



BCLA Annual Report 2019/20

Education

| Events

| Community



Best practice

| Learning

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www.bcla.org.uk

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



It seems like only yesterday that I was stood on stage at Manchester Central and received the BCLA Presidential chains from my esteemed predecessor, Professor Sunil Shah. It was, and continues to be, one of the proudest moments of my life and the past 12 months is something I will cherish for many years to come.

Serving as your President has been both a pleasure and an honour and I am forever grateful for the opportunity.

That night in Manchester I said that we needed everybody who's part of the BCLA to raise their voices, share their thoughts and let people know why the BCLA is so important to them so we can encourage so many more people to become part of our big family.

You didn't disappoint.

The BCLA continues to be represented in dozens of countries around the world. It is a truly global organisation. Combining that worldwide appeal with an updated, technology-focused offering for a highly engaged generation of newly-qualified eye care professionals has been a brilliant challenge and one I have enjoyed immensely.

The development of a new BCLA Certificate in Myopia Management, adding to the existing Dry Eye certificate that has proved so popular, has been a great project to be a part of. These accreditations undoubtedly give the public confidence in their practitioner and act as yet another way for our members to stand out from the crowd. If you haven't already registered for either, I would urge you to do so.

Meanwhile, our webinars have now established themselves as our format of choice for scientific meetings and demonstrate our focus on ensuring we enhance the value for our members and improve accessibility.

It's hugely encouraging to see a number of highly-skilled young contact lens practitioners making their way into the profession. They are vital for the future of the nation's eye health and the standard of the entries into the BCLA Awards at the 2019 Clinical Conference and Exhibition proved that patients are in safe hands for many years to come.

We were delighted to name Eleanor Hill as the winner of the 2019 BCLA Young Contact Lens Practitioner of the Year and Dr Saleel Jivraj as Dry Eye Practitioner of the Year. Hardworking and ambitious people such as Eleanor and Saleel can become the next generation of pioneers, innovators and thought leaders in a profession that is always evolving adapting and learning.

Manchester was a wonderful three days and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who made it such a success, from the sponsors, the speakers and the workshop leads to the BCLA office team. The work that goes on behind the scenes to make these events run so smoothly and so successfully should not be underestimated. You are all absolute stars!

Talking of stars, this year the BCLA bid a fond farewell to our own Cheryl Donnelly who departed for pastures new after six years at the helm of our wonderful organisation. Cheryl's passion for the BCLA always shone through and her drive and determination will continue to serve as inspiration for all of us. Thank you Cheryl, once again, for all that you did for the BCLA.

One of the biggest tasks I have faced in the past 12 months has been finding a replacement for Cheryl. I am now delighted to introduce our new Chief Executive Officer, Luke Stevens-Burt, and I look forward to working with him. Luke brings with him a wealth of experience of membership organisations and I am certain he will lead the BCLA into a bright new era at the forefront of eye health.

Finally, thank you to all BCLA members for your invaluable support. It is truly appreciated.

JONATHON BENCH
BCLA PRESIDENT

MEMBERSHIP

The BCLA membership offering has evolved significantly since the emergence of our online learning platform in 2018. The launch of the Certificate in Dry Eye Management and Contact Lens Retention has illustrated a real appetite for digital products and we have been able to develop other areas of online learning to meet the ever-changing demands of the way in which we broaden our knowledge base.

With the continued success and popularity of the Dry Eye course, we are planning to introduce our second online course in Myopia Management, which we hope to make available during 2020. Similar to the Certificate in Dry Eye, the Myopia Management certificate will be issued on successful completion of the course including the online modules, one relevant myopia or myopia management workshop or peer review for the UK and a GOC-approved CET, validated with CE number. This certificate will need to be renewed every four years and BCLA membership must be maintained.

Last year, we saw a growth in attendance figures for all BCLA webinars, proving that this online resource is fast becoming a popular member benefit. The webinars are now a regular feature in the BCLA online events calendar, and all webinars will now be made available on the learning platform for members to view and gain CET points (where relevant). The webinars have made BCLA lectures easily accessible to our members based around the UK and the rest of the world.

In May 2019, the BCLA commissioned a market research project in order to better understand the needs of our current members and those that are currently not members. A clear trend that came from this was the need for more online resources and learning opportunities. With this in mind, the Council strategy day in the summer of 2019 was based on the development of existing benefits and the introduction of new ones.

The BCLA is continuing to work on new membership benefits which will be introduced throughout 2020 and beyond.



In addition to the online courses and webinars, we are working on introducing the ACLM Year Book online and also launching MBCLA, allowing full members of the Association to use the post nominal letters after their name. Ultimately, those using MBCLA will be recognised as supporting the growth of the contact lens and ocular health category, by continually enhancing their skills to the benefit of their patients within this area of expertise.

We continue to work with IACLE to provide monthly Research Updates; a summary of some of the interesting findings appearing in peer-reviewed journals. The aim is to help keep our members up to date with the latest contact lens and anterior eye research, and to locate articles when they need to know more about a particular topic.

The first two quarters of 2019 saw a steady rise in the membership numbers. The main factors being the launch of the online learning platform and the generous conference discounts available with a BCLA membership.

We will continue to work to ensure our membership benefits will deliver against the career needs of the next generation of young professionals whilst continuing to provide everything our strong and loyal member base have come to expect over the years.

MARKETING



2019 was the year of our flagship event, the BCLA Clinical Conference & Exhibition, held in Manchester. We delivered a vivid, eye-catching campaign using clear, simple imagery with a palette of bright colours along with the hashtag of #AlwaysLearning.

The campaign had a far-reaching impact and worked extremely well across all channels in both digital and print.

The first half of 2019 was focused on delivering the campaign artwork and promoting the Clinical Conference. In addition, work also continued to promote the online certificate in Dry Eye. We began promoting the Certificate in Myopia Management later in 2019, ready for a 2020 launch, and we have had more than 200 people register their interest in the first two months of the campaign.

We continued to work on developing our online offering for members, with three well-attended online webinars delivered successfully in 2019. From the initial results of market research and member feedback it is evident that

demand for online resources continues to grow, not only for members based in the UK but also around the world. We will continue this work into 2020, communicating the growing portfolio of our online offering which adds enormous value to the BCLA membership.

Email communication continues to be one of the most effective ways of reaching our members directly, as well as the regularly updated BCLA website. Our social media presence continues to grow and for 2020/21 we will shape our communications strategy to further engage with those that are currently not BCLA members.

The BCLA newsletter, which is published online quarterly and printed and delivered to members in January, continues to remain a popular read amongst the membership. In addition, we have re-launched BCLA Updates, a monthly email digest of what's happening at the BCLA.

As always, our members remain at the forefront of all we do. We will work to ensure that all membership benefits are communicated to relevant membership categories. We have been more targeted in our approach in communicating with our members and this is a trend that will continue to evolve in the months ahead.

There are a number of membership initiatives in the pipeline for 2020 and our primary focus will be developing these further and then promoting them to the membership.

Another project currently in development is a clear and concise list of 'member benefits' outlining the resources available to each distinct group within the overall BCLA membership. This will make it easier than ever before for members to see the benefits available to them and for non-members to see the reasons for joining the Association.

We're looking forward to seeing the BCLA continue to thrive, evolve and progress further in 2020.

JASHAN BAHIA
MARKETING & DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

COMMUNICATIONS

The BCLA Clinical Conference and Exhibition, held in 2019, cemented the view made in this report last year that this is now a truly global organisation, welcoming eye care professionals to Manchester from all four corners of the world.

That international reach means our presence has arguably never been stronger, but it also demands that our messaging is relevant to multiple territories and is delivered with clarity, precision and in a timely fashion.

It is imperative that we engage effectively with all our members, from students to world-leading experts, and from those based in the UK to those in far-flung corners of all continents.



The past 12 months has been a busy period for the BCLA – with a constant stream of activities, events and the production of new resources. This provides us with a regular stream of content with which we can deliver media-friendly press releases, blogs, targeted email campaigns and social media activity.

We have produced dozens of articles, newsletters and email updates to keep members fully up to speed with the latest industry news and developments.

We continue to enjoy positive working relationships with leading UK publications including Optometry Today, Eyes, Dispensing Optics and Vision Now and our popular monthly column in Optician provides us with a platform to present 'The View from the BCLA' – our take on trending stories and industry talking points. This allows us to speak directly to eye care professionals, both BCLA members and non-members.

Our social media presence grows by the day and gives us the chance to build relationships and interact with members and other industry professionals. The content we produce is well-received by a loyal following and our engagement rates continue to out-perform industry averages.

The BCLA website is packed with regularly updated content and continues to evolve into a well-respected 'one-stop shop' for the latest developments in the world of contact lenses and anterior eye.

The BCLA continues to support external organisations' communications where appropriate, and to report on stories within the profession that impact on members.

Our quarterly newsletter, Contact, continues to be well received, with members able to be fully briefed on everything going on at the BCLA.

DANIEL OWENS

PR & COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT

BCLA FELLOWSHIP

The number of BCLA Fellows, who have demonstrated their esteem in the field of contact lenses and/or the anterior eye, is continuing to grow steadily after the introduction of BCLA Fellowship in 2006.

Following the latest round of awards at the 2019 BCLA Clinical Conference, more than 220 Fellows from across the world are now endowed and able to use the post-nominal letters, FBCLA. Further applications have been considered (criteria points are available to view on the BCLA website) and viva voce assessments will take place in late 2020.

2019 Fellows



Karen Carrasquillo
Wan Kin
Daddi Fadel
Patrick Simard
Gurraj Jabbal
Anna Lindskoog Pettersson
Samantha Armstrong
Mauro Frisani

Wojciech Kida
Shalu Pal
Maria Navascues-Cornago
Alberto Recchioni
Amanda Bogers
Debarun Dutta
Vinod Maseedupally
Bridgitte Shen Lee

Marta Vianya-Estopa
Carolina Kunnen
Alexandra Webster
Dave Block
Sandeep Dhallu
Karen Walsh
Sneha Aggarwal
Deepa Chandrasekaran

CONTACT LENS AND ANTERIOR EYE

CLAE Editor's Report 2019 - Shehzad Naroo (Editor-in-Chief)

Contact Lens and Anterior Eye (CLAE) is a peer reviewed journal covering all aspects of contact lens theory and clinical practice and related anterior eye topics.

CLAE is an important journal in the ophthalmic field and is one of only two peer reviewed journals specialising in contact lenses that has an impact factor. The impact factor is an important measure for a peer reviewed journal. In July 2019 the 2018 impact factors were released and CLAE saw a marginal rise on its previous impact factor, now standing at 1.985 and it has been rising steadily for the last 5 years.

The journal is owned by the BCLA and published by Elsevier and has a truly international feel to it with global readership, international authors and editorial panel members from all over the world.

The Editor-in-Chief is Shehzad Naroo (UK) and there are four Associate Editors; Robin L Chalmers (USA), Pauline Cho (Hong Kong), Eric Papas (Australia) and Stephen Vincent (Australia).

In 2020 issue 1, a themed issue around myopia control with contact lenses, with guest editors Nicola Logan (UK) and Kate Gifford (Australia) was published.

In 2021 two themed issues are planned. The first will be on the topic of 'Adaptation and Adverse Responses to Contact Lens Wear' with guest editors Craig Woods (Australia) and Debarun Dutta (UK). The second special issue will showcase the 'Contact Lens Evidence-based Academic Reports (CLEAR)'. The CLEAR project is a Global initiative supported by the BCLA and led by Prof James Wolffsohn and Prof Philip Morgan.

The project aims to provide the current consensus amongst global experts and will tackle topics such as:

- Biochemistry of lens materials, coating, comfort drops and solutions
- Effect of lens materials/design on the anatomy and physiology of the eye
- Speciality lenses
- Contact lens complications
- Medical use of contact lenses
- Contact lens optics
- Future applications of contact lenses
- Evidence based contact lens practice



Dr Shehzad Naroo, CLAE Editor-in-Chief

The editorial board of CLAE met twice in 2019, once BCLA conference in Manchester (England), in May 2019 and again at the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) annual conference in Orlando (Florida, USA) in October 2019.

The meeting was well attended and strategies for taking CLAE forward were discussed.

Separate discussions were held with the publishers Elsevier and the BCLA in order to ensure that CLAE remains well supported by the BCLA and the publishers.

In 2019 CLAE saw a slight drop in the number of papers submitted compared to 2018, but still higher than 2017 and previous years. The rejection rate remains high at around 70%.

Case reports are considered in CLAE, especially if they are novel, have good images, are likely to be of interest to our readership and fit the scope of the journal.

At the end of 2019 Elsevier moved CLAE away from the EVISE online submission platform and returned to an updated version of Editorial Manager. This is the latest version of what was previously known as EES. Editorial manager is the system used by many other journals so most authors will be familiar with it already.

Our Executive Publisher Andrew Miller handed the CLAE reins to Jason Winkler at the end of 2019.

CONTACT LENS AND ANTERIOR EYE

CLAE would like to thank the BCLA Council for their continued support of their journal and Elsevier for their continuing guidance and an enormous thanks to the authors and reviewers who work tirelessly putting manuscripts together for publication in CLAE.

Finally, on behalf of CLAE I would like to express a massive thank to outgoing CEO Cheryl Donnelly. During her time as CEO of the BCLA Cheryl took an active interest in CLAE affairs and was a huge support in helping CLAE to continue to grow its success.

SHEHZAD A. NAROO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



BCLA KEITH CLIFFORD HALL COLLECTION

The BCLA continues to support the BCLA Keith Clifford Hall Collection at the College of Optometrists' Library in London.

Keith Clifford Hall (1910-1964) was an optometric pioneer of contact lens practice whose work is commemorated by a collection of literature held for reference in the College library. The collection is supported by the BCLA and books received for review in Contact Lens & Anterior Eye are added to the collection.

BCLA members who are not members of the College can access the library by contacting the College Librarian on **0207 766 4352** or emailing **library@collegeoptometrists.org**

EVENTS

BCLA webinars (March, June and October 2019)

A series of exclusive webinars gave BCLA members across the world the opportunity to find out more about subjects including contact lens compliance, diagnosis and management of dry eye disease and myopia management from the comfort of their own sofa.

For the first time, the BCLA's traditional 'Evening Scientific Meetings' were presented as online webinars throughout 2019, allowing members to tune in for free. The first session, titled 'It's in their hands! How to optimise contact lens compliance and ensure our patients love their lenses' was hosted by Professor Philip Morgan and Sarah Morgan and proved popular, with a total of 85 people logging in.

The webinar explored current thinking around contact lens compliance and provided evidence-based steps which should be adopted by contact lens wearers to minimise their risk of contact lens associated inflammatory events and infections.

The content was well-received, with post-webinar analysis revealing 95 per cent of those who 'attended' rated the educational content as either 'excellent' or 'good'. A total of 82 per cent said they would recommend a BCLA webinar to a colleague or friend.

The second webinar, titled 'Optometrist vs Ophthalmologist; Different perspectives on dry eye disease diagnostic and management strategies' was hosted by Sarah Farrant and Indy Sian. The session offered a general overview of the latest guidance on dry eye disease from the TFOS DEWS II report and set out how dry eye management differs between community and hospital settings.

It explained how the two groups can work together to support patients with a wide spectrum of dry eye disease. Several case studies highlighting different types of dry eye disease were presented to highlight the differing approaches to investigation, diagnosis and management of dry eye. The third BCLA webinar of 2019, presented by Dr Manbir Nagra and Gillian Bruce, looked at the factors preventing eye care practitioners from fully engaging with myopia management while examining 'real world' experiences to look at ways it can be integrated into everyday clinical practice.

BCLA Clinical Conference & Exhibition, Manchester, May 30 – June 1 2019

A worldwide focus on myopia control is starting to take effect, with audiences at the BCLA Clinical Conference more engaged with the concept than ever before.

Speaking to a packed crowd at the event in Manchester, keynote speaker Dr Jeffrey J Walline from Ohio State University said: "When I first started talking about myopia control there would be 10 people in the audience. Five would be my family and the other five would be in the wrong room. Things have changed now."

A dedicated track on the second day of the three day conference focused solely on the issue of myopia control, with Dr Walline chairing a session which explored the myths and misconceptions in myopia management, compared the benefits of myopia management over putting children into contact lenses and questioned whether or not you could be successful in myopia management without measuring axial length.

As part of the discussion, Dr Walline concluded that spending time outdoors at an early age can delay the onset of myopia but it doesn't necessarily slow its progression.

The conference saw hundreds of eye care professionals from across the world descend on the Manchester Central Convention Centre to enjoy a packed programme of lectures, workshops and peer discussions.

Day One saw keynote speaker Professor Eric Papas address the issue of contact lens comfort and chair a session looking at the types of lenses being prescribed and maintaining ocular health.

Professor Lyndon Jones from the Centre for Ocular Research and Education (CORE) at the University of Waterloo in Canada was awarded the coveted BCLA Medal and used his address to focus on 30 years of research in contact lens deposition, corneal staining and ocular drug delivery.

The prestigious Irving Fatt Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr Nicole Carnt, who focused on the topic of Acanthamoeba Keratitis (AK), while Dr Eef van der Worp chaired a mini Global Speciality Lens Symposium and Professor Philip Morgan studied the relationship between the tear film and contact lenses.

EVENTS

A highlight of the programme saw Professor James Wolffsohn, Associate Professor Jennifer Craig and Dr Sruthi Srinivasan stage a live on-stage Dry Eye Tech session hosted by Professor Lyndon Jones, showcasing the state-of-the-art equipment available to delegates interested in setting up a specialist practice treating Dry Eye Disease. Outgoing BCLA President Sunil Shah, who officially handed over the chains to Alcon's Jonathon Bench at the event's gala dinner, said: "This conference was a truly global gathering featuring the very best speakers on the subjects that matter most to 21st century eye care professionals. To see so many countries from around the world represented in both delegates and speakers proved the enduring international appeal of the BCLA."

"For three days people were given an exclusive insight into the very latest research, data and analysis into the conditions they see in practice day in, day out – giving them invaluable information to take away and use to provide potentially life-changing results for their patients."

The event culminated in the BCLA Awards, with Dr Saleel Jivraj named BCLA Dry Eye Practitioner of the Year Award, Eleanor Hill winning the BCLA Young Contact Lens Practitioner Award and a team from CooperVision landing the BCLA Industry Award. The Diane Gould Photography Competition was won by Fazeela Umar for her image 'Lattice Corneal Dystrophy' while Marta Blanco-Vasquez won the BCLA Poster competition.

A total of 24 new BCLA Fellowships were awarded while five people were awarded Dry Eye Fellowships and 14 people were presented with their certificate for Dry Eye Management and Contact Lens Retention.

BCLA Presidential Address: 'Inspiring Generations', London, 25 September 2019

The President of the BCLA called on eye care professionals to 'inspire generations of patients' and 'be ready for change' as part of his annual address to members.

Jonathon Bench used his Presidential Address at The Royal College of Nursing in London to look back at the 42 years of the BCLA, to better understand the differences between the generations and to appreciate the advances provided for eye care professionals through technology and research.

The lecture looked at the very real challenges that exist in consulting rooms and how the profession can work together to address and overcome them. Jonathon also looked at the way in which patients continue to be the engines for change in the profession. He said: "Each generation offers something different to those who have gone before. There's never a more receptive brain than the one that's been trained to learn. By making sure they are better educated than us we have so much learn from the generation that follows us."

"We are on the cusp of contact lenses going mainstream and it's an exciting time for all of us. Patents are being filed for lenses which monitor glucose levels."

"Contact lenses are being integrated into the management system of patients in the healthcare industry. Drug delivery via contact lenses is just around the corner and we need to be ready for the change."

Jonathon added: "The BCLA has committed itself to be a conduit for education and best practice sharing from peer to peer, creating a community of contact lens and ocular surface advocacy and bringing the cutting edge and novel insights and developments from academia/R&D to the practice. He also called on BCLA members to focus on the positives and remember the impact eye care professionals have on patients' lives."

He added: "Celebrate yourselves on a daily basis and think about the difference you make, remember how special the service you provide is. Think about those moments where you changed someone's life."

EVENTS



BCLA Pioneers & Visionaries Conference, London, 26 November 2019

Eye care practitioners attending the BCLA's Visionaries & Pioneers conference were challenged to make the most of their opportunity to address myopia in a child's formative years, while contact lens drop-out rates and the possibilities offered by artificial intelligence also came under the microscope.

Delegates attending the conference saw Professor Michel Guillon deliver the Pioneers Lecture, in which he addressed the issue of contact lens discomfort – a subject he described as “the biggest challenge we face in practice”.

He added: “Currently, 15 per cent of lens wearers drop out, of these 50 per cent say it is because of discomfort. If we are losing 15 per cent a year, we need to find an additional 15 per cent just to stand still. If there is a problem, let's deal with it early on, let's be proactive.”

Speaking during a session looking at whether orthokeratology lenses should be used for refractive correction or myopia management, Shelly Bansal discussed his role as a pioneering ‘early-adopter’ of Ortho K at the start of his career.

He added: “It wasn't mainstream practice, it was done for correction then, not myopia management. I decided to wear the lenses myself before trying them on patients and I could see why they would get so excited over the lifestyle benefits; it was like magic.

“The freedom Ortho K gives young people is a big plus, they much prefer it to wearing glasses. We have a duty to discuss myopia management with our patients and their parents but it's essential we get the language right.

“Our younger patients are the future of our practices and their expectations are high. They are savvy and they have access to information and resources that we never had.”

Shelly was joined by Dr Jacinto Santodomingo-Rubido for the session, chaired by Nick Howard, which kicked off the annual meeting at the Royal College of Medicine in London.

Further sessions at the conference included Dr Vijay Anand and Shreeti Lakhani looking at the role of mini-sclerals and Sarah Farrant and Indy Sian discussing dry eye from the viewpoint of both an optometrist and an ophthalmologist.

The final session gave a glimpse into the future with Dr Manbir Nagra, Dr Byki Huntjens and Dr Nikolas Pontikos examining the potential for artificial intelligence to impact on anterior segment grading.

BCLA Contact Lens Fitting Skills Day, Birmingham, 8 December 2019

Trainee contact lens opticians, pre-reg optometrists, newly-qualified practitioners and those returning to practice have been given a hands-on refresher on basic contact lens fitting skills.

Education, interaction and a range of workshops were on the agenda at the annual BCLA Fitting Skills Day – held at the ABDO National Resource Centre in Birmingham.

BCLA COUNCIL 2019-20

PRESIDENT

Jonathon Bench

PRESIDENT ELECT

Indie Grewal

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Sunil Shah

PAST PRESIDENT

Keith Tempny

COUNCIL 2019/20

Luke Allen
 Josie Barlow
 Sidsel Bockhahn
 Philip Deja (Lay Member)
 Sarah Farrant
 Indie Grewal
 Byki Huntjens
 Nick Howard
 Rakesh Kapoor
 Christine Purslow
 Neil Retallic
 Rebecca Stoner

BCLA CONSULTANTS

Professor James Wolffsohn, Chair of Academic Committee, Chair of Conference Scientific Programme
 Dr Shehzad Naroo, CLAE Journal Editor-in-Chief
 Daniel Owens, Communications Consultant
 Dr Michael Read, Fellowship Consultant
 Marc Bennett, Financial Consultant

BCLA STAFF

Cheryl Donnelly, Chief Executive Officer (to March 2020)
 Luke Stevens-Burt, Chief Executive Officer (from April 2020)
 Jashan Bahia, Marketing & Communications Manager
 Cilia Launay, Events Manager
 Latisha Henry, Membership Assistant



Top row, left to right: Luke Allen, Byki Huntjens, Philip Deja, Josie Barlow, Nick Howard, Rebecca Stoner
Bottom row, left to right: Christine Purslow, Neil Retallic, Jonathon Bench, Sunil Shah, Indie Grewal, Sarah Farrant, Keith Tempny

FINANCIAL REPORT 2019

Against a challenging background with a vast number of optical conferences competing for sponsors, exhibition income and delegates, the BCLA achieved a very satisfactory surplus for the year. The Council and wonderful BCLA staff have worked tirelessly to develop the conference whilst maintaining a high level of member benefits. The financial objective for 2019 was to balance the budget when combined with the non-conference year of 2018, whilst continuing to safeguard resources. I am delighted to report that these objectives have been met for 2019 subject to a small deficit before tax of £14,672 over the two years. Everyone at the BCLA is also aware that 2020 will be a challenging year for the Association following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020.

Financial Review

The consolidated position for the year was a surplus of £113,303 before tax of £3,661 (2018 = deficit of £127,016). The total reserves of the association at the year-end were £372,161 against £262,519 at 31 December 2018. Total income from activities rose to £1,075,485 (2018 = £541,492) and this figure was £12,099 lower than the last main conference year of 2017, a reduction of 1.1%. Tight budgetary control meant that total charitable expenditure was more than covered by incoming resources (112% self-financed in 2019 compared with 81% self-financed in 2018).

Group cash balances at the year-end increased to £430,453 (2018 = £326,793) to comply with the reserves policy of maintaining liquidity at 6 months overheads. Cash flows from operating activities in 2019 were a surplus of £102,527 against a deficit in 2018 of (£100,893). 2019 was a main conference year and it should be noted that cash balances held are cyclical because of the timing of the main conference in the Spring. Accordingly, cash balances are highest during Spring/Summer and far lower in Autumn/Winter months.

Conference

Last year's Clinical Conference in Manchester was well attended with 957 attendees. The conference continues to be the mainstay of the Association's income and with the tireless efforts of the Council and staff it is hoped that the conference will maintain its successful run in Manchester in 2021. We remain grateful to all of the BCLA's sponsors, whose steadfast support continues to allow the Association to host one of the world's leading contact lens meetings.

Members Benefits

The Council has again focused on increasing the membership benefits over the past year and it is hoped that membership numbers grow as is usual in the conference year of 2021 from the level at 31st December 2019. Continued investment and activity in membership marketing is of paramount importance in achieving these growth goals, as it is vital not only to attract new members but to retain existing members as well.

Financial outlook into 2020

I would like to thank Cheryl Donnelly for all her hard work and assistance over the past 6 years and am delighted to report that the new CEO Luke Stevens-Burt has already made great strides in reviewing the financial systems of the Association.

The financial position of the BCLA will require diligent management over 2020 due to the ongoing challenges caused by the Covid-19 outbreak. BCLA UK has been postponed to November and features digital elements that will enable the ability to migrate online at short notice. This will provide a high quality experience and provide further financial mitigation should the pandemic continue to challenge large events into 2021.

For the financial year ended 31st December 2020, the outbreak of Covid-19 has caused significant disruption to the Associations activities. A deficit is forecast of (£130,250) for the year and has come from decisions taken by the Council to maintain the BCLA team together to deliver both member benefits in 2020 and the main international conference in 2021. As in previous years, a non-conference year features a deficit forecast, but the Council and CEO will use their best endeavours to keep it to a minimum to enable the BCLA to enter 2021 from a position of strength.

MARC BENNETT FCA

FINANCIAL CONSULTANT TO BCLA
AUGUST 2020

SUMMARISED ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 December 2019

	2019 £	2018 £
Income from:		
Conference, exhibition, journal and other income	1,075,485	541,492
Investment income	1,133	627
Total income	1,076,618	542,119
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	716,589	452,929
Conferences and exhibitions	214,870	194,316
Member services including journal	35,517	22,849
Total charitable expenditure	966,976	670,094
Net (expenditure)/income for the year	109,642	(127,975)
Net movement in funds		
Fund balances at 1 January 2019	262,519	390,494
Fund balances at 31 December 2019	372,161	262,519

The statement of financial activities included all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities. The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

Group Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2019

	2019		2018	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets		1,994		3,300
Investments	2		2	
Current assets				
Debtors	69,888	296,006	24,865	141,628
Cash at bank and in hand	430,453	326,793	429,147	325,287
	500,341	622,799	454,012	466,915
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	130,174	363,580	78,409	93,877
Net current assets	370,167	259,219	375,603	373,038
Total assets less current liabilities	372,161	262,519	375,605	373,040
Income funds				
Unrestricted funds	372,161	262,519	375,605	373,040
	372,161	262,519	375,605	373,040

The charitable company's net income for the year was £2,565 (2018: net expenditure of £13,554).

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on and are signed on its behalf by:

Professor S Shah
Trustee

Mr J Bench
Trustee

Company Registration No. 01336067

AGM MINUTES 2019

2019 Annual General Meeting of the British Contact Lens Association Limited, was held at 16.30 hours on 1 June 2019 at the Exchange Auditorium, Manchester Central, Manchester, M2 3GX.

AGENDA meeting

1. To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10 June 2018.

Approved by Jonathon Bench and Josie Barlow

2. Matters arising from the Minutes.
No matters arising

3. Report of the Council (see 2018 Annual Report).
CEO advised that the copy of the Annual Report was available for all members to review on the website and had, in line with the Articles of the Association, been made available on 14 May 2019. CEO highlighted key points of activity that should be called out and thanked those Council Members who had been responsible for being part of these areas. These projects included the education events; BCLA UK hosting two events in two cities and the repeat of BCLA Asia held in Singapore. BCLA also launched online learning platform to deliver the Dry Eye and Contact Lens Retention Certificate and the first education via a Webinar.

No comments from those members attending the AGM

4. To consider and receive the accounts and balance sheet of the Association for the period 1 January to 31 December 2018.

Proposed by Nick Howard, seconded by Keith Tempamy

5. To appoint H W Fisher & Co as auditors of the Association and to authorise the Council to determine their remuneration.

Proposed Maxine Green, seconded by Sidsel Bockhahn

6. To appoint new directors
Council Composition remains unchanged for this next year, so no new trustees to be appointed.

7. To report the composition of the 2019–2020 Council
President - Jonathon Bench
President Elect & Honorary Treasurer - Indie Grewal
Past President - Prof Sunil Shah
Lay Member - Philip Deja
Keith Tempamy; co-opted by council to continue an extra year to lead and complete the launch of the Myopia Management project.

Neil Retallic
Rakesh Kapoor
Sidsal Rytter Bockhahn
Josie Barlow
Byki Huntjens
Rebecca Stoner
Sarah Farrant
Christine Purslow
Luke Allen
Nick Howard

8. Awards
Honorary Life Membership is awarded to Maxine Green for serving for 6 years as Honorary Treasurer and Executive Board Member to recognise her commitment and unrelenting support of the organisation.

2018 awarded the BCLA ABDO Contact Lens Prize, which is a Full Membership for one year and a £200 cheque. 2018 winner was Steven Alexander. There were no Summer Scholarship submissions and the other scientific Awards are not presented in a non-Clinical Conference year.

9. AOB
A member commented on the use of the Powered by Sessions that were within the conference programme for the first time this year, concerned that they were too company biased. CD thanked the member for their comment and offered a suggestion that council and the programme planning committee would review delegate feedback as well as the feedback received at the AGM to decide whether this format was to be used in future meetings.

A further comment was around the request for considering other ways of retaining Fellowship for those who are overseas and cannot always get to a Clinical Conference, would the council consider other ways of maintaining the Fellowship other than attending a Clinical Conference every two years, similar to the system the American Academy of Optometry. Another suggestion was to consider more online offerings for overseas members which may act as credits towards Fellowship retention.

CD and the Fellowship Consultant agreed to review if there was an opportunity of gaining credits in a different way for overseas members.

The meeting was closed at 4.53pm

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