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**Give a Kidney – one’s enough**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

Saturday 23rd March 2019

CZWG Architects, 17 Bowling Green Lane, London EC1R 0QB

**Welcome and introduction & Chair’s report**

Chair Bob Wiggins welcomed guests to the AGM.

BW explained that the theme of today’s conference will be ‘collaboration’. Give a Kidney is a small charity and we can be most effective where we work with other organisations to influence change. As a direct result of last year’s Conference and discussions among guests, NHSBT have reviewed and expanded their programme of exploring ways that the altruistic donor experience might be improved. A positive experience means subsequent support as an ‘ambassador’ is much more likely. This is just one example of the way that our close collaboration with NHSBT has brought progress.

We were very sad to lose our founding trustee, Chris Burns-Cox, in June last year. He was a tireless campaigner, a great believer in the good in people and his boundless enthusiasm is greatly missed.

Our thanks go to Steering Committee member David Lee, whose work to establish a business model for the charity has been greatly appreciated. Our loss is Hong Kong’s gain and we wish him well.

This year, we wanted to recognise three people who have made a real difference to the world of altruistic donation. The first is Lisa Burnapp, whose support has been absolutely invaluable. Her expertise, inside knowledge of the NHS and of course endless patience and perseverance are enormously appreciated.

We also wanted to recognise Di Franks, whose website livingkidneydonation.co.uk has supported and informed countless people interested in becoming living kidney donors. This she does in her own time and at her own expense.

Finally, Paul Dixon, who has now signed up over 12,000 people to the Organ Donor Register by volunteering in the foyer at two hospitals in Liverpool. An altruistic donor, he had his organ donor card tattooed on his arm. He says it helps start conversations about organ donation.

**Executive Officer’s report – Jan Shorrock**

JS opened with a quote from Chris Burns-Cox, whose thinking continues to inspire our work as a charity:

*“If we campaign effectively enough for this, the days of suffering and dying on a kidney transplant waiting list will be over. Humans will again show that we can not only torture, exploit and kill but, amazingly, save each other.”*

Local **press activity** was steady throughout the year, with none of the peaks in the national press that we had seen previously, for example when singer Selena Gomez received a kidney from her friend.

However, recent celebrations around the 10th anniversary of the first donation in Scotland have brought lots of coverage. This campaign activity tied in with World Kidney Day. Local donor stories were key here and Give a Kidney Scotland’s campaign with the Sun newspaper led to a whole week of double page spreads, with very positive stories. A photo call outside the Scottish Parliament saw MSPs, including the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, joined by members of Give a Kidney Scotland.

Another big story - which was even picked up outside the UK - saw altruistic donor, Teresa Dobson, meet her recipient, Joe Salvatore, for the first time, producing the headline ‘*Kidney donor meets the man whose life she saved in emotional reunion”.* We look forward to hearing their own account of the experience later in the day.

In October last year, Nicholas Crace celebrated his 90th birthday. Nicholas made history when he became the oldest living kidney donor at the age of 82. This was picked up by ITV as well as local press.

Earlier this month, the 1,000th living kidney transplant operation, made possible by an altruistic donor, took place. For the first time, all four UK governments took part in a campaign around living donation for World Kidney Day. NHSBT has developed some new materials and resources to include altruistic donation and JS has contributed to those.

Hearing about other people having donated a kidney to a stranger continues to be the strongest motivation to others to do the same. This was clearly illustrated when a TV programme about organ donation that aired in Belfast, led to 80 people contacting the NHS to offer to donate a kidney to a stranger.

**Online activity** continues to perform well:

* 130,000 visitors to our website, slightly down on the preview year
* 250,000 page views
* 90% were new visitors, the vast majority finding us through organic search or directly

On social media, we now have over 2,500 Facebook ‘friends’ and over 1,500 twitter followers. Posts now regularly reach over 10,000 people.

The charity has been involved with **a number of events,** including another partnership with the Brandenburg Series for a concert in November. Income from any tickets we sold and a retiring collection raised money for the charity.

We participated in conferences and events, including UK Organ Donation Week in Parliament, BTS Living Donor Forum, Charity Conferences, a Joint Living Donation Awareness Event with Kidney Care UK in St Albans, as well as local talks, presentations and stands at events around the country, manned by members.

There were two particular fundraising events that JS wanted to mention:

Gabhru Panjab De (GPD) Bhangra Dancers organised a 30th anniversary dinner and dance in November in Birmingham and raised £7,000 for Give a Kidney (and the same for two other charities). SG attended and was later presented with a cheque.

Jasie Rai, a kidney patient, also continues to fundraise for the charity with her annual East Meets West events and last year, by taking part in the Swindon Half Marathon. We are full of admiration for her get up and go!

Serena Tucker, Roland and Sue Gianstefani and Gill Childs made up a relay team at the Westfield Health British Transplant Games in August and won Gold! Our congratulations to them and thanks too.

This year, we collaborated too, including on:

* Strategy Implementation Group for the Living Donor Transplantation Strategy 2020
* NHSBT Stakeholder Group
* NHSBT Renal Transplant Services Meeting
* NHSBT Kidney Patient Group
* NHSBT Organ Donation Forum
* HTA Public Panel

We also took part in various research projects such as:

* BOUnD Management Committee and Steering Group (Nicholas Crace)
* Input into other research
* ‘Key Experiences of Primary Social Groups in Unspecified Kidney Donation’ about to be published in the Journal of Renal Care

But as Chris Burns-Cox would say: “What else can we be doing?”

**Give a Kidney Scotland report – John Fletcher**

JF and Chris Jones jointly chair Give a Kidney Scotland and John is also a Trustee of Give a Kidney. Dorothy Fenwick, whose professional background is in media relations, is also key to the group’s activities.

When the group approached Rotarians (and other bodies) in the early days to suggest that they might be interested in having a talk about altruistic kidney donation, JF did have a sense that there was mild disgust. However, he now has the distinct impression that this attitude has vanished. Jen Lumsdaine [Living Kidney Transplant Co-ordinator] has been more successful with Rotary and they have now done several double acts.

Bob and Jan both attended Scottish group meetings during the year and this was very welcome. The next gathering is scheduled for 29th May and all are welcome.

The main focus of Give a Kidney Scotland’s attention recently has been the 10th anniversary of the first altruistic kidney donation in Scotland. Three altruistic donors, who each donated 10 years ago in Scotland, have been followed by the media in particular and this has coincided with World Kidney Day.

JF described how he initially kept his donation quiet, not wanting to brag about his good deed. However, he soon came to realise the importance of talking about it if he was to inspire others to do the same. Indeed, following the coverage described above in the Sun, 15 people came forward to donate, so we can immediately see how effective publicity can be. Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP has been particularly helpful with this campaign and secured the inclusion of the First Minister in the photo call outside the Scottish Parliament building.

**Honorary Treasurer’s report – Sanjiv M Gohil**

SG began by thanking everyone who has contributed funds to the charity. As a small charity, these sums make a big difference to what we are able to achieve.

A summary of accounts for the year ending 31st December 2018 was tabled.

The accounts show expenditure of £21,852 in 2018 against income of £25,373 (£22,019 the previous year). The charity also holds £15,970 in a savings account.

Spending showed a similar pattern to the previous year. £6,746 went on support (£6,564 in 2017); £11,551 on raising awareness (£11,341 in 2017); charity fees and PO Box fee came to £683 (£538 in 2017) and printing / website merchandise came to £640 (£1,513 in 2017).

Income of £25,373 came from the following sources:

* Donations through Just Giving, MyDonate, CAF and PayPal came to £5,115
* Regular monthly donations amounted to £3,331
* There were also some large donations, including one of £5,000 from Toureen Charitable Trust
* SG again mentioned the Gabru Punjab de Bhangra’s fundraising event that raised £7,000 and Jasie Rai’s annual fundraising event, East Meets West

Again, SG thanked everyone for their generous support of the charity’s work.

**Chair’s summary**

BW again thanked all for attending and concluded the AGM part of the day by confirming our trustees as follows:

1. John Fletcher, BVMS, Hon FRCVS, PhD
2. Paul Gibbs, FRCS (Eng), MD
3. Sanjiv Gohil, BA (Hons), Dip Arch RIBA
4. Kiran Gupta
5. Sara Stacey, RN, Dip Nursing, BSc (Hons)
6. Paul van den Bosch, MRCGP
7. Robert Wiggins

BW was pleased to welcome Kiran Gupta on to the Board this year.