

MINUTES

BHRS Council – Thursday 2nd December 2021 @ 10:00

Held via Zoom

PRESIDENT:	Alistair Slade (AKBS)
TREASURER:	Steve Murray (SM)
SECRETARY:	Eleri Roberts (ER)
PHYSICIAN REP:	Joseph De Bono (JDB), Paul Foley (PF), John Paisey (JP),
PHYSIOLOGIST REP:	Ian Wright (IW)
OTHER REPS:	Simon Holmes (SH) – MHRA Derek Connelly (DC) – Scottish Representative Nikhil Ahluwalia (NA) – BJCA rep Stuart Allen (SA) – Accreditation Francis Murgatroyd (FM) – Registry & Audit Dewi Thomas (DT) – Welsh Working Group
ADMIN:	Steve Sadler (SS) – Admin Team Pauline Heery (PH) – Admin Team Hugo Finley (HF) – Admin Team

1. Apologies for absence

Trudie Lobban, Cristiana Monteiro, Vivienne Ezzat, Jason Collinson, Oliver Singleton, Ashley Nisbet, Angela Hall, Sarah Clarke, Catherine Laventure, Claire O'Neil.

2. AOB Declaration

Cardiac Society Relationships. See item 22.

3. Agree minutes of previous Council meeting

Already completed.

4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere

a. *Reducing Waste & Packaging in Cath Labs (SM)*

SM is working on a good practice document and will aim to produce a first draft ready for the next council meeting. SM to reference existing NHS guidance.

ACTION: SM – draft document

b. Device clinic follow up intervals & making our national guidance more specific

This is currently being worked on and IW has circulated a document to PF and ER initially. Comments were made to leave follow up interval guidance quite open to interpretation for individual centres. Document to be drafted for next council meeting.

ACTION: IW/ER/PF – amend national guidance

c. Physiologists implanting pacemakers

Nothing to report in HD absence.

ACTION: AKBS - follow up with HD.

d. BHRS standards for congenital ablation and devices

This has been mildly adjusted and was circulated to council on 26th Nov. The revised document will be open for council consultation for a period of 2 weeks and will then be published.

ACTION: JDB/TWeb – publish after 2 week period if no further comments

e. Education sessions

To be removed from agenda.

ACTION: TWeb – remove from agenda

f. Apprentices

To be removed from agenda.

ACTION: TWeb – remove from agenda

g. GIRFT Cardiology Report

A forum was set up to discuss the contents of this report after concerns were raised at the last council meeting. A few comments were received echoing concerns already raised. There was general agreement this should be classed as an ‘aspirational’ document rather than something to comply with as the resources needed to adhere to the document was deemed far too intensive. AKBS to touch base with BCS and Nick Linker initially and then create a summary document of concerns placed into two categories 1) Items with a resource implication and 2) Items that are questionable or need to be phrased correctly/differently.

ACTION: AKBS – contact BCS & create summary document

h. Proposed BHRS Nominations Committee and Subcommittees

It is important that any BHRS member who sits on the nomination committee cannot be involved in discussions about any committee they wish to be involved in and that they would leave any such discussion.

Committee roles need to be clearer about timescales of serving and to formalise co-opted members time on committees. It was also asked to make it official that exam writers should be automatically given BHRS accreditation after contributing and serving for 2 years on the committee.

ER to refresh document and re-circulate for comments/approval.

ACTION: **ER – TOR document to be revised**

5. President's Report

a. Electric vehicle communication

AKBS has researched this item and reports very little data is available to issue an informed statement at this stage. AKBS and SH to continue conversation offline and contact relevant societies for input.

ACTION: **AKBS/SH – continue offline**

b. BHRS & Radcliffe

Not yet complete.

c. BJCA rep selection process

AKBS reported that he's incredibly pleased that NA has agreed to stay on as BJCA rep until a replacement is found.

d. Letter from South London CRM network

AKBS received correspondence about the need to improve physiology numbers and training. PF noted there may be potential funding available for this from correspondence received from Martin Allen. PF to check and establish more details.

ACTION: **PF – contact Martin Allen**

There are currently pilot training schemes and the possibility of the BHRS education committee to assist moving forward but it was stressed some safeguarding would have to be put in place to encourage people to stay within the NHS.

It was decided it was necessary to gain a full understanding of the situation in the rest of the UK in regards to training and recruitment. AKBS and ER to take forward and contact TL on her return to assist. AKBS to draft a holding reply and start work on a survey. This would also include asking about current wait times and a free text box for concerns.

ACTION: **AKBS/ER – holding reply, survey compilation and contact TL**

e. Letter from Medtronic re Tyrx and NICE

Letter received asking BHRS for involvement and assistance in composing a consensus document. AKBS to reply to say happy to assist and gain details of numbers needed and then circulate to council for volunteers.

ACTION: **AKBS – reply and then circulate to council for volunteers**

f. CPCS Council

This is a sub-committee of BCS with the aim to improve the profile of physiologists and scientists in cardiology. ER's first term is coming to an end but reported she is happy to continue. ER to circulate for further reps from council and go to wider BHRS members if needed.

ACTION: ER – gain further volunteers to serve on CPCS council

g. NICE Diagnostic Assessment Programme

NICE have contacted BHRS to ask for appropriate specialist members to join their group on this. AKBS to contact Pier Lambiase and Elijah for suggestions.

ACTION: AKBS – contact Pier & Elijah for recommend representatives

6. Current External Groups with BHRS Representation

a. Cardiac Arrest Group

On hold.

b. Radiotherapy and CIED group

Draft almost ready.

c. MRI & CIED Group

Drafted and circulated to council. Looking to publish in two weeks if no further comments.

ACTION: PF/TWeb – collate any final comments/publish

d. Cardiac Arrest in Cath lab

Guidelines published. Remove from future agenda.

ACTION: TWeb – remove from agenda

e. CPCS Group

Already covered.

f. Device MDT Working Party

This group was set up by Simon Ray to look at heart failure, devices, MDTs etc. A document is presently being drafted.

7. CRT Optimisation Guidance

ER waiting to hear.

8. HRC 2022

JP will put together some broad titles and collate ideas from the rest of council.

ACTION: **JP/ALL – ideas for HRC agenda**

9. Education Committee

AKBS and ER to discuss further offline and discuss recruitment.

ACTION: **AKBS/ER – organise further discussion**

10. Updated Guidance for CIED patients around time of surgery.

PF circulated the revised updated version this morning. Consultation period to include original authors in consultation. IW suggested magnet deactivation needs revising and to be clear who 'reactivates'. Also incorporate SOP. PF to revise and circulate prior to Christmas.

ACTION: **PF – revise and recirculate (including original authors)**

It was decided a separate document should be created to include pregnant women in labour with ICDs. JDB offered to lead.

ACTION: **JDB – create separate guidance**

SA offered some existing procedure information and will send across to relevant people.

ACTION: **SA – sent procedure information**

11. Treasurer's Report

a. Overview

Bank account remains healthy. SM reported 'overpaying' members have all been contacted. Most responses have been happy to waive the overpayment and members have adjusted standing orders accordingly. TWeb increased monthly fee has been approved and actioned.

b. Spending of Funds

SM has been contacted regarding a regular nurse prize/bursary. SM to gain more detail from AH of what this would involve and will bring back amount to be put aside potentially for approval.

ACTION: **SM – contact AH regarding details**

12. Training Update

a. Curriculum

JP reported core and advice training are going through changes and these changes will start to be seen August 2022 onwards.

b. BCS 2022

Covered elsewhere.

13. Remote Monitoring Project

IW has reported other surveys have been published. IW to circulate these. ER is currently drafting posters for publication.

ACTION: **IW – circulate information**
 ER – poster publication

14. Nursing Update

No nurses in attendance due to workload commitments but the following report was received:

- Approached for the HRC nurses session agenda. 2 sessions filled with 6 speakers each. Spreadsheet returned to AA/HRC.
- AH has been in touch with a colleague in the UK who wants to look at the arrhythmia nursing workforce once more and expand on work undertook for BHRS and BCS a couple of years ago. AH to feedback as this develops.

15. Exam Update

a. General exam update

AKBS thanked SA and SS for all their hard work for transferring the exams to an online format.

79 candidates took the October exam and results have been communicated. SA would like to see some budget for overseas and nurse specific advertising in the future.

Logbook procedure is working well which has dramatically decreased compilation, submission and marking times.

Image quality must be improved before the next examination which may be resolved after further discussion with Pearson Vue.

SA outlined the work and timetable the team are working too. The Exam Committee has been finalised and a formal committee meeting will take place in York in March with the aim to review exam questions and revise the syllabus.

Potentially the BHRS exam could be used for credit to MSC to encourage nurses to take exam. SA to research what EHRA do. SA and JP to discuss curriculum and collation with exam.

ACTION: **SA – exam research**
 SA/JP – curriculum and collation exam discussion

SA and SS have been researching and working on the potential to bring the exam back in-house by using a virtual based examination. The council gave permission for SA and SS to continue to research and price up this option as a potential alternative for the exam 2023 onwards.

ACTION: **SA/SS – research and price up in-house exam system**

b. Webinars

The Covid-19 webinar was successful with 96 attendees. Future planned webinars include:

- Cardiac Physiologist Career Toolbox (date tbc - end of Feb)
- Exam Prep Course (date tbc - beg April)

16. Admin Update

- 73 tickets dealt with
- 5 newsletters sent out
- Communicated exam results & issued survey report

- Exam committee meeting set up
- Covid-19 webinar (admin, recording & issued certificates to attendees)
- £80 standing order members communication
- Updated constitution

17. Website Update

a. General website update

Website hits remain good with visible peaks particularly around the publication of new ECG/EGM challenges.

b. BHRS App

SS showcased member survey results, suggested App previews and categories. SS is finalising the brief and will put out for quotes and will bring these back to the next meeting. Any council members without sight of the full presentation and are interested in seeing it please contact SS.

ACTION: ALL – anyone wishing to be taken through full presentation contact SS

18. NICOR/Audit Report

FM reported the 2019/20 report was submitted late spring and was published last month. This is now available on the NICOR website and a link should be placed on the BHRS website.

ACTION: FM/TWeb – place link on the BHRS website

2020/21 report – data extracts being taken next week. Validation reports sent out last month. Expecting differences due to pandemic. It is expected to see a 10-20% drop in devices and 40% drop in ablation.

FM is recommending The Domain Expert Group moves to a monthly meeting of 1 hour. FM reported they need 1 further ablation rep and, at least, one more physiologist to join. Volunteers to contact FM.

ACTION: ALL/FM – volunteers to join to contact FM

FM has been asked to submit an agenda for HRC audit / NICOR sessions. FM would welcome ideas from council.

ACTION: ALL/FM – ideas for session to be forwarded to FM

19. Research

No report received.

20. BJCA/Trainee Update

NA was not in attendance for this section but sent across the following update:

A 'cardiac crossroads' meeting has been set up. 250+ sign ups already. Free access and free places to ESC 2022 for trainees. NA asked for BHRS to advertise the event.

ACTION: TWeb – advertise BJCA Cardiac Crossroads Event

Seminar 2 on EP vs Intervention topics will be in February and once the debate topics are selected NA will be in touch with specific speakers.

21. Secretaries Report

Membership overview since last meeting: 17 new members (4 CON/PHY/IND & 13 NURSE/TRAINEE).

22. AOB

a. *Cardiac Society Relationships*

AKBS to arrange closed sessions with JP, John Greenwood and Andre to discuss BHRS representation moving forward. Once established will compose a template for contribution.

ACTION: AKBS – organise session

23. Date of next meeting

10am Wednesday 9th February 2022