



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

5 SEPTEMBER 2023

MINUTES

Attendees: 24 members, including trustees.

1. Apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Paula Brunton and David Jessop.
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2022 AGM
Minutes approved without edits.
3. Matters arising
There were no matters arising.
4. President's report
Neil Evans expressed his thanks to all committee members for their hard work through the year. Also particular thanks to Sue Thorn (CEO) and Agnes Becker (Communications) for their efforts. Thanks to the organisers of the Exeter BSN meeting.

The Ordinary Resolution to reappoint as members of the Advisory Board Professors Jane Robinson, John Russell, Stafford Lightman, John Morris and Joe Herbert was passed unanimously.

5. Treasurer's report (including to receive the 2022 Trustees Annual Report and Accounts)
Michelle Bellingham presented her report. Society finances are healthy. The ICN meeting generated larger income and expenditure in 2022, and resulted in a loss on the meeting, but less than expected. Other types of expenditure similar to typical levels from previous years. More grants given out to members. Slight differences in grant expenditures between Treasurer's report and Grant Secretary's report are due to the fact that some people claim the research grants in years subsequent to the award. JNE income windfall in 2022 but need to be conservative in budgets moving forward due to likely changes in JNE income. BSN registered for VAT and can now claim this back on expenses so will be beneficial for the Society. The reserves have increased and the Trustees will review the future requirements. Thanks to Sue Thorn for the hard work on the budget.
6. Membership Secretary's report
Neil Evans presented Maria Canal's report in her absence. Membership is strong and growing, reaching 606, 10% higher than the previous year. Increased representation internationally, in particular the USA. Free membership for Low-income and Lower-middle income countries was introduced, as well as members on career breaks. About one third of members are now outside the UK.

7. Meeting Secretary's report
Preeti Jethwa presented her report. The next 2 years' BSN meetings are stand alone in the UK: Aberdeen 1st-3rd July 2024, Bradford 2025. The next ICN in 2026 will be in Japan. We are looking for a host city for 2027. It was suggested that we should consider another joint meeting with the French society, preferably in the UK.
8. Grants Secretary's report
Gisela Helfer presented her report. Application numbers have increased significantly with the increased number of members; this has understandably resulted in a reduced success rate. The success rate ranged from 17% (Academic Support and Research Visits) to 67% (Symposium support). Thanks to members of the grant panel. Each grant is now reviewed by three members and then a grant panel meeting is held. We are moving towards all trustees serving as reviewers. Having to initiate new rules in the interests of fairness: members can only receive funding once in 2 years and only one application funded per lab per cycle. Grant recipients are encouraged to publish in JNE.
9. EDI Secretary's report
Neil Evans presented Ch Udeh-Momoh's report in her absence.
10. ECR report
Nicole Morrissey presented the report. The ECR event is upcoming on Wednesday. Mentoring scheme relaunched. Two time points/year in which people can reapply (aligned with grant deadlines). Formal thanks to Alejandro Ibáñez Costa.
11. Communications report
Rebecca Dumbell presented her report. Thanks to Agnes Becker for all her work in supporting Society communications. We are doing a lot to support members, in particular ECRs, and with increased emphasis on EDI. Quarterly newsletters (529 subscribers); Twitter (X) account (1600 followers); Facebook followers (around 1600); increasing presence on LinkedIn. Producing end of year round-up infographics of society activities. Summarise and promote journal activities, including special issues.
12. Journal Secretary's report
Helen Christian presented her report. The new EiC of the FMN strand is Mike Lehman, who will take over from Julian Mercer in January 2024. Shortly to be advertising for the EiC TCM strand, who will take over from Bob Millar in 2025. Thanks to Julian Mercer, Perry Barrett and Richard Anderson for all of their hard work on the journal over the year. The future of all academic publishing is challenging but new EiC has good strategic ideas to grow submissions. Wiley are being supportive. Members encouraged to publish in the journals.
13. Notification of election results for Trustees
Michelle Bellingham, Isadora Clivatti Furigo and Dave Grattan were the successful candidates.
14. A.O.C.B
Formal thanks were given to retiring trustees: Maria Canal and Helen Christian.