



**BCIG AGM**  
**Date: 19 March 2015**  
**Bristol**

**MINUTES**

**Present - Incoming Chair:** Tracey Twomey (TT); **Incoming Vice Chair:** Agnes Allen (AA) **Secretary:** Debi Vickers (DV); **Treasurer:** Simon Lloyd (SL); **Membership Secretary:** Louise Craddock (LC); **Council Members:** Helen Cullington (HC), Andrew Marshall (AM), Frances Harris (FH)

Apologies: Outgoing Chair: Chris Raine; Outgoing Vice Chair: Shakeel Saeed

The meeting was attended by sufficient BCIG members to be quorate.

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- 1) Agreement of AGM Minutes (March 2014). Minutes were signed off and approved for addition to website.
- 2) Chair's report (TT)

*Your Council*

TT thanked Chris Raine and Shakeel Saeed for all of their hard work on council. She announced that, from this AGM, TT and AA were the new Chair and Vice-Chair respectively and that the details of the councillors and their terms of office could be found at:

<http://www.bciq.org.uk/council/>

She encouraged people to apply for council positions when they become available.

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### *Achievements*

The newly revised **BCIG Quality Standards** are near completion. TT reported that a great deal of work has been conducted with contributions from many BCIG members. Once finalised, they will be posted on the website and published in Cochlear Implants International.

**ACTION:** Council to complete the compilation of the QS and arrange for publication

**Website** is fully functional and is a great resource for the organisation. HC demonstrated the website and showed members the different links and functions. TT thanked HC for the considerable work she has undertaken on this and commented on the improvement in quality of the new website. TT reported that there is ongoing work to continually improve the functionality and ensure that it remains a useful and quality resource. This was the reason behind the decision to make one council position responsible for this task.

**NICE Review** is an area of priority for Council. To this end there are four main areas of activity that could assist:

- i) *Service Evaluation of Adult CI candidates* for which there should be 274 complete datasets. There are ten centres contributing to the data collection. DV requested to receive all pre-implant data from all centres to be able to get the data entry and analyses underway. Aiming to have all data in first quarter of 2016.

**ACTION:** All centres in service evaluation to send through pre-implant data

**ACTION:** DV to compile a summary based on pre-implant data

**ACTION:** All centres to send through 3 and 9-12 month data

- ii) *AoHL funded UCL/York Paediatric Bilateral Candidacy study* findings (Lovett et al., 2015) published suggesting relaxation of threshold criteria
- iii) *Adult Cochlear Implant Action Group* has the chair of BCIG as an integral member. This is to coordinate activities and provide a two-way flow of information to maximise impact
- iv) *BCIG Working Group on Candidacy* being set up to collate evidence

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### *Strategy*

TT outlined her plan to develop a strategy for BCIG whilst Chair, highlighting that BCIG Council should be working to identify and support the needs of the membership. To that end, TT together with Council has developed a survey to obtain feedback and input from the membership.

**BCIG and you**, is a survey that was created to gather information on the views and needs of membership and TT urged members to circulate the survey to non-members also, so that Council could gather information from both members and non-members to capture a wide range of opinions within the field. The areas covered in the survey are:

- About you
- BCIG membership
- BCIG in general
- BCIG Council and constitution
- BCIG annual conference
- CI International
- New website
- How BCIG can improve

**ACTION:** DV to circulate the survey

**ACTION:** Members and non-members to complete the survey

**ACTION:** TT to review results and create an action plan

### *Benchmarking*

TT put forward the idea to develop a benchmarking dataset to demonstrate what would be expected in terms of staffing and activity in a standard centre and to allow centres to compare themselves to one another. TT presented data collected from different centres.

**ACTION:** TT to discuss concept with coordinators

### *Concerns over Membership numbers*

TT reported that there were concerns over the numbers of BCIG members and that we need to be aware of the risk to viability of the organisation. TT wants to encourage new members to join and see the value of the organisation. If there is no BCIG many functions would be lost and as a field we need to consider how important the following roles are to the community:

- Advisory role
- Position statements
- Quality standards
- Data collection
- Annual conference
- ANSD and other guidelines
- Journal

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### 3) Treasurer's Report

2013/14 accounts approved by Council at Council meeting February 2015

- 30 Day Notice Account

(As of 19/3/15)

Balance	<b>£9935.04</b>	(11/3/14 £9767.77)	
Receipts	£4.27	Interest	
		£70	Membership payments
		£94	Miscellaneous

- Treasurer's Account

(As of 19/3/15)

Balance	<b>£43351.06</b>	(11/3/14 £46100.42)
Remittances	£27485.40	(13/14 £25168.62)
Receipts	£23559.85	(13/14 £19306.16)

- Cochlear Implants International (CII)

Previous BCIG member price £57 (since 2009)

New BCIG member price £70 (from 2015)

- Subscriptions Update

Subscriptions changed from £70 to £85 to cover increase in cost of CII

By November 2014, 96 members not changed standing order, 68 continue to pay the incorrect amount

- Annual Conference

Currently underwritten by BCIG

Profits from Leeds not yet received

Bristol projected accounts healthy

London organization in progress

To be run by events company (Aesculap)

- Ongoing Changes

Membership subscription update

Website for updating details

Exploring options to change to direct debit

Close 30 day account

Investment of surplus funds

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#### 4) Membership Update (LC)

259 members in total (to fill in sub-categories)

22 new members in 2015 compared to 12 in 2014 which is very encouraging positive trend

Current management system is out-of-date and too complex

Going forwards the membership management will take place on the website

Membership categories are currently too complex and need to be simplified

**ACTION:** LC to simplify membership categories

**ACTION:** HC to activate membership organisation through the website

**ACTION:** LC to meet with treasurer to ensure membership list is appropriate

#### 5) Honorary Membership (TT)

It was decided that honorary BCIG membership would be given to one of the keynote speakers at the Annual Conference.

In 2015 the honorary membership was given to Blake Wilson.

6) The Graham Fraser lecture was being given by “Blake Wilson” and TT encouraged membership to attend the talk.

#### 7) Date / time of next meeting

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at Annual Conference in London.

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