

Minutes of NSUKI AGM London 23rd May 2011

Present: J Raphael, N Padfield, R McSullivan, R Strachan, G Baranidharan, P Toomey, S Eldabe, S Thomson, J Valentine, B Simpson, C Naylor, A Gulve, T. Greozuinuk, Richard Sawyer, Morag Brookes, Andy Crocket, Carol Barnes, Natasha Ascot, Simon Dolin, - .

1. Apologies: F Luscombe

2. Minutes of the last meeting (Leeds).

Minutes accepted as an accurate record. No matters arising from the minutes.

4. Elections to the Board.

Noted posts of President Elect, Treasurer and Member for Irish Affairs due for election in October 2011. Membership will be circulated with request for nominations.

5. President's report

JR reported a successful meeting in Leeds last year. 37 delegates attended the meeting. Feedback was generally positive. Points for improvements in the future have been noted.

Noted the report from the Audit Commission in April, quoting Croydon PCT's list of procedures of limited clinical value included spinal cord stimulation. JR has written to both organisations pointing out the NICE TAG 159 recommendations for SCS. No reply from either organisation.

Noted plans for the Registry (see below)

Annual Scientific Meetings. This year no NSUKI ASM as INS World Congress, London instead. Satellite meetings had been organised at Oxford (Thurs 19 May) and at Guys & St Thomas' (Sun 21 May Theatre demo and Thur 26 May cadaver course). The planned NSUKI cadaver course was amalgamated with the Guy's course.

Abstracts from Plymouth and Leeds have been accepted for publication in Neuromodulation journal.

Planning to have a joint meeting with the German NS in Berlin next year. FL has been in negotiation with Werner Baundrauf and will continue the negotiations together with JR.

ASM for 2013 needs planning. Oxford or Dublin had been suggested as options.

6. Treasurer's report (NP)

AAGBI has changed system for billing specialist societies for office services. Now charge an hourly rate of £28+vat for office activity associated with NSUKI. Expect this to amount to approximately £2000 per annum.

Subscriptions remain at £140 for full membership of which \$120 is remitted to INS as membership fee, subscription to the journal Neuromodulation and running INS website etc. The remaining £60 goes into the NSUKI account.

Subscription fees amount to about £4200 per annum from current membership of 75.

Principle income generator for the Society is the ASM. Running costs of Leeds ASM were high and attendance was low resulting in a very small surplus of £427. Much of the ASM running costs (£28,477) were accounted for by the £10,942 conference organiser fee for AAGBI.

2010 was the last year of the contract with AAGBI to provide conference organiser services for NSUKI. Services of AAGBI will be available in future at the standard rate of £28/hr (above).

Expenses: AAGBI Office charges £2000 p.a. , AAGBI/NSUKI expenses £9012, Franklin's Accountants £1859.75.

Income: Subscriptions £4200.

Balance: Subscriptions cover costs of running AAGBI office and Accountants fees. Further £10,000 p.a. required to cover other NSUKI expenses in addition to costs of ASM.

Plan: Reduce costs of running ASM. Reduce Board meeting expenses by reducing to 2 per year with a rotating member using teleconference facility plus a third Board meeting held at the ASM.

Encourage Society membership to attend ASM. Plan location of ASM for ease of access.

Reduce conference organiser fees by considering local organiser facilities or contracting AAGBI for specific tasks only.

Bank Balances: Saver Account £21,699 Community Account £45,608.

Account includes £4000 sponsorship from Industry for the Leeds cadaver course that did not take place. This will be held on account for a future educational event (SE will provide copies of invoices raised for this sponsorship).

Discussion included discussion of the expenses incurred to date in developing the Registry. A fee of approximately £10,000 for David Cunningham's work was anticipated by ST. JR noted that NSUKI had received a donation of £5000 from Esai in the past that could be used for this purpose together with the balance from NSUKI funds. ST to request an invoice for work to date from DC.

BS pointed out the value of using a Conference Organiser and the good service that AAGBI had provided. However, it was felt that organiser services for a conference that was attended by an average of 50 delegates could be secured at a more competitive rate than the £300 per head that the Leeds AAGBI organiser's fee amounted to.

PT stated that AAGBI could still be used for specific activities such as collection of fees and registrations at their new hourly rate or GB suggested that fees could be collected using a PayPal gateway linked to the ASM webpage. Problems of probity were avoided by using the AAGBI account to accept fees.

11. Registry

ST outlined the progress with the National Registry. SE and ST had met with David Cunningham. The prototype was ready to run as a Microsoft Access database. It was not a web based system but could be linked into users hospital CPD. The system was secure and encrypted. It will be possible to email the

encrypted data to the central database that will initially be managed by David Cunningham.

ST demonstrated the use of the Registry and showed examples of data already embedded in the system eg. GP practices.

David Rowbotham, Faculty of Pain Medicine was keen to support a database for SCS. NICE expected a registry for SCS and future applications of SCS. Costs of running the Registry could amount to £100,000 p.a. Methods of funding were discussed including adding a levy to each implanted system, having it as a requirement for revalidation so Hospitals agree to support funding. The levy could be £100 per device with £50 charged to the manufacturer and £50 paid by the hospital and recharged to the purchaser. SD advised that Dendrite www.e-dendrite.com was an organisation that provided clinical database services at minimal cost.

Meeting was adjourned at this point because of time constraints

7. Secretary's report (not presented - PT)

Membership stands at 75.

Non-members attending the INS meeting will have a year's complimentary membership of INS included in their registration. These will be advised to continue with membership of NSUKI.

Zoe Taylor (AAGBI) ran a booth in the Trade Stand area advising on membership and providing membership forms. Several had been taken up.

Other agenda items not presented

Date of next meeting

Planned for Berlin 2012