



**Minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the  
British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH)**

**Held via Zoom Video Communications  
Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

The President, Dr John McSorley, was in the Chair and the meeting commenced at 16:00.

Sixty-six members attended the meeting, which was therefore quorate. Dr Phillips advised that this is the main Annual General Meeting, as there was a delay to the output of the audit, an Extra-Ordinary Meeting will be called in March 2022, hopefully coinciding with the BASHH Scientific Meeting.

Dr Phillips noted that only BASHH members are eligible to vote in the AGM.

**1. Apologies**

2. Nil received – according to communications from EBS **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 7 January 2021**

The minutes of the eighteenth AGM held on 7 January 2021, had been circulated to the membership and were accepted, as an accurate record. Proposed by Dr Olwen Williams, seconded by Dr Shalini Andrews, and approved by the meeting with three abstentions from Dr Matthew Grundy-Bowers, Bernadette Butler and Adam Hart, with no votes against. The approved minutes will be posted on the BASHH website.

**3. Statement by the General Secretary**

The General Secretary, Dr David Phillips, opened with an introduction to the new Secretariat, Executive Business Support (EBS), following a challenging handover from MKSAM on February 1 2021, business continuity was maintained. Dr Phillips highlighted the achievements of the new Secretariat with the launch of the BSIG Application, a free educational resource available to all, together with the rebranding and launch of a new website for the STI Foundation. Ongoing work of EBS includes an overhaul of the BASHH website and the social and digital media strategy for BASHH.

BASHH hold a quarterly performance meeting with EBS and the following data has been recorded:

- MINUTES: 100% of draft minutes were completed within 10 working days
- CALLS: 98% Average time to answer telephone calls was within 5 rings
- QUERIES: 100% of Membership AND Account queries were resolved within 3 working days
- EMAILS: All global emails sent within 2 working days of final approval by General Secretary
- WEBSITE: < two-day turnaround for posting news and events
- Events: FSRH/BASHH, VBASHH, SAS conference, Dermatology conference, Weekly Zoom Q&As.

The membership has seen healthy increase compared to last year: 1063 in December 2020 compared to 1122 in December 2021, within the Doctors in training, Health Advisors and Nurse categories. It was noted that a new category, Other Healthcare Professionals, had been introduced at the time of the Secretariat transition to capture misplaced members. Dr Phillips drew attention to the significant change in the SAS and Fellow categories, explaining that many SAS Doctors had been upgraded to the Fellow Category following a review.

The Annual Review can be found on the website <https://www.bashh.org/about-bashh/annual-review-reports/> and this includes details of group activities and committee members.



Dr Phillips provided a summary of the various activities carried out by BASHH during the year August 2020 to July 2021, and recognised how productive BASHH had been, despite the challenges faced. Special thanks were given to Katia Prime for preparing a comprehensive report for the Specialist Advisory Committee, and Ruth Lowbury, a lay Trustee to the Board, for support with preparing and editing the Annual Review.

Dr Phillips noted that the management operations for the STI Foundation had transitioned from Sue Bird associates to EBS, which involved a change in processes to modernise and digitise the STI Foundation. Dr Phillips offered apologies to those who experienced delays in transactions or in receipt of certification, and acknowledged Nick Theobald, Luciana Rubinstein, Matthew Grundy-Bowers and Ramona Malek for their dedication and patience during the transition period.

#### **4. Statement by the Treasurer**

The Treasurer, Dr Kaveh Manavi, made a statement highlighting key features in the accounts and reminded members that the financial figures presented at this meeting are un-audited. The full, audited financial statements will be presented to members at the Extra-ordinary meeting, held before April 2022.

Despite the various Covid lockdowns, BASHH ended the year with a net surplus of £37,357.63 at 31 July 2021, which may be subject to change following the audit report. Dr Manavi noted that the total balance remained stable, although the BASHH shares dipped in 2020 and have not yet fully recovered. Dr Manavi explained that although secretariat services remained stable, there were a few one-off charges to account for during the transition period.

- Secretariat services remained stable: £139,109 (£138,826 in 2020)
- Fund balances carried forward at 31st July 2021: £1,958,499

In 2021, un-audited expenses reduced to £348,926.78, and income reduced to £386,284.41. Membership subscriptions have increased from £184,367 in 2020 to £188,814 in 2021, although membership rates have remained unchanged over the past four years.

Dr Manavi raised two important issues affecting BASHH finances over the past year, the first being the unveiling of discrepancies in VAT charging, which have been reported to HMRC. The BASHH Board approved a VAT consultant to assist Dr Manavi with correspondence and negotiations, which are on-going. Dr Manavi noted that if negotiations do not end favourably, BASHH will have to pay a significant amount resulting in a short-term impact on BASHH finances. The second issue is the BSIG Micro Application, which is free to BASHH members and non-members, meaning the cost of maintenance is paid from the BASHH general account.

Financial achievements in 2021:

- Transition of BASHH secretariat to EBS
- Transition of STI Foundation secretariat to EBS
- Use of e-portfolio for STI Foundation trainees
- Investment in BASHH access to online meeting and conference platforms
- Offering BSIG Microguide Application for free to members and non-members

Financial plan for 2022:

- To improve our standard operating procedures with the new secretariat
- To reduce the variation in the cost of delivering Educational Events
- To enhance values of BASHH membership
- To continue utilising technology for BASHH business
- The membership subscription charges will remain unchanged.



Dr Manavi explained that this will be the fourth and final report he will produce as BASHH Treasurer. The summary shown below displays Dr Manavi's efforts in bringing BASHH's core business out of many years of loss making, beginning in 2018;

Summary of the past seven years (excluding investment income/loss):

- 2014/15: £89,156
- 2015/16: **-£32,408**
- 2016/17: **-£62,196**
- 2017/18: **-£51,665**
- 2018/19: **-£144,802**
- 2019/20: £15,301
- 2020/21: £37,353 (non-audited)

The start of Dr Manavi's tenure as BASHH Treasurer in 2018, saw the beginning of a review into expenses. After twelve months of negotiation with publishers of the two journals, subscription rates were reduced significantly in December 2019. Following ten months of negotiation, Dr Manavi also successfully reduced the rates for the use of the RSM venue. In 2019 the BASHH Board agreed a last-minute extension to the secretariat contract, at an increase of 12% on the previous contract for the next two years. In addition, the BASHH Scientific Meeting 2019 made a deficit of £40,000 due to high expenses, driving BASHH accounts further into deficit. From June 2019, Quarterly SIG financial statements were shared with SIG Chairs, enabling them to chase debtors, thus reducing the Aged Debtors report significantly. During August 2019 the tender specification for a new secretariat was finalised, six bids were received and proposals were submitted to the Board in February 2020. The transition to EBS began in December 2020.

Dr Manavi concluded by stating that BASHH has achieved a lot during the past two years, when other medical associations have folded or made a loss due to the pandemic, BASHH made a profit. Dr Manavi credited the BASHH membership for adapting and making opportunities out of challenges by moving to web-based conferences and events, leading to a financial surplus within three months of the pandemic lockdown commencing.

#### **5. Membership Subscription for 2022/23**

Dr Manavi reported that the annual membership subscription fee has remained unchanged for 8 years and the subscription will be held for 2022/23, as set by the Board.

#### **6. Resolutions**

It was noted that the Chair held no proxy votes.

##### **Resolution 1**

That Sayer Vincent LLP, Invicta House, 108-114 Golden Lane, London, EC1Y 0TL be appointed auditors of the Company, to hold office from the conclusion of this meeting until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting of the Company at which accounts are laid before the Company.

The proposer was Claire Dewsnap, with Claudia Estcourt as the seconder, the resolution was approved with one abstention from Lewis Haddow.



## Resolution 2

That the board of trustees of the Company be authorised to determine the remuneration of the auditors of the Company.

The proposer was Alan Tang, with Chris Ward as the seconder, the resolution was approved with no abstentions.

## 7. Retirements

Members are invited to note the retirement of the following, with effect from the close of business of the meeting: Dr Olwen Williams as Past President, Dr Alan Tang as Vice President, Dr Shalini Andrews as CGC Chair, Dr Laura Waters as Fellow, Dr Rachael Jones as Fellow, Dr Darren Cousins as Fellow and Dr Carol Emerson as Fellow – all Trustees to the Company. Dr Phillips thanked these Trustees for the amazing work and support they have provided over the past few years. Ceri Evans as HA representative and Dr Parameswaran Sashidharan as SAS representative to the Board have also retired from their posts, with many thanks from the Board for their support and hard work over many years.

## 8. Appointment of elected trustees and Clinical Governance Group representatives

The results of the 2021 elections were presented by the General Secretary. Dr Phillips reported that these had been conducted by Mi-Voice Election Services using a secure online voting website.

Dr Phillips extended a warm welcome to the incoming Officers: Professor Matt Phillips as the incoming Treasurer, Dr Rona MacDonald as the incoming CGC Chair and Dr Chris Ward as Conference and Communications Secretary. Incoming Fellows were welcomed to the Board; Dr Deepa Bansal, Dr Sophie Brady, Dr Matthew Grundy-Bowers and Dr Lewis Haddow. Dr Phillips then welcomed Belinda Loftus as co-opted Nurse Rep, and Hu Clarke as Health Advisor Rep to the Board. Dr Phillips announced and welcomed the incoming CGC Branch Chairs, noting the job shares.

There were four nominees for four Fellow posts, with only one contested seat for the CGC Chair.

The results of the ballot are listed below:

Board posts	Elected Candidate
<b>President</b>	Dr Claire Dewsnap
<b>Vice President</b>	Dr Kaveh Manavi
<b>Treasurer</b>	Prof Matt Phillips
<b>CGC Chair</b>	Dr Rona MacDonald
<b>Conference &amp; Communications Secretary</b>	Dr Chris Ward
<b>Fellow to the Board</b>	Dr Deepa Bansal
<b>Fellow to the Board</b>	Dr Sophie Brady
<b>Fellow to the Board</b>	Dr Matthew Grundy-Bowers
<b>Fellow to the Board</b>	Dr Lewis Haddow
<b>Health Advisor Rep</b>	Mr Hu Clarke
<b>SAS Rep</b>	Dr Georgina Forbes



<b>Nurse Rep (co-opted)</b>	Mrs Belinda Loftus
<b>Clinical Governance Committee (CGC)</b>	
<b>Mersey</b>	Dr Noel Connolly
<b>North West</b>	Dr John Sweeney
<b>Northern</b>	Dr Jane Hussey
<b>Oxford</b>	Dr Angela Bailey
<b>Scotland</b>	Vacant
<b>South West</b>	Vacant
<b>Thames North East</b>	Vacant
<b>Thames North West</b>	Dr Dawn Friday
<b>Thames South East</b>	Dr Mark Pakianathan and Dr Aseel Hegazi
<b>Thames South West</b>	Dr Deborah Kirkham and Dr Malika Mohabeer
<b>Trent</b>	Vacant
<b>West Midlands</b>	Vacant
<b>Health Adviser Rep</b>	Mr Hu Clarke

These appointments will take effect from the end of the AGM, to hold office until the second succeeding AGM following this meeting. There are five vacant posts on the CGC and efforts will be made to co-opt members to these roles.

It was agreed that the Charity Commission and Companies House will be updated to reflect the changes in Board posts.

#### **9. Award of BASHH Honorary Life Fellowship**

The President announced that the Board had awarded Honorary Life Fellowship to Dr Rak Nandwani, who will be presented with his medal later in the year at a BASHH Scientific Meeting. Dr Nandwani was congratulated and this award is made for outstanding leadership and promotion of Sexual Health service delivery.

#### **10. Award of BASHH Outstanding Contribution award**

The President noted that this award is made every two years and is awarded to someone who has contributed in the field of sexual health and to the work of BASHH.

It was awarded to Dr David Goldmeier for his outstanding contribution to BASHH as a clinician, academic and leader during a career spanning over 40 years, and as an international expert in the field of sexual dysfunction.

#### **11. Any Other Business**

There was no Any Other Business.

#### **12. Closing Statement by the President**

Dr McSorley thanked colleagues, past Presidents and members for their sustained and relentless commitment, collaboration, team work and support during his two-year presidency. Dr McSorley thanked his Vice President, Dr Alan Tang, for his contribution and hard work over the past decade. He then thanked Dr Shalini Andrews for her continued support in a leadership role within BASHH SIGs after stepping down from the Board. Dr McSorley

# BASHH



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expressed special thanks to Dr Olwen Williams for her guidance, wisdom and hard work on social media.

Dr McSorley informed members of the sad passing of two highly esteemed colleagues. Dr Ann Fawcett, a GUM consultant, Regional Medical Director for the Anglia region and a member of MMSVD for many years. Dr Sanat Panja, a consultant in GUM and HIV, Clinical Director at Brighton and a highly successful mentor to many. Dr McSorley asked members to also remember those we lost during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dr McSorley closed his statement by announcing the Centenary of BASHH in 2022 and expressed a very warm welcome to the incoming President, Dr Claire Dewsnap.

Dr Claire Dewsnap expressed gratitude to Dr McSorley for uniting BASHH during a very difficult presidency. Dr Dewsnap also extended thanks to all outgoing Officers, Trustees, Reps and CGC members for their support.

Dr Dewsnap closed the meeting by acknowledging Dr McSorley's kindness and collaborative work, with the intention to continue and expand upon his great work.

The meeting closed at 17.00.