

GUY'S & ST.THOMAS' KIDNEY PATIENTS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF MEMBERS' SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 11 MARCH 2006

Present:

Philip Anderson	PA
Ann Cooper	AC
Richard Baldwin	RB
John Benson	JB
James Duncan	JD

Apologies:

Peter March	PM
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The Sub-Committee met to discuss the following items:-

KPA Constitution

PA presented a new draft constitution which had incorporated the changed objectives outlined by Trevor Cook (TC). PA explained that, apart from the clause relating to amendments to the constitution there was no requirement to submit the text of any proposed changes to the Charity Commission, including the proposal to make membership free of charge.

AC, supported by RB and JB, felt that two further clauses from the existing constitution relating to the composition of the Committee must be retained in the revised version, namely:-

"Two fifths of its members, including honorary officers, shall be adult patients of Guy's & St. Thomas' Hospital Renal Services and a further two fifths shall be adult patients or spouses or partners or carers of such patients; or parents or carers of paediatric patients."

And

"The Committee shall not have the power to spend in excess of fifty thousand pounds (50,000) on any one item without agreement by the membership. Voting is to be on a simple majority basis."

PA agreed to incorporate these into a final draft which would be circulated to all Committee members prior to the Committee meeting on April 22nd.

This draft to be voted on at that meeting.

Website

JD gave an update on the website and he is ready now to populate the site with data and asked for input from the Committee members to be sent to him, preferably in electronic format for ease of upload. PA commented that the home page looked strong with the potential for some good links to other sites.

Membership

PA presented a draft questionnaire which would be used to establish how existing members would wish to go forward with their membership once there was no longer a fee to be paid. AC advised (*after the meeting*) that we have 214 life members and that we needed to ensure that their membership was retained. Members currently receive "Kidney News" from the NKF as a result of membership of the KPA. AC advises the NKF on a regular basis of new members and, if she is advised in time, of deceased members.

PA advised that our NKF annual membership fee of 705.00 was based upon us having less than 500 members. This in turn triggers the distribution of "Kidney Life" at no further cost to the KPA. We would need to review this arrangement in the light of the potentially large

increase of membership we may experience once membership is free. RB advised that he was aware that Hammersmith KPA had managed this precise situation and might be a useful reference point.

AC asked how we could ensure that our records on paediatric patients were up to date. PA suggested that Teresa Durkin (TD) should try and obtain a definitive list of patients.

AC also suggested that it was possible that some members/patients might receive letters from both the Renal Unit and the KPA regarding future membership. PA felt that this was somewhat inevitable but that it was better to receive two mailings than none at all.

Newsletter

PM is working away on putting together a new look newsletter. This should be ready for viewing at the April meeting.

Equality Statement

The group felt that this was adequately covered in the constitution.

Next Meeting

Saturday 6th May (tentative date, to be confirmed)