

MINUTES FOR VTT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY 19th May, 2012

The meeting was held at St. Paul's Church Centre, Rossmore Road, London, NW1 6NJ

Trustees Present:

Bertie Woolnough (Chairman), Michael Woodley (Treasurer), Wendy Best, Fahmida Begum, Margaret Hakim, Mokhtar Hossain, Bryan Whitty, David Newell, Ben Clackson (Secretary).

Valerie Taylor, Shafiqul Islam, Brian Woodgate (Administrator) and 68 members and supporters were also present.

Apologies:

Philomena Commons, Theresa Keefe, and 12 members and supporters.

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>DETAIL/DISCUSSION</u> |
|--------------------|--|
| 1 | <p>Welcome</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed all present and thanked Kokhon (Mokhtar Hossein) and all who had helped him to prepare and serve the "light" lunch that had been enjoyed before the start of the meeting.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>The Chairman explained that this Annual Meeting had been redesigned to make it less formal and so as to be a Supporters Meeting as well as the official Annual General Meeting of VTT.</p> <p>He expressed satisfaction that VTT continued to supply about 7% of CRP's income despite the difficult economic climate in the UK. While we do have Restricted Funds tied to particular purposes, our main priority is Unrestricted Funds since these give CRP as much flexibility as possible to spend the money where it is most needed.</p> <p>He thanked the editors of the Spring Newsletter (in its successful new A5 format) and the smaller Autumn newsletter for their work in keeping our supporters in touch, and thanked Chris Hall and Theresa Keefe for improving the design and content of the VTT website at www.valerietaylortrust.org.</p> <p>Bryan Whitty was doing invaluable work co-ordinating Valerie's current fund-raising tour and Brian Woodgate had improved the Administration of the Trust by building up a team of Area Co-ordinators to help with the distribution of newsletters.</p> |
| 3 | <p>Annual Report</p> <p>The Secretary explained that the Draft Annual Report had not yet been sent to the Charity Commission and invited comments and corrections from the floor. The Report includes a section to meet the Charity Commission's requirement that each charity should demonstrate Public Benefit from its activities.</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| 4 | <p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>The Treasurer referred to copies of the Draft Financial Statement and notes for 2011-2012. While Donations and Subscriptions had risen to £75,000, this had been more than offset by a decline in Fund-raising events and Gift Aid, resulting in a fall in income from £117,000 to £106,000. However expenses had remained low, at about 3% of income, and considering the recession the outturn was not too bad.</p> <p>A supporter asked why the income from Fund-raising events had declined, and the Treasurer replied that these events were indeed fewer in years when Valerie does not undertake a fund-raising tour. Given her presence this year, we can expect more such events in 2012-2013.</p> |
| 5 | <p>Election of Trustees</p> <p>Three Trustees, Dr Philomena Commons, Mokhtar Hossein and Ben Clackson had stood down at the end of their three year term, but were each willing to stand for re-election. In the absence of other nominations they were declared to be re-elected.</p> |
| 6 | <p>Presentation by Valerie Taylor</p> <p>Valerie thanked VTT for all its fund-raising and gave a Power-Point presentation which highlighted the multiplicity of activities at CRP which support the rehabilitation of paralysed people, from treatment through to equipping each person with the skills required to earn a living. She also explained the continuing importance of the training given to degree level in the various therapies that contribute to this rehabilitation.</p> |
| 7 | <p>Talk by Shafiqul Islam</p> <p>CRP's Executive Director spoke about the Challenges facing CRP under four headings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Maintaining and improving Quality, particularly in the absence of Regulatory bodies b. Extending the range of CRP's activities to every Division of Bangladesh c. Holding on to what has been achieved. He pointed out that in a growing organisation this is not a simple as it sounds: CRP's electricity consumption has grown threefold since its inception, which necessitates new infrastructure. Similarly as assets age, the costs of maintenance rise. These and other problems need strategic thinking. d. Financial sustainability is a constant concern, but it is encouraging that 75% of costs are covered from income generated locally, including fees. Income generating activities are all the time being developed, and there is scope for better use of the land assets. Despite all this, the contribution made by VTT to CRP finances is still important and appreciated. |
| 8 | <p>Remarks by Peter Donnelly</p> <p>Peter Donnelly explained that his epic fund-raising trip back from CRP to the UK (14,000 miles with a wheelchair on Public Transport, raising money for the treatment centre at Moulvi Bazar) had been inspired by what he had seen at CRP as a volunteer - and a patient!</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| 7 | Questions A supporter asked about the possibility of sending items such as second hand bicycles and tools from the UK to Bangladesh. The Chairman pointed out that options for free air freight provided in the past by the RAF were no longer available, so the costs could be substantial. |
| | The afternoon ended with further refreshments for members and supporters. |