

**Notes of the 8th Annual General Meeting of the BAC held on 23rd September 2019 at the ICC in Birmingham**

There were 26 members of BAC members present at the AGM

It was noted that the constitution states that two standing officers plus 25 members should be present, so this AGM was not quorate by one member.

The Executive would discuss the arrangement of an additional AGM that would be part of a potential educational day.

Due to the absence of Dr Paul Cross, Mrs Alison Cropper was in the chair and Executive members Allan Wilson, Helen Burrell, Anthony Maddox, Kay, Ellis, Kirstie Rice (IBMS) and Alison Malkin were also present.

Christian Burt, BAC Officer, was also present for note taking and agenda item 5.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies had been received in advance from Dr Paul Cross, Dr John H Smith, Mr Hedley Glencross, Dr Yurina Miki, Mrs Eva Halloran, Mrs Sue Mehew and Dr Louise Smart

1. **Adoption of the minutes of the AGM 2018 held 13th October 2018**

The AGM notes from Saturday 13th October were approved as a correct record of proceedings by Dr Anthony Maddox and this was seconded by Mrs Jennifer Davies.

1. **Matters Arising**

It was noted that Mrs Eva Halloran, who had narrowly failed to be elected to the Executive in 2018, had taken the seat on a co-opted basis from Dr Miguel Perez-Machado who had stepped down to personal reasons.

It was agreed that Mrs Halloran now serve a three-year term of office as a full Executive member.

1. **Treasurers Report**

It was noted that the accounts were with the Accountants Ellis Atkins. When the finalised financial report is available, the accounts will be posted in the members section of the BAC website.

Due to the continued healthy financial situation of the BAC accounts the Treasurer proposed that membership structure and fees would stay the same for 2019-20.

The Treasurer highlighted the availability to the BAC Bursary for education events.

1. **Membership Report & Social Media**

The BAC Twitter account **@BritishCytology** had been launched in May 2018 and is administrated by Dr Yurina Miki and Christian Burt.

At the BAC AGM 2018 on 13th October, it was reported the account had 250 followers. As of today, the account has 831 followers. The best month for tweet impressions was June 2019 which was notable for the European Congress of Cytology and the HPV update.

Message for members of the BAC – please do follow the account, retweet and tag the BAC into any important & topical tweets.

Dr Miki is also the admin for the Cytopathology Twitter handle which has been increasingly active and a great source of original material.

Membership statistics

At the BAC AGM 2018 it was reported that the BAC membership figure stood at 420.

This has decreased by 19 and the figure leading into the new BAC membership year is 401:

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| **Grade** | **Total** |
| Honorary | 9 |
| Junior Consultant | 24 |
| Member (APBMS) | 34 |
| Member (BMS) | 205 |
| Member (Consultant) | 112 |
| Member (Screener) | 17 |
|  | **401** |

The Spring Tutorial 2019 included a free membership offer to attendees as part of the registration fee and BAC will continue to promote this offer at this event to encourage junior medical membership of the BAC.

Mr Burt also reported on initial thoughts to the introduction of BAC ambassadors in all HPV Primary Screening and non-gynaecological laboratories.

1. **Publications Update**

The Editor of Cytopathology Professor Michael Sheaff presented a verbal update. It was pleasing to note the Impact Factor of the journal has increased to 1.47. The journal was reaching a wider and more diverse audience, with an initiative noted in Germany for free access to journals.

It was pleasing to note that the number of downloaded articles had increased. The number of UK article submissions had risen and was now only second to articles submitted from India.

The members were also encouraged to volunteer to become Peer Reviewers for the journal.

Professor Sheaff thanked the BAC Executive for their support and the Editorial Board. Amanda from Cytopathology was also thanked by Professor Sheaff for her support.

Mrs Roberts-Gant gave an update on SCAN. The next edition was noted as October and Sharon thanked Dr Paul Cross for being the main lead for article submission. The Chair encouraged members to submit Day in the Life articles.

It was noted that the BAC website was functioning well with regular posting of articles.

1. **CEC**

The CEC scheme still had participants and was being administrated by Miss Burrell. Full CEC information was now on the BAC website and there had been initial discussion regarding an on-line CEC recording system.

1. **Chairman’s Report**

The Chair report for the renewals 2019-20 was noted as follows:

“As my second year as Chairman comes to an end it is with mixed feelings I reflect on the past year. Never has so much change happened in the world of cervical cytology as has with the implementation of HPV primary screening across the UK. As we stand now, Wales is fully converted with consolidation of all sample processing and screening onto one site and clinical reporting on 3 sites. England is in the throes of achieving full implementation by December and consolidation onto 8 sites by March 2020, the same time that Scotland are due to convert and consolidate onto 2 sites. It is not yet known when Northern Ireland is going to convert but it is likely to follow soon.

All of this process has been a traumatic time for the many staff involved, not just in the laboratories that have or will be closing, but also in the 8 centres going forward, adapting to massive increases in workload, changes to working practices and uncertainty about future staffing requirements.

Without wishing in any way to sound patronising I would like to thank each and every member of the cervical screening community for their years of dedicated service and commitment, whose skills and experience have, without doubt, been the reason why the UK programmes have a reputation as being amongst the best in the world and has kept the service going during the last few tumultuous years. I sincerely hope that the skills and experience of these staff will be transferred or retained in the NHS and that current employers do their utmost to ensure this happens for those who want it.

Over the last few years members of the BAC executive team have worked tirelessly to ensure that we, like other stakeholder professional bodies (IBMS and RCPath,) have been involved, wherever possible, in the decision making processes within NHS England and the development of new programme guidance by PHE, but it has not been easy. The decision to commission just 8 laboratory providers was entirely NHS England’s, and BAC just hope that the new service model for HPV primary screening will be able to deliver the same level of quality that the cytology screening service has done for the last 30 years or more.

Away from cervical cytology and HPV screening, BAC has been involved in several educational events both at home and abroad, and a definite trend towards partnership working is emerging. We had companion symposia at the ECCs in Madrid 2018 and Malmo 2019, the IAC in Sydney in 2019 and we hosted an IAC tutorial with the RCPath in London in December 2018. BAC bursaries were awarded to enable members to attend a variety of these events – please remember the bursary is available to all members and all reasonable requests will be considered. All we ask in return is an article for Scan!

Our own ASM and AGM in Nottingham, October 2018, was devoted to the impact of the changes to the CSP, with key speakers offering advice to members about alternative career pathways and training and education opportunities for cytologists of all levels.

This year the AGM is being held during the IBMS Congress in Birmingham, where BAC and IBMS have produced a joint scientific clinical cytology programme. This has worked extremely well, and I think is indicative of how BAC may move forward over the coming years – in partnership with other professional bodies – to remain able to provide education and training that meets the needs of our members.

Next year we have already planned a return visit to Nottingham for a two-day conference and AGM on the 2nd-3rd October 2020. The focus will very much be on non-gynae cytology, which it might feel like this has taken somewhat of a back-seat during HPV implementation, but this is not the case and continues to thrive in the background with executive members such as Drs Ash Chandra, Tony Maddox and Yurina Miki presenting and championing this across the globe at various international events.

BAC is a relatively small organization but serves a very valuable purpose as stated in our constitution:

* To encourage the science and art of Cytopathology by encouraging higher standards in Cytopathology for the benefit of the public
* To encourage research in Cytopathology and related fields and the publication of useful results

We will continue to fulfil this commitment whilst ever that need is there for our members.

The BAC Twitter account (@BritishCytology) goes from strength to strength and is an amazing source of not only updates as to what is happening in the cytology world but also provides an amazing array of case studies and interesting cases from eminent cytologists – a great educational resource! Launched in May 2018 and administrated by Dr Yurina Miki and Christian Burt, the account now has over 800 followers and I would encourage all BAC members to follow.

Our publications, Cytopathology and Scan, continue to be well received but both are in constant need of submitted articles, especially from the UK – both Editors would welcome this!

So, all in all, 2018/19 has been another productive year for BAC and I am pleased to say that there will be no increase in membership fees for yet another year – I do not think there can be many organizations who can say they have not increased fees - ever! Next year may be different as we realise the potential impact of HPV implementation on our membership, but we will cross that bridge when we come to it”.

1. **Date of the next meeting**

The 2020 AGM would be held on the 3rd October 2020 at the Double Tree Hilton Hotel in Nottingham.

1. **Any other business**

Mrs Jennifer Davies, a long-standing BAC member announced this was her final AGM attendance. Jennifer wished all well for the current challenges in cytology.

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