



Chairman's Annual Report

Welcome everybody, and thank you all for joining us today. I am Anna Harris – Vice Chair of Trustees, standing in for Rachel George, our newly appointed Chair. I am joined today by fellow Trustee and BMSTC's Treasurer, Dave Dyer. I will hand over to him in a minute for his Finance Report.

Annual Report

For those of us who have previously attended the AGM, it should be noted that this year is the first time we have held it in October – with meetings always held in June before now. Because of this it may feel even more distant as we review our position for 2025 – almost a full year ago.

Because of this and the level of development we have experienced in 2026 it is only right and proper to acknowledge these changes before we move on to review our previous year as a charity.

Firstly, we welcomed our former Treasurer Rachel George into the role of Chair. Neil Dawkins who had served us for many years as an amazing Chair stepped down earlier this year. Neil led the charity through some extraordinary times included Covid and we are very grateful for all achieved during his time heading BMSTC – we wish him the very best.

As mentioned, unfortunately, Rachel was unable to be with us today, but I have the honor of delivering the Chairs report for this year.

We also welcome Dave Dyer who has joined the Trustee Board this year as our new Treasurer and will be reporting on our 2025

accounts. Thank you to Dave for joining us and for all his support as we continue to navigate through challenging financial times.

Other Trustee changes not previously reported are the departure of Lubna Arif-Schmidt and Abigail Simmons, we thank both for their valuable contribution to the Centre.

As you will hear from Dave and see from the accounts, 2025 was an incredibly difficult year for the charity. We ended the year at a deficit and have been working very hard this year to make cost savings and as well as areas of potential income growth to reverse this position.

Cost saving measures have explored some reduction in services and have included a staff pay freeze and a proposal to reduce pension contributions made by the charity. We know you value our staff as much as we do, so hope these measures reflect the severity of the situation.

We have been fortunate to have received two extraordinary donations this year of £25K and £15K – both instrumental in ensuring we could maintain services and continue to provide both oxygen and footcare which were at risk.

Without this support, the level of service we deliver would have been severely impacted this year.

Dave will go into further details but as with many in the charity sector we faced difficult times with rise in costs, decline in donations and giving and growing demand for available funds, making competition for any available funding resources extremely high.

This is an on-going situation and our position from 2025 really reflects the problems we faced.

Although it was a difficult year, we did also have cause for celebration.

We were the recipients of the Kings Award for Voluntary Services – honoring the incredible contribution made by our 60 plus volunteers.

We were all so incredibly proud to see our longest standing volunteer Malcolm Cook and former Chair Neil Dawkins receive the award on our behalf – a truly memorable moment and a well deserved recognition.

Last year also saw our highest numbers yet, with the Centre supporting 471 people with more than 15,000 treatments. Our member feedback continues to demonstrate the real impact of our work. 95% of members said the Centre helps them feel more motivated and happier, 94% reported an improved quality of life and 89% said they feel less isolated.

It really is a testament to hard work and dedication of Pip and the team that we continue to provide such vital services not available anywhere else in our area, creating not only a needful treatment hub, but a real community of support and friendship.

Whilst we have so much to be thankful for, we know we continue to face ever more challenging times. Our focus now must be on sustainability and securing the future of the Centre.

We are increasing our focus on applications to trusts and foundations, while continuing to explore new opportunities and different sources of income.

We cannot stress enough how important your contributions are to ensure we can continue to provide our services.

If you are able to increase your regular donation, even by a small amount, it will make a genuine difference. Regular donations are particularly valuable because they provide us with a more reliable source of income and help us plan for the future.

We would also ask you to think about the people and organisations you know. If you have contacts with businesses, charitable trusts, community organisations or anyone who may be able to support us, please introduce them to us – via Ros in the first instance who will pass on to Freia Pagdin. Sometimes one conversation or introduction can open a door that we would otherwise never reach.

We will continue to make the strongest possible case for support by demonstrating the difference the Centre makes, diversifying our income and maintaining careful financial oversight.

Your ongoing support is vital to the continuing success of the Centre – so please do keep giving, please do keep offering your support, please do keep sharing the work we do.

Finally, I would like to thank staff, volunteers, donors, members, supporters and my fellow Trustees. The commitment and goodwill shown towards the Centre are quite remarkable.

There is no doubt that we have some challenging times ahead, but we also have an extraordinary community around us. Together, we have built something very special here. With your continued support, generosity and help in opening new doors for us, we can make sure the Centre continues to be here for the people who need us, both now and for many years to come.