



BSGAR Annual General Meeting

Thursday 5th February 2009, Old Swan Hotel Harrogate

The Chairman, Dr Clive Kay, welcomed members to the meeting. 52 members were present.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from David Burling and Ashley Roberts

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held in York on 7th February 2008 were accepted as a true record.

3. Chairman's Report

Dr Kay reported on the Society activity over the previous year, including reports from committee members with specific responsibilities.

(i) *BSGAR Committee* for 2008 was:-

- Chair – Clive Kay
- Secretary – Peter Rodgers
- Treasurer – Ashley Roberts
- Liaison Officer – Simon Jackson
- Standards Officer – David Burling
- Education Officer – Andrea Philips
- Research Officer – Stuart Taylor
- Audit Officer – Andy Lowe

Dr Kay thanked the committee members for their hard work during the year.

(ii) *Annual conference*

The BSGAR 2008 meeting in York had been very successful. For the first time committee members had met with sponsors' representatives. Some of their suggestions had been incorporated into the programme for 2009. In planning for 2009 some changes had been made to support the development of the meeting programme.

New features for 2009 were

- New financial arrangement for sponsors, with varying benefits
- Meeting Brochure which included a delegate list
- Introduction of Welcome Reception for delegates and sponsors
- Lengthening of coffee and lunch breaks

(iii) *Membership*

There were currently some 100 fully paid BSGAR members, and another 50 plus previous members who had subscription arrears dating back to the change in subscription rates. Action was being taken to get the membership list up to date with all members fully paid.

(iv) *ACCEA*

Prof Clive Bartram has stepped down after several years of sterling work co-ordinating the application and assessment process, and Prof Derrick Martin has now assumed this responsibility

(v) *Liaison with other groups*

Dr Simon Jackson as Liaison Officer had built up links with the following groups

UKDF (UK Digestive Federation) - this is a new body bringing together representative groups of professionals who deliver GI services (BSG, AUGIS, ACPGIB, BSGAR, Pancreatic Society, BASL, BAPEN, Primary Care Soc for Gastroenterology, Patient Groups)

He had also been involved with the results of National Audit of Upper GI haemorrhage, and draft IBD standards (BSGAR input)

BSGAR had also produced a symposium at the 2008 BSIR annual meeting in Manchester

BSGAR had also worked together with the Association Upper GI Surgeons

- Revised national guidelines for management of HCC –Ashley Guthrie
- Revised National Guidelines for management of colorectal cancer liver metastases
- Oesophageal Cancer -David Breen

BSGAR representatives for other groups were:-

Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain & Ireland - James Hampton
BSG – Steve Lee

BSGAR had also provided input to NICE Guidelines as follows:

- Series of collaboration meetings to develop guidelines for disease pathways including colorectal cancer/Barrett's oesophagus/coeliac disease etc
- BSGAR now registered as a stakeholder
- Colorectal Cancer – David Burling
- Ablative Therapy in Barrett's – Roger Frost

(vi) *Standards development*

Dr David Burling was the Standards Officer.

A major activity had been the development of Standards for CT Colonography

- BSGAR has been instrumental in the proposal and development of standards for CT colonography.
- Steering committee has met twice over last year and supervised generation of a standards document written by subcommittee (comprising BSGAR members) who met in July 2008
- Document to be circulated to BSGAR members imminently

(vii) *Education*

Dr Andrea Phillips was Education Officer. The main aims for the year were

- Promote links with radiologists in training

- Encourage active involvement with BSGAR
- Forge links with Society of Radiologists in Training
- Promote junior membership of BSGAR, with the introduction of a Junior Forum section on the BSGAR web site
- Encourage SpRs to attend the annual BSGAR meeting

(viii) *Research*

Dr Stuart Taylor was the Research Officer

The profile of BSGAR was increasing nationally. BSGAR now has permanent representation on NCRI Colorectal Surgical Committee. Members were encouraged to use BSGAR and its associated infrastructure in research collaborations whenever possible to develop the profile of the society

Current research projects were:

CREST (stenting vs surgery in acute left-sided malignant obstruction) – Kay & Taylor

- BSGAR members form majority of recruitment sites

FOXTROT (randomised trial adjuvant chemo and delayed surgery vs. immediate surgery in locally advanced colonic cancer)

- Over 100 BSGAR members have attended training day but there is no BSGAR member on management committee

Duodenal Stenting (Randomised trial and clinician choice study of duodenal stenting vs laparoscopic surgery in malignant duodenal obstruction) - Breen, Taylor, Kay

(ix) *Audit*

Dr Andy Lowe was Audit Officer. The following projects had been active during the year

Audit of GI MDT working in the UK- Alasdair Taylor – results to be posted on BSGAR website shortly

Postal Survey of Current Practice of Radiologically-placed Gastrostomy (RIG) in the UK – this was circulated to BSGAR members in February 2008, with replies from 60 centres. Analysis showed a great diversity in practice, and the results would be written up for publication

Multi-Centre prospective audit of RIG – this commenced October 2008, with 24 centres currently participating

4. Treasurer's report

In the absence of Dr Roberts, Dr Kay presented the Treasurer's Report.

Several changes had been introduced during the year:

- (a) the accounting year now ran from January to December so the most up-to-date accounts can be presented at AGM.
- (b) a simplified accounting system, based on Excel, had been introduced, which can be easily transferred to the next Treasurer.
- (c) an increased role for BSGAR Administrator with associated salary increase
- (d) to increase probity, dual signatories was now required for cheques
- (e) an interest bearing Reserve account had been opened
- (f) committee members were encouraged to book travel in advance to reduce expenditure

Account balances at January 5th 2009 were Current Account £10,570.93, Reserve Account £20,000

There were a number of issues to be addressed for 2009

- Unpaid /underpaid subscriptions and possible withdrawal of membership rights
- Internal audit of accounts – the committee proposed to invite two members of good standing to inspect the accounts and accounting systems in more detail as an internal audit.

From the floor Dr Phil Shorvon and Dr Roger Frost offered to take on this role, and this was accepted.

- Consideration of the active use of the reserve funds

In a general discussion the following points were made from the floor:

- the society needed the reserve funds to provide collateral against a failed conference
- increasing the profit from the conference could make funds available for bursaries etc.
- expanding the conference could be more expensive in terms of increased venue costs
- a forward plan was needed to generate increased funds for projects
- a strategy for increasing membership would also bring in more funds
- a bigger society would be taken more seriously and would be consulted on specialty matters
- a bigger society may be seen as a threat by other groups

In a vote the members voted against the idea of a significant increase in the society membership by 27 votes to 21 for the time being. The members also voted against the inclusion of non-medical personnel as BSGAR members.

5. BSGAR Elections 2009

Chairman-Elect - Simon Jackson

Secretary - Peter Rodgers has completed his term of office, and is replaced by Ashley Guthrie

Research Officer - Stuart Taylor commences a second term of office

Liaison Officer -Simon Jackson to demit office – an election would be held shortly

6. Future BSGAR annual meetings

BSGAR 2010

BSGAR 2010 would be held in Bristol, at the Marriott Bristol Royal Hotel, on Wed 3rd – Fri 5th February 2010. The Local organiser is Mark Callaway. At the recent committee meeting, it was agreed that the format for this meeting would remain unchanged, but this would be discussed further for the 2011 event. From the floor it was suggested that the programme could include informal workshops.

BSGAR 2011

The 2011 conference would be held in Manchester, and the Local Organiser will be Hans-Ulrich Laasch

BSGAR 2012

There will be a BSGAR Conference in 2012, and the committee was currently investigating venues in Cardiff.

ESGAR 2012

This was going ahead in Edinburgh in June 2012 at the EICC, and Prof Steve Halligan was the Conference President. On current exchange rates, the meeting costs were now more comparable to other European venues.

From the floor, there were suggestions that there should be handouts of the slides or Powerpoint presentations available to delegates, and that the lectures could be made available after the conference on the web site. This was being investigated for 2009 by Dr Phillips.

It was also suggested that the committee should consider venues in London for 2012 or 2013, since London was easily accessible for most people.

There being no other business, Dr Kay thanked the members for attending and closed the meeting.