

British Medical Laser Association

Honorary Secretary's Report

May 2024

Introduction

Despite an increase in membership fees implemented at the start of the year, the BMLA finished 2023 with a record high membership of 137 full members, 114 standard members and 11 honorary members, giving a grand total of 262 members. The annual conference in Cardiff was also a huge success with excellent attendance and a fantastic programme (more on that later). In addition, 2023 was the year in which the BMLA invested in both a significant re-brand and a project to introduce a new membership platform improving operational efficiency and membership value. Such a successful year is testament to the hard work and effort by all the executive committee and the fantastic support from our PCO's - Rose and Madelina (thank you).

Rebrand

The new BMLA brand/logo was introduced at the close of the year via a sequence of social medial posts, emails, and the refreshed website. Initial design concepts had been presented at the annual conference, earlier in the year, where delegate feedback helped inform the final design. As seen from the header of this report, the new logo is an improved, more modern design projecting a professional yet contemporary image. In addition, the introduction of a more inclusive strap line "Dedicated to the scientific applications of lasers, light and energy-based devices" speaks to a wider audience including non-medics and practitioners using devices other than just laser. The implementation project ensured the new brand was disseminated across the website, social media and the new membership platform ready for the start of 2024.

Membership Platform

For several years, the executive committee has been seeking ways to enhance value for members of the BMLA as well as looking for a better membership management system. Both matters have been addressed through the introduction of a new membership database. Following a selection process, VeryConnect (<https://www.veryconnect.com/>) were appointed to implement the new cloud-based IT package and create a system to manage membership applications/sign-up whilst also providing a structure for a member only platform. Key benefits from this investment include an automated sign-up journey, a rolling membership period (i.e. 12 months from the date of sign-up, rather than a Jan – Dec membership period) and an autorenewal process. The membership area within the platform facilitates the management of members own personal details whilst having access to resources, news and articles. The platform also has a facility to allow the BMLA to host its own webinars.

The configuration and data migration was a considerably project with Madalina dedicating significant time and effort. The new system went live in January with existing members being asked to sign-up to the new platform from mid-January onwards. Further work is now required to encourage members to use the facilities available and to up-load content to the platform, thereby creating an environment that provides additional value to being a member of the BMLA.

Annual Conference

In May (2023), the BMLA hosted its 40th annual conference at the VOCO St. Davids, Cardiff. The conference was a huge success with a high-quality evidence based scientific programme and, as always, the BMLA educational courses proved extremely popular. Adding to educational course content this year was introduction of two new sessions, “The Nuts and Bolts of Photobiomodulation” presented by Reem Hanna, and “Scars” presented by Jonathon Pleat and Raman Bhutani. The BMLA was also delighted to announce the “Vasant and Nirmal Oswal Trinee Scholarships” new for the 2023 conference. The generous donation for these scholarships provided three trainees with the opportunity to attend the annual conference which was gratefully received by the recipients. The BMLA is hugely appreciative to Vasant and Nirmal for their continued support.

Perhaps the highlight of the conference was the great debate in which a sham Court scene was acted out live on the stage to the delight of all the delegates (especially Prof. Harry Mosley as the fanatical judge). The light-hearted session ended with a more serious message regarding the forthcoming changes to legislation in England for the use of Laser/IPL for cosmetic treatments with a presentation from the Joint Council of Cosmetic Practitioners (JCCP). With a record attendance of over 200 delegates and generating a small surplus, the conference was deemed a resounding success.

Conference prizes for 2023:

BMLA Prize for 2023

- £100 cash award
- BMLA Standard Membership for the current year [current value of £55]
- One complimentary conference ticket for the next edition of the conference
- One complimentary gala dinner ticket for the next edition of the conference [priced at £84 in 2023]

Three awarded to the following:

1. Dr Maria Bageta - The use of Pulsed Dye Laser for multiple hypertrophic scars secondary to severe pyoderma gangrenosum
2. Dr Pushplata Srivastava - Laser for the treatment of Argyria - a rare presentation
3. Ms Sophie Stretch - Case report: A patient receiving Pulsed Dye Laser-Activated Photodynamic Therapy for Extramammary Paget Disease

The BMLA was again very grateful to Springer for the donation of their book voucher with the following recipients:

SPRINGER Prize (2 awarded):

- £100 book voucher sponsored by Springer (valid for Springer published eBooks)
- BMLA Standard Membership for the current year sponsored by the BMLA [current value of £55]

Carrie Davis: “Pulse stacking with Alexandrite laser for the management highly resistant verruca’s”

Florence Robinson: “Treatment of iatrogenic vulva using surgical ablative and fractional CO2 laser”

Council elections took place during the AGM as Kathy Fan, Raman Bhutani, Jon Exley, Vishal Madan and Samira Syed had all reached the end of their tenure on the BMLA executive committee this year (2023). They each stood for re-election and were successfully voted for another term in office.

Summary

Whilst there has been much focus on the implementation of the new membership platform and the rebrand during 2023, the BMLA has continued to meet its key charitable objectives. One great example is the work undertaken with the British Association of Urological Surgeons (BAUS) to produce recommendations for laser safety eyewear in endourological procedures. With this collaboration and other such activities, the BMLA is proud to continue delivering its key objectives for the medical laser community:

- Promote the safe operation of lasers and light-based technology in the treatment of human diseases.
- Promote research and development in laser and light-based technology in medicine and by the publication of the useful results of such research.
- Establish standards in the medical application of lasers and light-based technology.
- Promote collaboration and understanding between clinical and scientific disciplines in the field of laser and light-based technology application.



Dr. Jonathan Exley

Honorary Secretary

**BRITISH MEDICAL LASER ASSOCIATION
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT
AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**British Medical Laser Association
Contents**

	Page
Charity Information	1
Independent Examiners' Report	2
Statement of Financial Activities	3
Balance Sheet	4
Notes to the Accounts	5 to 7

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Charity Number	800062
Registered Office	179 Park Lane Poynton Cheshire SK12 1RH SK12 1RH
Accountant	Neal Ford Accounts 179 Park Lane Poynton Cheshire SK12 1RH
Independent Examiner	Leathley & Co – Poynton Office AAT Member in Practice Park Lane Business Centre 78 Park Lane Poynton Cheshire SK12 1RE

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of British Medical Laser Association

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of British Medical Laser Association for the year ended 31 December 2023

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('The 2011 Act').

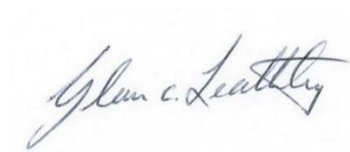
I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I can confirm that **no material matters have come to my attention** in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that, in any material aspect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act ; or
- the accounts did not accord with those records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Glenn C. Leathley
FMAAT FFA FFTA FIPA
Leathley & Co.
Park Lane Business Centre
78, Park Lane
Poynton
Cheshire
SK12 1RE
03 May 2023

**British Medical Laser Association
Income and Expenditure Account
For The Year Ended 31 December 2023**

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
TURNOVER		91,829	63,316
Cost of sales		(86,754)	(50,977)
GROSS SURPLUS		5,075	12,339
Administrative expenses		(12,159)	(7,797)
OPERATING (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS		(7,084)	4,542
Other interest receivable and similar income		1,068	106
DEFICIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR		(6,016)	4,648

The notes on page 5 form part of these financial statements.

British Medical Laser Association
Balance Sheet
As At 31 December 2023

		2023		2022	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	4	507		1,277	
Cash at bank and in hand		72,461		77,707	
		72,968		78,984	
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	5	(751)		(751)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)			72,217		78,233
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			72,217		78,233
NET ASSETS			72,217		78,233
Income and Expenditure Account			72,217		78,233
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARDS			72,217		78,233

The notes on page 5 form part of these financial statements.

The net movement of funds stated is derived in full throughout the year from continuing charitable operations.

Approved by the board 4th April 2024

And signed on its behalf by

Dr Raman Bhutani
Trustee
04/04/2024

1. General Information

British Medical Laser Association is a charity, registered in England & Wales, registered number 800062. The registered office is 179 Park Lane, Poynton, Cheshire, SK12 1RH.

2. Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011

Change in basis of accounting or to previous accounts

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and method of accounting) since last year and no changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds: These are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity.

Designated funds: These are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds: These are available for use subject to restrictions imposed by the donor or through terms of an appeal.

Income

Recognition of income: Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to, and virtually certain to receive, the income and the amount of the income can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Income with related expenditure: Where income has related expenditure the income and related expenditure is reported gross in the SoFA.

Donations and legacies: Voluntary income received by way of grants, donations and gifts is included in the SoFA when receivable and only when the Charity has unconditional entitlement to the income.

Tax reclaims on donations and gifts: Income from tax reclaims is included in the SoFA at the same time as the gift/donation to which it relates.

Donated services and facilities: These are only included in income (with an equivalent amount in expenditure) where the benefit to the Charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material.

Volunteer help: The value of any volunteer help received is not included in the accounts.

Investment income: This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets: This includes any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

Gains/(losses) on investment assets: This includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments.

Expenditure

Recognition of expenditure: Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Expenditure on raising funds: These comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income, fundraising trading costs and investment management costs.

Expenditure on charitable activities: These comprise the costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services in the furtherance of its objects, including the making of grants and governance costs.

Grants payable: All grant expenditure is accounted for on an actual paid basis plus an accrual for grants that have been approved by the trustees at the end of the year but not yet paid.

Governance costs: These include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Charity, including any audit/independent examination fees, costs linked to the strategic management of the Charity, together with a share of other administration costs.

Other expenditure: These are support costs not allocated to a particular activity.

British Medical Laser Association
Notes to the Accounts
For The Year Ended 31 December 2022

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and on hand, demand deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. In the statement of financial position, bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings or current liabilities. In the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the company's cash management.

Trade and other creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Receipt of donated goods, facilities and services

All donated goods, facilities and services received are recognised within incoming resources and expenditure at an estimate of the value to the charity.

Average Number of Employees

Average number of employees, including trustees, during the year was as follows: NIL (2021: NIL) Neither the trustees nor any persons connected with them received any remuneration or expenses during the year.

3. Charity Status

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

4. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Due within one year		
VAT	507	1,277

5. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	1	1
Accruals and deferred income	750	750
	751	751

6. Company limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company, in the event of a winding up, such an amount as may be required not exceeding £1.

British Medical Laser Association
Detailed Income and Expenditure Account
For The Year Ended 31 December 2023

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
TURNOVER				
Conference income		42,181		42,123
Membership fees		17,880		12,413
Website advertising		1,250		1,250
Other revenue		30,518		7,530
		<u>91,829</u>		<u>63,316</u>
COST OF SALES				
Purchases	8,056		-	
Management fees	23,488		23,505	
Premises costs	54,309		24,395	
Support and administration costs	901		3,077	
		<u>(86,754)</u>		<u>(50,977)</u>
GROSS SURPLUS		5,075		12,339
Administrative Expenses				
Staff training	80		-	
Travel expenses	265		82	
Insurance	-		555	
Advertising and marketing costs	2,113		2,368	
Website costs	2,727		213	
Independent Examination Fee	750		750	
Accountancy fees	600		(1,190)	
Subscriptions	4,400		4,255	
Bank charges	924		763	
Sundry expenses	-		1	
Oration Award	300		-	
		<u>(12,159)</u>		<u>(7,797)</u>
OPERATING (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS		(7,084)		4,542
Other interest receivable and similar income				
Bank interest receivable	1,068		106	
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(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR		<u><u>(6,016)</u></u>		<u><u>4,648</u></u>

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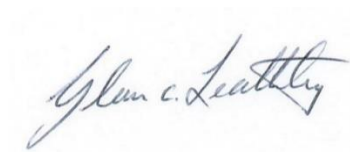
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Trustee
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