

AGM Minutes
Waterfront Hall, Belfast
17th April 2007 16:30-17:30

1. Welcome

The meeting opened with the President, Alan Cameron, welcoming members to the meeting.

2. Minutes of previous AGM (6th April 2006)

These have been available on the website. Extra paper copies were available for any members who wished to have them. No issues were raised.

3. Treasurer's report

Tim Overton gave an overview of the Societies budget. There is a healthy bank balance of approximately £118,000. However, there is an anticipated loss on the current conference projected at approximately £16,000. The regular income to the Society from membership fees and from our share of joint courses is approximately £45,000, and the running costs of the Society are approximately £40,000. In addition over the last year £9,000 has been given back to members of the Society in the form of bursaries.

4. Bursary report

Mark Denbow pointed out to members that there were posters describing the outcomes of the 1st round of bursaries, which are located in the entrance lobby of the Waterfront Hall. There were disappointingly few applicants for the current years bursaries, but the following awards have been made:

- Lucy Chappell, £1,950

The funds will be used for attendance at the Intensive Course in Epidemiology and Medical Statistics at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

- Victoria Bills, £2,000

The funds will be used to continue PhD entitled 'Vascular Permeability in Pre-eclampsia' in South Africa.

-Yvonne Thoroughgood, £2,000.

The funds will be used to carry out voluntary midwifery work in India

5. Future direction of the Society

Alan Cameron opened the discussion with membership regarding the fact that there were a lower amount of delegates at this conference and suggested the following reasons:

- There were fewer abstracts accepted for poster presentation
- The fact that the conference is outside main land Britain
- The proximity to Easter Holidays
- Financial squeeze on study leave budgets at hospital trust

- The timing of the Conference, tues-wed, rather than the previous thurs to fri.
- The lack of a proceeding meeting of the Macdonald club leading to few obstetric physicians attending.

Discussion from the floor followed and it seemed that all of these issues have applied in some measure. Certainly for junior Obstetricians and Scientists not having an abstract accepted meant that they did not attend the Conference. A balance needs to be struck between this fact and the space available for posters to be displayed.

6. Plans for future Conferences

Margaret Ramsay presented plans for 2 future joint conferences between BMFMS and other Societies. The first a meeting on 12th November 2007 at the Royal College of Surgeons in London, jointly with the British Association of Perinatal Surgeons and the British Association of Perinatal Medicine. This will be a day conference looking at dilemmas faced with Fetal Abnormalities requiring surgery after birth. Mark Kilby and Alan Cameron from the BMFMS are invited speakers at the meeting.

In 2008 there will not be a separate annual BMFMS meeting, but rather a joint meeting with BAPM, the Neonatal Society and the Neonatal Nurses Association. This meeting is running from the afternoon of Monday 2nd June continuing until the end of Wednesday 4th June 2008. It will be held at the Harrogate international centre and aims to jointly discuss issues of interest to the 4 Societies. It was felt that this was an exciting development for BMFMS, but membership were assured that we were not seeking to lose our identity or tradition of an annual conference. Harrogate has the advantage of being very central in England with good commuting links.

For 2009, Alan Cameron mentioned that he has been approached by the SGI, who are having their 1st meeting outside the USA at the Glasgow international conference centre. Members were asked whether they would support a joint or concurrent meeting? Open discussion from the floor raised the differences between the 2 Societies (namely that one is very scientific and the other, BMFMS, has clinicians as its largest group of members).

The Society has continued to be involved with the RCOG in developing Curricula for the revised subspecialty training and for the new ATSMs. The Society has also become involved in the Manpower planning exercises designed to inform the numbers and job format for future consultants.

7. New appointments to Committees

Richard Smith from Norwich and Bill Martin from Birmingham have been elected to the Organising Committee to represent Pregnancy Outcome and Fetal Medicine respectively. The retiring Committee members, Susan Bewley and Mark Kilby were thanked.

8. **AOB**

The meeting closed with the President reminding everyone about the dinner at Belfast City Hall later in the evening.