



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the **British Thoracic Society** will be held on Wednesday 7 December 2011 at 5.00pm in the Churchill Auditorium at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Broad Sanctuary, Westminster, London SW1P 3EE.

Dr D Baldwin
Honorary Secretary
1 November 2011

Agenda

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Minutes** of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 1 December 2010 (enclosed, item 1)
3. **Matters arising** from the minutes if not elsewhere on the agenda
4. **Report from the Chairman**
 - 4.1 The Chairman of the BTS Executive Committee will give a brief report on BTS activities.
5. **Report from the Honorary Treasurer**
 - 5.1 Report and financial statements for the period ended 30 June 2011
 - 5.2 Membership Fees for 2012
 - 5.3 Delegate rates for Meetings in 2012
 - 5.4 Appointment of auditors for 2011/12
6. **Report from Editors of *Thorax***
 - 6.1 The annual report from the Editors of the journal is enclosed (item 2)
7. **Election of Office Bearers**
 - 7.1 The outcome of the call for nominations for the position of **Vice-President** will be announced at the meeting (to take up office from December 2011, becoming President in December 2012).
 - 7.2 The outcome of the ballot for the position of **Chair of the BTS Executive Committee** will be announced at the meeting (to take up office from December 2012 for three years).
8. **BTS Committee Chairs**
 - 8.1 Standards of Care Committee: at the invitation of the Trustees, Dr John White, current chair of the Standards of Care Committee has agreed to extend his term of office for a further year (to December 2012) in order to take forward a number of important areas of work.
 - 8.2 Specialty Workforce Committee: at the invitation of the Trustees, Dr Lisa Davies, current chair of the Specialty Workforce Committee has agreed to extend her term of office for a further year (to December 2012) in order to take forward a number of important areas of work.
9. **Election of members of Council**
 - 9.1 5 nominations for 6 vacancies were received by the closing date of 31 August 2011. The five new members of Council, who will serve from December 2011 to December 2014, are: -
 - Dr Ruth Green
 - Dr Nick Hart
 - Dr Nick Hopkinson
 - Dr Paul Walker
 - Dr Alexander Wilkinson (under 35 member)
10. **Any other competent business**
11. **Date of next AGM** – Wednesday 5th December 2012, at 5.00pm

Please note:

A full copy of the audited Trustees Report and Financial Statements, which contain detailed information about the affairs of the Society, can be obtained from the website at www.brit-thoracic.org.uk/home/about-bts.aspx

The Annual Report which is enclosed in the mailing to all BTS members contains summarised financial information only.

Please send apologies to:
17 Doughty Street, London WC1N 2PL
or by fax to 020 7831 8766
or email bts@brit-thoracic.org.uk
by 2 December 2011
Thank you

Item 1

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 1 December 2010 at 5.00pm at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster, London SW1P 3EE

Professor Paul Corris presiding.

1.1 Approximately 80 members attended the meeting.

1.2 Apologies for absence had been received from:
Dr Robert Monie
Professor Madeleine Ennis

2. Minutes of the last meeting

2.1 Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 2 December 2009 were approved as an accurate record subject to the correction of the following:

7.2 Honorary Treasurer

Following a call for nominations earlier in the year, Dr Robina Coker would take up the post of Honorary Treasurer after the 2010 AGM, serving for a three year period, to December 2013.

All matters arising were covered later in the agenda.

3. Report from the Chairman

3.1 The Chairman presented a report on BTS activities over the past year. Highlights included:

- The formation of the new Public Liaison Committee which met for the first time in the summer;
- The Specialty Workforce Committee now received quarterly workforce reports following enhanced data collection activities within BTS Head Office, and this would strengthen workforce planning discussions with the Departments for Health across the UK, and also with the new Centre for Workforce Intelligence. BTS Head Office had now taken responsibility for the organisation and appointment of the network of Regional Specialty Advisers;
- The Society's e-learning activities were being developed under the auspices of the Education and Training Committee, and further re-learning modules would be launched on a new web-based platform later in 2011. The Society was also involved in the renegotiation of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Federation of Medical Royal Colleges for the Specialty Certificate Examination. The Society continued to press for a reduction in central costs associated with this examination.

- The Standards of Care Committee had been particularly active over the past year, and 4 BTS Guidelines had been published. The Committee had also approved the Society's new manual for Guideline production which would underpin the next application to NHS Evidence for accreditation of its Guideline production processes.

- The Professional and Organisational Standards Committee had focused on issues relating to revalidation and accreditation over the past year, and had also been encouraged by the increasing participation in the new BTS Audit System. BTS national audits are now recommended by the Department of Health for inclusion in Quality Accounts which are prepared each year by Trusts in England.

- The Science and Research Committee continued with a slightly modified remit. In addition to the organisation of the Winter Meeting, the Committee now takes responsibility for research and academic training issues to ensure that these are given appropriate priority.

- IMPRESS, the joint Committee with PCRS-UK continued its important work over the course of the year, and particular thanks were due to Professor Tony Davison, the BTS co-chair for this committee, who would step down in April 2011.

3.2 Professor Morgan also noted that the Society continued to develop relationships with other organisations and government departments.

3.3 In relation to the National Clinical Strategy for COPD, BTS had worked closely with colleagues in the Department of Health. While it had been disappointing that no specific mention of the strategy had been included in the recent NHS White Paper (Liberating the NHS), it was hoped that some announcement about the implementation of the Strategy would be forthcoming in the near future.

3.4 In relation to future plans, Professor Morgan noted that the Society's forthcoming strategic plan would focus on the following three areas:

- The specialty in a changing work
- The Society in a changing world
- The quality and productivity agenda

3.5 Professor Morgan noted that the Society planned to issue a survey to all members in spring 2011 which would seek views and input from the membership in a number of areas.

Item 1 (continued)

- 3.6 Finally Professor Morgan outlined a number of challenges that lay ahead including:
- The need for the Society to better understand the needs of its members;
 - Adapting to changing healthcare systems, including the education of commissioners and the identification of both good and poor commissioning;
 - Implementation of the National Strategy for COPD;
 - Justifying the need for the specialist and working with the public to raise standards of care for those with respiratory disease.

3.7 In conclusion the Chairman noted that this had been a particularly busy year and he expressed particular thanks to Professor Paul Corris, for a very successful term of office as President, as well as to the members of the Executive Committee and BTS staff for their support over the past year.

4. Report from the Honorary Treasurer

4.1 Dr Jo Congleton presented the Hon. Treasurer's report for the Society's Annual Accounts for the year to 30 June 2010.

4.2 A short presentation demonstrated the significant trends. The accounts showed a minimal net movement of funds with a small operating surplus of £8,909. The total assets of the Society stand at £4,060,414.

4.3 Stock market investments were stable and healthier than at this time last year and assets have increased by £299,472 (in comparison with the position at 30 June 2009). The Hon Treasurer continues to monitor the investment performance and is in close touch with the Society's Investment Manager.

4.4 The acceptance of the annual accounts in general was moved by Dr John Moore-Gillon, seconded by Dr Mick Peake and carried unanimously.

4.5 Annual Membership Subscriptions

Dr Congleton confirmed that the changes in membership categories introduced in 2005 would remain unchanged for the coming year. It was proposed that:

- the threshold for concessionary subscription rates should be raised to £42,000 p.a. This would allow a larger number of those on lower incomes (such as respiratory nurse colleagues) to take advantage of the concessionary rate.
- The Society would continue to offer an introductory subscription of £99 in the first year for new SpR/ST members.

- The membership fee would be amended so that most of the increase in the cost of *Thorax* would be passed on to members.

The new rates and categories of membership, therefore, would be as follows:

Category	Direct Debit	No Direct Debit
Full, with <i>Thorax</i> (salary more than £42,000 p.a.)	£220*	£235*
Concessionary, with <i>Thorax</i> / Overseas higher income/ Senior with <i>Thorax</i>	£170*	£185*
Concessionary without <i>Thorax</i> / Members of associated AHP organisations (ARNS/ACPRC/ ARTP)– no <i>Thorax</i>	£37 (unchanged)	£52 (unchanged)
Overseas Lower Income	£20 (unchanged)	£20 (unchanged)
Retired/Honorary	0 (unchanged)	0 (unchanged)

*the fee noted above reflects a £10 increase in comparison with the 2010 membership fee.

In response to a query from Professor Peter Calverley, the Hon Treasurer confirmed that the Society was exploring the possibility of offering online only *Thorax* subscriptions as part of the membership arrangement. Questions about this particular issue would be included in the forthcoming membership survey.

These proposals were moved by Professor Peter Calverley, seconded by Professor Andrew Greening and approved without dissent.

4.6 Delegate Rates for Meetings

Dr Congleton proposed that delegate rates for the Summer and Winter Meetings in 2011 should not be set in advance, but confirmed on a Meeting by Meeting basis so that Meeting costs can be taken into account. These proposals were moved by Dr John Moore-Gillon, seconded by Professor Peter Ormerod, and approved without dissent

4.7 Approval of the Society's Auditors

The Hon. Treasurer proposed that the Society appoint Sayer Vincent as auditors for the coming year. The proposal was moved by Dr Richard Russell, seconded by Professor Andy Fisher, and carried unopposed.

4.8 The President thanked Dr Congleton on behalf of fellow Trustees and the Society in general for her work and commitment to the position of Hon Treasurer over the past three years.

5. Report from the Editors of *Thorax*

5.1 The report from the editors of *Thorax* had been

circulated to members with the agenda. The President congratulated the current Editors, Professor Andy Bush and Professor Ian Pavord, as well as past Editorial Team who had stepped down in June 2010. The President expressed the appreciation of the Society for their work to maintain the international standing of the journal which had now achieved an Impact Factor of 7.041.

6. Election of Office Bearers

The President made the following announcements:

6.1 President-elect

Following a ballot of members in the Autumn, Professor Andrew Greening would serve as President-elect, taking over as President at the AGM in December 2011, and serving for one year thereafter in that role. Dr Edmund Neville would serve as President, taking over at this meeting, for one year.

6.2 Honorary Treasurer

Dr Robina Coker would take up the post of Honorary Secretary at this meeting, serving for a four year period, to December 2014 (see item 7 below).

7. BTS Chairman

- 7.1 It was proposed that the current Chairman, Professor Mike Morgan, should extend his current term of office in order to continue to take forward a number of important areas of work. In order to maintain the sequence of appointments of other officers, extension of the term of office of the Chairman would mean that, ideally, the terms of office of the Hon Treasurer and the Hon Secretary should also extend by the same period (both Dr Baldwin and Dr Coker have agreed in principle to the extension of their terms of office).

The proposed revision to the terms of office of the Chairman, Hon Treasurer and Hon Secretary were set out as follows:

Professor Mike Morgan	Chairman
Original term	New end date
Dec 2008 - Dec 2011	December 2012
Dr David Baldwin	Hon Secretary
Original term	New end date
Dec 2009 - Dec 2012	December 2013
Dr Robina Coker	Hon Treasurer
Original term	New end date
Dec 2010 - Dec 2013	December 2014

The proposal was approved without dissent.

8. Committee Chairs

- 8.1 Dr Craig Davidson would demit office as Chair of the Education and Training Committee at this meeting. Dr Ian Forrest would take over and serve until December 2013.
- 8.2 Professor Anthony Davison, would demit office as co-chair of IMPRESS in April 2011. Dr Mike Ward would take over in April 2011.

9. BTS Executive Committee

- 9.1 Dr Martin Allen, Trustee without Portfolio would demit office as a Trustee at this meeting.

10. Election of members of Council

- 10.1 The Hon Secretary reported that 6 nominations for 6 vacancies had been received. The following members would join Council, serving a three year term until December 2013: -

Dr Jonathan Bennett
 Dr Charlotte Bolton
 Professor Madeleine Ennis
 Dr Adam Hill
 Dr Irem Patel
 Dr Lisa Spencer

- 10.2 The President asked that the minutes record appreciation of the service of the out-going Trustees: Dr Martin Allen, Dr Jo Congleton, Dr Craig Davidson, and Professor Anthony Davison, who had served Council, the Executive Committee and the Society as a whole with distinction.

11. Any Other Business

- 11.1 The President requested that the Society's deep regret at the recent death of Professor Robert Davies should be recorded.

12. Date of Next Meeting

- 12.1 Wednesday 7 December 2011 at 5.00pm, Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre, London.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 5.30pm.

6/12/10

Item 2

Report from Editors of *Thorax*

We have now been in post as joint editors and Paul Cullinan and Clare Lloyd as deputy editors for just over a year. An entirely new editorial board has been appointed and the majority of the associate editors have been replaced. *Thorax* has maintained its position as the second highest ranked respiratory journal in terms of impact factor, behind the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine. However, Chest continues to close in fast with an impact factor 6.519, only 0.06 behind *Thorax*. We will do all we can to maintain our position. Please do consider *Thorax* for your best papers and reviews.

The number of submissions to the journal continues to rise, with 1319 received so far this year. As usual the submissions come from all over the world and we are continuing to see a rise in submissions from outside Europe. We would like to see more submissions from North America and plan to advertise this with a North American special edition to coincide with the 2012 ATS. Editorial decision times have reduced significantly: the average time to first submission to first decision is 18 days for all papers, and 31 days for reviewed papers, compared to 32 days and 50 days respectively in 2010. This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our new editorial team and the *Thorax* production team at BMJ journals. We will continue to work hard to lower this. Production of the journal has improved with a greatly reduced time to publication. All manuscripts are now available on-line in their final form within 23 days of their acceptance compared to 66 days in August 2010. The production of the paper copy of the BTS winter meeting abstract book was regrettably delayed; we will make sure that this doesn't happen again.

We were disappointed to learn that on-line access to most *Thorax* manuscripts is locked from 2006, and will continue to be locked from this date. We are in discussion with the publishers to try to come into line with Chest and the Blue Journal, and have all manuscripts unlocked after 12 months. We know this has the support of the BTS, and look to them for continued support. We are delighted that Airwaves, Editors Choice and Hot Topic remain free on-line. *Thorax* is now on Twitter (see <http://twitter.com/ThoraxBMJ>) and Facebook (see <http://www.facebook.com/Thorax.BMJ>) and we are looking to increase the use of modern means of communication. Please visit our re-vamped web site on <http://podcasts.bmj.com/thorax/> to access our latest podcasts. We welcome a number of initiatives from the publishers to increase the Journal profile, and in particular the much higher profile at the ATS in Denver. We aspire to having full foreign language versions of *Thorax* (for example, Spanish

and Chinese) and having bulk cheap on-line subscriptions made available through local respiratory societies in resource-poor areas.

We have also had two themed issues in 2011. The first was lung cancer (April) and the second smoking (October). We certainly hope this last met the aspirations of those who want us to be more political! Themed issues aim to have most but not all of the issue devoted to linked papers. We would welcome suggestions for future themes.

May 2011 saw the launch of Chest Clinic, a new clinically orientated section and the first of several new manuscript categories including Basic Science for the Chest Physician; audit, research and guideline updates; opinion articles; and several new formats of case-based discussions. We will continue to develop and evaluate this new section in the hope that it increases the appeal and clinical relevance of our content. Please let us know what you think.

We would like to thank Claire Weinberg, our wonderful *Thorax* Journal Manager; Sarah Szatkowski, our amazingly efficient editorial assistant for all her hard work in the daily running of the journal; and Bryony Lovelock, *Thorax* production editor who puts the journal together so professionally every month. Alison Lang has joined the team as our new Publisher. Her past experience, energy, humour and patience with sometimes errant editors (one in particular!) are already much appreciated. We are also grateful to Sally Welham, Jo Congleton, Sheila Edwards and Mike Morgan and the BTS for their support of the journal over the year. Our Deputy and Associate Editors, and the Editorial Board have worked tirelessly for the journal and have been a source of many good ideas as well as being excellent company at our biannual editorial meetings. Finally, we must thank the large number of people who have given of their precious time without reward to review manuscripts.

The Journal belongs to the membership and its success depends on the membership. We remain honoured to serve you as editors. Please continue to submit excellent manuscripts, help us with timely reviews, send us have your thoughts on new content and let us know if we have got things wrong.

Ian Pavord
Andy Bush
Thorax Editorial Office
2011



British Thoracic Society

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17 Doughty Street,

London WC1N 2PL

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