

DATE: 08 JANUARY 2016 VENUE: The Sage, Gateshead

No	Item	Minutes
1.	Attendees	Adam Balen (AB) (Chair), Virginia Bolton (VB) (Treasurer), Jane Stewart (JS) (Secretary) and 48 members of the Society.
2.	Apologies	None received
3.	Minutes of the 2015 AGM	These were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting by members present – Valentine Akande (VA) and Yacoub Khalaf (YK). ACTION – to be published as final version JS
4	Chairman's report	<p>AB welcomed the members of the Society to the AGM. He commended Allan Pacey – outgoing Chair – for his support of the BFS and congratulated him on the award of MBE.</p> <p>Committee AB described the current Executive Committee as a positive and pro-active team. Changes included Richard Kennedy (RK) standing down as President – the role being taken up by Henry Leese – the role has become a more active one over recent terms and Henry is a very supportive President. Allan remains on the committee as Editor in Chief of Human Fertility. Sue Avery has stood down as Treasurer and Karen Woodcock as Chair of the Training Committee, being replaced by Virginia Bolton and Kevin McEleny (KMc) respectively. He thanked all of those standing down for their efforts.</p> <p>There remains vacancies for Trainee representative and Nurse representative.</p> <p>The overall committee structure is unchanged however our first Special Interest Group has been introduced led by Melanie Davies who will report as a co-opted member. The BFS is pleased to support the SIG and develop those links.</p> <p>Membership Currently standing at 981 – the hope is to reach 1000 this year. The bulk of the membership is clinical but AB reminded delegates that there are reduced fees for some categories and that the fees have remained unchanged and attractive for members.</p> <p>Meetings Committee AB acknowledges that there were some tensions pre- the Newcastle meeting however it is the most attended stand-alone meeting to date, the program has come together well and AB thanked the committee led by VA for their work. The preceding Masterclass in reproductive surgery has been as popular and successful as ever.</p> <p>The next meeting is joint with ACE and SRF and will be held in Edinburgh. Importantly it has been agreed that the 2018 meeting will be a joint meeting also between the 2 traditionally joint meetings with the hope that that will be an ongoing plan.</p> <p>Training Committee KMc has taken over the Training Committee Chair. He is overseeing the big training week 6-10 June with a number of study days available including a new one on alternative parenting. The BFS/RCOG joint course co-ordinated by YK has now been contracted to 4 days and a manual/handbook is being developed by JS in conjunction with Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>Ian Cook (IC) Chair of the Trustees is taking an educational program of ultrasound training to Zambia and we look forward to hearing about it in due course.</p> <p>Policy and Practice</p>

AB acknowledged that it took time to get papers together but that they were considered very valuable pieces of work when published. AB listed those published over the last year and confirmed there were 6 further in preparation.

Human Fertility

AB wanted to acknowledge the work of Sandra Downing – the unsung BFS hero for her work on HF. The Editorial Board were listed and thanked. It was good that there has been much interest in the Ed Board vacancies.

Publication of HF has now moved back to Taylor and Francis with the expectation of better marketing opportunities and economies of scale.

HF Impact Factor will hopefully continue to increase.

Website

The work of Steve Grant (webmaster) and his team was commended for the new website and JS for her work in its development. Comments from the membership about the website would be welcomed.

Social Media

The society is working to increase media presence. AB tweets.

Key Objectives

These are listed on the website but AB highlighted some specific areas of development.

Developing with sister societies as well as INUK and HFEA we have a number of postcards for patient information which are in the process of being revamped. The society will attend the Fertility Show to offset some of the commercial element and also the Parenting shows.

A number of consultations have been responded to on behalf of members.

RK is the new President of IFFS and Mark Hamilton (MH) (ex-Chair) represents the BFS on the IFFS management committee.

Honorary Membership

Honorary Memberships have been conferred at this meeting to RK and MH.

Mentoring & Schools program

Introduced by KMc, the mentoring program started last year and is continuing. 100 Newcastle youngsters from local schools have attended a skills and careers session at this meeting giving very positive feedback. It is hoped that this may be extended in the future.

Secretariat

A tendering process for the BFS secretariat was completed at the end of the year and Profile Productions appointed to take over. The committee look forward to working with the team. AB thanked Rachael Simeone and the Bioscientifica team for past work and Kate Sargent and the team for the Gateshead meeting.

Charity/company merger

IC was commended for his invaluable work with the Trustees committee to move this forward. It is a big task yet to complete.

Fertility Education

This is a developing role for the BFS highlighted with the Fertility Health Summit planned. This was an open meeting aimed at educators, youth organisations, DoH, DoE, PHSE tutors etc. A planning meeting next week will bring this together. The RCOG is supporting financially and Emma Gilgunn-Jones the RCOG new Press Officer is involved. It is an exciting initiative with both TV and radio involvement.

		<p>Q&A <i>Conference fees for student are quite high at £60.</i> Advised that this has been the same for many years. Travel grants offset fees markedly but are not applied for greatly</p>
5.	Treasurer's Report	<p>Virginia Bolton (VB) provided the Treasurer's report. The accounts were presented along with the annual report. It was highlighted that the joint meeting doesn't make as much money as the standalone meetings and affects the bottom line of the accounts as it has done for 2015/6</p> <p>BFS Ltd. There are still items to be included in the bank reconciliation; outstanding invoices and secretariat fees Overall loss £33500 with a net loss of £5037 recorded. £3500 was passed over to BFS Charity.</p> <p>Charity Lower funds compared with last year and a greater expenditure. Bottom-line funds currently £147000</p> <p>Deficits are the result of less income from joint meetings, expenditure on website, legal consultation for merger. It was noted that committee costs are lower.</p> <p>VB thanked IC for charity commission work on the merger.</p> <p>It was proposed that we reappoint Mazars Accountants. Seconded by Alison McTavish and Henry Leese.</p>
6.	AOCB	None
7.	Date of next AGM	Jan 2018