

**Notes of the 11th Annual General Meeting of the BAC held on 16th September 2022 over Zoom**

There were 25 members in attendance at the AGM

Chaired by Dr Anthony Maddox, BAC Chair

1. **Apologies and welcome**

Dr Maddox welcomed all to the AGM, with apologies noted from Professor Allan Wilson and Dr Kay Ellis.

1. **Adoption of the minutes of the AGM 2020 held on 15th October 2021**

The AGM notes from 15th October 2021 were accepted as a correct record of proceedings by Ms Alison Malkin and seconded by Mrs Kirstie Rice.

1. **Treasurers Report**

With apologies sent from Dr Ellis, Mrs Kirstie Rice reported that the finalised financial accounts will be posted shortly in the members section of the BAC website.

Last year’s accounts are on the members’ area of website, with the BAC in a sound financial position. The subscription fees would remain the same with renewals due to go out end of the month/early October.

Mrs Rice highlighted there is a Bursary for educational meetings and the Mina Desai awards.

1. **Membership Report**

Membership statistics

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| **Grade** | **Total** |
| Honorary | 10 |
| Trainee pathologist | 26 |
| Member (APBMS) | 28 |
| Member (BMS) | 163 |
| Member (Consultant) | 96 |
| Member (Screener) | 8 |
|  | **331** |

Dr Louise Smart updated as follows.

The BAC Executive had agreed to the introduction of a membership category for retired members, and this would be launched from 1st October.

1. **Publications and Social Media Update**

At the BAC AGM 2021, it was reported the **@BritishCytology** Twitter account had 2018 followers. As of today, the account has 2551 followers. Mr Burt requested that BAC members follow the account, retweet, and tag the BAC into any important and topical tweets.

It was reported that the BAC would shortly be launching a new website that could be readily developed for educational content. It was likely this would go live by the end of 2022.

1. **Chair Report**

The Chair updated participants that a full Chair report would be enclosed with the membership renewals and the report was also available on the BAC website.

The ASM 2021: the BAC were able to hold a very successful hybrid meeting to celebrate our 10th anniversary on 15th October 2021. 48 delegates were able to attend the DoubleTree Hotel in Nottingham with a further 41 viewing online. We heard from Philippe Viehl, the Editor-in-Chief of Cytopathology, and Hedley Glencross regarding the new “Scan” section of the journal, an update from Alison Cropper, BAC President, about the new Gynae Code of Practice for UK Cervical Screening and excellent talks from Robbie Wilson on Molecular Diagnostics and Mina Desai on HPV testing globally, focussing on India and a campaign to offer testing outside major population centres.

There were also four excellent case presentations (one in person, three online) with the Brighton Award for the best being won by Kris Leung from Cornwall. Most of these are available (for members only) on the BAC website.

The day was rounded off by a presentation from Paul Cross (with support from Kay Ellis and Allan Wilson) looking back on the first 10 years of the BAC.

It was a reminder of how far we have come and what changes have taken place. Throughout all this time, the BAC has worked to promote professional standards in all uses of cytology and to understand and communicate the consequences of any changes to our members while seeking to provide guidance for those affected.

The next significant in-person event was due to be a joint meeting with the International Academy of Cytology (IAC) in December 2021. However, as the autumn wore on and the Omicron coronavirus variant blossomed, it became apparent that attendance was likely to be severely compromised and the tutorial was eventually held as a purely online event on July 18th and 19th 2022. Over 200 delegates, mainly from Europe, Africa, and Asia (for “time zone” reasons) were treated to an excellent program spanning diagnostic and cervical cytopathology with an overarching theme involving approaches to small specimens, both “cytological” and “histological”. The sessions were excellently moderated by Zubair Baloch (Pennsylvania) and our own Ashish Chandra.

The BAC ran a member’s survey and the message that came out loud and clear was that the single most important thing for BAC members was access to high quality training and educational material – which brings me to the future.

There is a new section in Cytopathology called “Scan” both as a continuation of the title of the BAC’s inhouse magazine and also “Serving Cytology Across Nations”. This aims to provide articles with a technical focus that go beyond the textbooks and are designed to give the feeling of standing next to someone in the clinic or laboratory – the “finer detail of cytology” as the editors put it. The September issue of Cytopathology includes an introduction to the Scan section from Ashish Chandra and Hedley Glencross. There follows an excellent article from Hedley on the “finer details” of cytocentrifugation. Again, contributions and suggestions are welcomed from BAC members and wider afield.

Secondly, over the next few months, the BAC will be developing a new website provided by web designers Moresoda in collaboration with the BAC Media Group. This will have the advantages of being easier to manage and will also be able to process membership details and any potential payments more easily.

Our Treasurer, Kay Ellis, hands the role over to Kirstie Rice at the AGM. I’d like to take the opportunity to warmly thank Kay for her many (at least 23!) years of hard work in this role for the BAC and its precursor organisations, the NAC and BSCC. She has provided absolutely rock-solid support in the role for the BAC and the much-needed reassurance of continuity in the transition from those organisations to the BAC as well as being an excellent “reality-checker” at all times. Many thanks again and we wish Kirstie all the best in her new role.

1. **Any Other Business**

None

1. **Date of the next meeting**

The AGM 2023 would be held in September 2023, date to be confirmed.

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