

SIXTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BIR

MINUTES

The Sixtieth Annual General Meeting of the British Institute of Radiology incorporated by Royal Charter was held online from 16 September, closing for comment 21 September 2020 at 4pm. The meeting was held for the purpose of transacting the following business. The Annual Report and Accounts to 31 March 2020 had also been available to members on the BIR website, and by post, where appropriate.

The President, Dr Jane Phillips-Hughes, provided the Notice convening the sixtieth General Meeting of the British Institute of Radiology incorporated by Royal Charter.

Attendees

Full members: Jane Phillips-Hughes, Sri Redla, Stephen Keevil, Kannan Rajesparan, Simon Jackson, Daniel McGowan, Sue Marchant, Vijay Jayaram, Nicholas Woznitza, Mohammed Ali Shah, Amir Mohammad Heidari, Konstantinos Samiotis, Minal Jagtiani, Russell Lodge, Manoj Edirisinghe, Andrew Jones, Andrew Nanapragasam, Adrian Thomas, David Wilson, Stephen Davies and Alex Stewart

Staff: Simon Thompson, Magda Howlett, Carole Cross and Lucy Stewart.

- 1 The Minutes of the fifty-ninth Annual General Meeting were approved.
(Appendix 1)

Proposed by: Mr Daniel McGowan

Seconded by: Dr Jane Phillips-Hughes

- 2 The report of the Trustees for the year ending 31 March 2020 (**Appendix 2a**) and the summary report from the President, Dr Jane Phillips-Hughes (**Appendix 2b**) were submitted.

The President's report is copied below:

Members of the British Institute of Radiology, I am very pleased to welcome you to our sixtieth annual general meeting (AGM). This is my second and final report as BIR President and this will certainly be a year that we won't forget.

For a start, the BIR achieved an operating surplus for the first time in many years. This is a fantastic achievement and the result of a lot of hard work from the team, and invaluable support from the membership. Certainly a significant moment and a cause for celebration.

On the other hand, the COVID-19 pandemic which we continue to live through has had a devastating effect on all of us. Sadly it has taken many lives, including some from our own community, and it has changed the way we live and the way we work. Many of the changes had to be made very quickly, and some have been difficult to adapt to, but others have brought unanticipated benefits. A number of these changes will probably remain with us for the long term.

I would like to pay tribute to the way the BIR team has coped with the sudden change, rapidly adapting to the challenges of working from home, whilst managing to retain a positive team spirit. Re-inventing the whole of the planned events programme seamlessly from face to face to virtual meetings happened almost overnight. Free COVID-19 imaging related educational material and virtual events such as webinars have been made available to our professional community with fantastic take-up on a truly global scale, spreading knowledge as well as the BIR brand across the world. So bearing in mind the COVID-19 effect, this is likely to be year of two halves, but when the pandemic hit, the BIR was in a very strong position.

Publishing had a very good year, achieving an income of over £1 million, with a marked increase in submissions to all of our journals, but especially to *BJR*—our flagship journal which this year celebrates its 125th anniversary with a special series of commissioned articles. A rise in the recently announced Impact Factor from 1.913 (2018) to 2.196 (2019) is another cause for celebration. *BJR|Open* has been accepted by the Directory of Open Access Journals and has passed the scientific evaluation stage for PubMed Central.

The planned on-line video courses are developing well. The launch has had to be delayed by a few months as our course directors have naturally been fully occupied with clinical duties during the crisis, but the first course on Radiation Safety is on-track, with a further four courses scheduled for the 2020–21 year.

Education had a very successful series of events and achieved a surplus, covering all of its direct costs and contributing to overheads for the first time.

Membership and Communications also achieved a surplus and up to the end of May 2020 membership was up to a little over 3,100. Paid membership rose by 11% compared with the previous year.

Our World Partner Network contacts continue to develop and this year we have produced “The Global Future of Imaging” publication and a joint publication with the Chinese Society of Radiology on Artificial Intelligence.

Also of note, a BIR-led working party developed evidence based guideline on the use of contact shielding of patients for diagnostic radiology applications which was published in March 2020. This represents a major change in practice and so the BIR also developed a patient information leaflet which explains in a clear and accessible way why patient contact shielding is normally no longer required.

Due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, what happens next is unpredictable of course, and there will almost certainly be a financial hit, with cancellation of face-to-face events, and possible knock-on effects of the pandemic on uptake of our publications. However due to the hard work of many individuals working as a team, the BIR entered this phase in a strong financial position, and is already showing a great ability to adapt to changing circumstances, to evolve and to thrive.

Being President of the BIR for the past two years has been a true privilege. I would like to thank CEO Simon Thompson and all of the Senior Management team, the Board of Trustees and all of the membership for their support over this time, and to send all good wishes to my successor Dr Sridhar Redla. I have great confidence in all of you and in the future of the BIR.

Report of the Trustees:

Proposed: Dr Jane Phillips-Hughes

Seconded: Dr Sridhar Redla

Report by the President:

Proposed: Dr Kannan Rajesparan

Seconded: Dr Andrew Nanapragasam

For additional information the Annual Review is available on the website.

3 The report from the Honorary Treasurer, Mr Andrew Craig, was submitted (**Appendix 3**)

The Treasurer's report is copied below:

Members of the British Institute of Radiology (BIR), this is my fourth report as Honorary Treasurer of the BIR. I am reporting on the financial year for the 12 months to 31st March 2020.

Financial Performance

At an operating level, the Institute recorded a surplus of £75k, which compares with a deficit of £112k for the 12 months to 31 March 2019. The Institute recorded a net deficit of £503k for the 12 months to 31 March 2020 in comparison to a net surplus of £33k in the previous year. The deficit was caused by a sharp fall in the value of the investment portfolio at the end of the year caused by the market's reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Income for the 12 months to 31 March 2020 was £2.02 million compared to £1.75 million in the 12 months to 31 March 2019. The principal sources of revenue are publishing (£1,096k), education (£517k), membership (£241k), and dividend income from the investment portfolio (£158k). Expenditure for the year was £1.95 million for the 12 months to 31 March 2020 compared to £1.86 million for the 12 months to 31 March 2019. The principal areas of expenditure were publishing (£817k), education (£726k), membership (£320k) and digital learning (£52k).

There was an exceptional improvement in operations, resulting in an operating surplus. However the value of the investment portfolio dropped significantly due to market volatility caused by the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in an overall deficit. This contrasts with the previous year, which benefitted from an increase in the value of the investment portfolio.

The Institute's net current liabilities include some payables but in the majority it consists of income received in advance for next year's activities. This means that the Institute doesn't owe money but it owes delivery of services (journals, membership and events) for the coming months.

Key developments in the year included:

- The successful transition to Wiley as the Institute's new sales and marketing partner for journal publishing
- The steep increase in readership of BIR journals
- The growth of the BIR Annual Congress and other key annual events
- The launch of the BIR Sharing Platform, enabling members to share key workplace documents and templates with each other
- Continued steep improvement in member renewal rates
- Continued development of the successful BIR World Partner Network: a collaboration with sister societies throughout the world
- The launch of the BIR Safety Campaign: to promote safe working practices through policy development and education.

Proposed by: Professor Stephen Keevil

Seconded by: Dr Sridhar Redla

4 Election of Officers and Council members for the Session beginning 1st October 2020.

President	Dr Sridhar Redla	2020/2022
VP External affairs	Prof Stephen Keevil	2020/2023
Vice President (Publishing)	Dr Nicholas Screaton	2019/2022
Vice President (Education)	Dr Simon Jackson	2020/2023
Honorary Treasurer	Mr Andrew Craig	2019/2022
Ms Helen Hughes	2018/2021	
Ms Alwena Hall	2018/2021	
Mr Russell Lodge	2019/2022	
Dr Elly Castellano	2020/2023	
Ms Shasta Hafeez	2020/2023	

The election of the Trustees for 2020/21 was approved by the AGM.

Proposed by: *Dr Jim Zhong*

Seconded by: *Dr Jane Phillips-Hughes*

5 Auditors to the Institute

The President thanked Sayer Vincent for undertaking the audit of the 2019/20 Accounts and proposed their reappointment to audit the 2021 Accounts.

This was approved by the AGM.

Proposed by: *Mr Russell Lodge*

Seconded by: *Ms Susan Marchant*

6 It was announced that the following members had been elected for Fellowship in 2020

- Professor Maryann Hardy
- Mr Jonathan Cole
- Professor Kevin Prise
- Dr Simon Jackson
- Dr Khalid Ali
- Dr Jeevan Kumaradevan

Proposed by: *Dr Sridhar Redla*

Seconded by: *Dr Nick Woznitza*

7. It was announced that Professor Chris Nutting and Dr Clare Gerada have been elected for Honorary Fellowship in 2020.

Proposed by: *Dr Sridhar Redla*

Seconded by: *Dr Jane Phillips-Hughes*

8. Any other business

There were no further matters for discussion and the meeting was closed at 4pm on 21 September 2020.