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MINUTES OF AGM OF UKCS

8.30am FRIDAY 17 APRIL 2009 GRAND THEATRE SWANSEA

1. Minutes of the last AGM:

The minutes of the last AGM held at Basingstoke on 11th April 2009 were presented and accepted

2. Finances:

The finances of the Society were presented by the Treasurer Ralph Webb:

Opening balance:	£51,494.24	
Expenditure:	£5,000	small grants
	£497.08	miscellaneous
	£135.53	website
Income: (approximated)	£1,255	subscriptions
	£3,500	meetings
	£67.93	interest

The reason that these were approximated was that the final accounts from both the Norwich and Birmingham meetings were to be ratified. (In addition there was an expenditure of £500 which had not been paid out for secretarial support). The closing balance was therefore £49,684.58.

3. Basingstoke Meeting

Tim Sayers gave a report on the Basingstoke meeting and in particular debate centred on the Pro's & Con's of having International speakers at the UKCS meeting. Several points were raised, firstly highlighting that currently the construct of the meeting and flavour rests purely with the Chairperson for that meeting (despite having a broad framework to work on with the stated aim of the society to remain a research society). There also seemed broad support for the principle of the chairperson deciding on whether they wanted to have International speakers.

4. Small Grants Committee-Presented by Doug Small

Doug gave an overview of the discussion that had been undertaken by the Small Grants Committee that the stated aims were firstly to encourage new researchers for research to be in a multi-professional environment and the role not merely being cranking the handle of established bigger groups. As in previous years the committee had a remit for spending up to £20,000. The committee on this occasion was composed of Doug Small in the Chair, Mandy Wells as next year's Chairman, Tim Sayers as last year's Chairman, Andrew Farkas representing Steve Radley, Kim Powles as a nursing representative, Jay Khastgir local representative and Jonathan Duckett as a newly co-opted member.

The committee reviewed 6 electronic applications. Each was reviewed by 2 committee members and then discussed by the whole committee. The committee felt that there were 5 applications worthy of support and a total of £14,500 was awarded. Further details of the awards will be available on the website.

In the discussion of the Small Grants Committee it was pointed out that despite a stated aim being to try and prime new researchers and encourage previously not research active people that on review of the Small Grants Committee it was found that actually most of the awards had been made to establish research units. Professor James Malone-Lee pointed out that potentially the previously stated aims of the Small Grants Committee perhaps was prejudiced on the basis that larger units tended to attract more people being interested in research, all of which required funding and therefore to potentially bias against this could create problems.

5. Invitation to Host UKCS

Ralph Webb discussed where meetings had previously been held and pointed out that in recent years we have had meeting in Norwich, Birmingham and now Swansea with Devon and Bristol being the sites for the next 2 years. We had received expressions of interest from Liverpool and also a combined bid from Guilford and Kingston. After careful discussion and in the absence of any objection, it was decided to award the 2012 meeting to Liverpool and 2013 to Guilford and Kingston. Ralph Webb also outlined the proposed structure for future meetings and the document that will be posted on the website co-authored by himself and Peter Mainprice of Index Communications outlining the minimum standards that should be applied to the meeting to give future meetings slightly more structure. Ralph highlighted the need for a corporate memory and whilst meetings should continue to have an individual flavour from the local Chairman, that having some continuity in the planning would allow us to improve future meetings.

6. UKCS Meeting 2010 Torquay 14-16 April entitled "Great Expectations"

Mandy Wells gave a short presentation on next year's meeting and reminded delegates that the venue for the meeting had been changed from Exeter to Torquay and extolled the virtues of the meeting. In particular it was discussed that we will be looking to hold some workshops which would offer niche generic non-clinical skills that could be advantageous to members attending in achieving appraisal targets.

7. Proposed Changes

Philip Toozs-Hobson then presented the proposals of what had been going on behind the scenes of UKCS over the last 12 months. It was pointed out that UKCS as an organisation had primarily existed to host a conference and more recently, because it had generated funds, had started awarding research grants in keeping with its ethos. Because of this, traditionally the membership costs had been kept to a minimum but it was felt that it is now appropriate it needed to develop in view of the changing role of the UKCS. The drivers for change had come from the work going on for the last 4 years looking at urodynamics accreditation which had been launched at this meeting.

Necessarily the membership price will have to increase to encompass the work being done around accreditation and recertification within urodynamics. However it was felt that the need to now

develop a wider remit highlighting benefits of membership in terms of education and possibly dissemination of best practice, improving the access to bursaries and grants, the discount for attending the annual meeting and looking at facilitating networking.

There was a discussion about the option for UKCS to take over a journal and whilst this had a few supporters and a few people who felt that this was a bad idea, the majority of the membership appeared “luke warm” to this idea. Paul Hilton opposed the suggestion that the meeting abstracts should be published as this would prevent research being presented at UKCS before international meetings. Publishing the meeting abstracts in a journal was rejected, There was a brief discussion of changes to the website and more details of this hopefully will follow over the next 12 months. There will be a need to set up committees for accreditation in urodynamics.

Currently the best description to fit the UKCS is that it is an informational collective. It does have the UKCS (management) limited, which is a company that functions purely to run the finances for the annual meeting. The options which were mentioned were firstly to look at becoming a registered charity which potentially would be credibility for receiving donations and have potential advantages from a governance and tax point of view. An alternative to this would be to look at becoming a social enterprise company which functions in a similar way to a limited company but no dividend is paid to shareholder’s and any profit is ploughed back into the company. The third option would be to retain its current informal collective. These ideas clearly need to be explored further and as always if there are opinions that people wish to express, they can be done so by contacting either Ralph Webb or Phil Tooze-Hobson.

8. AOB

No matters were raised.

