



**British Society of Urogynaecology  
AGM 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017**

Professor Stuart Stanton, President BSUG, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Apologies**

Gurminder Matharu  
Penny Robshaw  
Simon Hill  
Lucia Dolan  
Sohier Elneil  
Jan Deprest  
Mahesh Perera  
Vik Khullar  
Linda Cardozo  
Carmel Ramage  
Carolyn Overton

It was **agreed** not to report Apologies for future AGMs.

**2. Minutes of the AGM 2016**

The 2016 AGM Minutes were **accepted** as a **true** and **accurate** record of the meeting.

**3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**4. BSUG Honorary Secretary's report.**

a) Jason Cooper gave an update on the number of BSUG members

**Membership 2017/18 membership year**

As of October 2017

**399 consultants and 83 Associates and 4 emeritus**

With International membership – **194 consultants (hard copy – BSUG international)**

**BSUG only -- 205**

**5. Chair's report**

The Chair Alfred Cutner, thanked Professor Stuart Stanton who will stay on for another year as President and he thanked him particularly for his efforts and a great meeting with the Israeli Society of Urogynecology the day previously. Alfred thanked Amanda and Stella for their efforts in managing the Secretariat. Alfred reminded the membership that the Trustees

of BSUG have legal responsibilities for the Society and that appropriate insurance had been secured to support this work.

Alfred gave his thanks to committee members. Jonathan as a very helpful vice-chair who will make an excellent chair. Jason has kept us on track and has been a great help during his first two years as Secretary. Phil has been a fantastic Treasurer, and has continued to make BSUG financially viable and sustainable. Thanks to Christian who has done a great job with the meetings programme, and will be an excellent Treasurer. Dudley has developed scientific aspects and has been rigorous in his approach to membership surveys. Swati, in her training chair capacity has helped develop sub-specialist laparoscopic training making this a mandatory part of sub-specialist training. Governance has progressed and we have even more accredited units thanks to Ashish. The website is an important hub and thanks to Ruben for trying to engage members in the new website which he is further developing. Info Leaflets are moving forward thanks to Jennie and we can provide very good information to patients based on BSUG guidance. As chair of the reformed database committee Phil has been tireless. Patrick has now stepped down as Associate representative and Tom has some great ideas, for example a joint meeting with BAUS.

## **Key developments**

BSUG has a strong and vibrant membership – members are urged to put themselves forward for committee vacancies at BSUG and other urogynaecology committees, members are urged to put themselves forward in relation to NICE commissioning, the RCOG, and specialist commissioning amongst others to ensure a spread of expertise, rather than leaving these all to a small band of dedicated doctors who are represented on multiple national bodies.

### **b) Advertising on the BSUG website.**

It had previously been agreed **not** to accept advertising unless BSUG related to avoid any conflict of interest.

### **c) Remuneration for accreditation leads**

Remuneration for accreditation leads has been set at 0.5 PA for the average hospital, although may be more or less depending on the size of the hospital. This should be discussed at job planning and appraisal meetings.

### **d) History of BSUG**

We are putting together the history of BSUG. If you have any information about the positions that you have held – please contact Amanda via [aking@rcog.org.uk](mailto:aking@rcog.org.uk)

### **e) Vacancies for Committee roles.**

Nominations have been received for the vacancies for the Meetings Chair and the Training Chair positions. If there are more than one candidate for the roles and online election will take place and members will be invited to vote. The Online election will be opened in the next few weeks for the Chairman of the Meetings Committee and the Training Committee. Since the AGM Mayu Basa & Karen Ward have been appointed.

Committee positions available for the database and the research committees, self-nominations to be submitted to the office by the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – these have all been filled since then.

## **Election rules**

To encourage new blood it had been agreed that the total duration of a member of any BSUG committee should not exceed 6 years. The membership were reminded that members and associates may only sit on one committee and if you serve on more than one members will have to resign from the multiple committees. A member can come off a committee and then go back to be a Chair of a committee. If any member is currently on more than one; they should let the secretariat know. It was noted that the wording on the Constitution had been changed from 'chairman' to 'chair'.

Last year, at the AGM, expressions of interest were requested for ways we could spend BSUG funds on. No expressions were received.. The limited results of the SurveyMonkey was that members wanted the audit database to be interrogated.

Phil Toozs-Hobson, Phil Assassa and Paul Moran put in a proposal for a research fellow to interrogate the database. This will be discussed by the new Executive Committee and will be presented back to you.

## **6. Treasurer**

### **Accounts & Finance**

Income £122,917.43

Expenditure £86,577.47

**Operating profit £36,339.96**

### **Current reserves**

Nat west deposit £86,835

Scottish Widow £151,643

Nat West current £63684

**Total £302162**

### **Current reserves**

The office/secretariat are trying to open a new bank account. This is proving to be quite difficult owing to the complexity of the application process. BSUG currently has a surplus of over £300,000. The Charities Commission suggest holding 3-9 months running costs in reserve, most of our revenue comes from membership fees; so unlikely to diminish. Last year, there was a call to ask the membership for suggestions for spending BSUG. Phil again, asked members to contact Amanda about any ideas for spending the money. Phil also advised incoming Trustees to read the Trustees guidance and regulations. Phil reiterated that the SurveyMonkey results were asking for more work to be done with the BSUG Audit Database e.g. Research on the database. Phil said it is imperative to set financial objectives each year.

Some members of the audience gave their ideas for spending BSUG funds:

- Reducing the costs of BSUG events – Phil said the College rely on the meetings that they run so reducing the costs is outside of BSUG's control and we have no influence on the pricing system. Dudley said those with presentations and posters at the meeting ARM were given free entry.
- Funding for ATSMs, and sub spec training.
- Bob Freeman suggested reducing membership fees to BSUG. Jonathan said that the Associate trainee rate had been reduced and is much better value.
- Bursaries or scholarships for student working abroad.

## **Bsug.net**

Bsug.net has been re-launched. PTH talked through the features. Phil said that on bsug.net all national data is available completely anonymised, available to all BSUG Audit Database registered users for use at appraisal. New individual summary reports for procedures performed are available. Standard reports are slightly different – you can do any audit, for example, to look at perforation rates of TVT by simply ticking on retropublic tape on “complications” which will then measure your results against the national data. This is an offline retrospective data which can be interrogated completely anonymised. It will be updated regularly it should soon have 150,000 cases on it. Any members who are contributing to database and are using it can go in and get the full dataset.

If you want to do research and you want to access data – you need to go through the formal process and fill out the SOP, this appears on the website and the research committee looks at these applications. Further information, is on the website on new reports that will allow users to retrieve data from the database. There is an option of comparing to national data. This is an offline database, not the live database.

## **Conflict of Interest**

Phil said that concerns had been raised about a possible conflict of interest, with him performing research on the database as well as being on the Audit Database Committee. Phil felt the sensible option for him was to resign from the committee in order to allow him to pursue his research interests into the database.

## **Resignations**

Phil has hence resigned as BSUG Audit Database Chair and there will be an election for a new BSUG Audit Database Chair. Since the AGM Andrew Hextall, as sole applicant, has been appointed Chair of the database committee.

Alfred thanked Phil for his significant and important contribution in reinventing the database committee.

## **AOB**

### **Mesh Centres**

Centres who are willing to see and treat mesh related issues including removing mesh are shown on the BSUG and BAUS websites.

There was a discussion about the removal of mesh and the role that BSUG could and should reasonably take on this matter. One suggestion was that more leaflets may be required and that the database could provide more information on patient outcomes. BSUG will continue work with the RCOG and BAUS on these issues.

### **Specialist Commissioning**

Alfred then referred to *specialist commissioning* and the meeting held earlier in the ASM.

Specialist commissioning is related to the number of procedures performed nationally and not their complexity e.g. colpoelisis falls into specialist commissioning as relatively few are performed.

More updates will be available as this progresses.

### **Industry sponsored part of the Annual Scientific Meeting**

DOUG TINCELLO – felt disquiet that industry sponsored part of the Annual Scientific Meeting. Christian said that when the ‘symposia’ was held as a separate, not related to the main part of the meeting only four people attended! In view of this, and in fairness to our sponsors, without whom we could not afford to hold any meetings, we changed to the format used by IUGA, changing the timing of the symposia to make them more accessible. There is patently a balance to strike between attendance, and the money that the College raises via sponsored symposia. Interestingly, the College (RCOG) wants there to be even more sponsored symposia! There was general agreement that we should consider to have partnership with industry to ensure the ongoing viability of our meetings.

### **Conflict of interest and Phil’s resignation and the database**

Tim Hillard was surprised that Phil had just resigned over the possible conflict of interest as Chair of the Database Committee.

PTH explained his reasoning.

PTH feels that anyone who is involved as a Trustee or is perceived to have a *conflict of interest*, now has to withdraw and stand back from the database.

**ACTION:** The new Exec team and Trustees will discuss this, and consider what constitutes a *conflict of interest*.

A question was asked if BSUG could publish an annual audit c.f. BAUS. BAUS members can look at statistics on the BAUS website. It was mentioned that a BSUG member can now produce reports of their own data compared to national data.

**ACTION:** Members to write to the Audit Database Committee (via Amanda) with any ideas.

PTH said that BAUS has one big difference in that they have a professional secretariat from whom they produce reports.

An audience member commented that BSUG has the financial resources to look into the database. PTH replied that the Audit Database Committee put in an application to develop this which will be discussed at the next Executive Meeting.

Alfred commented that the database developments are very exciting, including the new reports and that it’s a phased approach.

### **Welcome to the new Executive**

Professor Jonathan Duckett was welcomed as the new Chair of BSUG and thanked everyone for their support over the past two years.

Professor Jonathan Duckett thanked Alfred who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes on the modernisation of the Society. All of the Committee are very thankful to Alfred for his strong & inclusive leadership. A gift was presented to the outgoing Chair.

PTH is leaving as Treasurer and was thanked and commended on being such a great asset to the Society – he was presented with a gift and thanked for his work as Treasurer.

Jonathan, as new Chair of BSUG outlined his priorities. These are:

The BSUG Audit Database and its use.

To champion juniors and make it easier and less financially difficult for juniors to attend these meetings.

He would like members to contact him about ideas for the Society (via Amanda on [aking@rcog.org.uk](mailto:aking@rcog.org.uk)).

Jonathan closed the meeting.

Meeting dates will be circulated to members.

**Notes taken by Amanda King and Stella Rafferty.**