

The Renal Association

founded 1950

Minutes of meeting of the Executive, Glasgow, 13th May 2008

1. Present: Peter Mathieson (President, in the Chair, PM); Kevin Harris (Clinical Vice-President, KH); Caroline Savage (Academic Vice-President, CS); John Feehally (Past-President, JF, present for part of the meeting); Stuart Rodger (Treasurer, SR); Charlie Tomson (Chair of Renal Registry Committee, CT), Martin Raftery (Chair, Clinical Services Committee), Bruce Hendry (Chair, Research Committee), Colin Baigent (Chair, Clinical Trials Committee), Mick Kumwenda (Associate Specialists' representative), Shabbir Moochala (Specialist Registrars' representative, SM), Paul Stevens (President, British Renal Society, PS), Mark Taylor (President, British Association for Paediatric Nephrology), Gordon Bell, Paul Rylance (Society of DGH Nephrologists), Steve Powis (Chair, Specialty Advisory Committee), Mark MacGregor (webmaster, MM), "Magdi" Yaqoob, Sue Carr (SC), Andy Lewington (AL), Laurie Solomon (LS), Paul Stevens (PS). Julia Phillips of MCI was in attendance.

Apologies had been received from: David Goldsmith (DG), Edwina Brown, Tim Johnson, Jo Adu, Robert Mactier, Fiona Loud, Lorraine Harper & Donal O'Donoghue.

The President opened the meeting by warmly welcoming the three new elected members SC, AL & LS, plus SM who henceforth would be representing the SpR club.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record except that the title of item 11 should say Blagg not Bragg; the penultimate line under item 14 should say HTA (Health Technology Agency) not MRC; the action point under item 17 on Research in UK Dialysis was for Caroline Savage not Charlie Tomson.
ACTION DG/MCI
3. Matters arising: under item 8, PM and PS did indeed produce a joint submission to the Darzi team and had received a reply that was positive and welcoming in tone but light on detail. Also under item 8, the capitation fee for Renal Patient View (RPV) that had been suggested by JF on behalf of the Renal Information Exchange Group was £2.50 per head, the number of heads being determined by the number of patients receiving renal replacement therapy in that unit since it is considered impractical to attempt to count the number of RPV users. Under item 15, the joint meeting at the Royal Society of Medicine with the Francophone society had been extremely successful: PM commented that at the meeting of the national society presidents during the European Renal Association a clear statement had been made that this type of meeting should be emulated in future.
4. The Presidents' report had been provided: PM particularly wished to highlight the position on the Knowledge Based Assessment (KBA) with the next meeting of the successful alliance of Specialist Societies being held on 29th May, the need for representation of the devolved nations on the Executive (see 15 below) and the suggestion that the Renal Association should consider the need for a new logo: the latter two points were supported and will be taken to the Annual General Meeting.
ACTION PM
5. Treasurer's report: the audited 2007 accounts were presented by SR. They will be available on the website. Overall the Association remains on a sound financial footing. At the year end the General Fund held £215,064 (reserve representing approximately 3 months of expenditure) and the deficit for the year

was £1,415. The Registry Fund held £464,426 (reserve representing approximately 11 months of expenditure) and the surplus for the year was £125,003.

6. KH gave an update on clinical matters including the report from the Guidelines Committee, now chaired by Robert Mactier. Congratulations were offered to the Committee on the progress with getting all the modules of the 4th edition onto the website.
7. The National Clinical Director was not present but had provided a report.
8. CS gave an update on academic matters including the latest developments in the UK Kidney Research Consortium (item 10 of the agenda).
9. SP provided a report from the Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC). One concern related to the KBA and in particular whether the first diet could be offered in November 2008. PM expressed doubt that this would be possible and suggested that early 2009 would be more likely. SP confirmed that he is approaching the end of his term as chair of the SAC and that the selection of his successor was a matter for the Royal College of Physicians. PM thanked SP for all his hard work as SAC chair.
10. see 8 above.
11. Advanced Nephrology Course. The co-organisers Mark Harber and Alex Crowe provided a written report: the bottom line was that the course has successfully moved to a twice a year schedule with the January course being extended from 3 to 4 days. Feedback was outstanding and organisation by MCI was excellent. All agreed that Mark and Alex deserved congratulations and thanks from the Association. Succession planning for the course organisers is required and will be addressed by the President. **ACTION PM**
12. The dates of meetings in 2009 were noted: the Association's annual conference will be joint with the British Transplantation Society in Liverpool from 20 – 24 April 2009 and the ESPN meeting on polycystic kidney disease will be in Birmingham from 2 – 5 September 2009. The Association's 60th anniversary meeting will be in Manchester in 2010 in a shared format with BRS the details of which are yet to be firmly decided.
13. The appointment of Dr Lorraine Harper from Birmingham as the Association's next Honorary Secretary was announced.
14. Membership and Meeting Fees for Non-clinical scientists and Professions Allied to Medicine. A simplified structure had been agreed by the Trustees. The essential component is that "non-clinical" is defined by a member not being currently registered to undertake clinical practice, the implication being that this defines salary scales. It was (and is) believed that this would be acceptable to all.
15. Representation of devolved nations on the Executive. Concerns continued to be expressed about the need for the Association to represent all the nations of the United Kingdom; in recent times much of the publicity for renal issues, albeit very welcome, related only to England. The President recommended to the Executive that Professor John Williams be invited to join the Executive *ex officio* as "Tsar"-equivalent for Wales, that the three current Executive members from Scotland should agree amongst themselves which would be nominated to carry the portfolio for Scotland and that the Northern Ireland nephrologists should be invited to select one of their number to represent Northern Ireland on the Executive. This plan was agreed and will be taken to the Annual General Meeting. **ACTION PM**
16. Any other business: Home Haemodialysis was discussed: MM had raised concerns about the letter sent to the British Medical Journal following the article by Blagg on this subject. All agreed that this is a vital issue for the Association: views included that we should talk about home-based therapies to include peritoneal dialysis as well as home haemodialysis, that the target for provision of HHD publicised by NICE was unrealistic and that home-based therapies should be the subject of discussion at future conferences of the Association.

17. Next meeting 2 pm – 5 pm September 25th 2008 at Robens Suite, Guy's Hospital, London (will be the current Hon Sec's last meeting).

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

18. RIXG report
19. BRS report
20. NPSA report
21. Society for District General Hospital Nephrologists report
22. NSRG Choose and Book report
23. BAPN report

Prepared by Peter Mathieson, President.