



Secretary report for AGM June 2019

I write this in the sunshine in London at the end of yet another busy week. I am sure you as members are also busy both with work and home life. Life as Secretary of the ABC has never been busier but never been more interesting than now. The Credential has moved forward at a pace that we, even a year ago, never thought possible. This has to some extent been driven by financial deadlines but also by the realisation that both screening and symptomatic services are going to be in real trouble unless the workforce issues are addressed. We have had lots of enquiries from doctors hoping to become breast clinicians, but I realise that our membership is out there across the UK working away, struggling to meet all the deadlines that we face in the NHS. As a committee this year we have had more meetings than ever, mainly because of our collaboration with the RCR, but we always try to tag a normal executive committee meeting on to our RCR meetings so that we address the issues of our existing membership. We are very cognisant of the issues that you as members may be facing and have tried as much as we can to update the website with details of training days around the country, journals for you to read and of course planning a study day that hopefully you will find interesting and relevant to your practice. We always welcome suggestions from our members and we are hopeful that our numbers will grow as trainees are recruited to our membership. A some of us are planning the final chapters of our careers we hope that the ABC will continue in the hands of new younger, highly skilled breast clinicians who, in some cases at least, will have learned their trade from the old guard. The old song springs to mind. "Make new friends but keep the old, one is silver, the other gold". The same could be said of breast clinicians!

As we move into a new decade we will be faced with new challenges. We will need to ensure that the credential runs its course successfully and that our existing members are recognised for their skills and for the services that they provide. With the boundless energy of Zoe and the thoughtful support of Di, Katie and Kate I very much hope the leadership of the ABC is in good hands. Please continue to support the ABC and as Andy Cope said at Symposium said last year, don't forget to put on your happy pants!

Best wishes,

Dr Cathy Coleman
Secretary of the Association of Breast clinicians.
10th May 2019