

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
GUY'S & ST THOMAS' HOSPITAL KIDNEY PATIENTS' ASSOCIATION  
HELD 21<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2006**

Chair, Trevor Cook opened the meeting:

**APOLOGIES:**

Jon Benson, Charmian Robins, Ann Cooper

**MINUTES OF THE 2005 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING:**

All patients, carers and staff are now members of the KPA – free membership has now been introduced.

The minutes of the 2005 AGM were agreed as a true record.

**CHAIR'S REPORT:**

Trevor highlighted the changes that have taken place over the years since the inception of the Association – the renal population has vastly increased and there are now in excess of 2,000 patients on the books of the Trust alone and we now need to look to the future. He is presently involved with the House of Commons Steering Committee and the Modernisation Initiative, and also as a patient and has the opportunity to see things from all sides.

There is new legislation regarding transplantation and funding within the NHS and issues around the diagnosis of early stage kidney disease – we need to move to supporting groups of patients where areas need attention early. In particular, young people have needs that are not addressed at the moment including social and emotional issues. We wish to put a focus on pre-dialysis and dialysis patients and consider the wider issues around employment and benefits and the cultural diversity of the population that we cover.

Research is continuing to be supported – recently supporting the Trust in their application to become a Medical Research Centre and were short listed to the last 7 applicants from a total of 43. A decision will be made in December and if successful it will be the only such centre in the UK.

However, in the current climate it is becoming increasingly difficult to run the KPA as a group of volunteers – Trevor has been in discussion with the Guy's Charitable Trust with a view to becoming more involved under the umbrella of that Charity – we could then call upon their resources to support us in our aims and objectives – a decision has yet to be made.

Trevor gave thanks to all the members of the Committee – in particular Philip Anderson, Kate Cushion, James Duncan and Peter March and also John Scoble and Kirstie Black from the Trust.

Mr Lawson asked if there are any costs involved in being connected with the Charity?  
– It would amount to 1% of the total amount of our revenue.

There has been a large fall in income from donations – Philip Anderson, Treasurer pointed out that we have been forced to scale back on the number of collections organised due to lack of support. Also, there is a general trend in the charity world towards less giving to smaller charities and unsolicited donations are rare. In the past the KPA has received a substantial donation from the Students Union Rag Week – however, the amount has now reduced as it is shared between other charities. There is now a need to focus on pursuing larger organisations and building connections with bigger institutions for our future survival.

We are now part of [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com) and have already seen the benefit of this with the London Marathon – it enables credit card donations to be made directly to the website and includes a gift aid form – all done automatically on-line. We are looking into a way that we can host such a process on our own website.

Bill Guest, a Camberwell Dialysis Patient commented that it is a daunting list of 7 core areas for a relatively small organisation and asked if we are duplicating? He spoke of personal experience of pre and dialysis information given and what other organisations are doing.

John Scoble spoke – Guys & St Thomas Charity have put £5m into renal projects and one such project was peer support. The aim is to perpetuate what is already in existence. However, some patients have asked for a different type of support, such as spiritual needs and a pilot has been set up.

Trevor said that the KPA has been looking into better supporting dialysis patients – with improved food, for example – further discussions are in process with representation from each satellite unit.

Trevor sees the KPA's role as strategic, enabling working with partners to address issues.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Treasurer, Philip Anderson explained the Financial Report and the new Charity Commission guidelines for how this information is presented as far more detail is now required. Our day to day banking is with National Westminster Bank, where we hold current and Business Reserve accounts. We also hold £35,000 - £40,000 in accounts with the Charities Investment Fund which is instantly accessible and an Alliance and Leicester Treasury Account which is dealt with on a rolling 6-month deposit. As those present can see, the KPA's main income is from investments.

Research – in future the KPA will fund projects rather than individuals, which will enable us to give more focus – historically, we have donated £100,000 per year towards research and approximately £¾ m overall in the past.

The London Marathon Organisation report that the average amount raised per runner is down generally. Next year we have a number of additional marathon places so this may increase revenue.

Philip explained the background of the fixed assets. In May 2004 the KPA were gifted some shares from Healthcare Communications Ltd (who produced internal telephone directories for use in hospitals and GP surgeries) which had been newly launched on the AIM Market in the Stock Exchange. At the time of issue they had a notional value of 48p per share – subject to a 2-year lock-in clause preventing sale or transfer up to June 2006.

In June 2006 the Directors announced that they were holding an EGM to cancel shares. On that day the price dropped to less than 1p per share - clearly they had a product that no-one wished to buy. The KPA then received an offer to buy back the shares for £477.

Clearly, the total included in the accounts is not a realistic valuation as it is historical as to the date they were gifted – hence the reason our total funds appear to have dropped as it was an artificially increased amount of Investment re-evaluation of £114,565.

It is important to bear in mind that these shares were a gift – we did not gain financially from them, but equally we did not lose anything since they were gifted to us.

The KPA have paid £40,000 over the year to fund the position of Renal Information and Development Officer - this commitment ceases at the end of next month. Some research also comes to an end at the end of this current year.

The KPA have also continued in their support of the Ronald McDonald House, the Adult and Children's Teams at the Transplant Games and Children's Holidays.

Proposal that the accounts are adopted formally:

Proposed – Philip Anderson  
Seconded – Stipo Jurcevic

Proposal to re-appoint our Auditors:

Proposed – Philip Anderson  
Seconded – Stipo Jurcevic

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Proposal for the election of Officers:

**Chair** - **Trevor Cook**  
Proposed - Kate Cushion  
Seconded - Philip Anderson

**Vice-Chair** - **John Scoble**  
Proposed - Philip Anderson  
Seconded - Kate Cushion

**Secretary** - **Richard Baldwin**  
Proposed - Kate Cushion  
Seconded - Jonathan Agboola

**Treasurer** - **Philip Anderson**  
Proposed - David Edwards  
Seconded - Richard Baldwin

Proposal that the rest of the Committee as stands remains:

Proposed - Trevor Cook  
Seconded - Kate Cushion

Trevor thanked all those attending for re-electing him for a further year but reiterated that he does not intend to stand again next year.

## **SPECIAL RESOLUTION:**

Philip explained the background of the need for a Special Resolution. Historically, the Committee met monthly. However, the Main Committee now meet quarterly with various Sub-Committees meeting on a more regular basis for individual responsibilities. One such sub-committee looked at the Constitution which was last amended some time ago and agreed to make a number of small amendments. If we change the wording of our “objectives” then this has to be submitted to the Charities Commission for approval. The wording quoted is the Commission’s interpretation of the amendment we propose – to make the KPA more inclusive – taking into account the changes that have occurred over the years and encompassing the wider diversity of the population of the membership.

Special Resolution:

That the constitution of the Association be amended as follows:-

*“The Association’s objects shall be to promote the welfare of, and facilities for, patients of Guy’s and St.Thomas’ Hospital, who are suffering from kidney disease or renal failure and in furtherance of this object but not further or otherwise:*

*To work co-operatively with Government Primary Care Trusts and the Hospital Trust, staff and other charities to secure the best possible outcomes for all people with kidney disease;*

*To promote the work of the Association widely with the aim of securing sufficient income to support research, patient facilities, social events and any other worthwhile activity deemed by the Committee to be of benefit to kidney patients.”*

Proposal to adopt the change to the constitution as above:

Proposed - Philip Anderson

Seconded - Trevor Cook

All in favour

Passed by unanimous vote.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Stipo Jurcevic asked if the KPA retains control of the use of funds if we intend to support the Medical Research Council – we should definitely wish to become involved rather than just hand over the money.

David Edwards stated that we should all look forward to the future – it is very difficult to get people on board – and further recruitment, retention and involvement is still required.

Trevor Cook gave a formal vote of thanks on behalf of the KPA and patients as a whole to Kate Cushion, who is standing down as Vice Chair this year after many years of hard work on the Committee and previous involvement with the KPA – a vote of thanks was given from all those present.

Trevor then closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

**MEETING CLOSED : 15.20 PM**

**Certified as a true record of the AGM**

**Signed**

**Official Capacity**

**Date:**

**ATTENDEES AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF GUY'S & ST THOMAS'  
HOSPITAL KIDNEY PATIENTS' ASSOCIATION HELD ON 21<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2006**

Carol Brownie  
Annette Newman  
Roger Lawson  
Judy Sedgwick  
John Scoble  
Teresa Durkin  
Martin Huber  
Stewart Brown  
Bill Guest  
Richard Baldwin  
Stipo Jurcevic  
Philip Anderson  
Kate Cushion  
Jonathan Agboola  
James Duncan  
David Edwards