

AGM MINUTES

BHRS Annual General Meeting Monday 5th October 2020 @ 17:30

Held via Zoom

Attendees:

42 BHRS members were in attendance.

1. Approve minutes from AGM 2019

Approved.

2. Presidents Report (Richard Schilling - RS)

RS took time to recognise the untimely and early passing of 3 very talented and dear friends: Dr Adam Fitzpatrick, Dr Neil Davidson and Dr Mark Petersen. All 3 will be sorely missed by the arrhythmia community.

RS reported on the progress BHRS has made during his 3 years term as president:

- Democratisation of the council
- Constitutional reform and membership fees
- National and regional representatives and meetings
- Guidelines, SOPs and templates
- Official journal - Arrhythmia Electrophysiology review
- Website rebuild with membership fees now paid online
- New administrators - reduction in overheads
- Increase in membership - largest professional group in Europe
- Exam reform and revamping
- Bursaries for attending conferences
- All meetings now carried out online - costs and time savings

Tasks left with council:

- Respond to the NICE guidelines for AF
- Respond to NHS England AF commissioning guidelines

RS gave thanks to: Council Members for all their hard work and commitment; Arrhythmia Alliance for their continued support; Tangled Web for streamlining the administration of BHRS; And Alistair Slade (AS) for stepping in as President when Covid-19 hit due to RS's other commitments.

3. Secretary's Report (ER)

a) 2020 Elections:

President - Alistair Slade

Treasurer - Steve Murray

Nurse Rep - Catherine Laventure

Doctor Rep - John Paisey, Pier Lambiase, Steve Murray, Vivienne Ezzat (3 spaces were open but third place was tied with a vote count so both were offered spaces).

b) Current Council List:

President - Alistair Slade

Honorary Secretary- Eleri Roberts

Treasurer - Steve Murray

Nurse - Angela Hall, Sarah Clarke, Catherine Laventure

Physiologist - Jason Collinson, Holly Daw, Claire O'Neill, Ian Wright

Doctor - Ashley Nisbet, Joseph de Bono, Ross Hunter, Paul Foley, John Paisey, Pier Lambiase, Steve Murray, Vivienne Ezzat

Any positions that become vacant will be advertised late spring, early summer. Relevant advertising to members will be made when the time comes.

c) Stepping Down

Thanks were given to council members who had come to the end of their term: Richard Schilling, Stuart Harris, Mark Sopher, Jane Owen.

d) Membership Report

BHRS currently has 1299 members. Membership remains to steadily climb. This is broken down as CON/PHYS/IND: 980. NURSES/TRAINEES: 319.

4. Exam Report (SA)

RS thanked Stuart Allen (SA) for his work on the exam.

SA confirmed the exam has been modernised and changed to an online format. This has made the exam more accessible – and to international candidates.

An examination training course was held virtually on 19th September. There were 88 attendees. The content was recorded and is available for those registered to training. SA will continue to build content. Agreement has been received from council to provide more educational content in the form of a monthly webinar starting January 2021. The exam will now be held twice a year with the next scheduled for May. Due to Covid-19 the usual exam committee planning group was not held. SA will look at new ways to hold meetings in smaller groups.

SA reported an exam database has been created storing questions from the last 5 years. The exam is now in specialist formats i.e. one paper for each area with a maximum of a 25% core element.

So far 117 candidates have registered for the exam.

The log book process has been revamped and content reduced to enable it to be processed within one year. Instructions will be made available after the examination.

5. Audit Report (FM)

FM presented a summary of the CRM Devices and Ablation Audit. The document is currently officially embargoed until approved by NHS England which should be later this year - after which the document will be published on the website. FM was thanked for his hard work.

6. Treasurer report (SM)

Steve Murray (SM) was elected Treasurer at the earlier council meeting.

Year end accounts for May 2020 have been produced and are ready for independent examination before approval by council before submission to the Charities Commission. As at the end of August there was £122,447 held in the bank. The President and Council will be discussing how best to spend the additional funds.

7. AOB

a) Succession Planning

AKBS presented a suggested succession planning document for consideration. It was decided if the President became unavailable then if there was a President Elect in place, they could take over immediately, if agreement. If the President Elect was unable to take up the role immediately, or there wasn't one in place, then a discussion would take place within council and an interim president would be elected internally. This was agreed. AKBS to redraft the constitution accordingly.

8. Closing remarks: New President (AKBS)

AKBS praised and thanked RS for his work as President of BHRS.

AKBS future plans was to ensure arrhythmia care management was reinstated and restarted. It was noted interventions have dropped off during Covid-19 and there is work to be done to ensure arrhythmia patients are receiving priority care.