



Minutes **British Andrology Society Annual General Meeting 2014**

Date, Time: **Monday 1st September 2014, 16:30**

Venue: Edinburgh International Conference Centre

Present: Nabil Aziz
 Martin Brinkworth
 Lorraine Frew
 Asma Hamad
 Bill Holt
 Jackson Kirkman-Brown
 Sheena Lewis
 David Miller
 Jacqui Piner
 Benjamin G Taiwo
 Fiona Andrews (Undergraduate Student, Non-member)

1. **Welcome & Apologies:**

Prof Sheena Lewis welcomed everyone to the 4th BAS AGM (4th since changing to charitable status), and the 36th Meeting of the British Andrology Society.

2. **Minutes of Last Meeting – 14 September 2013**

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

3. **Election**

The statutes of the Society rule that at least one third of the committee must stand for election every three years and no member of the committee should run more than three years without standing for re-election.

Standing:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Treasurer: | David Miller (JP & BH) | - Duly Elected |
| Ctte Posts (x2): | Roy Jones (JP & BT) | - Duly Elected |
| | Martin Brinkworth (JP & NA) | - Duly Elected |

4. **Chairman's Report:**

Professor Lewis presented a review of the last year as chair of BAS. (Attached)

5. **Membership Report:**

The AGM were updated on current membership by the Secretary.

- 78 members
- 4 of whom are honorary members
- 71 have paid this years membership subscription by DD the other by Paypal

6. **Treasurer's Report:**

This was included within the Chair's report this year.

7 **Society Aims:**

The Chair's report highlighted the slowly shrinking membership base. The ongoing role for the Society in a crowded field of organisations was questioned.

Our sister society ABA has a clear role for Biomedical Scientists in a professional role. The committee again strongly felt that the two groups should strengthen their links and look towards better unification.

The BFS believe that it oversees and unifies many different sectors and professions dealing with Fertility.

Those present agreed that the BAS was different. In clinical practice

We are the Learned Society that encompasses Clinical Urology and Andrology in a way currently not addressed by any other group.

We are the Learned Society for all scientific research in Andrology and all that encompasses.

We are professional advocates for Male Reproduction across all animal research in conservation and food sustainability.

Nabil highlighted that he felt the BAS needed to capture a new ethos to prosper in all its aims. As part of this the AGM agreed that the Society required a brief strapline to be used across all its literature. After much discussion it was agreed this would be:

The Science of Male Reproduction

Also considered were:

The Science of Male-Specific Health Issues

The Science of Male Reproduction & Development

It was agreed that this would be reviewed ongoingly by the committee as members fed-back any feelings. The meeting then moved on to consider other possibilities for strengthening the organisation.

Lorraine asked about mentoring talks for the young members on training and career progression. Jacqui felt that this had been successful when performed before and should be re-incorporated into future meetings. This received broad support.

Martin highlighted the breadth of the area and personal feeling that we needed flexible borders like certain other societies had used to allow sub-areas to organise meetings. Sheena highlighted that this could always be done under the BAS umbrella, but currently we were struggling to get attendance at our single AGM meeting each year.

Fiona talked about market for new graduates letting them know what they could do ... and what their societies could offer – could we have a young wing – Sheena highlighted that a good web presence for this would be good start.

David highlighted there are also the interested public and maybe they could be brought into the Society. Nabil highlighted that we need to encompass other groups and have these interest groups including science, prostate & scrotal & reproductive medicine & young scientists etc... which could be summarised as "*be more inclusive*". This was highlighted as an action for the committee to take forward at its next meeting and as a major action for the coming year.

Ben discussed using a ReproSouth model for the Annual Meeting – which would mean free attendance and a programme built from postgrad talks in the main, but could potentially radically up our attendance. Asif Muneer, who could not attend the AGM had provisionally booked space for a London meeting next year, but costs for this may be too high if a ‘free attendance’ meeting is being considered. Jacqui will look at using SoB for a meeting of this type and report back to the next committee meeting.

Ben suggested extending the BSAC course out to MSc students around the UK. It was agreed we would examine the publicity for this and consider what could further be done.

Meeting Planning:

Fertility Show - 1st & 2nd November

- Need to do a good job on this
- Stands / posters / leaflets
- Nabil there as our Medic

8. **AOB:**

There was nothing to report which had not been discussed elsewhere under the agenda.

9. **Date of Next Meeting:**

Next annual conference will be in 2015 at a venue to be confirmed.

Minutes prepared by JKB