

# MINUTES

## BHRS Council – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October @ 10:00

Held via Zoom

### Attendees:

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	Alistair Slade (AKBS)
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	Eleri Roberts (ER)
<b>TREASURER:</b>	Steve Murray (SM) – <i>appointed today</i>
<b>NURSE REPS:</b>	Angela Hall (AH), Sarah Clarke (SC), Catherine Laventure (CL)
<b>PHYSIOLOGIST REPS:</b>	Ian Wright (IW)
<b>DOCTOR REPS:</b>	Pier Lambiase (PL), Paul Foley (PF), Ross Hunter (RH), John Paisey (JP),
<b>OTHER REPS:</b>	Trevor Fernandes (TF), Stuart Allen (SA), Derek Connelly (DC), Simon Holmes (SH), Dewi Thomas (DT), Francis Murgatroyd (FM)
<b>ADMIN:</b>	Steve Sadler (SS), Pauline Heery (PH).

---

### 1. Apologies for Absence [AKBS]

Joseph De Bono, Claire O’Neil, Vivienne Ezzat, Heather Edwards, Nikhil Ahluwalia, Jason Collinson, Ashley Nisbet, Trudie Lobban.

### 2. AOB Declaration [All]

- a) *Complex & Invasive Cardiac Clinical Reference Group*
- b) *Guidance for Pathologists Document*
- c) *ICD Patients & Sudden Death Document*
- d) *BHRS Survey*
- e) *Domiciliary Visit Query*
- f) *Reducing Waste & Packaging in Cath Labs*

### 3. Agree minutes of previous Council meeting [AKBS]

Already agreed.

#### **4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere**

##### ***a. MRI devices group***

CON kindly agreed to attend and feedback.

##### ***b. Cardiac Arrest Group***

PF attended and has circulated minutes to council.

##### ***c. Radiotherapy Group***

ER to email physiologists on council who could potentially volunteer to work with PF on this.

**ACTION:** ER to email physiologists

##### ***d. Telemetry document***

Document now up and live on website. Thanks were given to PF and AH.

##### ***e. Unregistered providers***

This is an ongoing matter. AKBS will feed back to council as and when this develops.

**ACTION:** AKBS – feedback to council when ready.

##### ***f. ILR Standards for Insertion Revision (AH)***

AH circulated the document to council with minor changes. This was approved by council. To be added to the website.

**ACTION:** AH/TWeb – upload document to website.

##### ***g. Covid-19 & Recovery***

Richard Schilling circulated statement to members regarding 'services returning to normal'.

#### **5. President's Report [AKBS]: Constitution**

##### ***a. Succession Planning***

AKBS circulated 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 in 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. AKBS to redraft document ready for approval at AGM. And to redraft the constitution accordingly.

**ACTION:** AKBS – redraft succession planning document for AGM. Update constitution when agreed.

**b. Election of Treasurer**

As Stuart Harris's term as Treasurer had come to an end a Treasurer is required. SM volunteered and the formal election was made.

**c. HRC & AA**

AKBS reported that Kim Rajappan has stood down as Programme Chair for HRC and this is now Dr Shouvak Haldar. It was decided that the relationship between BHRS, A-A and HRC needs to be re-discussed to become mutually beneficial. AKBS to invite new programme chair to the BHRS Council meeting in December. AKBS to also discuss defining the relationship formally with Trudie Lobban.

**ACTION:**      **AKBS** – to invite HRC Programme Chair to next Council meeting.  
**AKBS** – discuss relationship with Trudie Lobban

**6. Training Update [JP/AN]**

**a. Draft AF NICE Guidelines**

JP is currently collating responses on the circulated NICE guidelines. Comments to be sent to JP with a deadline of 26<sup>th</sup> October. PL reported NHS were compiling similar guidelines. The deadline for comments for this was 24<sup>th</sup> October.

**ACTION:**      **JP/ALL** – comments to JP for collation

**b. BCS 2021**

JP reported the BCS has a new Programme Chair: Professor Andre Ng (AN). The new chair is keen to have BHRS input for the BCS scientific sessions. The feedback from BCS is that they wish to focus more on consultants (as opposed to being trainee focussed) and would like to see a separate BHRS day aimed specifically at consultants. Of particular interest is 'programme experience'. It was noted we already had several sessions identified that would be suitable. The plan would be to also ask trainees to present difficult cases and for professionals to explain how they would deal with these cases. Other sessions to include 'up to date' devices plus 'everything an ablation doctor needs to know'.

Council agreed the new session route and hoped that this would encourage BHRS membership. JP to keep in touch with AN and to action accordingly.

**ACTION:**      **JP** – to work with new BCS Programme Chair.

**7. NICE responses [AKBS]**

**a. Atrial Fibrillation & Ablation for AF**

AKBS confirmed guidance is circulation. JP agreed to collate comments and to co-ordinate a response on behalf of BHRS. JP will gather comments by 26<sup>th</sup> and circulate.

**ACTION:**      **JP** – to co-ordinate response and circulate for comments.

It was unsure if BHRS was registered as an interested party. ER to check status.

**ACTION:** ER to check interested party status.

***b. Clinical commissioning policy proposition on catheter ablation for paroxysmal and persistent atrial fibrillation from NHS England.***

PL is co-ordinating a response. Any comments will be gratefully received. Deadline 24<sup>th</sup> October.

DT reported a very similar document had been created in Wales which has now been finalised. DT to share document with PL.

**ACTION:** DT - to share Welsh guidelines with PL

## **8. Remote Monitoring Project (IW)**

IW has suggested (with the substantial changes that have happened in regards to remote motoring) that BHRS need to think about long term service and how this will work.

The initial stages of Covid-19 saw additional funding for remote monitoring of a broader range of patients. Now funding is starting to cease BHRS need to lead on guidance. A working group is needed (to include some of the centres that are ahead of the curve in remote monitoring). ER and SA agreed to work IW on this document.

**ACTION:** IW, ER, SA – to form remote monitoring working group

## **9. Nursing Update (AH & SC)**

***a. Arrhythmia Nurse Banding Competency Document (SC)***

SC was thanked for the great work completed on the Nurse Competency document. This document includes banding and is designed to follow an arrhythmia nurse throughout their career.

Council welcomed CL who has some input on the document. SC to set up a separate discussion meeting with AH and CL to finalise the document.

**ACTION:** SC/AH/CL – organise separate discussion on document

## **10. Exam Update (SA)**

After a difficult and time consuming month all examinations are now uploaded with Pearsons Vue. The examination database of all questions (from the past 5 years) is also complete.

As of today 117 exam registrations have been received. The first BHRS training course has been completed online with 88 candidates in attendance which is double the usual number. Training presentations and a sample 2013 paper have been uploaded for training candidates.

SA noted various companies hold their own BHRS exam training day (with no link to BHRS). SA has suggested that from January next year we offer a more substantial training offering throughout the year covering all specialities via webinars.

SA to draft a document to council for consideration: to include content and costing options.

**ACTION:** SA - draft structure of webinars with costings for circulation.

SA reported it is planned to hold a second exam in May. Holding the examination twice a year gives resit candidates an earlier opportunity to qualify (rather than waiting a year).

Special thanks to SA and TWeb for all their hard work.

## **11. Admin Update (TWeb)**

Stats noted from last meeting include:

- Member Support: 237 tickets resolved since last meeting
- Certificates: 48 physical certificates have been sent out from last year's exam
- Newsletters: 16 newsletters have been sent to BHRS members
- Social Media: All news items posted on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn (plus our own website news feed)
- Examination: Assisting SA with formatting the examination and dealing with all candidate bookings
- HRC: Combined BHRS video made
- Contacting Admin: admin@bhers.com can be used for all support from council

## **12. Website Update (JC/TWeb)**

The following changes/additions have taken place on the website:

- ECG/EGM Challenges Relaunched
- Council Elections held online (nominations and voting)
- Exam Registration held online
- Exam Training Registration & Information completed online
- AER Journal page launched
- Members only Video Library launched
- Physician Mentoring event information and registration

### **13. NICOR/Audit Report (FDM)**

FM shared highlights from the UK CRM Devices/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.

Council to look at gaining FM more help to support this crucial work and to succession plan.

### **14. Research (PL & RH)**

PL has formed a research committee with 7 members. A few studies have been received for review notably CRAFT-HF - Cryoballoon/Radiofrequency Ablation of AF Treatment for Heart Failure.

The initial review on the trial from BHF was reasonably positive. They did want a more, leaner, focused trial. PL is currently dealing with comments and changing the analysis. PL has 28 UK EP centres expressing interest. PL will refine the protocol and resubmit grant.

RH noted a research board has been established and are reviewing protocols for other trials and providing constructive feedback.

PL to provide information for including on the website and newsletters.

**ACTION:** PL – provide wording/documents for website and newsletter inclusion.

### **15. Trainee Update (NA)**

Nikhil Ahluwalia and Heather Edwards have amassed 14 hours of online video content. Thank you to all council members who have contributed and to NA and HE for organising.

Council agreed one full video should be made available to non-members plus 3 teaser/preview videos which will hopefully encourage membership. NA and HE to decide which to be used. TWeb to assist in promotion using the usual channels.

**ACTION:** NA/HE/TWeb – begin promotion of new ‘members only’ video library

### **16. Secretaries Report (ER)**

#### ***a) Elections***

ER reported that the online election process worked well. Official welcome, in new roles, was made to:

- President - Alistair Slade
- Nurse - Catherine Laventure
- Doctor - John Paisey, Pier Lambiase, Steve Murray, Vivienne Ezzat

Thanks was made to the following members who have come to the end of their term:  
Richard Schilling, Stuart Harris, Mark Sopher, Jane Owen.

**b) Membership Update**

Currently 1,299 members. Roughly up 200 from last year.

ER was tasked to attempt to find how many BHRS members were device and ablation doctors. And how membership was broken down into area.

**ACTION:** ER – to establish job roles within membership

**17. Treasurer's Report (SS)**

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. Most of this year's exams fees have been collected, but costs for the exams have not yet paid out. With an increase on funds from last year council were asked to bring forward ideas on how best to use these.

**ACTION:** ALL – spending of funds ideas.

SS to give new elected Treasurer, Steve Murray, Quickfile access to accounts and put in touch with accountants at Castletree.

**ACTION:** SS/SM – SS to brief SM on new role and give relevant access.

**18. AOB**

**a) Complex & Invasive Cardiac Clinical Reference Group**

TF made the council aware of the above group and that patient topical decisions should be filtered down. It was agreed BHRS should be involved. AKBS to contact Nick Linker who may be aware of the structure.

**ACTION:** AKBS – to make contact with Nick Linker

**b) Guidance for Pathologists Document**

PF raised whether BHRS should be involved in deciding if 'download of device data' should be mandatory upon death – issue had been brought up by Stuart Allen after inquest in Manchester. Feedback is currently to the Royal College of Pathologists.

**c) ICD Patients & Sudden Death Document**

IW reported this was about to be published. Some concern was raised over the assumption that if the patient had experienced arrhythmia then that it is always the cause of death. IW to draft comments on guidance of how pathologists should interpret whether AF was the cause of death or secondary to.

**ACTION:** IW - to give examples and thoughts

**d) BHRS Survey**

FM suggested we resuscitate the BHRS survey. This would be an annual survey of centres to ask questions where we need national and diverse input. IW to create a short survey for BHRS members and suggested centres (FM to supply initial list) e.g. what does your centre do? Suggestions for questions to go to IW.

**ACTION:**      **IW** – to form survey  
                     **FM** – FM to forward list of centres to ER and TWeb for centralising

**e)      *Domiciliary Visit Query***

ER reported receiving a domiciliary visits query from a member. ER to draft a statement and circulate to council.

**ACTION:**      **ER** – statement regarding domiciliary visits

**f)      *Reducing Waste & Packaging in Cath Labs***

SM offered to present a document at the next council meeting to help reduce waste – which will include research on manufacturers with environmental packaging.

**ACTION:**      **SM** – to present thoughts.  
                     **TWeb** – add to next agenda.

**19.      *Date of next meeting***

- Thursday 3rd December @ 10am
- Monday 8th February @ 10am
- Thursday 22nd April @ 10am