

MINUTES FOR VTT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY 18th May, 2013

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, Philomena Commons, Mokhtar Hossain, Bryan Whitty, David Newell, Helen Mortimer, Ben Clackson (Secretary).

Brian Woodgate (Administrator) and 42 members and supporters were also present.

Apologies:

Margaret Hakim, Theresa Keefe, and 13 members and supporters.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DETAIL/DISCUSSION</u>
1	<p>Welcome and News Update</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed all present and outlined the latest news on CRP's response to the Rana Plaza tragedy. This took place only 1km from the main CRP compound in Savar. CRP's medical team had assessed injured survivors in several hospitals and had concluded that up to 100 of the 250 severely injured survivors would require CRP support. The number of survivors who are in-patients at CRP fluctuates between 30 and 50, and these are all additional to the in-patients CRP already had. Donations in response to VTT's Rana Plaza appeal are now around £25,000 and this money will be sent to CRP as Unrestricted Funds for Shafiq and Valerie to use as they think best in response to the tragedy.</p> <p>The Bangladesh Government has asked CRP to make proposals for caring for some of the survivors, and there are signs that large international companies may also want to help. VTT's task is to do our best to support what Valerie and her team are doing.</p>
2	<p>UK Sport</p> <p>Rob Marini, Head of Development of UK Sport, explained the project that is now beginning between UK Sport and CRP. The aim of the partnership is to help develop good facilities at CRP and to provide training to enable CRP staff to become coaches. The hope is that this will enable CRP to build up capacity that will qualify for the Rio Paralympics. Some details remain to be worked out, but Rob's hope was that by this time next year there would be better coaches at CRP. It was suggested that Channel 4's DVD of the London 2012 Paralympics would be inspirational viewing at CRP.</p>
3	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>The Chairman outlined the situation regarding Trustees. Four Trustees, Michael Woodley, Bryan Whitty, Margaret Hakim and Fahmida Begum had stood down, but Michael Woodley and Bryan Whitty were willing to stand for re-election. Valid nominations had also been received for Nick Lack and Helen Mortimer. In the absence of other nominations these four were declared to be elected.</p>

	<p>He explained that elected Trustees were planning to co-opt Wendy Best, Margaret Hakim and Mr M. A. Rashid as Trustees after the meeting. He pointed out that Mr Rashid lives in Solihull and is already helping VTT with fund-raising in the Birmingham area.</p> <p>He thanked the editor of the Spring Newsletter for producing it and Area Co-ordinators for distributing it. He also thanked Theresa Keefe and Chris Hall for their work updating the news shown on the VTT website at www.valerietaylortrust.org .</p> <p>Notice was given that next year's Annual Meeting would be on Saturday 17th May 2014.</p>
4	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>The Treasurer referred to copies of the Draft Financial Statement and notes for 2012-2013. It had been a good year, with higher income (£136,000) than ever before. This had been helped by Valerie's inspirational visit and the hard work of many supporters. He noted that Administrative costs remain close to 2% of income, partly because of the generosity of supporters, who cover some expenses themselves.</p> <p>One third of the income came from fundraising events of all types, with 20% of that from Just Giving. With £100,000 coming from individuals and events, Restricted Funds totalled £36,000. These Restricted Funds are a secure and legal means for this money to reach CRP, avoiding Government channels. They include funds for particular projects such as medical groups and UK Sports.</p> <p>He pointed out that Gift Aid increases all qualifying donations by 25%, and had contributed £11,600 to income in 2012-2013. He urged those who were eligible to sign up for it.</p> <p>He noted that VTT grants still amount to a significant 7% of CRP income, which has grown now to £2 million. There is much more income generation at CTP itself and this helps ensure its sustainability in the future. However our contribution continues to matter as it meets the costs of the poorest patients.</p>
5	<p>Annual Report</p> <p>The Secretary explained that the copies of the Annual Report available at the meeting were only drafts because they incorporated end of year financial statements that had not yet been independently examined.</p>
6	<p>Presentation by Jessie Flowers</p> <p>Jessie Flowers spoke about her experience volunteering at CRP while she was a medical student at Oxford University. She had a family link with Val because her grandfather had been a doctor at the Chandragona Hospital where Valerie first worked when she went to East Pakistan. As a trainee doctor with no previous clinical experience she had found the ward rounds at CRP very educative. She explained how talking with a 16 year old girl who had hoped to become a doctor herself prior to a spinal cord injury had made her realise the importance of the support CRP gives in managing disappointment.</p> <p>The project which supported the visit was called "Travel Aid", and she and her fellow students had made the most of the opportunities they had at weekends to travel around in Bangladesh, from Sylhet to the Sundarbans.</p>

7	<p>Presentation by Philomena Commons</p> <p>Philomena Commons explained how much things have progressed in Bangladesh since the days when there were only 6 physiotherapists in the whole country. She herself, having worked at CRP with Val from 1999 to 2004, had just recently returned from 3 weeks teaching physiotherapy students at CRP, and had been impressed by the calibre of the students.</p> <p>She noted that the country was noticeably richer since her last visit, attributing much of this wealth to the garment factories.</p> <p>CRP is attracting patients with serious problems and high expectations, and she felt that it was on the way to becoming a Centre of Excellence for the treatment and management of spinal cord injuries. She did however feel that in contrast with physiotherapy and occupational therapy, which have always been strong at CRP, Medical services were in need of further development.</p> <p>In response to a question about staff retention, she agreed that around two thirds of the most highly qualified staff did indeed go to other countries. On the other hand some of them had begun to return to Bangladesh, and it was important to note that CRP also trained community rehabilitation technicians who were providing clinic rehabilitation services in underserved areas.</p>
8	<p>Courier Appeal</p> <p>The Chairman reported that several parcels needed taking to Bangladesh and asked people who were travelling there soon to contact Brian Woodgate if they might be able to help.</p>
	<p>The afternoon ended with further refreshments for members and supporters.</p>