

**The Vascular Society of Great Britain & Ireland
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
27th November 2019, Exchange Auditorium, Manchester Central**

Trustees:

Professor Ian Loftus, President of the VSGBI and AGM Meeting Chair
Mr Jon Boyle (JB), Audit Quality and Information Committee Chair
Professor Ian Chetter (IC), Research Committee Chair
Mr Andrew Garnham (AG), Treasurer
Professor Chris Imray (IM), President Elect
Mr Michael Jenkins (MJ), Circulation Foundation Committee Chair
Mr Keith Jones (KJ), Education Committee Chair
Ms Sophie Renton (SR), Honorary Secretary

1. Apologies for absence

Mr Paul Blair, Professional Standards Committee Chairman sent his apologies.

2. Minutes of the AGM 2018

Minutes from the 2018 AGM were approved and agreed as an accurate record.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising.

4. President's Report

IL advised that there had been extensive discussions about the draft AAA guidelines through the Joint Vascular Board which included representatives from the Clinical Reference Group, GIRFT, vascular nursing, patient representatives and Paul Crisp, Director for NICE.

The Vascular Society have been involved in regular and productive dialogue with NICE, a number of stakeholders, and the British Society of Interventional Radiology (BSIR).

The goal was to find a compromise for all, though the final decision is not yet known, however NICE have been very clear in the fact that the current draft guidelines will not be published, and the wording will be changed to incorporate some element of patients and clinician choices.

IL advised that VS had agreed during meetings and discussions with BSIR to focus on closer working relationships between the Societies, and take a collaborative approach to training, audit, research and service provision.

IL thanked VS Council for their achievements, highlighting how proud he was of all of them.

5. Honorary Secretary's Report

SR thanked EBS for a smooth transition, stating as with all transitions, there had been glitches, but on the whole things had gone well. SR advised that she would continue to work with EBS to implement and improve processes.

SR was delighted to announce the results of the recent elections, and congratulated successful candidates as follows:

President Elect

JB elected as President, 2022. JB will replace MJ when he steps down as President.

Treasurer

SR announced that the Treasurer's term was due to end 2020, however VS felt that with the transfer of secretariat services to EBS that it would be sensible for AG to continue in this post until 2021.

SR confirmed that VS's financial position was in a good stable position, and a 12 month extension in place would allow the finance role to grow. VS also plan review its funding raising potential in order to further strengthen its financial position.

Circulation Foundation Chair

Ms Rachel Bell (RB) elected to CF Chair and Ms Meryl Davis (MD) elected to Deputy CF Chair.

Council Membership

There had been 13 applications for Council membership, and 3 vacancies. The successful candidates elected as follows:

- Donald Adam
- Patrick Coughlin
- Douglas Orr

SR thanked everyone who had stood for election, and encouraged those who had not been successful to apply in future years.

SR was pleased to advise that VS had secured added value to membership, by negotiating reduced membership rates for the European Society for Vascular Surgeons (ESVS). Details on how to apply would be published on the VS members' area of the website.

SR asked the meeting to mark a two minute silence in honour of the following eminent surgeons and members of the society who have died this year:

Sir Norman Browse:

John Dormandy

John Thomas Hobbs

6. Audit & Quality Improvement Committee Report

JB thanked committee members for their hard work and achievements and provided an overview of current issues and achievements.

The Annual Report usually launched at the ASM has not yet been published, the delay due to the forthcoming General Election and the period of Purdah. Should anyone require a hard copy he advised that they should speak to Sam Waton at the Registration desk, when this becomes available a hard copy will be sent in the post.

JB advised that there had been no issues recorded since the surgeon level reporting for AAA repair was published in July 2019.

There has been considerable work with AAA data-set, changes will include device information and re-intervention. Any material left in a patient following surgery, be it stent or graft will now be recorded, and longer term data collected.

It had been agreed in principle for external validation of the National Voluntary Registry (NVR) by a team from Vascunet. UK centres had volunteered to have their NVR data validated. A team from Vascunet, will spend a couple of day's cross-checking NVR data with hospital systems. It is envisaged that this will take place spring 2020.

Following a competitive interview process for the QIF fellow, VS have appointed a Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) and Circulation Foundation Funded PAD-QIF Fellow the role due to start at RCS February 2020. The QIF fellow will work closely with the team at the Clinical Effectiveness Unit and the 11 early adopting QIF centres. Further details of the PAD QIF will be discussed on Friday at the ASM meeting, title '*The launch of the quality improvement programme for lower limb disease*'.

Early Implementation Centres - 11 vascular units expressed an interest in becoming early implementing centres for the PAD-QIF. These centres came together at the RCS on 17th October 2019 where they discussed current patient pathways, ideas and good practice, with the aim to improve timelines to limb-salvage and patient outcomes.

The day was well attended which was supported by the RCS England QI team. The focus will be to aim to reduce the time to revascularisation for emergency admissions with critical limb ischaemia.

7. Education Committee Report

KJ advised that the ASPIRE courses had been successful, and provided an update as follows:

ASPIRE 8

Really good feedback had been received, and another course planned for February 2020.

ASPIRE 3 Introduction to Vascular Surgical Training

This course runs at the ASM and the Charing Cross meeting. Next year we will also hope to run this course at the RCS Edinburgh. KJ would recommend this course to any future trainees and encourages Consultants to signpost medical students and Foundation doctors to these courses.

ASPIRE 1 / 2

This was a newly introduced course that will provided an induction to Improving Surgical Training (IST) trainees. Future courses will run parallel to the British Society of Endovascular Therapy (BSET) training course.

ASPIRE 4 - Essential Operative Techniques (cadaveric)

This is an excellent cadaveric course and has an excellent faculty at Cambridge.

ASPIRE 5

Provides essential skills required by the vascular surgical curriculum through practicals. The course has an excellent faculty and continues to receive excellent feedback.

ASPIRE 6 - Advanced Operative Techniques (cadaveric)

An excellent cadaveric course for complex exposures.

ASPIRE 7 - Preparation for FRCS (Vascular)

Overall this has had excellent feedback and provided great preparation for an exam.

KJ appreciated the significant amount of work that had been carried out by all the faculties and the staff who had organised and ran the courses.

KJ advised that 2020 courses are available on the website as follows:

ASPIRE 24th June 2020	Education Committee/ Rouleaux/ BSET – Totworth Hall
ASPIRE 3 - September 2020	Mr T Beckitt, Bristol
ASPIRE 4 - June 2020	Mr P Coughlin, Cambridge
ASPIRE 5 - 1-3 April 2020	Miss A Murray, Birmingham
ASPIRE 6 - June 2020	Mr P Coughlin, Cambridge
ASPIRE 7 - 3-4 February 2020	Prof Ian Chetter, Hull
ASPIRE 8 - 4-5 February 2020	Mr Keith Jones, Frimley Park

KJ advised that one of the key challenges will be at consultant level and invited members to attend the presentation being held '*Vascular Consultant Education in 2019*'.

KJ sadly announced another member had died 2 weeks prior, Paul Jarrett.

8. Research Committee Report – Professor Ian Chetter

IC thanked the committee for their hard work.

IC advised that the Research Committee's key focus is to look at different ways of financing research, and aim to promote more grant applications.

Over recent years the Vascular Society Research Committee has focused on developing a broader based, inclusive, more sustainable national strategy. The Priority setting project for clinicians had been successful in identifying the right questions. This used 2 rounds of on-line surveys to engage multidisciplinary vascular clinical specialists (Vascular Society, Society of Vascular Nurses, Society Vascular Technicians and the Rouleaux Club). The first survey invited clinicians' suggestions for research priorities resulted in 1231 proposals from 481 respondents. Round 2 was complete by in January 2019.

Guided by the results of the priority setting project, VS Research Committee advertised for Chairs to lead the Special Interest Groups (SIGs).

On 3rd October 2019, interviews were held and the following high calibre candidates appointed:

Specialist Area	Chair or Co-Chair	Deputy Chair
Amputation	Rob Hinchliffe	Dave Bosanquet
Aorta	Matt Bown / Colin Bicknell	
Diabetic Foot	David Russell	
Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD)	Patrick Coughlin	Athanasios (Thanos) Saratzis
Vascular Access	George Smith	Jonathan De Siqueira
Venous	Dan Carradice	

The first responsibility of the Chairs / Deputy Chairs will be to ensure appropriate representation amongst the SIG membership. SIG chairs will also function as co-opted members of the VS research committee.

Unfortunately the research day at the RCS England that had been planned for 4th October had been postponed, the event will be rescheduled for April / May 2020. The SIG Chairs will be involved in this process.

The Research Committee plan as part of their strategy will be to create a VS journal. VS aim to send a survey to membership to identify who would like to be involved on the editorial side.

In response to a question from the floor, IC explained that not only would a journal help our researchers get papers published, but it may also be a good income generator.

9. Circulation Foundation Committee - Mr Michael Jenkins

MJ thanked AG for his hard work, the Circulation Foundation had been virtually bankrupt but were now in a position to invest in a number of their projects.

CF plan to invest in their website over the next year, to make it more patient friendly.

MJ advised that his new successor as Committee Chair will be Rachel Bell has she had been elected as CF Chair and Meryl Davis elected as Deputy CF Chair.

A more detailed update on the Circulation Foundation will be given on Friday.

10. Honorary Treasurer's Report – Mr Andrew Garnham

AG advised that due to the continued robust financial controls VS have in place that there had not been an increase to membership subscriptions in any category. Expenditure had been slightly higher than expected due to the decommissioning of the previous secretariat, Fitwise during 2018 and a fall in the expected revenue from the 2018 ASM. It is expected that this trend will reverse in 2019

AG advised that most members pay their subscriptions by direct debit at a single point in the year, and measures such as this had enabled VS to keep their subscriptions low. AG urged any members who opted for other alternative payment methods to pay by direct debit.

AG thanked those who make regular donations to the Circulation Foundation and encouraged those who were not already signed up Gift Aid to do so.

AG was also grateful for those Affiliates who made regular donations which equates to 60% of the donations received.

AG provided an overview of funding details which can be found in the published Yearbook.

AG advised that VS hoped that the SIG's would become self-funding during the next couple of years which would increase future revenue.

AG confirmed that there would be little investment with the VS reserves due to the unsettled financial climate, as there would be little fiscal headroom to invest.

11. Professional Standards Committee – Mr Paul Blair

Professional Standards Committee Chair provided a report which is published on the VS website.

12. President Elect's Report – Professor Chris Imray

CI advised that one of the key areas he would focus on during his term would be around the workforce and issues around recruitment and retention. CI invited members to find out more by attending the Vice Presidents Symposium where '*Individual sustainability – the robust surgeon/team, preventing burnout*' would be discussed.

CI announced that he looked forward to next year's ASM which will be held in Brighton, Wednesday 25th – 27th November 2020.

13. Any Other Business

None.

**Date of Next Meeting
Hilton Brighton Metropole
Wednesday 25th November 2020**

DRAFT