

MINUTES

BHRS Council – Tuesday 18th July 2023 @ 11am

Held BCS Offices, London

PRESIDENT: Alistair Slade (AKBS)

PRESIDENT ELECT/SECRETARY: Eleri Gregory (EG)

TREASURER: Steve Murray (SM)

DOCTOR REP: Paul Foley (PF), John Paisey (JP), Ashley Nisbet (AN), Vivienne Ezzat – in part (VE)

PHYSIOLOGIST REP: Chloe Howard (CH), Amy Dutton (AD)

NURSE REP: Bridgette Smith (BS), Catherine Laventure (CL)

OTHER REPS: Stuart Allen (SA) – Accreditation Committee Chair
Heather Herbert (HH) – SCST Rep

ADMIN: Steve Sadler (SS), Pauline Heery (PH) – (TWeb)

1. Apologies for absence

Joseph de Bono, Phil Durkin, Simon Holmes, Cristiana Monteiro, Dewi Thomas

2. Agree minutes of previous Council meeting

Already complete.

3. Matters arising not covered elsewhere

a. GIRFT Cardiology Report

No progress made. AKBS to hand over to EG to take forward.

ACTION: EG – take forward.

b. Bullying survey

BS reported slow progress but a meeting with relevant reps (BS, CM, VE) will be set up early August to take forward.

c. Guidance for pregnant women in labour with ICDs

EG reported that content has been agreed. Illustrations and where to publish are being worked on. Once finalised this document will come to council and BCS.

d. Review of NHSE PIFU arrhythmia pathway

No update received.

e. Device & Ablation standards refresh

PF is currently working on the Device refresh with the main changes being refreshing leadless pacing and conduction system pacing. He hopes to have the revised document ready for the next council meeting.

AN reported the Ablation refresh is going through a tidy up with minimal change. The main change will be the reduction in the portion of time trainees spend in EP. This will be circulated to council and brought back to the next meeting for final approval.

4. President's Report

a. BHRS/A-A HRC

AKBS gave the group a quick update. A memorandum of understanding from BHRS was sent in April and the A-A equivalent received in June. A planned meeting of both parties at the end of June unfortunately did not happen and there are currently plans to try and meet at the beginning of September.

b. AF Ablation - NHS England Commissioning Policy. BlueTeq, PROMS etc

Members of council echoed the same issue – all are aware of BlueTeq and PROMS but unsure of the tools to use and how to approach it - so completion is not happening proactively. It was felt there was a need for one company to manage and collate for consistency. AKBS to put together a short communication to members to ascertain comments from a wider group.

ACTION: AKBS – compose communication to members.

c. Medtronic ICD

AKBS to meet offline with SH. AD and SA are working on a document regarding optimal programming of devices to ensure ICD therapy is automatically transmitted via remote monitoring.

ACTION: AKBS – arrange meeting with SH. AD and SA to circulate document when complete

d. BCIS LAAO Position Statement

AKBS circulated all comments received regarding the statement prior to the meeting. SM agreed to collate comments on behalf of council for BCIS in a more suitable format.

ACTION: SM – collate comments

e. Abbott advisory Assurity/Endurity Field Safety Notice

A colleague of AKBS has raised this and stressed that it is becoming more important than ever. The group reported inconsistencies regarding box changes i.e. whether to do it and who pays for it. Abbott are generally paying for the pacemaker - and in some instances for the clinic time. Each centre is presently taking their own steer on the guidance given as the 'advisory' wording has caused confusion.

AKBS to raise the issue on the national EP WhatsApp group as it has good national coverage. AKBS to report back prior to next council meeting. AKBS to also discuss with SH offline ASAP.

ACTION: AKBS – send communication to EP WhatsApp group & raise with SH

f. Request for Physiology Service Review

AKBS reported a request has been received from a trust in South England for a service review and is asking for BHRS assistance. AKBS has booked a call on Thursday afternoon to discuss with them. Need to

consider the workload and travel expense aspect. AKBS to discuss with EG next week after call.

ACTION: AKBS – discuss phone call outcome with EG

5. Current External Groups with BHRS Representation

a. IQIPS Advisory

No update.

b. Academy of Healthcare Science

CH reported that the group wanted to develop a workforce toolkit and compose an EDI survey. The general view was agreement to its development. CH to lead and take forward with assistance from relevant members on council.

ACTION: CH – develop workforce toolkit plan

c. RCCP

EG awaiting to hear back from RCCP whether a new BHRS rep is needed since Ian Wright left.

d. Resuscitation Council UK

No update received.

e. SCST

CH now also sits on SCST. EG to write to Cristiana (current BHRS rep) for potential handover to CH if struggling to attend. HH reported: It is the SCST's 75th birthday. There will be a national update meeting in November. Exercise test guidelines will be coming out soon. They are also assisting Physiologists gaining equivalence with STP equivalent sessions. They will be looking at ECG guidance next as a group.

ACTION: EG – compose email to CM

f. BiCCEP

AN reported the group continues to thrive with a meeting once a year and quarterly MDT on Teams where cases are brought in for discussion. The use of the charitable donation received by the group is being finalised but will likely be spent on a Data Manager to collate data on how to understand more about patients and how they are treated. They also wish to create a registry.

g. BCS CPCS

HH is chair and is attempting to gather everyone and establish aims for the group moving forward. AKBS to contact John and Andre regarding aims.

ACTION: AKBS – contact John & Andre regarding aims.

h. Device Working Group

No update

i. BCS Focused Echo Working Party

Group discussing whether a detailed echo on every patient as standard is needed. AKBS has requested a copy of the last minutes.

j. NHS OHCA EAG

No update.

k. BCIS Structural Intervention Group

SM to be removed as contact. Add Lee Graham.

ACTION: TWeb – add Lee Graham to relevant circulation

l. LAAO domain group

New addition for agenda. SM representing.

m. AF in Pregnancy Task and Finish Group

AN representing. No update.

n. NHS Paramedics

SM reported the document is now finished.

o. Cardiac Working Group

HH sits on this group as SCST rep. The group is chaired by Jane Lynch from the National School of Healthcare Science. Holly Daw is representing BHRS in her education and accreditation roles.

p. Domain Expert Group (NICOR)

MD representing. No update

6. Education Committee/Events

JP reported great progress with a timetable of events established, a robust financial model, financial transparency and a great relationship with Millbrook Medical Conferences who are organising.

Long Term Strategy:

- Aim to hold large event in Scotland 2025 & Wales 2026
- Simulation training days to be held twice per year (rotating locations)
- Repeat March's single day senior event at RCP once a year

Attendees must be members and attendance will always be as close to 'cost' as possible.

JP is looking for volunteers to help oversee the simulation day on 7th November.

JP reported the simulation day will not cover surgical skills due to the need for a clinical environment. As a result a separate group has been set up to collate and organise the existing provision available nationally.

AN suggested a mailshot be sent to TPDs so they can advertise to their own trainees directly. JP to organise and prepare mailshot with Millbrook and TWeb.

ACTION: JP/AN/TWeb – organise mailshot for forwarding.

AKBS reported Edward Rowland would like to chair a session during 2024 February Manchester meeting. JP to contact and facilitate.

ACTION: JP – make contact with Edward Rowland

7. Training Update

a. Curriculum

British Heart Rhythm Society

Registered Address: 24A Market Street, Disley, Cheshire SK12 2AA UK

Email: admin@bhrrs.com | Web: www.bhrrs.com

Registered Charity Number: 273307

AN reported concern that there was no real push from the GMC to create the processes of credentialing beyond the curriculum for advanced modules in; for example, VT, ACHD EP, and device extraction. It was felt BHRS should be composing standards itself.

8. Nursing Update

BS presented the nurse survey results to council to attempt to establish current barriers for nurses to membership and how we can improve our offering to current nurse members. The results showed that training and development were at the forefront. From the discussion we are now offering or working towards a number of the suggestions including access to events and online materials. SA to add a Nurses specific webinar to list of educational offerings which should also hopefully improve the take up on the clinical exam. SA to also relook at the syllabus with the team.

Nurse reps to work with TWeb to create a communication to target nurses i.e. what BHRS can do for you.

ACTION: SA – work towards having a Nurse specific webinar & relook at syllabus
BS/TWeb – communication/advert worded specifically to nurses

TWeb to attempt to breakdown what data we have on job titles to establish nurse numbers within membership.

ACTION: TWeb – collate job title data that we have.

9. Accreditation Update

a. May 2023 Exam

SA gave an overview of the May exam results. Post survey results are all positive with only a few poor comments received which were down to a Pearson Vue error. Exam registration opens for the November examination tomorrow.

b. Webinars

For the first time ever an EP cases and traces webinar will be held. Take up is currently good with almost 50 sign ups already. This will be held 24th October and is open and free to members only. A devices webinar will be held 10th November. This will support exam training but is also open to anyone in relevant training or those wanting to 'brush-up on skills.

c. Reaccreditation

SA previously circulated documents for a new points system as an alternative for reaccreditation. The system would be:

- Those with existing IBHRE or EHRA accreditation can reaccredit with BHRS points
- Hospital departments can also apply for BHRS points for regular departmental education sessions
- 2025 as cut off for the 5 year expiry
- Pre 2020 candidates can still reaccredit using BHRS points or at 10 years via exam

The example points list would need refining by the accreditation and education committee and final sign off needed from council. With the extra time needed for sign off it was decided those required to reaccredit in 2024 could extend their reaccreditation to 31st December 2024. SA to prep a statement for the website.

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It was decided more discussion was needed and to revisit previous suggestions for general accreditation inclusion. JP to put together a proposal in writing and circulate - plus meet with SA offline to discuss.

ACTION: **JP/SA – compose proposal and meet offline.**
 SA/TWeb – compose reaccreditation statement for website

EG to also revive potential for joint/discounted EHRA membership.

ACTION: **EG – revisit EHRA membership**

d. Future Plans

SA is working on moving the exams online and in-house. This is because the Pearson Vue system is currently restrictive to our needs. The plan is to introduce a shorter online mock exam and expand this in the future.

TWeb are asking for an additional £2k per month for 3 months to cover additional work needed in these areas: streamlining logbooks online, reaccreditation work, improving question database, developing online exams. This was agreed by council.

10. NICOR/Audit Report

MD was not in attendance. AKBS reported it was hoped to get this year's report out by Christmas.

11. Research

No update received.

12. BJCA/Trainee Update

No update received.

13. Admin Update

TWeb was formally thanked for their help in moving BHRS forwards in the last few years.

Since the last meeting the team had sent out 5 newsletters, completed 28 posts on social media and answered 83 tickets. They had also been busy supporting the exam, reaccreditation, webinar organisation, the nurse survey and supporting the Education Committee, Surgical Skills group and Millbrook.

14. Website Update

Website hits were static with peaks when advertising webinars. There have been no ECG challenges since March which always create a massive spike. Any contributions were welcomed.

15. BHRS App

Due to the ongoing issue with getting the App approved by Apple SS reported they had removed any need for a login and the member only pages. This has now been approved. Improvements will continually be made before full release.

16. Treasurer's Report

SM reported a static balance of £196k. The process has started to gain TWeb a credit card so they could purchase approved items without having to go via expenses.

17. Secretaries Report

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a. Elections

EG reported 5 doctors and 1 nurse are coming end of term. Those eligible to reapply have been encouraged to do so. An election timetable was presented with self-nominations due to open on Thursday. Voting would then open 24th August and close 14th September with results being announced at the next AGM which is currently scheduled for 25th September.

b. Constitution

It was decided clarification was needed whether past members could apply and under what terms - and the maximum length of service. EG to perfect wording and recirculate for council approval before bringing to the AGM for passing.

EG to contact Cristiana regarding meeting attendance.

ACTION: **EG – tweak constitution change text**
 EG – email Cristiana

c. Meeting Dates

The following meeting dates were suggested with a time change of either 9am or 1pm. Everyone agreed the change in timing.

- Monday 25th September 2023 - AGM
- Monday 2nd October 2023 - Zoom
- Tuesday 12th December 2023 - Zoom
- Wednesday 28th February 2024 - In Person (TBC) & Zoom
- Thursday 18th April 2024 - Zoom
- Friday 12th July 2024 – Zoom

d. Member update

76 new members (40 Level 1, 36 Level 2).

18. AOB

a. Alistair Slade, BHRS President – Closing Speech

AKBS formally thanked council for their support during his presidency. He noted it had been an interesting and strange presidency particularly navigating through Covid. He feels strongly that the BHRS is in an amazing place and is excited to continue to watch its growth under EG's leadership.

19. Date of Next Meeting & AGM

- Council: Monday 2nd October
- AGM: Monday 25th September