

**The Vascular Society of Great Britain & Ireland
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
25th November 2020, Virtual Meeting**

Trustees:

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

1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies received.

2. Minutes of the AGM 2019

Minutes from the 2019 AGM were approved and agreed as an accurate record.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising.

4. President's Report

CI advised that a detailed President's report had been published via the Yearbook and encouraged members to read it.

CI advised that the NICE guidelines had been somewhat overshadowed as a result of COVID-19. The final publication of the guidelines had followed a long process, and there had been a pragmatic execution of the patient's choice.

COVID-19 has been tough for everyone, some having sadly lost their nearest and dearest. A number of areas have suffered during this time which included vascular surgery, patients and a backlog of aneurysms had built up.

How to address issues around aneurysms has been discussed at great lengths during Council and Executive meetings. Regular weekly virtual meetings had been held where VS had worked on detailed guidance to support the vascular community. In the early stages of the pandemic, although VS guidance was available there appeared to be little traction. Indeed, whilst there was international support for the VS guidance, it required close co-operation with the CRG, GIRFT, the FSSA, and the RCS to achieve widespread acceptance of recommendations. CI had continued to communicate with the membership on a regular basis through virtual newsletters.

CI said he was sad to have missed the opportunity of meeting everyone at the ASM due to the event being held virtually. There had however been some positives gained from the pandemic which have included new ways of working, the implementation of remote clinics and teaching as we have done through the ASPIRE Digital programme.

What has been apparent is that a coherent response by leadership can impact on policy and gain great achievements.

CI congratulated VS Council on their leadership.

CI advised that a Workforce Committee had been set up early that year, and that during the President's Symposium he would be concentrating on the theme of well-being, planning and networking.

CI encouraged members to complete the Workforce Survey which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, results of the survey would have a direct impact on VS strategy.

VS were aware that they had under representation of BAME and women within their Council, which SR would discuss during her presentation.

CI closed the presentation by thanking SR for keeping everyone in order.

5. President Elect

MJ provided thanks to CI on behalf of the whole of VS membership and the Executive team. CI had led from the front in a calm, collaborative manner and had delivered superb leadership.

During his term as President, CI had improved the VS's standing and had forged many links with various stakeholders such as CRG, FSSA and RCS. MJ reflected that the Executive team had, in many ways, worked better than normal. They had become closer as a group due to weekly virtual meetings and this had been essential to the timely delivery of advice.

MJ advised that although it would be difficult to see what the future holds, he did aspire to having a face-to-face ASM at Manchester Central.

MJ noted that, although there had been huge efforts for this year's virtual event, there had been a few technical hiccups at the start. Day 2 seemed to be working much better.

MJ hoped that he would champion VS's own journal during his term.

MJ felt extremely fortunate to have a 'dream team' Executive, an excellent wider Council and fantastic support from Executive Business Support to help make it all work.

MJ provided personal thanks to SR and CI for championing everything this year.

6. ASM Committee Chair

SR thanked LF for his exceptional hard work in achieving a virtual event, through an exceptionally challenging year.

LF advised that 2020 has been tremendously challenging. As the pandemic took hold, there was great uncertainty as to whether VS would go ahead with a 2020 conference. The VS had to consider its reputation and the risks involved by not holding a meeting, including the prospect of no CPD/CME for its members during 2020. LF explained that multiple options had been considered and he was pleased that VS had decided to go ahead with the virtual meeting.

LF advised that VS have a good platform and had great dress rehearsals, however there had been a rough start to the virtual ASM. The team had pulled together resulting in the event doing better on this the second day.

LF asked membership to remember *'to err is human, but to really foul things up you need a computer'*, by Paul R Ehrlich. *'But to Err is human; to forgive, divine'* by Alexander Pope.

LF also hoped that a face-to-face meeting would be possible during 2021.

7. Honorary Secretary's Report

SR advised that she was responsible for the overall changeover of staff within the society.

SR explained that, when she was elected to Council, there was only one other female member and that was Rachel Bell. At the time, she is on her last year in office and when she demitted, SR was the only female representative on Council. She has tried to improve female representation ever since.

So it was with great pleasure that SR could announce that Rachel Bell (RB) had now been appointed as President Elect.

In addition to this there have been two female elected Council Members:

1. Lucy Wales
2. Kaji Sritharan

The third appointment has been made to:

3. Sadasivam Selvakumar

SR was proud that VS was making progress in better representation of its membership. There is still a lot to do to improve our diversity.

Kaji Sritharan had presented earlier, in the meeting, explaining how she was hoping to do this.

SR congratulated everyone and looked forward to working with them all.

Audit and Quality Information Chair

AR had successfully been appointed to Audit and Quality Information Chair. He has been shadowing Jon Boyle and will now take over the Chair after this meeting.

Honorary Secretary

SR announced that Marcus Brooks (MB) had successfully been appointed to Shadow Honorary Secretary. MB would work alongside SR during the next twelve months, then taken on full responsibility as Honorary Secretary at the 2021 ASM.

In Memoriam

SR asked the meeting to mark a short period of time to reflect in honour of the following eminent surgeons and members of the society who have died this year:

1. **Mohan Kumar Adiseshiah MA MS FRCP FRCS**

Pioneering Aortic Endovascular Surgeon

2. **Anthony 'Tony' David Barry Chant,**
Consultant Vascular Surgeon, Southampton, Hampshire
3. **Mr Neil Hulton FRCS Consultant Vascular Surgeon**
The Royal Oldham Hospital (1989-2012).

8. Honorary Treasurer's Report – Mr Andrew Garnham

AG advised that VS had done reasonably well in terms of its financial status.

During the past four years VS have an extra 138 members.

There are 395 members who contribute towards donating £50 to the CF.

AG did wonder why only 30% of members had signed up to Gift Aid as VS could claim 25% tax relief, for those who had signed up to Gift Aid.

AG congratulated EBS for helping VS to achieve what they had done to help professionalise the society.

Although there has been an increased income from the last ASM, AG impressed that these were really uncertain times. It had also been difficult to forecast this year's budget.

AG thanked everyone for supporting this year's virtual event by attending.

AG provided an overview of VS's committed finances as follows:

THE VASCULAR SOCIETY COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020					
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
	Note	2020 £	2020 £	2020 £	2019 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	55,712	125,065	180,777	80,464
Charitable activities	3	504,096	-	504,096	497,298
Raising funds	4	26,573	-	26,573	28,861
Investments	5	5,995	-	5,995	10,335
Total income		592,376	125,065	717,441	616,958
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	2,440	-	2,440	6,065
Charitable expenditure	8	424,461	119,454	543,915	554,470
Total expenditure		426,901	119,454	546,355	560,535
Gains/(losses) on investments	13	(2,954)	-	(2,954)	332
Net income/(expenditure) / Net movement in funds		162,521	5,611	168,132	56,755
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		753,397	211,452	964,849	908,094
Total funds carried forward		915,918	217,063	1,132,981	964,849

AG closed the presentation by advising that the reserves were better than last year.

There was a healthy financial balance to invest in the VS moving forward.

9. Audit & Quality Improvement Committee Report

JB thanked committee members for their hard work and achievements.

JB provided a presentation with some headlines from the Yearbook.

JB was very grateful to the NVR team for adding additional datasets to capture COVID-19, the results were included in his presentation. (Refer to appendix 1)

JB thanked the membership for entering data onto the NVR, due to their efforts the NVR had fantastic real-time data. JB advised that the data was vital and had helped VS and commissioners plan service restoration, and advice to members. This had helped recognise concerns around surgeon level outcomes in COVID era and working to mitigate these with NVR team and HQIP

Penny Birmpili had been appointed as the RCS /CF Fellow, the role has been funded by donations from the RCS and VS.

The PAD QIF is on going. The early adopting centers came together at the RCS during the October Workshop 2019 to share ideas and good practice. There had since been two Webinars held during May and October 2020. JB thanked all early adopting centers for their hard work.

As this was JB's last term as Committee Chair, he wished AP all the best in his new role as Audit and Quality Information Chair.

Question: Do you need device data for open AAA?

Answer: Yes this will be required. Please inform Sam Waton if any fields are missing.

10. Education Committee Report

KJ delivered a presentation with some headlines from the Yearbook. (Refer to appendix 1)

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

VS had planned to deliver a full set of ASPIRE courses that year, a large percentage had been delivered however some were pending.

ASPIRE webinars have been very successful and have been run since May 2020. Recordings of the VS ASPIRE webinars are available to members on the VS website.

https://www.vascularsociety.org.uk/members/education/aspire_programmes/aspire_digital.aspx

Those that have been delivered as a collaborative process such as BSET, have been published on their own website.

KJ ran through key challenges for 2021:

- How to catch up on the postponed ASPIRE?
- How to adapt ASPIRE moving forwards?
- How to utilise ASPIRE Digital?
- Support Implementation of the Curriculum
- Development of MCR
- Provide CESR group educational sessions
- Re-explore Opportunities of post CCT fellowships
- Explore opportunities for Vascular Consultant education

KJ was delighted to advise that Fiona Kerray has been appointed as a research educational fellow.

11. Research Committee Report – Professor Ian Chetter

IC delivered a presentation with some headlines from the Yearbook.

IC thanked all those who had been involved during the past twelve months, everyone had continued to work exceptionally hard during the pandemic.

IC provided an overview of the research priorities which have been accepted by BJS.

Patients have been surveyed as part of the JLA and provided a detailed overview during the presentation. (Refer to appendix 1). Patients have also been asked if they would be happy to participate in workshops there have been 70 who have already volunteered.

All SIGS are now fully established and having regular meetings, the SIGS are involved in approximately £18 million pounds of research.

IC was delighted to advise that there have been three fellowships and thanked AG for supporting the fellowships.

- RCS Eng / Circulation Foundation

- Penny Birmbili – PAD QIF impact on CLI outcomes.
- 2nd fellow due to start 2021

.- RCS Ed / Circulation Foundation

- Fiona Kerray – Evaluating and optimising "Human Factors" content in ASPIRE courses.

The Research Committee would be focusing on a new VS journal which 67% of membership supported. This will be available on-line and will be published quarterly.

12. Circulation Foundation Committee – Ms Rachel Bell

RB delivered a presentation with some headlines from the Yearbook.

RB advised that it has been quite a tricky year in terms of fundraising as a lot of the events had been cancelled during 2020. This had been a result of the pandemic and the need for social distancing.

Despite these challenge CF have continued to received donations and money from fund raising.
(Refer to appendix 1)

RB reported that the CF website had been refreshed and is now much improved.

CF had received some early success with a claudication infographic which went viral on Twitter. This had been gratefully received by both healthcare professionals and patients.

RB relayed how grateful she was to the team and those who had been involved in producing the infographic particularly from a patient representative.

CF had successfully launched the Ambassador Scheme and the national fund raising campaign 'The Body Walk'. RB provided a list of Ambassadors thanking everyone for supporting the CF. RB advised that there was further work needed, and that the Ambassadors should receive a pack early January 2021. The pack would provide information on how they can support the CF.

RB was particularly grateful with a patient from Cambridge, Gill Holman had provided inspiration to The Body Walk. Gill Holman was really keen for CF to do more on education and raise awareness with vascular disease. The Body Walk challenged people to run, walk no matter what their abilities, to raise money and awareness of vascular disease.

RB provided a massive thank you to the Executive Business Support team and other committee members who had helped with launching the national campaign, during Vascular Awareness month.

To date have walked 2667 miles, so there are over 57,000 miles to complete, to achieve the final target. CF is asking people to sign up, and will be looking at setting up some team challenges on the website.

RB advised that CF wish to improve resources available to patients, particularly in relation to producing patient advice videos, which would be published on the CF website. RB advised that she would be happy to support anyone to help film a talk in their area of expertise.

13. Any Other Business

SR advised that another question had come through for the Research Committee.

Question: What support will the SIGs be able to offer to new and established researchers in the design and implementation of studies?

Answer: IC advised that the SIGS will be able to provide lots of support e.g. help with grant applications etc.

SR thanked:

- Everyone who had provided presentations
- Members for supporting the virtual VS ASM
- CI for his leadership during his leadership as VS President.

**Date of Next Meeting
Wednesday 1st December 2021
Manchester Central**