

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

of

The Society for Research into Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida (SRHSB)

Held in the

Seminar Room B Eric P Newman Educational Centre, St Louis, Missouri, USA

On 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017 at 12.20pm

1. The President welcomed all to the Annual General Meeting.
2. Present: Some 23 members attended (as per sederunt book).
3. Apologies were noted from Carol Sobkowiak, Marcus Pauly, Reinhold Cremer, Jo Glazier, Jaleel Miyan, Maria Cartmill, Gill Yaz, Roger Bayston, John Pickard, Doug Cochrane.
4. Minutes of the previous meeting held in Stirling on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 were approved on motion by Ewan Mackinnon and seconded by Carolyn Harris.
5. Obituaries: It was noted with regret the passing of the following members of the society during the year. Norman Guthkelch, Gillian (Gill) Hunt, Mami Yamaski
6. Presidents Report.

The president Pat McAllister made reference to the following:

- a. Thanks expressed to Carolyn Harris and Waheed Ashraf for restructuring the website which is more user friendly and has resulted in considerable cost savings in web hosting.
  - b. He noted a drop in Society membership attendance at this year's International Conference
  - c. There is a need for a Transition period to determine what the future holds for the Society
  - d. His intent to survey all members to determine future direction for the Society, frequency of meetings and how to encourage new investigators and increase membership generally.
7. Hon Sec Report.
    - a. In the absence of the Hon Sec, A Wynd (Hon Sec Elect) confirmed that he had visited Reinhold Cremer (Hon Sec) in Cologne recently and Reinhold sent his very best wishes to all and wished members a successful conference event in St Louis.
    - b. A Wynd confirmed that Reinhold had handed over all SRHSB Honorary Secretary correspondence and also an electronic backup of all SRHSB material.
    - c. A Wynd suggested that a key task to be completed was to revise the Rules of the Society to ensure compliance with the Charities Commission and to ensure the Society sends an update on recent changes to Trustees. Agreed.

8. Honorary Treasurer's Report.

- a. Ian Pople noted that draft audited accounts were not available for the meeting but were currently with auditors and should be available soon.
- b. Management Accounts to date confirmed £27856 in current account (RBS), reserves (Co-op) £33000, £2200 Paypal. Total £63k.
- c. Significant savings in the year due to inhouse web design, hosting and support, as well as teleconference meetings of the Executive Committee.
- d. Stirling (2016) meeting generated a small surplus.
- e. Bank Charges' wrongly applied, had been refunded by the Bank.

9. Membership Secretary

- a. David Nash noted that data are in transition from the new website. It is easier to sign up to be a member. We currently have 100+ members, 8 new members. Personal contact has elicited an increase in membership payments and the new website will host automated payments and reminders.
- b. Membership fee to be retained at £75.00. Agreed.

10. Webmaster Report.

- a. In the absence of Waheed Ashraf, Carolyn Harris confirmed work was in progress and new functionality will emerge over time including a Comment box on the website.

11. Folic Acid Report:

- a. In the absence of the spokesperson on Folic Acid, the President confirmed that an agreement had been reached through Jo Glazier that she would attempt to arrange a meeting with Jaleel Miyan and Carol Sobkowiak to meet to conclude work on a report on the Symposium on Folic Acid in 2015.

12. Exec Committee Nominations

- a. President Elect. Prof John Pickard, Cambridge. Proposed by Andy Wynd and seconded by Ann Wing. Unanimously approved
- b. Webmaster: Waheed Ashraf indicated his wish to stand down, Carolyn Harris nominated as webmaster Unanimously approved
- c. North American Correspondent: No nomination. Agreed Executive committee to be delegated powers to appoint. Proposed, Ewan Mackinnon, seconded Dave Nash. Unanimously agreed
- d. Publications Sec Elect: No Nomination. Agreed Executive Committee to be delegated powers to appoint. Unanimously agreed.

13. 2018 Meeting. The consensus from the Executive Committee was that we should consider deferring a full meeting in 2018. ISFCSF (now Hydrocephalus Society (HS)) will be having their conference in Oct 2018 in Bologna, Italy. It was noted that there may be a possibility to have a joint meeting in Bologna; at least the HS has encouraged that. Mark Hamilton highlighted events management costs as an issue as the HS have moved away from self managed Local Organising

Committees. There has, however, been very good collaboration in recent years between 2 societies. Agreed to defer to seek views of wider membership before final decision made.

14. It was noted that the St Louis conference, from a financial perspective, may break even but details will be forthcoming over the next few months when accounts are finalized.
15. Ann Wing from the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London noted that the Spina Bifida Clinic held over many years by Dr Richard Morgan was currently under threat due to Dr Morgan retiring at the end of July. The Hospital is now indicating that no further funding is available for continuation. Agreed SRHSB will write letter of support for continuation as this is a vital service for adult patients.
16. Publications Secretary
  - a. Marcus Pauly (who was unable to attend the meeting) had asked that the meeting consider specific developing countries support for funding to support them in research. Agreed to investigate further
17. Archivist/Historian. Ewan Mackinnon, the current Archivist/Historian suggested he meet with the Executive at a future date to review the role of the Archivist/Historian. Agreed.
18. Closure: There being no further business the meeting was closed.