



**Minutes of LAKPA Annual General Meeting Tuesday 21 March 2023
held in the Trust Boardroom, Lister hospital.**

Present:

Kirit Modi,
Praveen Jeevaratnam
Roger Greenwood
Sandra Cruickshank
Anthony Byrne
Sandra Byrne
Andrew Bullen
Marion Bullen
Tony Heath
Tarsem Paul
Maurice Sullivan
Ros Aird
Clare Morlidge
Santee Navje
Lydia Mugambi

Farrell Anglin
John Henebury
Susan Henebury
Helen Lindhurst
Karen Harding

Apologies

Fiona Loud
Saro Sajeev
David Green
Ali Lawrence
Alison Anderson
Adam Sewell-Jones

Before starting the formal proceedings Kirit welcomed all those who had joined the meeting. He then called for a minute's silence in remembrance of those of our members who were no longer with us.

Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the AGM held on 23 March 2021 were approved for accuracy and there were no matters arising.

Andrew proposed acceptance of the minutes, it was seconded by Tarsem and agreed by all.

Chairman's Annual report

Kirit presented his annual report which was a brief overview of the last 12 months. A copy of his presentation is attached to these minutes.

When Kirit was talking about transport, which is a frequent source of problems for patients using this service, Lydia pointed out that, as part of her studies, she is doing a project on transport, as part of which she has carried out a short survey of patients at Bedford and this has thrown up some interesting issues. This will be very useful, and Lydia will share the results with us.

During the report Kirit thanked all in LAKPA and the Trust who worked together in partnership to support kidney patients. He particularly mentioned Andrew Bullen, who was stepping back from the committee after many years, and who had been Kirit's immediate

predecessor in the role of Chair. Andrew was presented with flowers and a golf voucher in recognition of his invaluable service to LAKPA. In responding to this presentation Andrew paid tribute to his wife, Marion, who had supported him throughout his work for LAKPA.

The meeting also paid tribute to several people who had given long standing support, but who were now stepping back: Maria da Silva Gane who has retired, Seema Dahad, whose health is now poor, Nick Papé who has moved to Cambridge, and Keith Loud who has supported the collection boxes in Luton shops for many years. The meeting showed their appreciation for this work.

Kirit concluded his review of the year by informing the meeting that this will be written up in a report for the Charity Commission which will be submitted by October. We will also be working on finalising our priorities for the coming year over the next few weeks.

Kirit's report was proposed by Andrew, seconded by Tarsem and agreed by all.

Presentation by Praveen Jeevaratnam, Renal Clinical Director

The meeting moved on to a presentation by Praveen with a title of 'Equity of Care, Future of Renal Services' which was an overview of the challenges facing the service and the plans for the coming year. Before starting his talk Praveen paid tribute to the whole renal team who did all the hard work and of which he considered himself to be only the figurehead. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

Following the presentation there were several questions:

Now that our area has been split between two ICB's, has this brought any difficulties? They both work differently and have different priorities, so communication is the key here. The BLMK ICB with its large ethnic minority population is more focussed on addressing inequalities, we also have the advantage that the Chiltern Unit is ideally placed to promote home dialysis.

Kirit asked about addressing inequalities and said that this has been highlighted as a priority by the Trust in its draft strategy. One of the key areas in addressing this is the availability of information and Sandra has been working on this – both in translations of existing information, but also thinking outside the box, using social media, IT technology, QR codes etc. There is a real recognition that information is the key to engagement.

Karen asked about access to doctors for patients on in-centre dialysis -it is very hard to access GP's or, when in centre, to get a doctor to visit the unit. In theory there is more provision in the Lister Unit, but while there is no reason for a doctor not to be available if someone is acutely unwell, the resources are very stretched, and this is a symptom of that. In the case of an unwell patient the nursing staff will do the initial assessment and call a doctor if needed. The problem is that, to have a doctor allocated to the unit there would need to be a significant increase in staffing and there is not the budget for this. This is exacerbated by the current wave of industrial action, particularly that by junior doctors. The sad fact is that the proportion of doctors to renal patients in the UK is one of the lowest in the world. There are historical reasons for this relating to the emphasis on dialysis in the home as kidney services were developing and the very strong primary care sector in the UK, although this has recently come under severe stress. Countering this we can be proud that there are more people with transplants than there are on dialysis.

Karen also raised the problem of transport, delays of which have meant that the time on dialysis is reduced. The issue here again is lack of capacity – all the dialysis units are full with no spare capacity and, without putting in place a night shift, there is little opportunity to expand as there is no capital within the NHS to build new units. This is another reason for promoting home dialysis. Now that NEPTS are under the control of the ICB's the service should improve, but the transition to the new structure will not happen fully until next year when the new contracts are in place. There are robust monitoring systems in place, but the service has also got resource issues with no plans for significant investment – this is exacerbated by the fact that in 2016 there were 700 on renal replacement dialysis, now there are 1,100 with no corresponding increase in funding. Sandra has worked closely with the BLMK ICB on this issue and has made significant headway and she is now turning attention to the North Herts and West Essex ICB where there are significant problems.

Farrell brought up a problem with the toilet facilities for the nursing staff at St Albans – the male staff toilet needs repair – this will be referred to the Director of Estates. There was also an issue with the toilet on 6B which is not easily accessible by wheelchair users, and which potentially could be solved by having a sliding door.

Praveen confirmed that, for those wanting to do home dialysis in temporary or rented accommodation, this can be accommodated as long as the landlord gives permission. Any installations are paid for by the NHS and are put back when no longer required. There is also the example of the Chiltern Unit where there are areas where those who aren't able to have the facilities at home can come to do their own dialysis. It is hoped that this can be replicated in the new home dialysis facility development – this could include homeless patients. Although the Chiltern self-care unit is underused at the moment, this will change as Home Therapies training increases.

Kirit thanked Praveen and his team for an excellent presentation and their full and frank responses to questions from the audience.

Treasurer's Report

Anthony presented the Treasurer's report which was in respect of 2022. The accounts for which have been verified by our accountant. Putting aside Tom Costello's bequest, LAKPA turns over around £15k p.a. At the start of the year, we targeted an expenditure of £50k for projects funded by Tom's bequest and we spent £49,055. There is still a potential bill for door automation that is still outstanding. This year, discounting the donation of £3000 that was ring-fenced for staff benefit, the amount was c£14,500 income. There are several report requirements for the Charity Commission based on the annual turnover, and this now brings us down to the basic level of reporting. LAKPA currently uses Lighthouse Accounts in Hitchin and he proposed that we continue with the arrangement as they have proved to be reliable and good value. There is now around £200k in an ABRDN investment Trust and a bank balance of c£100k. A copy of the balance sheet is attached to the minutes.

There was little of note within the accounts although there was some concern about the postage costs of the Newsletter, and we are looking at ways to mitigate this.

Anthony's report was proposed by Tony, seconded by Tarsem and agreed by all.

Retaining of Lighthouse Accountancy Ltd as LAKPA Auditors was proposed by Maurice, seconded by Andrew and agreed by all.

Kirit thanked Anthony for all his hard work on behalf of LAKPA, which included getting a

LAKPA debit card and e- banking.

Membership, Communications and website

Following discussions with the Trust's GDPR officer a strategy to increase membership of LAKPA was put in place and a target of 600 members by the end of 2023 was set. At the last AGM membership stood at 420 and it is now 545, so we are feeling confident that we can reach this goal. This has been done by developing a new leaflet and application form, using professional designers and this has been enthusiastically supported by renal staff across the piste for which we are very grateful. We have had to employ a virtual assistant to process the applications and provide the statistics.

Communications – website and Facebook – Ali Lawrence has taken on this role and is doing an amazing job in raising the profile of LAKPA. We are now looking at extending our profile through other social media.

Kirit thanked Ros and Ali for all their amazing work.

Nominations

Kirit said that the following nominations for the Officer posts had been received.

Kirit Modi	Chairperson
Fiona Loud	Vice Chair
Anthony Byrne	Treasurer
Ros Aird	Secretary including membership and communications.
Tarsem Paul	Bedford Liaison
David Green	Lead liaison with ABRDN

These nominations were proposed by Maurice, seconded by Tony and agreed by all.

Committee Members with other responsibilities

Andrew Bullen	Lister Liaison (until we find a replacement)
Tony Heath	Membership support
Ali Lawrence –	Website and social media
Maurice Sullivan	Chiltern Unit Liaison
Terry Downing -	Harlow Unit Liaison
David Waller	St Albans Liaison (but not a LAKPA Committee member)
Farrell Anglin	Observer Member

These nominations were proposed by Maurice, seconded by Ros and agreed by all

Trust staff as Observer members

Praveen Jeevaratnam	Clinical Director Renal Services
Roger Greenwood	Consultant Nephrologist
Sandra Cruickshank	Deputy Director of Nursing and Quality for Renal
Kevin Howell	Director of Estates
Usama Butt	Nephrologist

Praveen agreed to discuss membership with the two staff who will soon take over from Maria.

Nominations for the Executive Members and Trustees of the charity were: Kirit, Fiona,

Tarsem, Anthony, Ros, and David. Andrew proposed these nominations, seconded by Tarsem and agreed by all.

Any other Business

.
An offer was made for to provide afternoon tea for patients at the Rushden Garden Centre by Helen Lindhurst who is also fundraising for LAKPA. Kirit thanked her for her very generous support.

There was discussion as to whether future meeting should be in person or online and Sandra pointed out that the conference rooms at the hospital were set up for hybrid meetings and this will be explored further for future meetings. The next meeting of the Committee on 11 April will be a hybrid as an experiment.

Kirit closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending.
