

THE VASCULAR SURGICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

MINUTES OF THE 36th ANNUAL GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING ON 8 NOVEMBER 2001 AT THE HILTON BRIGHTON METROPOLE, BRIGHTON

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Adiseshiah, Mr A Bakran, Mr P J Kent, Mr S Rose, Mr D J A Scott, Mr M Thomas, Mr H van Urk, Dr F J Veith, Mr A Walker, Mr D Wilkins Mr E J Williams and Mr K Woodburn. The President advised Members that Professor R F M Wood had also sent his apologies for the meeting as he was unwell – the Council had sent good wishes to him on behalf of the Society.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual General Business Meeting on 30 November 2000 were approved as a correct record.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President referred to the Society's Yearbook, explaining that this was a new initiative for the Society on which comments from Members were welcome. He summarised the issues pursued by Council during the year, as outlined in his introduction to the Yearbook. Members welcomed this initiative and had no comments.

(i) Endovascular Forum

The President introduced Mr P Harris who informed Members that a meeting of the Endovascular Forum would take place on 21 and 22 June 2002 at the Moat House in Stratford on Avon. The meeting, to be run under the joint auspices of the VSSGBI and BSIR, would be a multidisciplinary event to which surgeons, radiologists, nurses, technologists would be encouraged to attend. Further details, including a provisional programme and registration information, would be circulated in the New Year.

4. HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

(i) Society Membership

The Honorary Secretary reported that membership of the Society had increased to a total of 626, comprising:

417	Ordinary	23	Overseas
87	Senior	13	Honorary
79	Affiliate	7	Associate

The deaths were announced of Mr D G A Eadie, Mr J P W Grant, Mr R K Greenwood, Mr R Jones, Professor J Nielubowicz and Professor C Rob. Members stood in silence as a mark of respect.

(ii) Annual Meetings

The Honorary Secretary referred to his report in the Yearbook in which he outlined the changes to the Society's secretariat to enable in-house organisation of future annual meetings. Council had agreed a basic template for future annual meetings and he intended, with the Administrator, to write a detailed manual for the organisation of meetings.

Members were encouraged to complete CME evaluation forms for the meeting and return these to the secretariat.

The Honorary Secretary welcomed the Society's association with other professional groups at the AGM, including the Venous Forum, the Society of Vascular Nurses and the Society for Vascular Technology.

The Honorary Secretary concluded by thanking the Society's Major Sponsors and trade exhibitors for their support of the meeting.

(iii) Provision of Emergency Vascular Services

Members were invited to comment on this draft report, which had been previously approved by the VAC and Council. Concerns were raised about the reference to emergency vascular rotas as frequent as 1 in 4. Some members felt that this should be 1 in 5 at the most, and preferably 1 in 6. They were concerned that the proposed recommendation of 1 in 4 might be imposed on vascular surgeons. The President stated that the document was not prescriptive and should be seen as a guide to assist planning of local arrangements. The long term objective was for a less onerous duty rota. The Honorary Secretary agreed to amend the document to reflect Members' concerns. Subject to this, the report was approved and would be circulated to Members in the New Year. The document would have a review date of 2004.

The Honorary Secretary drew Members' attention to a document published through the Health Technology Assessment programme by Mr J Michaels on the organisation of vascular services. A copy of this document had previously been sent to Members.

(iv) Provision of Interventional Radiology Services

Members were informed that the VAC and Council had approved this draft report. Mr M Wyatt, a member of the working group, stated that the report was intended to guide vascular surgeons and interventional radiologists in developing closer working relationships. However, any recommendations were dependent on local circumstances.

Some Members expressed concern that the document did not reflect the current dearth of vascular radiologists, their heavy workload, and the need for increased manpower in this specialty. It was felt that the document should make clear it was proposing recommendations for the future which were unlikely to be achievable with current staffing levels

The comments of Members were noted. It was agreed that the report would be referred to the Royal College of Radiologists for consideration and, subject to approval, would be circulated to Members. The document would be jointly reviewed in 2004.

5. HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

Members received a copy of the Society's accounts up to 31 August 2001. The Honorary Treasurer stated that the Society's current assets amounted to £317,000, although this was subject to change by the end of the financial year (31 October 2001). The Society currently had investments of £170,000, although 6% of the capital value of these had been lost in the last 12 months due to the fall in the equity market. Independent advice suggested leaving these investments as they were for the time being.

The Honorary Treasurer proposed to streamline the method of collecting membership subscriptions from 1 January 2003. All subscriptions would be collected by direct debit, with the exception of Overseas Members. The subscription rate for Ordinary Members would increase by 5% to £110, and the rate for Overseas, Affiliate and Associate Members would all be £50. Members supported these changes.

The Honorary Treasurer advised Members that expenditure was likely to increase over the forthcoming year due to increasing administrative costs, the production of the Yearbook, the cost of developing the website, and management costs for running VSSGBI Ltd for the Annual Meeting. In addition, the Society had increased its charitable contributions to the Audit and Research Committee, the JVRG, SVN and SVT, as well as educational bursaries for years 5 and 6 SpRs and free registration for trainees presenting papers at the Annual Meeting.

6. AUDIT AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

A report of the work of the Audit and Research Committee for 2001 was included in the Society's Yearbook. Mr Earnshaw stated that the secretariat was aiming to collect e-mail addresses of all Society Members. A questionnaire on carotid endarterectomy had recently been circulated, both by post and e-mail, with the aim of auditing the provision of this procedure and to assess the use of e-mail in communicating with Members.

Mr Earnshaw thanked Dr B Ridler for her assistance with the Audit Committee, in particular the National Vascular Database; Mr J Smith for his work on developing the website; and Members who had contributed to the work of the Audit and Research Committee during his four years as Chairman. On behalf of the Society, the President thanked Mr Earnshaw for his hard work as Chairman of this committee.

7. TRAINING AND EDUCATION REPORT

Mr Lamont reported that the first application had been received and approved for an educational bursary and he encouraged more trainees to apply. He stated that the Educational Masterclass, held the previous day, had been successful, with over 50 attendees, and he hoped to repeat this at future Annual Meetings.

Members noted that the document '*Training in Vascular Surgery*' had been approved by the VAC and Council and, subject to approval at the Business Meeting, would be circulated to Society Members in the New Year. The document was approved.

The President thanked Mr Lamont for his work as Chairman of the Training and Education Committee.

8. VASCULAR TUTOR'S REPORT

Mr Cheshire's report in the yearbook required no additional presentation.

9. VSSGBI WEBSITE

Members received a presentation from Mr Jason Smith on the changes to the Society's website. He stated that the website address had now been changed to www.vssgbi.org, and the e-mail address was administrator@vssgbi.org. All documents produced by the Society, including the new Yearbook, were available from the site. Abstracts had been submitted electronically for the first time this year and this initiative had been successful. It was planned to repeat this again next year, although the process would be simplified. Further developments would take place in the forthcoming year, including the news page, which would be updated regularly. Members were requested to e-mail Mr Smith with any comments or suggestions for the site.

The President expressed his gratitude to Mr Smith for his work on the site and looked forward to seeing further developments.

10. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

Members had previously received a document outlining proposed changes to the Constitution. The President informed Members that the changes were intended to update the Constitution to reflect the way in which the Society ran its affairs, rather than to effect major reform.

A Member asked whether the Society's President and Officers might be elected by the whole membership, similar to the election of Council members, rather than by the Council, as at present. The Honorary Secretary explained that this issue had been discussed extensively at Council. However, in response to this question from the floor, the issue would be considered further in the forthcoming year. Further comments on this issue were invited. The outcome, following consultation, would be given in the Newsletter.

Members voted on the resolution, as previously circulated with due notice, according to clause 13 of the current constitution. The resolution was passed unanimously.

11. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The successful candidates in the ballot for election to Council for 2001-2004 were as follows:

Professor A Bradbury Mr C Gibbons Mr D Lambert

The Honorary Secretary thanked the retiring members of Council: Mr J Murie and Mr J Earnshaw. It was noted that the two other retiring Members would remain on Council – Mr D J A Scott as Chairman of the Training and Education Committee, and Mr P M Lamont as Honorary Secretary Elect.

12. HONORARY MEMBER

Professor Peter Bell gave a citation in which he proposed Dr George Andros as an Honorary Member of the Society. The motion was passed unanimously and Dr Andros graciously thanked the Society for this honour.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no other matters of any other business.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 21 November 2002 at the Waterfront Hall, Belfast.