

**1st Annual General Meeting of the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH)
Held at 12 noon on Friday 21 November 2003 at the Royal Society of Medicine, London**

The Interim President, Dr E Curless was in the chair. Twenty-five members were present.

Apologies for absence was received from five members.

- 1) The Interim President welcomed members to the first AGM.
- 2) The Interim Secretary, Dr I Ahmed-Jushuf, reported that the current membership of the Association stood at approximately 800, of whom 63 were from overseas. This represented a loss in membership of around 100 from the previous combined memberships of AGUM and MSSVD. The Interim Secretary stated that this seemed to be the result of a loss of overseas members and members in allied professions, for whom the new higher subscription fee seemed to have acted as a deterrent. However, new applications for membership were coming in steadily. Twenty-two new such applications were pending Board approval at its first meeting on 19 December 2003. He asked for approval of the proposition that interim arrangements in the constitution be amended to extend the deadline for registration at the initial reduced rate beyond the end of July. This was universally carried.
- 3) The Interim President then made his report. The Association had been created by 15 Foundation Members in a General Meeting held on 11 December 2002. They had then elected the Interim Board, Interim Officers, Interim Trustees and Interim Returning Officers. A ballot of the combined memberships of the two predecessor organisations, AGUM and MSSVD, was then conducted to choose a name for the new organisation from a shortlist of six. The system used was that of a single transferable vote. The title chosen by the combined memberships was the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV, with the acronym BASHH.

The Interim Board had met four times in the past year, the Interim Trustees three times, and the Interim Officers twice. The following steps had been taken as a result of these meetings: a Constitution was agreed; BASHH had been registered as a charity with the Charity Commission (No.1099301); a logo had been designed and approved; a contract for financial and administrative support from the Royal Society of Medicine had been negotiated and agreed; a website address had been registered (www.bashh.org), and other sites had also been registered for possible future use. Preliminary discussions with commercial companies to support the Association's website had been conducted, although the final decision on this would need to be taken by the new Board. In the meantime Dr R Lau was acting as Interim Webmaster. Job descriptions for Officers had been agreed. Terms of reference for the Education and Clinical Governance Committees had been agreed. Reporting lines for representatives of the Association with other organisations had been agreed. The Interim Board had responded to the Government's response to the House of Commons Select Committee on Health's report on sexual health. A model Branch Constitution had been agreed. The first steps in a public relations strategy had been taken with the decision to sign up with a lobbying organisation, ePolitix.

The Interim President expressed his thanks to Mr G Tomlinson for his advice on charitable governance, and to Ms J Parkinson and Mr J Glavin at the Royal Society of Medicine.

- 4) Dr M FitzGerald, Interim Chair of the Trustees, then made his report. He explained that the role of the Trustees was to monitor the finances and charitable governance of the organisation.

He expressed particular thanks to the Interim Treasurer, Dr S Barton, for his hard work in support of these activities.

- 5) Dr S Barton, Interim Treasurer, made his report. He explained that BASHH had initially been set up with a donation of £10 from each of the 15 Foundation Members, following which a grant of several thousand pounds had been received from the MSSVD. With the winding up of AGUM and MSSVD and the transfer of all their assets to BASHH, it was expected that the opening balance for the new Association would be in the region of £595,000.

He moved that that the membership agrees to accept these funds and to indemnify AGUM and MSSVD against any outstanding claims and expenditures. This having been proposed by Dr A Robinson and seconded by Dr M Weir, was then unanimously accepted by the membership.

- 6) The Interim Secretary then moved that a number of amendments be made to the Constitution. These represented amendments to rules 9.1, 9.4, 62.12, 65 and 73.7 in the main Constitution, plus amendments to rules 6, 6.2 and 17 in the Branch Constitution. All these proposals had been circulated with the papers for the meeting (and are appended to these minutes). This movement having been proposed by Dr C O'Mahony and seconded by Dr S Dawson, was then unanimously accepted by the membership.
- 7) Dr B Evans, Interim Returning Officer, then announced the results of the recent elections, conducted by himself and the other Interim Returning Officer Dr N Thin. Results were as follows: President – Dr A Robinson; Vice-President - Dr S Barton; General Secretary – Dr K Radcliffe; Treasurer - Dr J Clarke; Conference Communications Secretary - Dr J Wilson; Chair Education Committee - Dr R Patel; Chair, Clinical Governance Committee - Dr I Ahmed-Jushuf; Independent Trustee - Dr M FitzGerald (all these posts elected to for 2 years, with the exception of the General Secretary, Treasurer and Conference Communications Secretary which were for 3 years). Representative on the Board of Staff Grades & Associate Specialists – Dr R Challenor; representative on the Board of Nurses & Health Advisers – Ms V Griffiths; Representative of Nurses & Health Advisers on the Clinical Governance Committee – Ms M Tyson; Doctors-in-Training representative on the Board – Dr P Goold.

Ordinary members of the Board – Drs. G Kinghorn, S Dawson and M Pakianathan (for 2 years); Drs J Sweeney, A Pozniak and R Nandwani (for 1 year).

- 8) The Interim President thanked the Interim Returning Officers, and then asked for nominations for election of Returning Officers. Drs. B Evans and N Thin had already indicated to the Interim President their willingness to stand. There were no other nominations from the floor. Therefore following a proposal from Dr J Bingham, seconded by Dr D Mandel, Drs. Evans and Thin were elected as Returning Officers for a period of 4 years.
- 9) The Interim Treasurer, Dr S Barton, then sought approval for the appointment of Mr Jailesh Patel, of Farrington and Co., as official auditor of the Association's accounts, and also that Mr Vipin Shah act on behalf of the Association in matters relating to VAT registration. This movement was proposed by Prof W Dinsmore, seconded by Dr A Robinson, and was then universally approved by the members present.

Any other business:

- Dr C O'Mahony asked whether the dates for the Ordinary General Meetings for 2004 had been agreed. He was informed by Dr A Robinson that this was the case, and that these dates would be made available to members via the website and the newsletter.

- Dr J Bingham stated that setting up BASHH had represented a huge amount of work, and proposed a vote of thanks to the Interim Officers and Board, and in particular to Dr E Curless as Interim President. This was greeted with vociferous approval and acclamation.

There being no other business to conduct, the Interim President declared the meeting closed at 12.34 p.m.

Dr Keith Radcliffe
General Secretary