

**British Aphasiology Society Chair's Report at
Birmingham City University Symposium September 2014**

Paul Conroy (Chair)

General overview of the committee: We currently have a ten person voluntary committee which meets three times yearly and is supported by ad hoc paid admin support of up to 10 hours per month. The range of events/activities/forms of support currently available to members includes: Yearly conference or symposium (September); Research update study day (April); Newsletters (x3 P.A.); Initiatives in Aphasia Seed Funding; Conference Support Fund and Student Prize.

Events Update: The University of Manchester 2013 conference was generally well received, with good feedback overall from attenders. Attendance was at 150 which was below expectations and below that of previous conferences. This resulted in a substantial financial loss on the event overall of approx. £5000. In order to minimise the risk of a similar loss recurring, we have agreed with colleagues at University College London to hold the 2015 conference there (for maximum accessibility) and will aim to inform members of the conference programme asap in 2015. Every effort will be made to keep costs reasonable for those planning to attend also. The Research Update Meeting in April 2014 meeting was at the University of Newcastle, with a technology focus and was very well attended. The next RUP (April 2015) will be at the University of Edinburgh and will be on the topic of progressive aphasia.

Other developments: Sally Knapp has joined the committee as Newsletter co-ordinator and done a nice job of revamping the newsletter into an electronic format, with links to a range of topics and pages on our website and external ones. Aphasia seed funding has been gathering momentum and is now in its second year. In 2013, three projects were funded ('Drawing my world', 'What's Cooking?', 'Aphasia Communication Support'). Two projects were funded in 2014 ('Linguistic underpinnings of narrative in aphasia', and 'Research outcome measures in aphasia – ROMA'). We hope to fund at least two if not three projects with seed funding in 2015. The conference support fund (CSF) for this academic year will be increased to £3000 in total, covering both BAS and non-BAS events. Finally, Congratulations to Alison Milne, UCL, the winner of the B.A.S. Student Project Prize 2014 with her project entitled: 'A study to investigate the influence of familiar and unfamiliar communication partners on the effectiveness and efficiency of message transaction using total communication with a person with aphasia'.