

**BCIG AGM**  
**Date: 26 April 2016**  
**London**

**MINUTES**

**Present - Chair:** Tracey Twomey (TT); **Vice Chair:** Agnes Allen (AA) **Secretary:** Debi Vickers (DV);  
**Treasurer:** Andrew Marshall (AM); **Membership Secretary:** Louise Craddock (LC); **Council Members:** Helen Cullington (HC), Kate Harvey (KH), Sherif Khalil (SK)

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

-----

**1) Agreement of AGM Minutes (March 2015).**

Minutes were signed off for 2015 AGM and approved for addition to website. No matters arising.

**2) Chair's report (TT)**

a) Council Membership

TT outlined changes to Council in-year and from this AGM, as summarised in the following table:

<b>Council</b>	<b>Name</b>
Chair:	Tracey Twomey
Vice Chair:	Agnes Allen
Secretary:	Deborah Vickers
Treasurer:	Andrew Marshall (previously Simon Lloyd)
Membership:	Louise Craddock
Council Member:	Frances Harris (to AGM); Sherif Khalil (from
Council Member:	Helen Cullington
Council Member:	Kate Harvey (previously Andrew Marshall)

Sincere thanks to Simon Lloyd and Frances Harris for their huge and valued contributions to BCIG and welcome to Andrew Marshall and Kate Harvey respectively into these roles. Welcome also to Sherif Khalil as an Ordinary Member to Council. TT encouraged all members to consider applying for Council positions when they become available. Current Council details are available at <http://www.bcig.org.uk/council/>

**BCIG Council**

**Chair:** Tracey Twomey; **Vice Chair:** Agnes Allen; **Secretary:** Debi Vickers; **Treasurer:** Andrew Marshall;  
**Membership Secretary:** Louise Craddock; **Website coordinator:** Helen Cullington; **Council Members** Kate Harvey, Sherif Khalil

## b) BCIG and You Survey

Completed in 201, the results were reported and circulated to members. Full details are also available at <http://www.bciq.org.uk/bciq-survey-results/>

The 146 respondents were roughly representative of the professional breakdown of the membership with the exception of surgeons, which were low in numbers. In general, the feedback was very positive. Key points were addressed:

### - Reasons for not being a member:

- Cost was stated as a factor and has been considered by Council. A considerable proportion of membership fee is required to support the journal, which continues to be supported by the membership. It is therefore unfortunately not possible to reduce the fees.
- Perceived value: lack of understanding of added value of BCIG

### - Positive points:

- National representation/point of contact
- Multidisciplinary liaison and collaboration
- Annual conference
- Quality standards and best practice guidelines development
- Cochlear Implants International journal highly valued
- Wesbite

### - Main priorities that were highlighted and Council/BCIG actions:

#### *Candidacy*

- DV has set up the BCIG special interest group on candidacy (members are: Debi Vickers, Padraig Kitterick, Carl Verschuur, Carolina Leal, Louise Jenkinson, Fiona Vickers, John Graham); the group coordinated the development of a supplement on "Issues in Cochlear Implant Candidacy" which is available on OPEN ACCESS at <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/ycii20/current>
- BCIG are represented on the Adult Cochlear Implant Alliance group
- The service evaluation on speech tests for candidacy continues to be analysed and the results prepared for publication

#### *Quality Standards*

- The Quality Standards were complete. It was a tremendous collaboration between many CI professionals and also thanks to NDCS, AoHL, CICS and NCIUA for their contributions. A hard copy was given to each attendee at the AGM, although it is designed to be electronically available and is on the website at <http://www.bciq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/BCIG-Quality-Standard-2016.pdf>
- The intention is that it is reviewed in 2 years (April 2018), the short time span being due to the newly introduced quality measures, experience with which will inform future revisions.

#### *Public engagement and awareness*

- Developing links with NICE Adult onset Action Group, BSA, BAA, BACO and third sector organisations to raise awareness
- Presentations on behalf of BCIG:
  - British Academy of Audiology Annual Conference, Harrogate 2015
    - 'Cochlear implants: Who to refer and what to expect when you do' (Tracey Twomey); <http://www.bciq.org.uk/referring-for-a-ci/>
  - Bending the Spend, Adult Deafness Conference October 2015 (organized by Ear Foundation in Westminster)

#### **BCIG Council**

**Chair:** Tracey Twomey; **Vice Chair:** Agnes Allen; **Secretary:** Debi Vickers; **Treasurer:** Andrew Marshall;

**Membership Secretary:** Louise Craddock; **Website coordinator:** Helen Cullington; **Council Members:** Kate Harvey, Sherif Khalil

- *'Moving on in service delivery'* (Tracey Twomey)
  - *'Sentence testing: the right approach?'* (Deborah Vickers)
- Documents
  - Contributed to Action on Hearing Loss "Cochlear Implant information" document
- c) Review of Constitution
  - TT proposed a change of a maximum of 5 years for a council term of office; seconded by Huw Cooper and the vote was unanimous.
  - TT proposed the simplified changes to membership categories (see details in membership update); seconded by Julie Brinton and majority vote was in favour of this decision with one person in opposition.
  - Both changes to the constitution were passed.
- d) Safety Guidelines
  - BCIG Safety Guidelines have been greatly valued over the years and Council and the wider membership are grateful for the hard work and dedication the BCIG Safety Working Group with Chair Jane Bradley, who have worked on these over many years. However, keeping this information accurate and up to date is extremely challenging given the increased pace of change in technology over time. Council was made aware of inaccuracies within the guidance in 2015 and subsequently re-evaluated the role of this document. We made the decision in the interests of safety, accuracy, clarity of ownership and avoidance of the risk of litigation, that it is not the role of BCIG but rather the manufacturers of devices, to provide safety advice and to keep such information current and accessible to users and supporting professionals alike. In consultation with the Safety Working Group Chair, Council removed the document from the website in-year and apologises for any lack of communication of this action with the wider membership.

Coordinators/Heads of Service (including Council members) met with the implant manufacturers and agreed that the safety guidelines are useful and all agreed to work with BCIG to develop a system which is more accessible than the current manufacturer's literature. AA will be BCIG representative on the safety special interest group.

- e) Graham Fraser Memorial Lecture (GFML)
  - Council is delighted to announce that Professor Gerry O'Donoghue would give the 2016 GFML.
  - TT announced the list of GFML nominees for 2017: Liat Kishon-Rabin (Israel), Blake Papsin (Canada), Kalyani Mandke (India). Also nominated was Professor John Niparko of the US who has sadly very recently passed away. Council will make a recommendation to the Graham Fraser Foundation trustees for their feedback and a decision will be announced in due course.
- f) Other activities
  - Revision of professional guidelines documents
  - Council will aim to have BCIG Council meeting minutes on to the website in 4 weeks following meeting (in a draft form)
  - A newsletter is being developed by KH; TT asked members to send Kate any contributions for this. The goal is that it will be a twice yearly circulation.
  - Details of implant numbers are available on our website at <http://www.bciq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/CI-activity-2015.pdf>
  - Plans to introduce a web-based membership management system
- g) TT announced the Birmingham Annual conference for 2017 and requested offers for later years

**BCIG Council**

**Chair:** Tracey Twomey; **Vice Chair:** Agnes Allen; **Secretary:** Debi Vickers; **Treasurer:** Andrew Marshall;

**Membership Secretary:** Louise Craddock; **Website coordinator:** Helen Cullington; **Council Members** Kate Harvey, Sherif Khalil

### 3) Treasurer's Report was prepared by AM

AM thanked Simon Lloyd for the work he had done in ensuring a clear hand over of the treasurer tasks

2014/15 accounts approved by Council at the previous AGM meeting

Current balances

#### **30 Day Notice Account**

(As of 27/4/16)

Balance	<b>£10009.53</b>	(19/3/15 £9935.04)
Receipts	£4.49	Interest
	£70	Membership payments

#### **Treasurer's Account**

(As of 27/4/16)

Balance	<b>£61145.64</b>	(19/3/15 £43351.06)
Remittances	£4425.47	(15/14 £27485.4)
Website	£1690.5	
Council meetings	£1302.35	
BCIG conference band	£1250	(to be returned to BCIG)
Goto meetings	£27	
Miscellaneous	£155.62	

#### **Pending costs**

Journal	(£12678 14-15)	expect significant increase
Receipts	£22545	(14/15 £23559.85)
Subscriptions	£15045	
Corporate	£7500	(some outstanding)

Awaiting refund of priming grant from Bristol meeting

#### **PayPal**

There is currently a balance on the Paypal account of £1691.03

They charge per transaction (£3.10) and this may have to be passed onto those paying by this method.

#### **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

Significant number of members do not pay the correct amount

### 4) Membership Update was prepared by LC

295 members in total (253 full, 5 corporate, 4 non-professional, 27 honorary and 6 overseas)

43 new members since April 2015 compared to 22 in 2015 which is a continuing trend that has taken place over the past three years following a plateau in new members prior to that; the influence of a large price differential between members and non-members for the annual conference has helped with this

Only 50% of full members have paid the correct amount

The proposal for a change in membership categories was put forward to reduce the number of categories and simplify the options prior to moving to an online system, this amendment was added to the new version of the constitution. The proposal is to have only UK and overseas membership categories and to abolish all others

#### **BCIG Council**

**Chair:** Tracey Twomey; **Vice Chair:** Agnes Allen; **Secretary:** Debi Vickers; **Treasurer:** Andrew Marshall;

**Membership Secretary:** Louise Craddock; **Website coordinator:** Helen Cullington; **Council Members** Kate Harvey, Sherif Khalil

including Honorary membership, as this category does not include any benefits. The new full member category will be as follows:

Any interested individual who has a clinical role in the field of cochlear implants or who is actively involved in research into auditory implants. This will include members of cochlear implant centres, employees of cochlear implant manufacturers who provide clinical support, researchers and also representatives of other allied organisations including cochlear implant patient groups. Retired members may also continue their membership in order to maintain links with the field.

LC pointed out that new members joining part way through a year will have to renew their membership fees the following September and then again annually.

Plan to start new membership year on 1 September 2016, membership will stop abruptly if not paying £85.

## 5) Website Update prepared by HC

### Current website

HC demonstrated the website to highlight the different features

HC suggested that people should join the twitter account.

The ongoing resource is the numbers of new implants in a year and HC demonstrated where this can be found

HC pointed out that there is a membership login for journal and this is now working

The events section of the website was highlighted

Following feedback from members a section has been added on "referral for CI" The website is now up-and-running for online voting

A new section on "candidacy action" has been added to the website to showcase the work that is underway by BCIG

### Future plans

HC outlined the proposed activities e.g. learning modules for CPD.

A questionnaire will be sent to members to find out how the website can be improved and to see what people like about the current website

Will use A Member Pro for managing membership information.

Would like to add posters from Conferences to the website.

## 6) Cochlear Implants International update prepared by John Graham (JG)

Items mentioned

Supplements – Members were encouraged to look out for ideas for a supplement for the journal, and to let Huw Cooper or JG know of ideas

Reviewers - Need more reviewers for the journal and JG made appeal for members to become reviewers.

Encouraging submission - JG put forward the idea of people publishing their posters and presentations in the journal

Prizes - Prize for best article in CII will be awarded at next year's BCIG

JG thanked Schramm, Waltzman and Bruce for their work as associate editors.

JG reported how professional Taylor and Francis are and that they are keen not to increase cost of the journal further

JG noted that no supplement was being produced from 2016 conference.

## 7) AOB

Trisha Kemp commented that she was very disappointed by withdrawal of safety guidelines because it is a very useful resource for families. There is a desperate need to have information available for schools because some children are not being allowed on school trips.

### **BCIG Council**

**Chair:** Tracey Twomey; **Vice Chair:** Agnes Allen; **Secretary:** Debi Vickers; **Treasurer:** Andrew Marshall;

**Membership Secretary:** Louise Craddock; **Website coordinator:** Helen Cullington; **Council Members** Kate Hanvey, Sherif Khalil

TT responded stating that council appreciate this point and are working with manufacturers to update information

The need for safety guidelines was echoed by others in the room

Shakeel Saeed and Philip Robinson wanted to know if the name of BCIG will change to be more generic, e.g. related to auditory implants; this point will be discussed at council meetings

Simon Lloyd was concerned about membership numbers if council introduces a brutal policy. AM pointed out that at the moment some people are funding journal for other members but the point is well taken.

Kaukab Rajput stated that when issuing guidelines that we should be seeking input from NICE. TT commented that she hadn't realised that NICE had to be involved. TT will follow up.

## **8) Date of Next Meeting**

Either March 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> 2017

### **BCIG Council**

**Chair:** Tracey Twomey; **Vice Chair:** Agnes Allen; **Secretary:** Debi Vickers; **Treasurer:** Andrew Marshall;

**Membership Secretary:** Louise Craddock; **Website coordinator:** Helen Cullington; **Council Members** Kate Hanvey, Sherif Khalil