

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
26th January 2024

The President, Dr Claire Dewsnap, was in the Chair and the meeting commenced at 16:15

57 members attended the meeting, which was therefore quorate. Dr David Phillips, BASHH General Secretary noted that only BASHH members are eligible to vote in the AGM.

Apologies – Mr. Nathan Burley, Dr Ratish Basu Roy, Michael Waugh, Dr Sophie Brady

- No proxy votes received
- No AOBs received

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13th January 2023

The minutes of the twentieth AGM held on 13th January 2023, had been circulated to the membership and were accepted, as an accurate record.

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

2. Statement by the General Secretary

The General Secretary, Dr David Phillips, opened with an introduction thanking all for joining the meeting. Dr Phillips gave a breakdown of the current membership numbers, stating that there has been an increase in total members to 1375 (Dec 2023) from 1236 (Dec 2022).

Dr Phillips provided a highlight of the KPI's for the BASHH Secretariat, Executive Business Support (EBS), all were within target. Dr Phillips gave an overview of the activities by BASHH over the last year, highlighting the STI Foundation, within 2023, 23 theory courses; 9 online and 14 face to face. The Competency program, gateway (pilot) has now closed, with great feedback which will be actioned and rolled out in 2024.

Dr Phillips noted that M&F Health manage the BASHH Public Affairs and Press Office, there has been a lot of activity last year with cross party engagement for sexual health ahead of the next election. BASHH have met with Caroline Nokes (MP) Chair of the Women and Equalities Select Committee and Dame Diana Johnson (MP) Chair of the APPG on Sexual Health and Reproductive Health. Dr Phillips added that Dr Dewsnap gave evidence to the Women and Equalities Select Committee this week, it focused on the STI rates amongst young people. The link will be added onto the BASHH website for further reading.

Dr Phillips advised, for the second year M&F Health have managed the Social, Digital and Media output. Dr Phillips provided a highlight of the KPI's and the rise in followers across media platforms (Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook and X (formally known as Twitter)).

BASHH have invested in two digital campaigns; the Amplify Conference using the hashtag '#BASHH2023' which was a great success and the second campaign was invested in a trial of paid for advertising, targeting different groups of people within sexual health in December 2023, the outputs are currently been reviewed to see the worthiness moving forward.

Dr Phillips updated on the #LoveGUM recruitment campaign, which aims to raise awareness of the specialty and to drive more junior doctors and medical trainees to consider a career in GUM, the campaign started in September 2023 and will run until mid-2024.

Dr Phillips announced, due to the current website being very outdated, BASHH have gone for a full

overhaul for a new website, which should be ready in the next few weeks. The new website will allow smoother processes to assist the BASHH Secretariat for event booking and membership subscriptions. Dr Phillips noted that the BSIG app will be integrated with the website for BASHH members only and that the Guidelines, PILs and Standards will still be on the BASHH website with intuitive linkage.

Dr Phillips reported that on EEDI (Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion), a few years ago a snapshot was taken on the BASHH membership to review the diversity on the membership, and the composition of each board and group, in comparison to the membership itself: BASHH now plan on completing a deep dive with the useful results. In the meantime, BHIVA have done this for their own organisation with the support of a company called Purple Pen. BASHH have completed a procurement exercise and Purple Pen came out the favoured bidder, and BASHH have appointed them with the contract to complete this work on behalf of BASHH which will be a 12-month project starting in April 2024. At the end of the project BASHH will have a full review and an idea for recommendations with an action plan.

3. Statement by the Treasurer

The Treasurer, Professor Matt Phillips, made a statement highlighting key features in the accounts ending July 2023.

Professor Matt Phillips reported the financial statement listing the activities that were focused on across BASHH, Website reconstruction, sponsoring delegations to international conferences to bring back learning for the BASHH membership, Commissioning events experts to manage the flagship conferences, #LoveGUM and Social- Digital- Media campaigns and the appointment of a fixed term Chief Executive Officer. It was noted that the activities were all to serve to further the objectives, and all have cost significant amounts of money and will continue to do so for the next two years.

Prof. Phillips, reported BASHH had an audited deficit of -£1,679, with total end funds of £1,930,220.

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: £2,946 (£37,353 – including investment income/lost)
- 2021/22: £80,675 (£1,209 – including investment income/lost)
- 2022/23: -£2,124 (-£1,679 – including investment income/lost)

Prof. Phillips believed that the deficit may be a little larger next year, a large amount of the capital is in investment which is reliant of the market, last year it was influenced by the international unrest.

Prof. Phillips detailed that he had been worked with the General secretary around membership subscriptions, BASHH are increasing diligence around ensuring individuals are on the correct subscription rate. BASHH have been able to keep subscriptions frozen for a number of years, due to inflation changes it's been difficult to maintain, a decision was made at Board to increase the membership subscriptions by 3% for 2024. This is to prevent a large increase in a single year, and will look to increase again in the future. Prof. Phillips presented examples of the new subscription fees (Nurses currently £40 per membership year, will increase to £41.20 for the membership year).

4. 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 Cara Saxon as the seconder, the resolution was approved with 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, with Dr Chris Ward as the seconder, the resolution was approved with one abstention.

Resolution 3

To receive the audited accounts for the period 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023 together with the trustees' and auditors' reports.

The proposer was Prof Matt Phillips, with Dr David Phillips as the seconder, the resolution was approved with no abstentions.

Resolution 4 – Special Resolution

To amend clauses 1.7a and 1.7b of BASHH byelaws which relate to eligibility to stand for Officer and Fellow Trustee posts, with removal of the “at least three years standing” qualifier. Rationale being to enable talented applicants who would otherwise be appointed as co-opted Board member to have formal status as Trustee (director) of the company.

Clause 1.7a becomes:

Candidates for the office of President, Vice-President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Conference and Communication Secretary, Chair of the Education Committee, Chair of the Clinical Governance Committee must be current Fellows of BASHH;

Clause 1.7b becomes:

Candidates for Fellows to the BASHH Board must be current Fellows of BASHH;

The proposer was Dr David Phillips, with Dr Cara Saxon as the seconder, the resolution was approved with one abstention and two against.

Resolution 5 – Special Resolution

Contingent on approval of previous Resolution (4), to apply new eligibility criteria retrospectively to those individuals who would be appointed as co-opted Board members in the 2023 election: hence recognise said individuals as Trustees of the company from close of this meeting.

The proposer was Dr David Phillips, with Dr Cara Saxon as the seconder, the resolution was approved with two abstentions.

5. Retirements

Dr Phillips advised that the following officers retired Claire Dewsnap (President), John McSorley (Immediate Past Pres), Kaveh Manavi (Vice President), Matt Phillips (Treasurer), David Phillips (General Sec) and Sophie Forsyth (EC Chair).

Retiring from their positions in BASHH Lewis Haddow (Fellow), Deepa Bansal (Fellow), Matthew Grundy-Bowers (Fellow), Ruth Lowbury (Lay Fellow) and Georgina Forbes (SAS Rep)

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

6. Appointment of elected trustees and Clinical Governance Group Representatives

The results of the 2024 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 appointments:

Fellow	Katia Prime
Fellow	John Evans-Jones
Fellow	Sophie Brady (re-appointed)
Fellow	Hasan Mohammed (co-opt)
Lay Fellow	Joshua Anderson
DiT Rep	Lindsay Henderson
Nurse Rep	Jodie Crossman
HA Rep	Hu Clarke
SAS Rep	Kajal Verma

Dr Phillips updated that the Clinical Governance Committee, have had a new member, Nathan Burley taking over as the Pharmacy representative and thanked Mohammed Hasan for all his time on the CGC, Dr Phillips advised that there were on other major changes, these are people in post who provide excellent support for BASHH and is delighted that they stepped forward to be reappointed:

Clinical Governance Committee (CGC)	
Mersey	Noel Connolly (re-appointed unopposed)
North West	John Sweeney (re-appointed unopposed)
Oxford	Angela Bailey (re-appointed unopposed)
Thames North West	Dawn Friday (re-appointed unopposed)
Thames South West	Malika Mohabeer (re-appointed unopposed)
Health Advisor Rep	Hu Clarke (re-appointed unopposed)
Pharmacy rep	Nathan Burley

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.

7. President's Statement

Dr Claire Dewsnap introduced herself and provided a roundup of her time as President. She expressed her gratitude for being able to meet some fantastic people who support BASHH.

Dr Dewsnap updated that BASHH have been focusing on professionalising the organisation, as people are now under more pressure with their workloads. BASHH want to focus on key roles, the CSU and CEG lead who will be given some financial support for the role and to recognize the importance of the roles.

BASHH have recognised that they need to invest to meet the charities objectives, projects have taken place around investing as a specialty and BASHH as an organisation, with the Digital Social Media, and support for the GUM training recruitment program. Dr Dewsnap noted that although BASHH represents the sector and is also the professional body of GUM doctors which is a critical role to solve the problem of people becoming specialty doctors. Dr Dewsnap advised that there are more activities for BASHH to invest in, which is why there was a need for the Chief Executive Officer to come on board to support BASHH to achieve effectiveness, to steer the strategy and to support income generation.

Dr Dewsnap explained that BASHH needs to address the systemic issues effecting sexual health across the four nations by engaging politically with policy and senior public health.

Dr Dewsnap wanted to stress the importance of collaboration for BASHH to enable them to get work done with the backing and support THT and other organisations.

Dr Dewsnap expressed her gratitude and thanks to the Officers, Board, SIGs. Special mentions to Prof. Phillips, Dr Waters, Dr Gold, Dr Barter, Dr Soni, Dr Ward and Dr MacDonald, STASHH and the SAS doctors.

8. Award of BASHH Honorary Life Fellowship Prof Fiona Mulcahy

To be announced at President's Dinner

9. Award of BASHH Outstanding Achievement award

The President noted that this award is made every two years and is awarded to Dr Annabel Sowemimo who is an SRH trainee about to come to the end of her training and be appointed as a consultant. Dr Sowemimo has demonstrating outstanding work on women's access to equality of access for equal SRH reproductive care, in particular for black and ethnic minority women.

10. Closing Statement by the President

Prof. Phillips expressed his thanks to Dr Dewsnap for her time as BASHH President Prof. Phillips introduced himself, he is a GU Consultant in Carlisle he works in general hospital GU and is proud and excited for this moment to become the next BASHH President.

11. Any Other Business

No matters arising

The meeting closed at 17:13