

SIX COUNTIES KIDNEY PATIENTS ASSOCIATION
Registered Charity Number: 282361
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SPRING GENERAL MEETING
At the Double Tree Oxford Belfry, Milton Common
Sunday 15th March 2020

1. Welcome and introduction

Maggie Pratt-Heaton, Vice Chair of the SCKPA Committee, took the Chair, introduced herself and explained that Richard van Roon and his wife would be flying to Australia tomorrow so were unable to attend.

33 people had booked the buffet lunch before the meeting but only 11 attended. 14 members in total attended the meeting.

2. Apologies

Richard and Barbara van Roon, Martin and Beverley Wood (Martin unwell), Bob Price (Chris unwell), Arthur and Sylvia Edwards (unwell), Terry Sopp, Mary Braybrooke, Malcolm and Faith Hurdis.

- 3. Minutes:** The minutes of the General Meeting held on 8th December 2019 were read and approved unanimously.

4. Chairman's report

Firstly, I would mention COVID 19 – Coronavirus which is dominating the news and papers. This is, of course, a concern to most of us who have compromised immune systems. I would draw your attention to our website which is updated daily with the latest information. Also we have received a letter from Allie Thornley, from the Oxford NHS Trust and this is also going on our website.

SCKPA committee. I am very pleased to report that Mike Sinfield has offered to join us as the National Kidney Federation rep. Hopefully this will be confirmed at the NKF Away Day on the 4th April. Mike will then report into our committee but won't officially join until later in the year. Swindon branch. Following a very good meeting with Chris Lawless he has agreed to become the Swindon rep. and he will be endorsed by the committee at our next meeting on the 6th May. Bob Price has also advised that Mr V Doran may also wish to get involved with the branch so things are at last beginning to look up for Swindon.

Mike Pitcher has volunteered to become the new chairman when I step down at the AGM in September. I am very grateful to him to take on this role to ensure that the SCKPA can continue in the future.

New renal ward. Work started early in the New Year and Martin will give you the latest update later in the meeting.

For our summer lunch on Sunday 7th June our speaker will be Kirit Modi who will talk to us about transplantation and the new law of "Presumed Consent"

This should be a very interesting talk and I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend. **Note:** It was decided that the Summer Lunch would be cancelled in line with the government's advice that all social meetings should be cancelled for the next few months.

5. Treasurer's report

Bob had sent the income and expenditure account for 1/7/19 – 15/3/20. Income over expenditure was -£2101.

We are three quarters the way through the financial year and showing a loss of £2101. We have not received invoices for the two heart monitors for the renal ward totalling £40k or the three water softeners for home patients coming to £12k. Donation IMO includes Charlie Champion's Auckland Marathon proceeds of £2k IMO of John. General meetings are organised by Jose & Mike and the receipts and expenses go through the Stoke Mandeville branch. Therapist fees are increased due to an agreed increase in the Therapist fees for Swindon Unit. Hardship grants are higher this year due to Linda Evan's extended illness last year. The accounts are in good order and I recommend them to the meeting.

6. Branch reports

Stoke Mandeville: Mike: Branch meetings will be suspended from this month.

All the TV remote controls which were purchased by the branch for the SMH Renal Unit have disappeared. José will purchase replacements on the understanding that SMH pays half the cost and the Unit takes ownership and responsibility for them. **JR-D**

Milton Keynes: Maggie: Our next branch meeting in April will not happen which is a shame as we have a number of new people interested in joining us. Maggie recently met with Alan Hancock who hopefully will be joining us at future meetings. He is interested in health and social care as Deputy Chair of the Milton Keynes Healthwatch and a Council member of the East of England Clinical Senate and most recently, a member of the Patient Council of the Renal Association.

7. NKF Report: Richard

Since our last meeting at our Christmas Lunch in December I have attended two further meetings of the NKF executive committee in London.

I am pleased to advise you that Andrea Brown has been appointed chief executive of the NKF. Her last post was office manager of the NKF. Since her appointment she has been extremely busy on many projects and meetings with people in the kidney world. She has had a difficult time coping with staff absences through illness.

The latest recruit is Mark Davis who is the new NKF liaison officer and I am delighted that he has agreed to meet with us today to talk about his role and how he sees the future. A further new role for a Communications and Marketing Officer attracted great interest. A shortlist of 16 people met the specified criteria and final interviews were held last Friday the 13th March.

Without going into specific details I can advise that the finances of the NKF are currently in a good state. Recently two legacies of circa £300K have been received and the committee is looking at ways to invest this additional money at a time of financial uncertainty.

The revamped NKF website is getting lots of traffic and donations which are flooding in which is great. Over 900 individuals have signed up to the website since June and they get "In Touch and "Kidney Life". Numbers are growing again following the reductions due to the GDPR regulations.

World Kidney Day. This was last Thursday 12th March. The NKF has teamed up with other UK kidney charities to support this event. Teams from the NKF have been outside supermarkets explaining to people how to take care of their kidneys and endeavouring to educate people on the importance of good kidney health.

The Away Day is at the Radisson Blue hotel, at East Midlands airport on the 4th April. If you would like to attend please contact the NKF direct. Also our conference at the same venue is scheduled for 9/10th October 2020.

This is my last NKF report but I am sure that Mike Sinfield will be an excellent member of the new executive committee.

8. Renal Ward Update

The work required to prepare and refit the new ward area for transplant patients began during the first week of January 2020. This ran pretty much to schedule so the transplant patients were able to relocate to the new ward during the first week of February.

Work then commenced in Wytham Ward to prepare it for the Colorectal (Lower GI) patients who are going to be moved to make way for the renal patients from the old ward. This work was scheduled to take four weeks, but is now expected to overrun by a couple of weeks. Once the GI patients have been moved to Wytham Ward, the area they have vacated will be renovated and fitted out with the requisite services needed for the incoming renal patients.

It is hoped the renal ward will be completed and the patients will be moved in during April or May, but this could be knocked off course if the coronavirus outbreak gets a lot worse.

Keep your eyes on our website and we'll post updates as things happen.

9. Presentation to Margaret Sharp

Maggie presented Margaret with a large pot of plants to thank her for starting the High Wycombe Branch together with Gerry and serving on the committee for 20 years. Her support to the committee is very much appreciated.

The raffle, run by the Stoke Mandeville branch, raised £68.

Sidney da Kidney has been returned to Stoke Mandeville Branch and Richard plans to take him to Australia.

Speaker Pam Pitcher stepped in and gave a comprehensive, interesting and valuable presentation on COVID-19. Pam is a qualified Immunologist and gave a very clear account of the differences between bacteria and viruses, how they cause infections and how to safeguard ourselves against viral infection particularly.