

BASHH



British Association for Sexual Health and HIV

Minutes of the 21st Annual General Meeting of the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH)

Held via Zoom Video Communications Friday
24th January 2025

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the President, Professor Matt Phillips, was unable to chair, therefore the meeting chair was deputised to BASHH trustee Dr Chris Ward, the meeting commenced at 16:15.

62 members attended the meeting, which was therefore quorate. Dr Cara Saxon, BASHH General Secretary, noted that only BASHH members are eligible to vote in the AGM.

Apologies – Dr Gill McCarthy

No proxy votes received

No AOBs received

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 26th January 2024

The minutes of the twentieth AGM held on 26th January 2024, had been circulated to the membership and were accepted, as an accurate record.

Proposed by Dr Clare Wood, seconded by Dr Cara Saxon, approved by the meeting with 34 votes for, three abstentions and no votes against. The approved minutes will be posted on the BASHH website.

Statement by the General Secretary

The General Secretary, Dr Cara Saxon, introduced the meeting and thanked everyone for joining the meeting.

Dr Saxon gave a breakdown of the current membership numbers, stating that there has been an increase in total members to 1505 (Dec 2024) from 1375 (Dec 2023). Dr Saxon highlighted the rise in nurses (December 2023 from 209 to 225 in 2024) and Other Healthcare Professionals (December 2023 from 40 to 28 in 2024), the rise in Pre-Speciality Doctors (December 2023 from 32 to 59 in 2024), and the rise in Students (December 2023 from 152 to 238 in 2024).

Dr Saxon provided a highlight of the KPIs for the BASHH Secretariat, Executive Business Support (EBS), all of which were within target. Dr Saxon detailed that the BASHH Annual Review had been completed, listing the various groups and noting the new SIG (Sustainable Healthcare SIG), Dr Saxon thanked everyone who participated in the completion of this document. Dr Saxon gave an overview of the activities by BASHH over the last year, highlighting that the STI Foundation had a comprehensive review looking at the course materials with agreements for restructuring days one and two into two half days. Each session is to be mapped to the relevant competency level as a spiral curriculum; Agreement with the School of Health Sciences of the University of Greenwich to recognise STIF Competency Training/Assessment curricula for Academic credits. Completion of gateway pilot and launch as a split level for entry-level nurses (Gateway-Plus) and healthcare assistants (Gateway). Within 2024 there were 25 theory courses; there were regular national online theory courses in addition to the local face-to-face. The new registrations received for Competency programmes between September 2023 and August 2024 totalled 131.

Dr Saxon noted that M&F Health manages the BASHH Public Affairs and Press Office. There was a lot of activity last year, including developing priorities for a sexual health strategy in line with the 2024 general election, a 'Sexual Health 101' Parliamentary briefing event, MP service visits, and consultation responses.



Dr Saxon advised that M&F Health continue to manage the social, digital, and media output for BASHH and highlighted within 2024, they covered 28 pieces, ensuring BASHH's voice was represented across a wide range of broadcast and traditional media outlets and supporting widespread national coverage on a range of priority interest areas. Dr Saxon highlighted the KPIs and the rise in followers across media platforms (Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook, and X (formerly known as Twitter)).

Dr Saxon updated on the LoveGUM recruitment campaign, which launched in June 2024 to raise awareness of the GUM specialty and drive recruitment. The campaign is in its third and final phase; this was delivered between July 2024 and October 2024 and featured a social media ad campaign, influencer collaborations, and targeted digital ads on BMJ Student and Careers websites.

Dr Saxon reminded members of the new website, the new website allows smoother processes to assist the BASHH Secretariat for event booking and membership subscriptions. Dr Saxon reminded all that the BSIG app is integrated with the website for BASHH members only and that the Guidelines, PILs and Standards are all available on the BASHH website.

Dr Saxon reported that on EEDI (Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion), in April 2024 a survey was completed and results have been analysed. Currently this project is at the stage of the focus group and interviews, which are all in progress. Dr Saxon reminded members of the recent call for interest for BASHH members involvement.

Statement by the Treasurer

The Treasurer, Dr Anne Oliver, reported the financial statement and highlighted key features in the accounts ending July 2024. Dr Oliver advised that income generated from the STI Foundation and Conferences had increased and that the investment portfolio had performed strongly. Dr Oliver detailed the activities that were focused the expenditure: continuation of the website reconstruction, ongoing national guidelines development, LoveGUM and Social-Digital-Media campaigns, Chief Executive Officer, and overall inflation. Dr Oliver summarized BASHH's current situation and how general operating costs are more significant than the income, BASHH is running at a deficit and that reserves are mobilised to fund the expenditure.

Summary of the last two financial years:

	2023/2024	2022/2023
Income	£841,088	£755,975
Expenditure	£1,234,331	£771,044
Net Movement in Funds	-£181,846	-£1,679
Total Funds Carried Forwards	£1,755,634	£1,937,120

Dr Oliver detailed that membership subscriptions are a critical component of sustainable income, allowing core activities to continue. As part of the membership process BASHH has increased the diligence around ensuring individuals are on the correct subscription rate. In August 2024 all membership subscriptions increased by 3%. Dr Oliver noted that further increases are likely in the future and would be done so fairly, being mindful of affordability.

CEO Update 2025 and beyond

The Chief Executive Officer, Kat Smithson, introduced herself and advised that she had worked for BASHH for the past ten months. She then updated members on the income and expenditures for 2025 and for the future and how this has been drawn upon previous activities. Kat Smithson advised that she had been working on future activities to ensure they align with BASHH's objectives. She detailed the projected income for this financial year, approximately £845,000, including income from their investments. Kat Smithson listed 17.8% from the STI Foundation, 23.7% from sponsorships, 29% from event registrations, 26% from membership fees, and 3.6% from other interests and dividends, she reiterated this is income and not profit. Kat Smithson explained that they are currently running an operational deficit, and will do on a planned basis for coming years, meaning that their income does not cover what they're spending.

Kat Smithson detailed the planned expenditure for the current financial year and reported this is where their investments were going. The expenditure total for this financial year was approximately £1,212,000. Kat Smithson listed 11.7% admin and finance, 15.6% other operational costs, including the CEO, 4.1% organisational development, 13.1% communications and influencing (policy), 34% education and development, 9.2% information and standards, and 8.3% new staff. Kat Smithson provided further detail on the new staff roles, which had been signed off by the board: Head of Education and Development and Policy and Public Affairs role.

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 Dr David Phillips with Dr Chris Ward as the seconder, the resolution was approved with 40 votes for and one abstention.

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 Dr Cara Saxon Dr Rona MacDonald as the seconder, the resolution was approved with 43 votes for, one abstention and one against.

Resolution 3

To receive the audited accounts for the period 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024 together with the trustees' and auditors' reports.

The proposer was Dr Anne Oliver, with Dr Cara Saxon as the seconder, the resolution was approved with 40 votes for and three abstentions.

Resolution 4 – Special Resolution

To amend clauses 1.2 and 1.20 of BASHH [byelaws](#) which relate to the composition of the six Fellows to the Board trustee posts to enable one of the six posts to be specified as an Academic Fellow to the Board. The purpose of the newly defined Fellow is to ensure that key developments and opportunities in research are fully considered and engaged with as part of strategic decision-making at BASHH board level.

1.2 Trustee posts are the President of BASHH, Vice-President of BASHH, General Secretary of BASHH, Treasurer of BASHH, Conference and Communication Secretary of BASHH, Chair of the Education Committee of BASHH, Chair of the Clinical Governance Committee of BASHH, the six Fellows to the BASHH Board (including one Academic Fellow to the Board), SAS representative on the BASHH Board, Nurse representative on the BASHH Board, Health Adviser representative on the BASHH Board and Doctor in Training representative on the BASHH Board.

1.20 Election will be by means of a first past the post vote (as defined by the Electoral Reform Service Ltd) for all elected Trustee posts but for the six posts of Fellows to the BASHH Board (including the Academic Fellow to the Board) there will be provision, subject to nominations received and votes cast, for the election of at least two Fellows who work within the London area and at least two Fellows who work outside the London area to ensure geographic representation on the Board. The Academic Fellow to the Board will be elected by means of a first past the post vote and can work in either geographic location. Their geographic location will be counted towards the total number of Fellows to the Board when applying the mechanisms below to ensure geographic representation.

The proposer was Prof Matt Phillips, with Dr Cara Saxon as the seconder, the resolution was approved with 41 votes for and four abstentions.

Resolution 5 – Special Resolution

Contingent on approval of previous Resolution (4), to apply new Academic Fellow to Board criteria retrospectively to those individuals who would be appointed as co-opted Board members in the 2024 election. Hence recognise said individuals as Trustees of the company from close of this meeting.

The proposer was Dr Cara Saxon, with Dr David Phillips as the seconder, the resolution was approved with 37 votes for, three abstentions and one against.

Retirements

Dr Saxon advised that the following trustees retired on the board; Lindsay Henderson (DiT Rep), and Claudia Estcourt (Fellow to the Board)

Dr Saxon thanked these individuals for the work and support they have provided over the past few years.

Appointment of elected trustees and Clinical Governance Group Representatives

The general secretary presented the results of the 2025 elections. Dr Saxon reported that they had been conducted by Mi-Voice Election Services using a secure online voting website.

Dr Saxon extended a warm welcome to the incoming appointments:

Trustee	
Fellow	Mike Rayment
Nurse Rep	Jodie Crossman
DiT Rep	Fiona Windebanke
Non-Trustee	
Academic Fellow to the Board	Claudia Estcourt

Dr Saxon updated that the Clinical Governance Committee have had new members, Fahad Naser, taking over as the SAS representative and thanked Hannah Leng for all her time on the CGC,

Dr Saxon advised that there were three members who have retired from the CGC: Bridie Howe, Scotland; Serish Basavaraj, East Anglia; and Sangeetha Sundaram, Wessex. Dr Saxon thanked them for their time on the CGC. The CGC has a number of new and co-opted members detailed below. A number of these have been reappointed for second terms and we are grateful for their continued support to BASHH.

Clinical Governance Committee (CGC)	
East Anglia	Claudia Krause
Northern Ireland	Say Quah (co-opt)
Scotland	Graham Leslie
South West	Fiona Fargie
Thames NE	Rita Browne
Thames SW	Malika Mohabeer
Trent	Hayley Wood
Wales (Cymru)	Darren Cousins
Wessex	Sara Scofield
West Midlands	Lisa Goodall
Yorkshire	Emma Street
SAS Rep	Fahad Naser
Nurse Rep	Alan Haskell
DiT Rep	David Brown

Outgoing (retiring) Clinical Governance Committee (CGC)	
East Anglia	Serish Basavaraj
Scotland	Bridie Howe
Wessex	Sangeetha Sundaram
SAS Rep	Hannah Leng

These appointments will take effect from the end of the AGM, to hold office until the second succeeding AGM following this meeting.

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

President Awards:

Dr Ward announced the results of our annual awards:

- Award of BASHH Honorary Life Fellowship
Dr Nick Theobald
- Award of BASHH Outstanding Achievement award
Ceri Evans

Congratulations from BASHH members were noted in the chat function.

Closing Statement by the President

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Dr Ward said he had not been provided with the president's statement to share during the meeting.

Any Other Business

No matters arising

Members were thanked for taking the time to attend the BASHH AGM.

The meeting closed at 16:59