

Transverse Myelitis Society

Minutes of 9th Annual General Meeting 13th April 2013

At EC Harris HQ, 34 York Way, Kings Cross London N1 9AB

Attendees: 28

1. The Minutes of 2012 AGM were approved.
2. The Treasurer presented the Accounts for 2012. The Society's bank balance was £50k at the end of 2012, up from £36k last year. Jean read out a list of major donations which ranged from approximately £1,000 to £4,300. Thanks were due to the accountant who examines our accounts for a very low cost.
3. Yvonne Kolesar (Chairman) announced she was resigning from TMS Committee but continuing as London Support Group Leader. This marks a major change for TMS: separating the UK TMS Committee from London Support Group. Yvonne gave a brief review of 2012, with acknowledgements for many contributors:
 - Over 70 members came to last April's mini-conference with USA doctors
 - First-ever TM Awareness Day in June, which will be repeated in 2013
 - TMS Magazine has exceeded all expectations – issue 4 now out
 - TMS Facebook Group has become a *very* active forum for members with over 400 participants
 - Established links with other charities: SIA, Backup Trust, Bulldog Trust
 - Designed and started work on new TMS website
 - Piloted neuro-physio bursary scheme in London, which was very well received
 - New Urgent Contact Request process for new members
4. Lew Gray (Secretary) reported that membership had increased to over 1100 during 2012 with 152 new members during the year. New members had dropped off in the last quarter of 2012 with the new TMA website, but now we have separated our new member signup and our Members List from TMA since February, and we have had over 70 new members. Lew also reported on our membership of two national charity alliances National Voices and Neurological Alliance, and our intention to join a third alliance Pain UK.
5. Committee members are elected for 3 years on staggered terms. Barbara Babcock and Rob Reeves were stepping down after 3 years, but were willing to stand for re-election. (Lew Gray, Jean Anthony and Cindy Morelli are continuing until 2014 AGM, and Sally and Carmel Rodohan and Nick Heal are continuing until 2015.) Barbara and Rob were nominated, seconded and elected to the TM Committee for new 3-year terms. Barbara was then elected as Chairman. The Committee has the flexibility to co-opt up to 4 additional members to help on specific tasks. So if any member is particularly interested in helping the Committee with any of the tasks envisaged, please apply to Barbara Babcock at barbara.babcock@myelitis.org.uk (there is a full stop between the first name and surname).
6. Barbara thanked Yvonne for 5 years of committed leadership and outlined potential future directions for the TM Society. These items will take time to achieve and so may not all happen in the next few years. They serve as a road map, a vision for the TM Society as it moves forward.
 - New website will go live soon, which will help improve communication with members

- Continue to professionalise the inner workings of the TM Society as required
- Support Groups are the essence of TMS and we need to promote, support and communicate with them
- Establish support groups in those area of the country where there aren't any
- Extend neuro-physio bursary scheme to rest of UK and recruit more physios
- Raise awareness among healthcare professionals (neurologists, GPs, physios, hospitals, etc.)
- Assemble a Medical Advisory Board
- Expand fundraising to address corporate donors
- Hold mini-Conferences with guest speakers
- Offer Kids Camp and Family Camp places for member kids with TM
- Increased emotional/psychological support for our members and their families – Coaching, Mentoring, Counselling, Psychotherapy
- Fund research

7. The 37th meeting of the London Support Group took place following AGM.