MINUTES FOR VTT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY 9th May, 2026

The meeting was held at St. Cyprian's Church, Clarence Gate, Glentworth Street, London, NW1 6AX

Trustees Present:
Mokhtar Hussain (Chairman), Sayadul Khaled (Treasurer), Aysha Lucky Akhter, Katim Miah, Glen McGhee, Margaret Hakim, Jahangir Alam, Ben Clackson

Brian Woodgate, VTT Administrator was also in attendance.

18 members and supporters were also present.

Apologies:
Valerie Taylor, Md Shahinoor Islam, Helen Mortimer, and 9 others

ITEM	DETAIL/DISCUSSION
1	**Welcome** The Chairman welcomed all present and thanked Sayadul, Hazera and Aysha Akhter for cooking the curry lunch enjoyed before the meeting and all those who helped to serve it.
2	**Chairman's Report** The Chairman explained that after 11 days treatment in an ICU, Valerie Taylor was now recovering well at her home in CRP Savar. He reported that the film "Watch That Person" about people with Cerebral Palsy, with script by Elspeth Waldie, had now been released in cinemas Bangladesh, which should raise awareness about that condition. He announced that Trustees had decided that the minimum annual subscription for Members and other Supporters who wished to receive our updates and Newsletters will now be raised to £5 per month or £50 per year. Existing members whose level of subscription was below the new level would be invited to raise it to the new level, but could opt not to do so.
3	**Treasurer's Report** Sayadul Khaled explained that 2025-26 Primark had ended the support which it had been giving to CRP (via the Valerie Taylor Trust) ever since the Rana Plaza disaster. As a result, income (at £73k) was considerably lower. But donations had been received from Scott-

	Bader and a legacy from Susan Reeves, and he thanked all other supporters for their regular giving. Expenses had been kept down to 6% of Income, which is unusually low for UK charities. This is mainly because the Trust has no employees, while Trustees and the Administrator give their services for free, reclaiming only minimal expenses. More detailed figures of the Draft 2025-25 Accounts (not yet approved by the Independent Examiner) were distributed to those present in the Draft Annual Report 2025-2026 to the Charity Commission.
4	**Election of Trustees** Three Trustees stood down and were re-elected: Margaret Hakim, Aysha Lucky Akther and Ben Clackson. However our Constitution does allow up to 3 additional Trustees to be co-opted. Mokhtar Hussain confirmed that he was willing to continue to serve as Chairman for the coming year.
5	**Presentation by Glen McGhee** Glen mentioned that it was now 40 years since he first volunteered as an Orthotist at CRP's (then) Centre at Farm Gate in Central Dhaka. He had recently returned from a very busy 3-month visit to CRP Savar, again with the Orthotics Department, which he had very much enjoyed. He showed us slides illustrating his work there. One slide showed two twins, one who walks. The other can only stand, but they were both talkative and cheerful. As an orthotist he had to deal with problems, not often seen now in the UK, created by amputations which failed to leave stumps suitable for prostheses. Also physiotherapy was often need to rebuild muscles that had deteriorated through not being used. He was enthusiastic about the new X-Ray Department at Savar, which has two new digital X-ray machines which can take a full-length image of the spine. He said that the withdrawal of ICRC support for CRP as a result of ICRC budget cuts had resulted in CRP patients having to pay more for orthotic treatment and devices than hitherto. He also said how valuable it had been for Valerie to have visits from our Supporters Liz Timms and Hanneke Cusell while she was in the ICU.

6	**Talk by Jamal Uddin** Now working as an OT in the NHS, he explained that he had graduated from the Bangladesh Health Professions Institute (BHPI) in 1999 at a time when that was the only Institute that trained Occupational Therapists in Bangladesh. He urged other BHPI graduates now working in the NHS to keep in touch with CRP by becoming a donor or member of VTT.
7	**Video message from Valerie Taylor** In her recorded video message Valerie said she was sorry that because of the difficulties of travel it had not been possible for her to join us at this Annual Meeting. She thanked Supporters for kind messages she had received during her illness, and particularly thanked CRP staff for all their care and treatment both while she was in hospital and after she returned to her home. She assured us that CRP continues to develop under the leadership and guidance of Sohrab and his team. She hopes that VTT Supporters will continue to visit CRP.
8	**Video message from Dr. Md. Sohrab Hossain** Sohrab reminded us that CRP was founded by Valerie 46 years ago. With the help of generous donors, it now serves countrywide from 13 centers in Bangladesh. Most of the patients are from low socioeconomic backgrounds so they need support while they are at CRP and also after they have been discharged to their homes. CRP also provides assistive devices technology, which is not yet very developed in Bangladesh: wheelchairs, walking aids and recently also standing wheelchairs developed with the help of CRP's engineers and therapists. For those who will need to earn their living in a different way after discharge, CRP has a Vocational Training Institute at Manikganj which equips them with the skills needed to support themselves and their families. Mental health is another rather neglected issue in low-income countries. A mental health Day Care Centre at CRP Mirpur provides services such as counselling, psychiatric services and occupational therapy. CRP is trying to engage other organisations in this model of mental health rehabilitation for people with disabilities. All these rehabilitation services require trained health professionals. While BHPI at Savar is now well established, work has begun to build a new BHPI at Rajshahi. There is also a need for remote Rehabilitation services in Sylhet and Barisal. CRP's strategic plan for 2026-2030 outlines these plans and the resources needed to fund them.