

**UNCONFIRMED Minutes for the Annual General Meeting of  
British Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy  
Friday, 3rd May 2024  
At The ICC, Belfast at 11:00 to 12:10**

**Present:** Mr. Andrew Kent, BSGE President (ASHK)  
Mr. Arvind Vashisht, BSGE President-elect (AV)  
Mr. Kirana Arambage, Honorary Secretary (KA)  
Mr. Fevzi Shakir, Honorary Treasurer (FS)  
Plus around 125 members of the BSGE

**1. Welcome**

KA welcomed BSGE members to the 2024 Annual General Meeting.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies received from Karolina Afors, Gilly Macdonald and Funlayo Odejinmi.

**3. Minutes of the last BSGE AGM held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

Minutes were presented to the AGM and accepted as true record.

**4. Matters arising**

Nil

**5. Honorary Treasurer's report (FS)**

FS reported the charity's annual accounts run from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. BSGE is not subject to tax but eligible for VAT. BSGE became registered for VAT in March 2022. BSGE savings equates to costs of running the charity for 1 year. Haslers are appointed accountants and bookkeeper for the BSGE, utilising the Xero accounting package for generating more direct and immediate reports. FS signs off every single invoice and claim.

BSGE membership has now passed 2000 barrier. Currently there are 765 senior members, over 860 trainees and 240 nurses in membership database. Overseas membership has remained static but numbers are likely to increase with formation of international portfolio.

BSGE bank account balance remains healthy at around £1.2 million but it was noted few hundred thousands were signed off in past couple of weeks to pay for ASM24. Fixed term deposit accounts have been opened to earn maximum interest for the society.

FS reported profit for the society in 2022 was around £11,000. In 2023, this had gone up to around £95,000 with turnover up by 40%. FS explained the accounts are posted on accruals basis on projects related to the same year. In 2023, gross turnover was £857,642.38, administrative costs £826,319.41 with operating profit £31,322.97. For 2024, the gross turnover is £572,513.76 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. This reflects real growth in the society.

BSGE is cash positive by nearly £82,000 now that the society is VAT registered with HMRC. Haslers files returns every 3 months and owed VAT are off set against VAT the BSGE is paid.

FS shared profit and loss of past BSGE Annual Scientific Meetings and projection for ASM24.

ASM2022

Income	£358,653.35	Costs	£323,056.60	Profit	£35,596.75
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ASM2023

Income	£497,618.96	Costs	£422,242.66	Profit	£75,376.30
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ASM2024- Projection

Income	£505,008.26	plus Visit Belfast grant	£27,500.00	Costs	£506,150.87	Profit	£26,357.39
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In conclusion, FS reported the BSGE reserves are stable to give financial security to the society. Costs of the ASM are increasing and measures have been taken to control the spend. Options to mitigate for increasing costs include continuing to open more long-term savings accounts and increase membership fee.

## 6. Honorary Secretary's report (KA)

KA reported the BSGE is now 34 years old and thanked founders of the society. Current membership is 2013. BSGE is one of the largest affiliated specialist society of the RCOG. BSGE membership has grown from 806 to 2013 over 10 years. There are 14 elected council members to lead portfolios heavily supported by sub-committee members. Objectives for each portfolio is set annually with Officers input and discussed regularly at BSGE Council meetings. BSGE has recently elected junior trainee representative. SOP for each portfolio and DOI are completed periodically. Sub-committee members support each portfolio. The constitution has been updated so the Treasurer can sign off up to £50,000 at a time without secondary approval.

KA invited BSGE Council members to update the meeting with portfolio achievements during the year.

### BSGE Awards & Bursaries portfolio- Mikey Adamczyk

MA reported two rounds of applications were run this year. For September round, applications were received from 2 consultant travelling fellowship, 1 nurse bursary and 2 clinical research grant. For March round, the BSGE received application for 1 Alan Gordon travelling fellowship, 2 consultant travelling fellowship, 1 consultant bursary, 3 trainees travelling fellowship, 3 trainees bursaries, and 1 clinical research grant. Increased applications from consultants and trainees was noted. Awards and Bursaries subcommittee are also looking to introduce National Travelling Observership programme.

### BSGE Endocentres portfolio- Angus Thomson

AT reported it has been a busy year for the portfolio with Endocentres meeting and accreditation. For 2024, BSGE has accredited 79 Endocentres and approved 8 provisional Endocentres. NHSE Service Specification was discussed in the morning meeting. Version 14 has been circulated for stakeholder feedback in March 24 and feedback received is being reviewed. BSGE Endocentres webinar was held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023. There was proposal for database improvements pending agreement from the Council and NHSE Service specification.

### BSGE Endometriosis Nurse portfolio - Gilly Macdonald (presented by Caroline Bell)

2023 Achievements:

- Mentor register established
- Biannual CNS education days
- Greater social media networking, Facebook and WhatsApp group established
- Bitesize informal sessions continues

2024 Objectives:

- Continue our work to deliver high quality education
- Develop website with further resources for education and research
- Introduced a nurse forum on BSGE website

- Develop a patient 'tool kit' to provide patient information and links for self-help (pain management, nutrition, exercise, mindfulness)

### **Nurse Hysteroscopy Portfolio- Caroline Bell**

Achieved this year 2023/24

- Nurse hysteroscopy operative course
- Webinars, bite size sessions
- Supporting new Bradford students attending Bradford Campus
- Supporting RCOG with hysteroscopy workshops
- Supporting Ambulatory care network meeting
- Supporting BSGE workshops
- Introduction of the nurse hysteroscopy web forum

Planned for next year 2024/25

- To continue all of above
- Share Job plans and descriptions on BSGE Webpage trying to help others with Banding
- Looking at ways for mentorship for new nurse hysteroscopists

CB requested members to get in touch with ideas going forward. CB thanked Justin Clark, Nadine di Donato and subcommittee member for their support.

### **BSGE GESEA portfolio - Karolina Afors presented by Kirana Arambage**

Director – Mr Ertan Saridogan

Chief Mentor – Ms Karolina Afors

Lead Instructor – Mr Andrew Pearson and Ms Necimye Dover

Key Milestones:

- GESEA continues to run 2 BSGE approved courses a year and biannual certifications in UK
- Since ASM last year 73 Certifications ( including level 1 and 2)

Future plans:

- Develop GESEA training hubs allowing individual centres to provide simulation training and can have access to GESEA platform for training purposes
- Individuals can continue to develop psychomotor skills and bimanual coordination along with suturing skills using a validated training and assessment tool.
- License for certification remains with BSGE and this will continue to be offered biannually.
- GESEA robotic continues to be developed with a view to validation

### **BSGE Hysteroscopy portfolio - Nadine Di Donato**

**Achievements**

- First nurse hysteroscopy course
- Successful diagnostic and operative hysteroscopy workshop in June / October 2024 (90 delegates)
- Hysteroscopy pre-congress in Belfast
- Supporting the ACN (Prof. Justin Clark & his team)

**Future**

- Continue to offer diagnostic and operative hysteroscopy (Amelia Davison & Shilpa Kolhe)
- Continue with nurse hysteroscopy workshop, promoting nurse's logbook
- Explore other ways of teaching & training - webinars

**BSGE Information Resources portfolio- Rebecca Mallick**

- Monthly Webinars
- Continue to be very well attended!
- Open to all to attend live and BSGE members can view anytime on the website.
- Last Wednesday of the month 6-7pm, great way to collect CPD!
- Variety of topics ranging from the uses of ICG to endometriosis imaging to novel surgical techniques.
- Additionally corporate sponsored webinar series eg Medtronic Same-day hysterectomy
- 2024 – more collaborative webinars with international societies

**Increased patient engagement**

- The instagram account for patients @theBSGE continues to grow– please share with your patients! Lots of useful resources!
- 2 patient webinars in the last 12 months – adenomyosis and endometriosis awareness – between 300-500 patients watched live!!

**BSGE International portfolio- Martin Hirsch****Goals:**

1. Enhance the reputation of the BSGE internationally
2. Increase overseas membership

**Strategies:**

1. Societal partnerships
2. Educational events
3. Conference attendance
4. Research collaborations

**Achievements:**

1. Agreed BSGE session at AAGL
2. International Webinar October 2024 with the Turkish Society for Reproductive Medicine and Surgery

**Visions for 24/25:**

1. Appoint a sub-committee
2. Societal collaborations
3. Educational events
4. BSGE representation at major international conferences

**BSGE Laparoscopic Training portfolio - Donna Ghosh****Completion of 3<sup>rd</sup> year of BSGE/RIGs Hub National training programme 2023**

- 276 trainees offered a place across 3 streams and 14 hubs in the UK
- Programme included 3 dedicated RIGs webinars
- > 700 trainees have now completed 1/more streams

**BSGE RCOG Benign Abdominal Surgery**

- 3-day course, September 23, RCOG
- 115 delegates, 80 practical (maximum)
- 98.2% felt the course met their personal development needs (>5% average score compared with RCOG events). 96.4% felt the course was up to date

**Developments for 2024**

- BSGE Gynaecological Response to the Acute Surgical Presentation (BSGE GRASP) course in development
- Rebranding of Benign Abdominal Surgery 2024

**BSGE Member relations and The Scope portfolio - Funlayo Odejinmi presented by Kirana Arambage**

Themed editions of the @BSGE\_SCOPE

- Patient stories
- Hysterectomy
- Fibroids
- Research

Interviews with Luminaries of Minimal access surgery

- Inspirational

Interviews with patient groups

- Endometriosis foundation
- Menstrual health coalition

Keep members up to date with the "machinery of the BSGE"

- Highlighting the goings on of other subcommittees

Keep members up to date with current affairs relating to women's health

- Government reports

Bringing relevant published literature pertaining to minimal access surgery to a busy membership

FO is always looking for membership contributions to the scope and looking for members to join the editorial team.

**BSGE Meetings and Industry Relations portfolio- Sujata Gupta**

- Thanks to industry for supporting meetings.
- Noted a slight drop in corporate membership but positive response to new package, with many exhibitors keen to continue.
- Concern over high costs when running courses with RCOG, leading to barely breaking even.
- Seeking alternative, more cost effective venues. Members are encouraged to share suggestions.
- Mention of RCOG reviewing all of their courses, which may present an opportunity for BSGE to revise or enhance its offering.
- Recognition of Sean's excellent work on the current meeting ASM24.
- BSGE will soon invite expressions of interest for hosting ASM in 2026-2027. Members are encouraged to express their interest in hosting.

**BSGE Research and Innovation portfolio- Oudai Ali**

- Expressed interest in adding nursing representation in the future to enhance.
- Identified the lack of a universally accepted definition of surgery in textbooks or dictionaries.
- The subcommittee aims to take an avant-garde approach by creating a standardised definition.
- Developed and distributed a survey. Urged members complete the survey, as the response rate has been low.
- Aim is to use the survey responses in a Delphi process to produce publication, with legal and practical applications.
- Produced a webinar on the governance framework for new procedures. Plan to produce paper to help other trusts induce procedures.
- Successfully drafted RCT or VH vs HUSL vNOTES. The aim is to expand this to other centres.
- Successful Pre-congress workshop which was well received.
- Launched a survey on robotic surgery, in the Scope. Members encouraged to participate.
- Plan to develop a gynaecology-specific innovation framework based on the Royal College of Surgeons' existing framework.
- Exploring the role of human factors in surgical errors.

- Developing standard policies (e.g., pressure, entry methods) similar to ALARA in ultrasound.
- Looking at evaluating single port technique and standardising it. Asked members to get in contact with any ideas.

**BSGE RIGS portfolio – Lina Antoun and Samantha Kirkwood**

- Completed the RIGs Hubs national training programme receiving a very positive feedback with an additional trainee joining BSGE. Plans are underway for RIGs Hubs training programme for 2024 and applications will open later this year
- New BSGE RIGS Regional Representatives appointed, with SK's proforma allowing for a smooth transition between reps.
- Suturing competition at the gala dinner was a hit, with winners announced.
- The RIGS intermediate workshop was successful, with plans to revamp topics moving forward.
- New role, Junior Representative, will be announced at 2024 AGM.

**BSGE Website and Digital Governance portfolio- Zahid Khan**

- Improvements made to the website including new user friendly layout and super-menus for easier navigation
- Development of new members' area, summarising billing, purchases, payment information and more.
- New Members Directory, which allows members to contact each other, improving networking possibilities.
- BSGESICS updated making it faster and visually improved.
- Nurse hysteroscopy Portfolio to be added to BSGESICS this year.

**Future plans**

- Update all content on redundant website pages and launch a page for Nurse Hysteroscopists portfolio.
  - Work with Endometriosis Centres portfolio on AI and data collection.
  - New Ambulatory Care Network section
  - RM has managed Social media well. Wants to increase BSGE visibility on social media.
  - Considering adding new technologies such as Fibroid Ablation on to BSGESICS.
- ZK thanked Atia Khan and Charis Ayton for their work on BSGE website.

**Presidents' report- Andrew Kent**

- ASHK thanked council and subcommittee members for all their hard work.
- Membership has grown to 2000+ members since the start of ASHK presidency.
- Council has grown with additional portfolios created.
- Continuing to work with Outsourced Events, as BSGE and the ASM is growing and it was becoming unmanageable with just Atia.
- Over 800 registrations and 300 abstract submissions, making Belfast our largest conference ever.
- Thanks to industry for supporting and engaging with the ASM.
- A lot of changes over the year, most notably the BSGE website improvements, particularly on mobile.
- Thanks to BSGE secretariat; Manager Atia Khan and Administrator Charis Ayton for all their hard work and support.
- A lot of work on bookkeeping and VAT registrations. Highlighted the costs associated with running the society.
- Discussed the growth of the society over the years.
- Thanked the council members for their hard work and collaboration over the years.

**Looking forward**

- ESGE Marseille, BSGE likely to be the largest national group in attendance.
- AAGL in New Orleans with BSGE holding a session.

- Planning for ASM25 Leeds is already underway. Bids for 2026/7 will open soon.
- Joint meetings with RCOG will be under review to see if still beneficial to BSGE
- ASHK will be running another Senior Professional Development meeting in autumn.
- Nurse Hysteroscopy, Endo CNS, GESEA and RIGS workshops will take place again later in the year.
- Announced new 2024 BSGE council members:
  - Vice President - Rebecca Mallick
  - Honorary Secretary - Donna Ghosh
  - Senior Members
    - Lina Antoun
    - Lizzie Bean
    - Tony Chalhoub
    - Nadine di Donato
    - Angharad Jones
    - Senior Trainee - Ben Mondelli
    - Junior Trainee - Florence Britton

Farewell from ASHK and introduction to new president Arvind Vashisht with medal presentation was made.

10. AOB

None.