

# The Renal Association

## Minutes of

### Meeting of the Executive Committee – Number 182

Canterbury Room, Thistle Euston, London

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2007

14.30 – 17.30hrs

Present - **Peter Mathieson** (President), **John Feehally** (Past-President); **Kevin Harris** (Clinical Vice President); **David Goldsmith** (Hon Sec), **Stuart Rodger** (Hon Treasurer); **David Wheeler** (Chair Clinical Guidelines Committee); **Jonathan Kwan**; **Lawrence Goldberg**; **Edwina Brown** (Chair Education and Training Committee); **Charlie Tomson** (Chair RR Committee); **Stephen Powis** (Chair SAC); **Paul Rylance**; **Rob Lewis**, **Gordon Bell**, **Rob Mactier**, **Magdi Yaqoob**, **Neil Turner** (webmaster); **Phil Kalra**; **Caroline Savage** (Academic Vice President); **Donal O'Donoghue** (National Clinical Director); **Bruce Hendry** (Chair Research Committee); **Martin Raftery** (Chair Clinical Services Committee); **Rob Lewis**, **Paul Stevens** (BRS); **Fiona Loud** (KA), **Shabeer Mushalla** (Chair of SpR Club standing in for Vicky Moxham)

Observing : Julia Phillips (MCI UK)

- 2 Apologies for absence – Dwomoa Adu, Tim Johnson, Mick Kumwenda, Colin Baigent, Mark Taylor (BAPN rep), Vicky Moxham

## MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

- 3 Minutes of the August 2007 181st EC Meeting [**enc 1**]

Accepted as a true record

- 4 Matters arising, not covered in the Agenda

Alex Crowe keen to stay on as ANC co-director

Tim Johnson has been aided to obtain and run an email list of renal scientists who are RA members

The Knowledge-Based Assessment can never be called an “exit exam”

- 5 President's Report [**enc 2**]

President

Peter Mathieson spoke to this. Neil Turner was warmly thanked by the President and the Executive for many years of devoted hard work to establishing and then maintaining the excellent standard of the RA website. He was presented with an engraved object, and applauded. He will be handing over gradually to Mark MacGregor. Thanks were also given to Jonathan Kwan and Lawrence Goldberg for their hard work in many committees and for the RA while they served on the Executive.

An election for three new members of the Executive should take place in January 2008  
[ACTION POINT PETER MATHIESON/DAVID GOLDSMITH/MCI]

World Kidney Day 2008 (13<sup>th</sup> March) was discussed by Fiona Loud (Kidney Alliance) and Rob Lewis. Plans were advanced for a Parliamentary Event, Terrace Marquee at the Houses of Parliament hosted by Evan Harris. Many other events and plans were mentioned. Fiona and Rob were invited to write an article for RA eNEWS. All Executive members were asked to publicise and support WKD 2008.

Rob Lewis reported on a GP questionnaire about Chronic Kidney Disease education. There was no appetite for a national programme. Through the CKD Forum OCB Media were producing a DVD. This could if desired receive RA endorsement through the Education and Training committee (if Rob Lewis sends the material through to Edwina Brown and the committee). There was some debate about access to this material, but the meeting was told this would be free and universal.

6 Treasurer's Report **[enc 3]** Treasurer

Stuart Rodger declared that the financial situation of the RA and RR was sound. Membership subscriptions (individual and corporate) would be rising in 2008, as would RR capitation fees. Committee and Trustee expenditure was down. Teleconferences were to be encouraged, but where a committee meeting needed to happen this should be done if possible at a time when people would be gathering anyway e.g. RA annual meeting.

7 Knowledge Based Assessments Treasurer

A prolonged discussion ensued after the President and the Treasurer introduced the topic of this item – the KBA (never ever again to be called an “exit exam” on pain of excommunication). The financial arrangements and risk-sharing between the RA and the RCP(London) were neither satisfactory nor finalized. As things stood the RA would put up 25% and the RCP 75% of the costs. There was a circa £200,000 overall financial deficit projected, of which around £30-40,000 was risk to the RA over the next 5 years. One “solution” favoured by the RCP was the use of overseas candidates to increase numbers taking the KBAs and of course to increase the revenue generated. This was thought a retrograde step, which might render the KBA “unfit for purpose”. The inflexible RCP approach to examinations, with their determination to adhere to the high cost, albeit high quality, of the MRCP[UK] was commented upon unfavourably by all. Overall, there was little enthusiasm for the present situation and considerable anxiety about the effect this would have on the trainees, the profession and the RA. There would be more discussions with the RCP and other specialist societies in the near future.

## **Clinical Matters**

8 Report from the Clinical Affairs Board / Committees **[enc 4]** Clinical VP

Kevin Harris tabled his report. Items arising included David Wheeler's position on the K-DIGO group (and ensuring that the current Clinical Guidelines Committee chair Rob Mactier would be included on these deliberations), Payment by Results perhaps needing another nomination to the working group due to the illness of a prominent member of the group. There was comment on the lack of specific mention of renal services, haemodialysis or transplantation in either the Academy of Colleges Emergency Medicine Report, or the Darzi reconfiguration / modernizing NHS report. Members were encouraged to find out about their local/SHA Darzi groups, and to lobby these, as well as to contact Lord Darzi directly, about matters renal.

- 9 Specialist Interest Group with Intensive Care Society on Acute Kidney Injury Clinical VP

A specialist interest group is established between the RA and the ICS. The AKI guidelines were approved. Many possible next moves were an option – including joint trainees.

10. NSF Update **[enc 5]** Donal O'Donoghue

New initiatives on the 18 week wait pathways, and Payment by Results were high-lighted by the National Clinical Director (Czar). The Healthcare commission audits on transport and vascular access were approved and would start soon. The proposed CKD audit would need more work. The Department would welcome well founded and researched information about the practice of twice-weekly dialysis where this was being done for the lack of resources available locally.

ISTC arrangements would be finalized in December 2007.

There were many questions for the NCD-Czar. These included comments on the Departmental view on workforce planning, skills mix and the Tooke report on medical training.

### **Education, Training & Research Matters**

11. Education & Training Summary Report **[enc 6]** Edwina Brown

The RA did not present a formal response to the Tooke report. Many other bodies and organizations were doing that.

The next Renal Masterclass was on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008 by Chris Kingswood and John Firth on renal tubular and interstitial diseases (at the Hammersmith Hospital).

Many questions were being raised on the effect of the next phase of the EWTD on renal training. [ACTION POINT – EDWINA AND KEVIN TO DISCUSS/SCOPE THIS]

12. SAC Report **[enc 7]** Steven Powis

Curriculum content likely to be revised again in the next 18 months

13. UK Kidney Research Consortium Academic VP

The UK Renal Research Consortium steering group was chaired by Caroline Savage. This had representation from BTS, BRS, KRUK, UKRR and the RA. There were three work streams – one supporting the development of a national HD study (REN-1), an observational CKD cohort study (REN-2), and the third developing registries for rare conditions (likely in association with the Renal Registry).

### **Other Business**

14. Meetings 2007-2009 Secretary

- 2007 – Brighton and Bristol
- 2008 – London RSM and Glasgow
- 2009 – Liverpool
- RA & ESPN Joint Meeting Birmingham 2009 **[enc 8]** Mark Taylor

These were described and questions answered. The Glasgow meeting preparations were well-advanced, with a three-day main meeting with a Day Zero industrial sponsors session. Abstract submission was now possible on-line. The programme was well-advanced, and all details were available online and in eNEWS.

15. Communications Working Party Report **[enc 9]**

Secretary

This was tabled by David Goldsmith. The findings and recommendations were broadly accepted but, social network solutions to communicating should be kept under review in case these did become more feasible in the NHS environment. Also, the thought of advertising on the RA website was very unpopular with the Executive Committee; whereas carefully designed, tasteful and bench-tested advertisement or sectionalisation on eNEWS was approved.

The registry webpages it was noted had undergone a minor make-over which was an improvement. It was possible that unit-specific registry data would be available tagged onto the unit information already available on the RA website.

Much more input around education, training and trainees should be made using the RA webpages

16. Disclosures of Potential Interest

Secretary

Very nearly 100% response, and these declarations would be being placed on the RA website in Jan 2008 as we had agreed in August 2007. This was endorsed again by the Executive.

17. RA/BRS Joint Meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> Announcement Poster **[enc 10]**

Secretary

Noted

18. AOB

- 2008 Meetings for Executive Committee

President

February 26<sup>th</sup> 2008, September 2008 and then January 2009

- National LCP Renal Symptom Control Guidelines **[enc 11]**

Clinical VP

This was described as worthy but flawed. Basic content errors detracted from its credibility  
[ACTION POINT – KEVIN HARRIS AND GORDON BELL TO CONTACT THE LIVERPOOL LEAD]

19. Date / Time of the next meeting

2pm Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2008. Venue not decided.

## ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| 20. NPSA Report <b>[enc 12]</b>  | Paul Rylance  |
| 21. Report from Specialty Association Reference Group of Choose & Book <b>[enc 13]</b> | Paul Rylance  |
| 22. Report from DGH Nephrology Society <b>[enc 14]</b>                                 | Paul Rylance  |
| 23. Joint Specialty Committee <b>[enc 15]</b>  | John Feehally |
| 24. BAPN <b>[enc 16]</b>   | Mark Taylor   |
| 25. BMA CCSC Medical Specialties Committee <b>[enc 17]</b>                             | Paul Rylance  |
| 26. BRS Report   | Paul Stevens  |

Prepared by David Goldsmith, Hon Sec assisted by MCI-UK  
15-1-2008