

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
of  
The Society for Research into Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida (SRHSB)  
Held in  
University of La Laguna Canarias, Spain  
On 27th June 2019 at 12.35pm

1. The President welcomed all to the Annual General Meeting

Present: Some 20 members attended (as per sederunt book)

Apologies were noted from J Glazier, C Sobkowiak, E MacKinnon

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held in Bristol, England on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018 were approved.

3. Matters Arising: None

4. AOCB – None

5. **Presidents Report**

The president John Pickard opened his remarks by expressing gratitude to the Local Organising Committee and in particular Leandro and Augustine Castaneyra de Cruz for their organisation of an excellent event and Conference.

He thanked Roger Bayston and Hazel Jones for their agreement to chair the pre-meeting in Basic Science and Clinical Sessions.

Going forward in the Society he believed the Society was at a crossroads – we no longer seem to attract Paediatric Surgeons with an interest in Spina Bifida. He suggested we need to reconstruct the Society because patient demand a coherent service backed up by basic science. He encouraged all members to write to him with any constructive suggestions as to how to effect change in the society. Perhaps for instance the charity sector/patient groups should take more front stages?

As SB patients' life expectancy is increasing, aging is becoming a challenge with our community

How do we create more interest in clinical and basic science? How do we encourage more young people into the Society?

Should we develop a much bigger Bursary programme? Should we collaborate with our disciplines? Should we encourage more input from neurology and Urology?

A suggestion that members might be asked to donate personally to a Research Bursary

Should we consider revising our approach to the Annual Conference and Meeting to include consideration of holding the conference at a different time of year. Should we perhaps consider including a session on how to write a grant bid for research funding for new investigators?

Consideration should also be given to promoting the Society more widely through the soon to be launched new website and other social media platforms.

Members also suggested the value in ensuring that conferences had a mechanism for awarding CPD points as most disciplines now required some form of CPD accreditation. A minimum requirement would be a certificate of attendance as a standard of any conference package.

It was suggested that the La Laguna Conference could be reported in a Commentary Format. Hazel Jones and Roger Bayston agreed to write the commentary Pat suggested that the Hydrocephalus Association would publish a commentary and A Wynd suggested that this could also be promoted within SHINE and SBH Scotland.

#### **6. Amendments to the Constitution:**

The President introduced discussion on the revised constitution which had been recommended by the Executive Committee and proposed as per the current constitution. After questions were asked and satisfactorily answered, the tabled revised constitution and Rules/Regulations were approved unanimously by members present.

#### **7. Honorary Treasurer's Report**

Ina Pople reported as follows:

Opening balance as at 1/1/18 was £58,998. Income for the year amounted to £13495.17 and expenditure amounted to £6258. A detailed breakdown of income was £3134 from 45 paying active members, £6350 from Sponsorship for Bristol Conference. £3950 part repayment of St Louis deposit, £61.17 Bank interest. Expenditure was made up of £1320 for Accountants Fees, £35 Information Commissioner, £187 Travel Expenses for speaker, £2486 Talking Slides, £2230 delayed payment for 2016 meeting speaker travelling expenses. As at 1/6/19 Bank balances were as follows:

RBS £58113

Triados Reserve Acct £6001

Paypal £5057

Inclusive of Microbot sponsorship of £2966

Society assets over 6 year period was

2013-81900

2014-82600

2015-71000

2016-73400

2017-58900

2018-66000

Reference was made specifically to the reduction in active paid membership. The treasurer concluded that 'For those SRHSB members who have for many years kindly paid their subscriptions by annual standing order to the society I would ask them to now try to set up a recurring (Paypal) payment on the Society's new website for their future subscriptions and then cancel their previous bank standing order with the Society. Please ask Talissa our webmaster if you have difficulties with the new payment system, which we believe is now functioning well.'

#### **8. Executive Committee Nominations**

No additional nominations were received from members either prior to or during the meeting.

The following were elected as committee members  
Jaleel Miyan, Folic Acid Spokesperson  
Leandro Castaneyra Ruiz

#### **9. 2020 Conference Arrangements**

Ian Pople presented the possibility of the 202 Conference to be held in Doha, Qatar. In early winter 2020.

**10. Closure:** There being no further business the meeting was closed