



BRITISH SOCIETY for GYNAECOLOGICAL ENDOSCOPY

**UNCONFIRMED Minutes for the Annual General Meeting of  
British Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 virtually at the ASM 21 Virtual Conference  
From 17:30 to 18.30**

**Present:** Mr. Justin Clark, President (JC)  
Mr. Shaheen Khazali, Honorary Secretary (SK)  
Mr. Andrew Kent, Honorary Treasurer (ASHK)  
Plus around 60 members of the BSGE viewing virtually

**1. Welcome**

SK welcomed BSGE members to the 2021 AGM. SK praised the first virtual ASM, thanking speakers and members for their interactions.

**2. Apologies:** No apologies

**3. Minutes of the last BSGE AGM held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 at Celtic Manor, Wales** were presented to the AGM and accepted.

**4. Matters arising:** Nil

**5. President's report (JC)**

JC thanked the attendees of the AGM that shows commitment from our members. JC is hugely pleased with the membership increase and because of the hard work of the RGIS Hub programme. BSGE is a thriving society, the biggest specialist gynae society in UK and ASM helped push this further. JC missed seeing everyone face to face but despite not being able to deliver normal ASM he was delighted to see numbers for the virtual ASM. It was uncharted waters and having 435 paid delegates; numbers are comparable to f2f. JC thanked Sujata Gupta and her team in Manchester as she had a programme oven ready but unfortunately rug had to be pulled because of Nightingale Hospital and then the pandemic and we had to push the ASM to 2023. Some of ideas used for ASM 2021 were from Sujata Gupta and thanked her in particular for that. In terms of membership BSGE will introduced a corporate membership package through contact with industry, which will bring in some extra revenue.

JC took over in April from Sanjay Vyas. Despite the fact, the BSGE were not meeting f2f, we have never been busier from a BSGE. It has been relentless with short deadlines and the fact that not everyone was operating. Looking back there was a huge concern over open surgery, stoked by dogmatic guidance from college of surgeons to that effect so had to come up with the right guidance with balance and by badging it with the RCOG with much greater outreach and influence; think it was well received by members. Trying to manage footfall in hospitals and minimum bleeding we again with RCOG and BGCS guidance was happily received.

BSGE Secretariat

Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists, 27 Sussex Place, London, NW1 4RG

T: 0207 772 6474 F: 0207 772 6410 E: [bsge@rcog.org.uk](mailto:bsge@rcog.org.uk)

In addition, BSGE as a specialist society had been asked to contribute to PPE recommendations at the onset of the pandemic. Since then we have been contributing on restoration and recovery, operating on patients and more recently validation on endoscopy, diagnostic procedures, so this has been with other royal colleges and NHS England in terms of asking within our own specialties what we should be doing and restoring in these difficult times as there was obviously huge backlogs.

JC reported on BSGE ACN Meeting and how successful it was.

During the last year despite the inability to meet f2f BSGE met and contributed to the RCOG annual progression development virtual meeting through the BSGE stream, the ESGE annual congress again through the BSGE national society stream and thanked the faculties who dedicated their time to that. JC thanked Donna Ghosh for managing to run the Benign Abdominal Surgery Course, which focused on laparoscopic hysterectomy as couldn't have usual f2f day and that was a success as well.

BSGE next f2f ASM will be in Birmingham in 2022 and it is slightly earlier than normal so not to lose money in the financial year but that will be post vaccination in Britain going ahead.

The BSGE has also delivered quality assurance projects, one in endometriosis led by Dominic Byrne and Arvind Vashisht and this is going to be a game changer in helping people benchmark their practice both individually and in centers and help commissioning in patients. Similarly, via the power of the ACN the BSGE managed to obtain data on 5500 women consecutively underdoing from 77 centres on outpatient hysteroscopic procedures. This will be available on the BSGE website allowing our members to use the audit tool and benchmark their practice year on year against national benchmarking data. Not only has BSGE shown what we can do as a society with education and training, but also demonstrated what we can do politically by liaising with royal colleges, public health and NHS England.

## **6. Honorary Treasurer's report (ASHK)**

ASHK reported it had been a busier year more so than anyone had anticipated. From a society point of view in the first wave of the pandemic with frantic rejig of the conferences which required many decisions made very quickly by the Officers. There was not a lot going to council at the time, as decisions had to be made fast and thanked Atia because it involved quite a lot of work refunding registration fees to delegates and industry. BSGE initially moved Manchester conference to what would have been now and moved it again leapfrogging Birmingham to 2023. The virtual ASM in place of Manchester 21 has already shown to be a massive success and we are also proud of the webinar programme, which again was set up to start off with in lieu of ASM 2020 and hopefully will continue going forward. The awards budget has been increased and the BSGE has added the research award for £3k and available on four monthly cycle; the first one having actually just been awarded. ASHK announced increase in membership of about 25%. BSGE also had a big overhaul of data protection and employed a company called Evalian Ltd who have become the society's data protection officers. Essentially moving the portfolio under the care and oversight of the vice president because of a conflict with the Treasurer holding that, which is what he had when he took over; the Treasurer is a data controller and not fair to be supervising themselves.

BSGE also welcomed the new BSGE Administrator, Barbara Sanders, as a long overdue addition to the secretariat.

BSGE has finally renegotiated staff contracts for another year.

ASHK shared a graph of BSGE membership. ASHK reported generally, things stayed stable. BSGE has introduced overseas membership and there is a big increase in trainees, which was very encouraging. Membership subscription are one of the key mainstays of income. Full detailed

accounts are available in terms of council papers and on the charity commission returns on the BSGE website. 2019 income from membership subscriptions stayed much the same into 2020. 2021 expecting that to go up significantly. However, income has dropped dramatically in 2020 from £406k in 2019 to just over £40k in 2020, a decrease of just over £365k. That is the majority of the ASM that did not happen. The rest is joint courses that and the ACN which got in just before wave one of the pandemic. Our support costs have gone on, secretariat, treasurer's support, affiliations with the AAGL and ESGE and one or two others. It has gone up little year on year but not dramatic. Current commitments dropped off dramatically; essentially, BSGE didn't have to pay for the ASM. We have in a way as even though this is not reflected in the accounts, which we sent into the charity commission many of those moneys are still spent, they have been moved over to another accounting year. Spending already been done for Manchester 2023 and a degree spent for Birmingham 2022. BSGE is usually working at least one year ahead for meetings. Going to be covering those costs for another couple of years. The society made a loss this year, probably the first time the society has made a loss since the problems we had with the ISGE meeting and when Jeremy Wright was Treasurer so made a reasonable profit last year, 2020 is going to be a loss and have to see how 2021 plays out. Hoping that the success the virtual ASM has played out it will not be that position this year. Current bank balance is healthy, reason because of the prudence of predecessors in building up the society's bank balance, commented that he never thought that dipping into the reserve was necessary, and had to do it this year. Membership is up significantly and hope to retain these members going forward and hope that will still be able in this virtual ASM, a huge success, both from an academic point of view and conference point of view and also a financially point of view succeeds what we thought. RIGS Hubs are coming online this year and one of the reasons of the increase in trainee membership. Couple of challenges – BSGE is in process at moment of having to try and renegotiate our affiliation with AAGL and recently signed agreement with the ESGE and set for next 3 years; works out about 20k euros a year but AAGL has asked us for a significant increase for affiliation. This is ASHK's last report and had great pleasure in handing over to Fevzi Shakir. ASHK thanked key people and mentioned that the society could not operate without Atia. Lesley Hill was thanked for the huge help with the treasurer's work. Thanked Tom Ind, ASHK's predecessor and also fellow officers. ASHK thanked all the membership of the BSGE who make it all worthwhile.

## 7. BSGE Hysteroscopy portfolio - Karolina Afors

### Achievements since last AGM (2019) included

- First hysteroscopy pre-congress workshop successfully held

### Future plans

- Continue to explore options with Mary Connor for setting up a virtual hysteroscopy hands on course possibly using domus models.
- Review and agree changes to outpatient hysteroscopy consent document/best practice standards.
- Review and approve changes to competencies for hysteroscopy ATSM
- A semi virtual course planned for May with some hands-on components. Details TBC

### **BSGE Awards and Bursaries Portfolio - Kirana Arambage**

- Introducing BSGE Clinical Research Grant and Overseas members awards and bursaries
- Increase the subcommittee members to 4 and improve skill mix to further improve the portfolio activities.
- Increase funding for awards, bursaries, grants and travelling scholarships from 30K –50K
- Ran 3 rounds of awards and bursaries each year since 2017
- Organise an interactive webinar on 'How to improve your chances of winning BSGE awards
- Aiming to help improve engagement of medical students, FYs and ST-2 by introducing another grant to facilitate their training in gynaecological surgery. Two new subcommittee members (Mr Ilyas Arshad and Miss Medha Sule have expertise in medical education and will explore it further.
- Overseas awards and bursaries have been withheld due to low membership – try to improve the engagement of overseas members.

### **BSGE Nurse Hysteroscopists Portfolio - Caroline Bell**

- Resources/recommendations to support nurse hysteroscopists (activity 100 diagnostic scopes per year, operative 20 per year, Quality assurance, audit and education recommendations) uploaded onto BSGE webpage.
- Supports Waikato hospital in New Zealand to develop a new nurse hysteroscopy programme.
- May of nurse hysteroscopists uploaded onto the website for networking and support, sharing best practice.
- Provided first webinar.
- Annual lecture at the University of Bradford/BSGE supporting Bradford programme

### **BSGE Laparoscopic Training - Donna Ghosh**

- Successful BSGE-RCOG Benign abdominal surgery course with TLH practical workshop (Virtual 2021)
- Continued delivery of RIGs intermediate laparoscopy course (Joint with trainee portfolio)
- Completion of job plan/surgical operating survey of consultant and trainee members.
- Reformatting of Benign Abdominal surgery ATSM curriculum.
- Coordinating the RIGs Hubs National training programme – series of practical workshops and curriculum focused webinars, organized centrally with BSGE and delivered live and locally through RIGs reps.
- To present finding of BSGE survey/project, to the RCOG, evaluating advanced endoscopic training and gynaecological consultant job plans to align with delivery of services for complex benign gynaecology

### **BSGE Trainee Representative - Angarard Jones and Mikey Adamczyk**

- Successful RIGs intermediate course x 2
- Trainee webinars (Covid & RIGs Hubs National Training programme webinar)
- Recruitment of new RIGs regional representatives
- Continued trainee features of ASM (2019: Pecha Kucha, Stump the Expert, trainee video competition, RIGs networking dinner)

### **BSGE Endometriosis Nurse Specialist - Gilly Macdonald**

- CNS mentor/buddy system launched and register started



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- CNS role survey completed to understand role variations.
- BSGE endorses recommendations to support CNS role finalized.
- Organising and facilitating at the BSGE endo CNS training day 201

#### **BSGE Membership Relations and Editor of The Scope - Funlayo Odejinmi**

- We have put together some well received editions of The Scope
- Most importantly covering one of the most important issues of our time COVID
- Helped propagate issues to members through The Scope
- We have surpassed 1000 Facebook members
- We thought it best not to conduct the Annual membership survey in 2020 due to the difficulties with COVID

#### Plans

- Continue to grow our social media presence
- Continue to produce editions of The Scope
- Themed editions with patient involvement and stories
- Continue to produce membership surveys to a quality that we hope will give quality information that can be used to not only shape the future of the BSGE but inform other endoscopic societies.

#### **BSGE Website and Digital Governance - Fevzi Shakir**

- Continual update of BSGE Website and layout.
- Development of BSGE Conference APP – making future conferences paperless.
- Version 2 of conference APP updated and continual improvements to be made for future face to face events.

#### Plans

- Updating aspects of website to enhance user experience.
- Expanding subcommittee to improve video library.
- Continual improvement of conference APP.

#### **BSGE Patient Information and Guidelines & Webinars - Tom Smith-Walker**

- Developed and maintained a single point resource for the relevant reference document for patients and clinicians on the common MIS conditions and procedures
- Currently working jointly with the ESGE on guidelines for the management of fibroids

#### Plans

- Webinars
- Building on the highly successful recent Webinar series, we are developing a monthly webinar programme.
- The first on endometriosis centres was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> Feb and the next - title TBC in April

#### **BSGE Industry Relations and Meeting Convenor - Angus Thomson**

- Switched to a remote learning model of webinars through the Covid pandemic

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- Engage a specialist IT team with 'virtual conferencing' experiences for SBE Training meetings and ASM
- Continued and developed Enhanced Laparoscopic Training Modules with industry support
- Introduction of corporate membership model to encourage ongoing collaboration and partnership with industry

#### Plans

- Programme of virtual meetings for BSGE over the next 12 months - including joint meeting with BSGI (British Society of gynaecological imaging) on Endometriosis
- Ongoing Webinar programme to address the needs of all clinicians within the society
- Dates and venues for ASM 2022 (Birmingham & Worcester) and 2023 (Manchester) agreed - will be looking for 2024.

#### **BSGE Endometriosis Centre - Arvind Vashisht**

- Database anonymization
- Modification of accreditation process during the national pandemic
- Inclusion of radiologist in the multidisciplinary team
- Development of a national minimum dataset

#### Plans

- Proposals for questionnaire modification
- Focus on follow up
- Modify CNS role for centre accreditation

#### **8. BSGE Elections 2021**

JC thanked everyone for putting their name forward for election, the quality of applicants was humbling and for those that were not successful JC encouraged them to apply again.

JC announced results of BSGE Elections 2021

Kirana Arambage– unopposed, elected – Honorary Secretary

Fevzi Shakir– unopposed, elected – Honorary Treasurer

Nadine di Donato - Hysteroscopy

Rebecca Mallick – Information Resources

Zahid Khan – Website and Digital Governance

Funlayo Odejinmi – Membership Relations and editor of The Scope

Mikey Adamczyk – re-elected as BSGE Trainee representative

JC thanked Shaheen Khazali, who was BSGE longest standing council member.

#### **9. Future meetings:**

- RCOG/ BSGE Diagnostic and Operative Hysteroscopy 25-27 May 2021, RCOG, London
- Virtual BSGE ACN meeting - 18 June 2021
- Virtual BSGE/BSGI/BMUS Imaging for Endometriosis - 9 July 2021
- BSGE ASM 2022, 28 Feb - 1 March 2022, Birmingham

#### **10. AOB - No AOB declared.**

*Question - shall the BSGE developed link with patients more than we have done so.*



BRITISH SOCIETY for GYNAECOLOGICAL ENDOSCOPY

SK commented the BSGE has always linked closed with Endometriosis UK but we should give more voice to patient support groups and patients and it's also important that we will have on our meeting patients attending but working with patient support groups will only add value to what we do. JC agreed.

*Question - do you think the BSGE should get feedback from members about how often we use AAGL corporate membership and what the benefits are? Without that information, it would be difficult for BSGE to make that decision. Also, in terms of patient representative, do you think the BSGE should have a patient representative?*

ASHK - BSGE affiliation with AAGL has up to now been very good value, but it has been for senior members only and not for trainees. Up until about a year ago, trainees had free access to conferences, video library. This has changed because they started to charge their trainees, and thereby want to charge our trainees to have access. In addition, they wanted to increase subscription rate by 50%. ASHK and FS will continue to negotiate new agreement with the AAGL.

SK reported we should not forget our remit as a society is very much focused on education of our colleagues, to train and educate. With that in mind, having a lay member would be slightly less relevant. There are some other consideration, patient groups are only focused on one or two areas, particularly on endometriosis and the worry is that you include from one patient group, others may see that the BSGE are ignoring the rest. This was discussed further.

JC had spoken to BMS, BFS and BSUG and none have lay members on their council or committees but have affiliation with a patient group. BSGE needs to focus on remit of the society and why it was set up, education and guidance is important. Engaging with patient is key. PR wise it may look good but what would it deliver.

SK – BSGE has a patient portfolio so maybe should have a patient representative on that.

SK closed the meeting at 19:10.