that was now defunct. The Accountant advised that from a tax perspective the society would be better to operate as a Charitable Association. The Committee was looking into becoming a full Charity.

5. Education Sub-Committee

Dr Alan Pacey spoke on behalf of the Ed-Com. He reported that it had been an interesting year for the Ed-Com whose principal functions were running focussed workshops and Semen Analysis Courses. The major event of the year was the Workshop 'Sperm banking for cancer patients' held on 15th May in Birmingham. The meeting was attended by about 80 delegates and the feed-back was excellent. No Semen Analysis Courses had been held in 2002 because of the formation of the Association of Biomedical Andrologists (ABA).

Dr Pacey went on to explain that during the preceding 18 months the Ed-Com had been contacted with increasing frequency concerning training, accreditation and continuous professional development issues affecting Andrologists. For instance labs were having difficulty recruiting staff, individuals were seeking guidelines and standards and clinical scientists were unable to register. Many lobbied the CPSM to address the issue of training and in January 2002 a number of individuals formed a working party which produced a log book for Biomedical Scientist training. It became clear to the CPSM that a full Andrology module could be produced but that there was no professional body to represent Clinical Andrology or to call upon to provide examiners and reviewers. Therefore a group of Ed-Com members proposed the creation of the Association of Biomedical Andrologists.

The functions of the ABA are seen as

- to develop training and examinations for Biomedical Andrologists
- to develop training for Clinical Scientists in Andrology
- to develop CPD programmes for on-going training
- to define laboratory standards and competences
- to represent the Profession of Biomedical Andrologists

The ABA Committee was chaired by David Morroll with Paul Hancock acting as Secretary and Matt Tomlinson as Treasurer. The Committee was in the process of formalising the Association as a Limited Company along the ACE model. ABA intended to liaise closely with the BAS, ACE and NEQAS and intended to have cross-representation on the respective committees.

Dr Lewis-Jones clarified that the BAS was a 'learned society' and that ABA was the professional body responsible for CPD and training. Dr Pacey noted that there were some 300 seminology labs in the UK who could be attracted to the BAS through contact with ABA.

Dr Monks asked what the situation was regarding Clinical Scientists as opposed to Biomedical Andrologists. Dr Pacey replied that there were two routes in Andrology and that ABA was

focussing on the Biomedical route. They were aware of the training needs of Clinical Scientists but their situation was laid down in law. Dr Monks thanked Dr Pacey for his part in setting up the ABA.

6. Committee Membership

Dr Robertson reported that that Dr Alireza Fazeli had taken over from Dr Garside as Membership Secretary and Website manager. She thanked Dr Garside for her work as Membership Secretary. Dr Robertson reported that the position of Postgraduate Rep had been broadened to Postgrad/doc Rep and that Dr Lisa Thurston had agreed to accept the position.

7. A.O.B.

In the absence of any other business Dr Lewis-Jones thanked those present for attending