

**The Vascular Society of Great Britain & Ireland  
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023, The Convention Centre, Dublin**

**Trustees:**

Miss Rachel Bell (RB), President of the VSGBI and AGM Chair  
Mr Andrew Garnham (AG), President Elect  
Mr Neeraj Bhasin (NB), Circulation Foundation Chair  
Professor Matt Bown (MBo), Research Committee Chair  
Mr Marcus Brooks (MB), Honorary Secretary  
Professor Ian Chetter (IC), Vice President Elect  
Mr Patrick Coughlin (PC), Education Chair  
Mr Alistair (Paddy) McCleary (PM), Treasurer  
Mr Ciaran McDonnell (CMcD), Workforce Chair  
Mr Arun Pherwani (APh) Audit Quality and Improvement Chair

**1. President's Report**

RB welcomed members.

RB advised that she had provided a comprehensive report in the Yearbook. (Refer to appendix 1.)

RB thanked MB and all Council members for their support during her presidency.

**2. Honorary Secretary's Report**

**2.1 Sign off minutes of 2022 AGM (23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022)**

Minutes from the 2022 AGM were approved and agreed as an accurate record.

**2.2 New elected council members**

MB announced the results of the newly appointed Council members. The turnout for voting was high at 56%. Elected Council members as follows:

- Colin Bicknell (London)
- Patrick Lintott (Oxford)
- James McCaslin (Newcastle)

MB congratulated all three newly elected members, welcoming them to Council.

**2.3 Membership category changes**

A new society website will be launched in 2024. Categories for membership have been reviewed.

**'Ordinary'** members will change to **'Full'** members.

Anyone working as a Vascular Consultant or as a Specialist Vascular Surgeon will be eligible to apply for Full membership. This category, as currently, will provide discounted ESVS consultant membership.

There will be two trainee membership categories:

**Affiliate - Speciality**, already offered, for specialty trainees and clinical fellows progressing to specialist registration via a CESR route. This category will provide ESVS trainee membership.

**Affiliate - Pre-specialty** for Core surgical trainee (ST1/2), Foundation Trainee (F1/2) and medical students. This membership category will be free.

**Reciprocal** membership is a new category. This is being offered because of our close joint working with affiliated societies; Affiliated Society council members will be offered Reciprocal membership allowing them access to the members' portal and some website content otherwise only available to members.

## 2.4 Engagement survey

During January all members and non-members at Trusts will be asked to participate in an engagement survey. MB asked members to encourage their colleagues to complete the survey.

## Changes to Executive team

There are numerous changes to the Executive team from close of play of this year's AGM which are as follows:

- Audit & QI Committee Chair                      Prof Denis Harkin                      *(from Prof Arun Pherwani)*
- Professional Standards Chair                      Prof Chris Imray                      *(from Prof Ian Loftus)*

Two shadow chairs have also been appointed who will start following the 2024 ASM:

- ASM Chair    Prof Sadasivam Selvakumar
- Workforce Chair                                      Mr Anselm Egun

On behalf of the society MB wished Professor Imray well with his challenge who has taken over as Professional Standards Chair.

MB thanked those who are demitting as Trustees:

- Rachel Bell
- Arun Pherwani
- Lucy Wales
- *(Meryl Davis also demitted as a trustee in 2023)*

MB thanked all the Society's committee Chairs for their hard work.

MB encouraged VS members to put their ideas forward and stand for Council in future elections.

## In Memoriam

MB announced colleagues who have died during 2023.

- Paul Hurst Brighton
- Prof Roger Greenhalgh London
- Simon Lau Sheffield
- Wendy Hayes Vascular nurse specialist in Worcester

Simon's parents will be attending the ASM and spending time with the Rouleaux Club.

All members held a minute's silence in memory of these colleagues.

### 3. Honorary Treasurer's Report – Mr Alistair McCleary

AM presented the annual financial report, including an overview of the research fellowship grants, as outlined in the Yearbook. (Refer to Appendix 1.)

<b>Charitable activities</b>	£ 501 844	
<b>Donations and legacies</b>		
Restricted	£ 201 908	
Unrestricted	£ 65 101	
<b>Fund Raising</b>	£ 1 968	
<b>Investments</b>	£ 18 743	<u>2021/22</u>
<b>Income</b>	<b>£ 789 564</b>	<b>£861 331</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 685 667</b>	<b>£681 193</b>
<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>£ 102 157</b>	<b>£131 030</b>

£200k of this income is restricted funds provided from HEE.

### Research Grants

RCR/SVIR	One fellow	£25 000
RCS Ed.	One fellow	£40 000
RCPS Glasgow	One fellow	£40 000
Aortic fellowship	Not currently allocated	£35 000
RCS Eng. SSL	Three SSLs	£22 500

### Journal

Funding allocated to JVSGBI for 2023/4 is **£20 000**.

VS is currently operating at a loss.

## **Membership fees**

In terms of membership fees AM proposed a £50 increase in fees to Ordinary members which will be due 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024, (from £250 per annum to £300 per annum). AM confirmed that membership has not increased for many years. AM has been on Council for six years and the cost has remained the same during his term.

AM thanked those who donate £50 a year to the Circulation Foundation, and to those who make other regular CF contributions.

AM reminded everyone to ensure that they Gift Aided all of their CF donations.

## **4. President Elect**

AG is delighted to announce the election process was changed this year.

Lucy Wales and Arun Pherwani are demitting this year, they have contributed greatly to Council during their term on Council.

The process for appointing the Society's President has changed this year giving Ordinary members the opportunity to vote for their President for the first time.

AG thanked all candidates who put themselves forward for election. All would make an outstanding President.

AG welcomed Mr Keith Jones as the elected President for 2025-2026.

## **Questions and Answers (Q&A)**

MB invited members for Questions and Answers (Q&A)

Q1. Is HEE money still available?

A1. PM confirmed that HEE monies is received and will be spent on training.

Patrick Coughlin is doing an excellent job with obtaining funding for the ASPIRE programme.

Q2. Will RCS Eng work with VS to support a fellowship?

A2. AG confirmed that VS have had conversations with the English College and offered dual funding this year. Unfortunately, VS did not have the opportunity to be part of the appointing panel and a vascular fellow has not been appointed by RCS Eng. VS will work with RCS Eng. to be involved in future fellowship appointments.

Q3: What was the voting percentage?

A3: MB confirmed that members voted at 56%. Mi-Voice have confirmed that the voting is exceptionally high compared to other professional societies.

Q4: Retired members has changed from Senior. Why? It would be more appropriate to remain as Senior as some retired members do continue with private practice.

A4. MB confirmed that 'senior' membership can continue rather than 'retired'.

Q5. There was a concern raised that gender balance on Council is an issue.

A5. MB confirmed that the way the Council elect new members is via a nomination process.

Therefore, this is down to individuals putting themselves forward for election. VS do encourage members to stand for Council. MB hopes that there will be an improved gender balance in 2024.

Q6: Will there be a charge for Affiliate-Pre-specialty membership?

A6. MB confirmed that there will be no charge to those eligible for Pre-specialty membership.

Q7. Is it worth offering GPs access to VS resources?

A.7 RB confirmed that this has been discussed on Council. GPs would be very welcome to have access to the educational tools available.

Prior to the meeting closing MB asked Ordinary members to approve the Treasurers increased membership fees for 2023/24.

There was a majority vote **agreed** to increase membership from £250-£300 per annum.

MB asked members to approve the adoption of the Annual Report and Financial statements for 2022/2023 by raising their hands.

There was a majority vote **agreed**.

## **15. Any Other Business**

There were no matters arising.

## **16. Appendices**

Appendix 1 (Yearbook)

[https://www.vascularsociety.org.uk/\\_userfiles/pages/files/Annual%20Meeting/ASM%202023/Vascular%20Society%20Yearbook%202023%20FINAL.pdf](https://www.vascularsociety.org.uk/_userfiles/pages/files/Annual%20Meeting/ASM%202023/Vascular%20Society%20Yearbook%202023%20FINAL.pdf)

Appendix 2 (AGM presentation)

[https://www.vascularsociety.org.uk/\\_userfiles/pages/files/Vascular%20Society%20AGM%202023%20FINAL.pptx](https://www.vascularsociety.org.uk/_userfiles/pages/files/Vascular%20Society%20AGM%202023%20FINAL.pptx)

**Date of Next Meeting  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
The Hilton Metropole, Brighton**