

**Minutes of the GAIN Annual General Meeting
Held on 14 October 2023 at Glennys Sanders
House, Pride Parkway, Sleaford NG34 8GL**

1. Chairman's Welcome

Chris Fuller welcomed members and trustees to the meeting.

Postal votes had been received and counted by an independent person prior to the meeting, and results were given to the Chief Executive in advance of the AGM.

Chris Fuller explained in his Welcome that this will be his last AGM as Chairman, as he will be retiring from the Chair position and as Trustee, with immediate effect. He reflected on his time with the Charity, and notably on his first AGM in 2013 which was held in person, in Bournemouth, with over 100 members in attendance. This is a significant contrast with today, whereby we have two members attending in person, and four members online: a sign of the times, and an indication of social change. GAIN must keep pace and seek to change our interactions.

2. Apologies for absence

The following apologies were given:

Caroline Morrice	Simon Johnson
Jatinder Paul	Gerald Wilson
Jack O'Dell	Derek White
Mary White	Tony Roberts
Phillip Price	Norman Druce

3. Receipt and adoption of the Examined Accounts for 2022 – 2023

Motion: That the Annual Accounts for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 be adopted.
Proposed by Chris Fuller and Seconded by Carol Hooper.

The result of the vote to adopt the Examined Accounts was:

- For – 14
- Against – 0
- Abstained – 0
- Spoilt – 0

Questions from the floor:

Question: Within the 2022/2023 Annual Accounts, we see income (donation & legacies) of £444,000. Within note 3, it breaks down this figure as £152,000 from donations, and £292,000 from legacies. What is the difference between the two categories?

Answer. Chris Fuller directed this question to David Wada (GAIN Treasurer) attending via Zoom. Unfortunately, due to a technical glitch, David Wada could not answer, so Chris Fuller proposed that David Wada would provide this answer via email to Sean Austin (who raised question).

Action: David Wada to respond to Sean via email.

Question. Accounts are not formally signed off by auditors?

Answer. No, there is no requirement for GAIN to produce Audited Annual Accounts.

4. Receipt and adoption of the Trustee’s Annual Report for 2022 – 2023

Motion: That the Trustees Annual Report for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 be adopted.
Proposed by Glennys Sanders and Seconded by Paul Waine.

The result of the vote to adopt the Trustees Annual Report was:

- **For – 13**
- Against – 1(*)
- Abstained – 0
- Spoilt – 0

(*) In the event that the person that voted against the adoption of the Trustees Annual Report was attending the meeting, and should they wish discuss this with the Board of Trustees, Chris Fuller invited them to do so. No response was received.

5. Appointment of the Independent Examiner

Motion: That Goodman Jones LLP of 29/30 Fitzroy Square London W1T be appointed as independent examiners for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

Proposed by Carol Hooper and Seconded by Paul Waine

The result of the vote to appoint Goodman Jones LLP as Independent Examiner was:

- **For – 14**
- Against – 0
- Abstained – 0
- Spoilt – 0

6. Re-election of Trustees

The result of the vote to re-elect the following Trustees, after having completed a three-year term, is as follows:

	Carol Hooper	Jatinder Paul	Paul Waine
For	14	14	14
Against	0	0	0
Abstained	0	0	0
Spoilt	0	0	0

Proposed by Glennys Sanders and Seconded by Lee Raynor.

The three above-mentioned Trustees are all duly re-elected to serve a further three-year term.

General Discussion – Questions and Remarks, and Actions

Question: For the benefit of those attending via Zoom, who is attending in person (at the office) outside of view of the camera.

Answer: Chris Fuller, Carol Hooper, Paul Waine, Glennys Sanders and Howard Sanders.

Remark(s): Richard Hughes, (GAIN Patron) echoed the same view made by Chris Fuller, in his welcome, that it is sad that so few people now attend these meetings, where perhaps they may not be technically savvy to enable this. In addition, he shared his concern that the Charity is not supporting research into GBS & CIDP, when exciting discoveries are being made in the field of research. We should be funding research/fellowships (which may also lead to attracting more support), in addition to funding an office and staff.

Answer: Chris Fuller explained that we are currently supporting 3 active research project with; University College London, University College Glasgow, and John Radcliffe Hospital (Oxford). However specific updates on projects unknown, nor could be shared on an open forum.

Action: 1 - David Wada (GAIN Treasurer) to share update with Richard concerning reading the Annual Accounts to see the funds we are committing to research projects.
2 – As proposed by Richard Hughes, whereby we are funding research projects, could these teams/researchers attend our AGM/Monthly Forums to share updates with the members? As it would be both interesting and could lead to increased attendance. Chris Fuller confirmed we will take this forward, and thanked Richard Hughes for the feedback.

Question: Sean Austin – Note 6, on page 16/17, provides analysis of expenditure (research and raising awareness). It details £37,000 pertaining to “activities directly undertaking”, and £184,000 “supporting”. Can this be explained further?

Action: David Wada to answer Sean via email.

Remark(s): Ana Talbot (Patient Member, Medical Advisory Board “MAB”), shared that she understood from the MAB that due to financial constraints, there was no research ongoing. In addition, Ana explained that she has just returned from the International GBS/CIDP conference held in the US, where there were c.400 people in attendance. Ana wished to suggest that we try and learn from their (and other countries), approach as there seemed to be a real sense of engagement and desire to drive change.

Answer: Chris Fuller explained that the Board of Trustees have been completing an in-depth review of the charity over the last 6-7 months, which has included us speaking to charity members, members of the MAB, and external companies that we work with. To capture this work, a full report listing findings and recommendations has been produced which will act as a focal point for our next meeting, highlighting what we need to do and change moving forward. On the point of “financial constraints” and “no research ongoing”, Chris Fuller explained that he is not sure where this derives from, as research has always been one of our three key aims. We have substantial savings, and we do and will continue to fund research.
Carol Hooper, shared that “lessons learned” have been discovered within our review, understanding how better to interact with other countries, and bodies, and will be discussed at the next Trustee Meeting and carried forward. To share some

examples, 90 minute meetings have been undertaken with MAB Members (Dr Jane Pritchard and Dr Michael Lunn), and we will continue to collaborate.

Action: Carol Hooper to connect with Ana Talbot offline, to schedule time to discuss further. Richard Hughes also offered to discuss offline, in particular on the topic of research activities, and noted that the GBS/CIDP International Foundation has reached out to GAIN on numerous occasions to offer support.

Remark(s): Jenny Calder-Smith - commented that Ana Talbot appears to have an extensive amount of knowledge/experience and such experience is the like that should be brought to this forum and shared.

Answer: Chris Fuller asked Ana Talbot whether she would be happy to share a short note/summary on this point.

Action: Ana Talbot responded that she would be happy to do this in the coming weeks. Chris Fuller thanked Ana Talbot for this in advance.

Remark(s): Sean Austin – Can we make better use of the monthly forums? Sean has currently attended two sessions, that have been in the format of a light chit-chat, with no pre-determined agenda. Not to over formalise the forums, but perhaps it would encourage greater levels of discussion/attendance if there was a high-level topic of discussion/agenda known in advance.

Answer: Chris Fuller explained that interaction with members has been low-key in recent years, and the Board would wish to see more effective interaction. The Board will take on these comments and see how it can be taken forward in an effort to increase engagement and attendance.

Closing Remarks:

Chris Fuller thanked all for their attendance and participation, highlighting that this has been one of the more interactive, and interesting AGM's of late. The meeting was then closed.



Jenny Willison
Secretary to the Board
16/10/2023.