



British Heart Rhythm Society

MINUTES

BHRS Council – Sunday 10th November 2024 @ 15:00

Meliá White House, Albany St, London NW1 3UP

PRESIDENT:	Eleri Gregory (EG)
TREASURER:	Vivienne Ezzat (VE)
SECRETARY:	Honey Thomas (HT)
DOCTOR REP:	Paul Foley (PF), Matthew Dewhurst (MD), Ashley Nisbet (AN), Joseph De Bono (JDB) - in part
PHYSIOLOGIST REP:	Amy Dutton (AD), Sophie Robinson (SR), Chloe Howard (CH)
NURSE REP:	Bridgette Smith (BS), Catherine Laventure (CL)
OTHER REPS:	John Paisey (JP) – Education Committee Heather Herbert (HH) - SCST Derek Connelly (DC) - Scottish Rep Anish Bhuvu (AB) - NICOR Rep Dewi Thomas (DT) - Welsh Rep
ADMIN:	Steve Sadler (SS), Pauline Heery (PH) – (TWeb)

1. Apologies for absence

David Begley, Stuart Allen.

2. AOB Declaration

AN informed council that Coventry was looking for some support to publicise fact-randomized VT. It was suggested they could send over social media posts for distribution to BHRS and we could potentially look at incorporating them within future webinars.

3. Agree minutes of previous Council meeting

Already complete

4. Matters arising / Items not covered elsewhere

a. Welfare survey

Due to this being a specialist issue (rather than sub-specialist), it was decided to shelve this and instead be open to the distribution of specialist surveys.

ACTION: TWeb - remove from agenda

b. Radiotherapy Guidance

This document (although it could ideally do with some further adjustment) has been finalised and will be published. This will be BHRS-endorsed.

ACTION: **TWeb - remove from agenda**

- c. Workforce toolkit

CH reported that the current draft is with Phil Durkin for initial comments. CH was asked to check for any overlap with our standards - especially the numbers required. CH will then circulate to the full physiologist team for comments and then gather a small group to finalise ready for circulation.

ACTION: **CH - check document for standards overlap and then circulate to physiologist reps**

- d. BCS document registrar training

No update in EG's absence at this time. Leave on agenda.

- e. British Society of Echocardiography triage guidelines

ACTION: **TWeb- remove from agenda**

- f. Hidden waiting lists in EP Discussion

In JDBs absence at the time VE reported that concern had been raised regarding clock stopping during waiting times which creates hidden waiting lists. The group felt it would be better to write to Simon Ray and Regional Equivalences to highlight concerns about these practices. VE offered to compose the letter. TWeb to attempt to gather relevant contacts.

ACTION: **VE - compose a letter highlighting concerns**
TWeb - attempt to gain regional contacts

- g. Remote fu guidance

Questions have been received asking if BHRS has a steer on remote follow-ups and how that is used with standard of care e.g. how often etc. It was decided a separate document was not needed, but this would be added to our own standards in the next revision. This should reflect the 2023 ECS statement on remote device clinics. It was decided a link should be added to this document from our website and should be covered in a future BHRS webinar. HT to build a covering message for the webpage.

ACTION: **HT - compose covering message for remote guidance**
TWeb - incorporate onto the website

- h. Governance of Documents

JDBs draft document was circulated with the agenda in regards to formalising and cataloging documents. PF has highlighted a couple of date issues with JDB. Apart from this, the document was agreed in principle. SS is currently building an online framework.

- i. Membership fee structure proposal

VE presented the final sign-off plan for membership moving forward. The new structure will have 5 membership levels which range from free to £200. VE also presented the data that will be gathered on signup (this data will also be gathered from existing members who will be prompted to do so

when registering for events - and now exams). The membership fee will be calculated (or re-calculated) automatically based on their answers. The plan was to move away from direct debits and get everyone on the same system. It was decided to include the option for monthly payments. SS to establish additional costs this may create and pass on to members. Discounts will be given for part-time workers. Qualifying text will need to be written for this. Amendment needed on clinical scientist role. Physician Associate needs to be added to the dropdown box. The main aim of this task is to get to know our members and offer targetted mailings. Trainees should be targetted about moving to the next level after certain timings. It was agreed to offer Level 1 for free. Free student membership is to only be available to those studying full-time. This work has currently gone out to tender. Price changes should be highlighted on any landing pages.

ACTION: **VE/SS - add to the brief: can update details when registering for the exam (as well as events), incorporate monthly payments and establish member cost**
VE - qualifying part-time text to be composed
VE - Amend clinical scientist role/add physician associate to dropdown box/make clear free student membership is for those in full-time education
VE/SS - add a function where trainees are prompted to move up
VE/SS - add additions/amends to tender document

5. President's Report

a. BHRS/A-A HRC Update

EG updated the council that she, HT, and JDB met with Trudie Lobban and various trustees and impartial parties regarding HRC moving forward and a potential re-collaboration. There was a lengthy discussion about how this would work and what would be needed. Due to the complexity of the discussions and time constraints of the meeting, no definitive conclusion was established at this time. It was agreed EG would present a couple of revised options to TL and A-A regarding future multi-day arrhythmia meetings. Final options will be presented to BHRS trustees at the next council meeting with the intention of voting on preferred future meeting. It was agreed no final decision would be made without the agreement of council.

6. Current External Groups with BHRS Representation

a. IQIPS Advisory Board

Not discussed.

b. Academy of Healthcare Science

Not discussed.

c. Resuscitation Council UK

Not discussed.

d. SCST

Not discussed.

e. BiCCEP

VE reported that BiCCEP had decided to create its own website.

f. BCS CPCS

AN informed the group that BCS had presented this new document: Cardiac Implantable Electronic Devices in Pregnancy: A Position Statement.

g. Device Working Group

Not discussed.

h. NHS OHCA EAG

Not discussed.

i. BCIS Structural Intervention Group

Not discussed.

j. LAAO domain group

Not discussed.

k. UK Kidney Association consensus guidance on stroke prevention in AF Group

Not discussed.

l. PLG Working Group

Not discussed.

7. Education Committee/Events

JP presented a financial report provided by Millbrook on the events. The report indicates we are beginning to break even and may achieve a small surplus. VE asked to be involved in the financial information.

a. November Symposium

Not discussed.

b. Budget for the abstract prize - March 2025

Not discussed.

c. Update on future events

Sessions are planned for 4th-6th March in Edinburgh with a simulation event in June in Cardiff. The symposium will likely be held again in November.

8. Training Update

a. Curriculum

The main issue remains the need for trainees to complete 12 months of general medicine which is impacting specialist training. Incorporating this has resulted in the curriculum being simplified which means trainees coming through do not always have the skills required to go on to their specialist subject. AN and JP are raising the concern.

b. BCS 2024/2025

JP is currently pitching content - including a joint session for EHRA and a UK EP research session with RH. If anyone has any suggestions please contact JP. JP is also highlighting to BCS it is a problem that they do not cover travel expenses for speakers.

9. Nursing Update

CL and BS highlighted that the minimal specialist nurse recommendation has been omitted from the 2024 standard. CL is looking into this further. The nurse reps are also currently composing new nurse pages on the website which includes the launch of the new clinical exam.

10. Accreditation Update

a. Exam update

It was noted the clinical exam was dropped for this time but will be relaunched next time. Numbers continue to grow. Registration has now closed for the November exam with just under 100 candidates.

b. Reaccreditation System

The system is working well with 79 open diaries and an income of £12k.

c. Webinar update

These are continually gaining popularity. It was noted Stuart is working on a 2025 calendar. The next webinar covers Left Area Bundle Pacing on 29th November and already has well over 200 registrations.

11. NICOR/Audit Report

AB presented some initial slides on summary data but stressed the adjudication process had not been completed. The data will be published when ready. Generally, though data indicates ablations have gone up by around 50%. Slides can be circulated on request.

AB is establishing whether there is funding to develop app software to share data. SS offered to talk to AB.

ACTION: SS - make contact with AB regarding apps

12. Research

There are a number of large UK RCTs:

- PROTECT-HF: CSP vs RVP for pacing when EF>35%
 - 2600 pts, PI ZW
- CRAAFT-HF: AF ablation vs rate control in HF
 - 1800 pts, PI PL
- EPIC-AF: redo persistent AF
 - Redo PVI vs Endo & Epi ablation, 120 pt, PI JS
- ORBICA-AF: Blinded PVI vs DCCV for persistent AF
 - 208 pts, PI MF

Research: works in progress

- BHRS Director of larger UK studies
- Focus on multicentre RCTs > 100 patients
- Showcase UK research
- Cls to 'advertise' studies
- Other centres and patients can find studies
- Some Cls have responded, trying to get consistent dataset re-trials for tangled web
- BHRS study groups focused on specific areas
- Purpose to initiate and support studies
- Start with two niche groups:
 - VT ablation
 - Extraction
- Interest from some PIs to join a group
- Hope to expand from there

13. BJCA/Trainee Update

No update.

14. Admin Update

Since the last meeting:

- 15 newsletters/member emails sent out
- 60 social media posts
- 247 Tickets answered

15. Website Update

Website highlights since the last meeting:

- Opened call for abstracts, cases & traces and audits for March Sessions
- Managed applications for 5 x £1k Europe AF grants
- Added Device EGMS webinar recording
- Opened LBBAP webinar registration
- Managed applications for 10 Free spaces at BSH Annual Meeting
- Managed the Election process online
- Hard-launched reaccreditation points system
- Opened and managed exam registration for November
- 50 x Free places for the London Arrhythmia Summit

16. Treasurer's Report

VE gave a financial overview and confirmed that the end-of-year balance was £245k. Income is generally slightly higher than expenditure. Potential big spending will be the investment into the membership data.

17. Secretaries Report

a. Member update

139 new members since the last meeting (95 level 1 and 44 level 2).

b. Election update

Welcome to New Doctor Reps: David Begley & Matthew Dewhurst. Thank you to Joseph de Bono who comes end of term.

c. Any new declarations/new conflicts of interest

None declared.

18. AOB

None declared.

19. Date of Next Meeting

10am, 15th January 2025, York.