



GAIN Annual General Meeting

Saturday 2nd November 2024

Minutes

The 2024 AGM was held at the Radisson Blu, Canary Wharf East, London, and online. The meeting began at 11am

Attendees

Helen Anderson Ferreira, Sean Austin, Lora Barclay, Jenny Calder-Smith, Tony Caplin, Tricia Caplin, Janet Chapman, Cecilia Cole, Rich Collins, Christine Cross, Graham Cross, Amy Davidson, Nancy Di Salvo, Norman Druce, Howard Edwards, Brenda Faldo, Dennis Faldo, Jon Follows, Pamela Fox, Jan Heath, Jeremy Hodson, Carol Hooper, Richard Hughes, Claire Laird, Tim Lavin, Mark Learnmouth, Ian Macfayden, Chris Morton, Maureen Neville, Rosie Norvis, Stephanie Parker, Jatinder Paul, Christina Pritchard, Jane Pritchard, Lee Raynor, Karen Roberts, Steven Roberts, Glennys Sanders, Howard Sanders, Amy Selman, Claire Shaw, Gerald Shute, Gordon Sturmey, Ana Talbot, Emily Tomlinson, Owen Tomlinson, Anne Trevett, Paul Tuttiett, Paul Waine, Lisa Wedgwood, Jenny Willison, James Wilson, Gerald Wilson, Julie Wilson, Robin Wood.

Welcome and Introductions

Rich Collins (RC) welcomed everyone to the meeting, and laid out the logistics, access, facilities and fire exits.

Carol Hooper (CH) officially started the meeting and laid out the agenda for the day. She spoke about the progress that had been made over the year, and how wonderful that it was to be all together, with such a large amount of people attending in person and online.

Annual Report

CH went through the key points of the 2023/24 Trustees Annual Report. She talked about 2023/24 being a year of evolution for GAIN, and that we were beginning a period of significant change. Throughout the year we had seen Caroline and Simon move on, and we now had a new staff team in place, including a new Chief Executive. There were also big changes at Board level with the previous Chair and Treasurer leaving at the last AGM, and new Trustees coming on Board during the year. The focus of the Charity remains on support, but that we have made big changes to our support offer to reflect how we operate.

CH reflected that people were at the heart of everything we do, and in 23/24 we supported 191 people, with 24 people receiving peer support from our amazing volunteers. Our monthly zoom meetings continue to grow, and both attendance and quality have improved. We continue to support our local support group in Lancashire and Cumbria, and are incredibly proud of the impact they provide for local people. Over the year we supported 23 people through over £22,000 of Personal Grants, and by the end of the year we had 152 Voting Members.

CH discussed how we had contributed £20,000 to clinical research, supporting important work around identifying biomarkers, and that we continue to work with key partners around developing research and supporting trials. She also laid out the partnership work that we have been doing with GBS/CIDP Foundation International, EPODIN, the various Neurological Alliances, and other groups and partners.

CH outlined the engagement and listening exercise conducted in early 2024, and how this was impacting on what we do and how we operate. She also highlighted changes to our communications, social media, and newsletters.

Finally, CH mentioned that the next year would be all about renewing our core support offer, increasing our reach and engagement, developing new clinical and social research, improving our data collection and management, ensuring that we are financially stable, increasing our impact, maintaining growth and development, and continuing to develop our collaborations and partnerships. She concluded that the future for GAIN looked incredibly positive, and that we would continue to strive to meet the needs of our community.

RC explained that we had undertaken online voting on the motions laid out in today's AGM with Voting Members over the previous 14 days. These votes had been checked and validated. He reminded attendees that only registered Voting Members could vote at the meeting and online, and that anyone who had voted through the online ballot shouldn't vote again in the room, or live online.

Motion 1 – That the annual report for the period 1st April 2023 to 31 March 2024 be adopted

Proposed – Paul Waine

Seconded – Jatinder Paul

For – 47
Against – 0
Abstaining – 1

Motion carried, and the annual report for the period 1st April 2023 to 31 March 2024 was adopted.

Annual Accounts

Sean Ausin (SA) presented the annual accounts for the period 1st April 2023 to 31 March 2024. He outlined that Charity's finances were in good health, and that the annual accounts demonstrated that we were in a good position. These had been Independently Examined by Goodman Jones.

SA explained that our income for 2023/24 was £303,906 of which £149,002 came through legacies, £118,742 through donations and individual fundraising, £16,000 through direct fundraising, £14,671 from interest and investments, and £5,491 from sales.

SA discussed our expenditure for 2023/24 which was £216,979. As a result, we achieved a net income of £91,181 (including £4254 in investment growth). From our expenditure, our largest outgoings were staff costs (£111,584 including agency costs), Personal Grants to individuals (£22,666), newsletter costs (£21,803), equipment hire (£13,552), and licenses and subscriptions (£13,252).

SA concluded by discussing the Charity's assets. We have £408,037 of fixed assets. This includes the building, fixtures and fittings, and equipment. We also have £586,752 of net current assets. This gives us total net assets of £994,789 of which £716,647 are in cash or accessible investments.

Motion 2 – That the annual accounts for the period 1st April 2023 to 31 March 2024 be adopted

Proposed – Jenny Willison
Seconded – Lee Raynor
For – 46
Against – 0
Abstaining – 0

Motion carried, and the annual accounts for the period 1st April 2023 to 31 March 2024 was adopted.

Appointment of the Independent Examiners

RC explained that as part of a review of our accountancy and support functions, we were seeking to move out partners for Independent Examination to a more local

organisation. After discussing with a number of potential options, and undertaking of due diligence, we determined that Moore Thompson LLP were best placed to carry out this function.

Motion 3 – That Moore Thompson LLP of Bank House, Broad Street, Spalding, PE11 1TB be appointed as independent examiners for the period 1st April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Proposed – Paul Waine
Seconded – James Wilson
For – 43
Against – 0
Abstaining – 1

Motion carried, and Moore Thompson LLP were appointed as independent examiners for the period 1st April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

Trustee Appointments

RC outline that at present we have eight Trustees. One Trustee (Adam Pownall) resigned in February, and over the year, three Trustees were co-opted onto the Board. He explained the rules of the GAIN constitution and that one third of Trustees needed to retire at each AGM. This year Paul Waine, Lee Raynor, and Jenny Willison retired from the Board. Paul has reached the maximum time limit for being a Trustee and cannot be re-elected. Both Lee and Jenny are seeking re-election.

Motion 4 – To re-elect Lee Raynor to the Board

Proposed – James Wilson
Seconded – Paul Waine
For – 49
Against – 0
Abstaining – 0

Motion carried, and Lee Raynor was duly re-elected to the Board.

Motion 5 – To re-elect Jenny Willison to the Board

Proposed – Jatinder Paul
Seconded – James Wilson
For – 48
Against – 0
Abstaining – 0

Motion carried, and Jenny Willison was duly re-elected to the Board.

RC explained that since the last AGM, three new Trustees were co-opted onto the Board. Since they have not been elected at an AGM they need to step down and seek election.

Motion 6 – To elect Stephanie Parker to the Board

Proposed – Paul Waine

Seconded – Ian Macfayden

For – 49

Against – 0

Abstaining – 0

Motion carried, and Stephanie Parker was duly re-elected to the Board.

Motion 7 – To elect Sean Austin to the Board

Proposed – Jenny Willison

Seconded – Ian Macfayden

For – 49

Against – 0

Abstaining – 0

Motion carried, and Sean Austin was duly re-elected to the Board.

Motion 8 – To elect James Wilson to the Board

Proposed – Jenny Willison

Seconded – Lee Raynor

For – 49

Against – 0

Abstaining – 0

Motion carried, and James Wilson was duly re-elected to the Board.

Open Forum

CH opened the floor for any questions, queries, or comments. There were no questions or queries raised.

Thanking Individuals

CH thanked Paul Waine for his support and service to the Charity since 2015. He has been a pillar for GAIN throughout this time, has been a real driver for change, and has been through a number of high profile projects and support initiatives such as the physiotherapy packs. Paul will be very much missed by the Board, the staff team, and the Charity as a whole.

CH thanked the GBS/CIDP Foundation International for helping to facilitate today happening.

We also thanked Goodman Jones for the support with annual accounts over the years.

Any Other Business

Ian Macfayden stated that he would like to take the opportunity as patron to highlight how the organisation has moved on since the last AGM and his visit to the office earlier in the year. He thanked the team and stated that he was excited about the future for the Charity.

There were no further items of business.

The AGM closed at 11.45am