

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Cambridgeshire Local Optometric Committee which took place at the Black Bull Hotel, Godmanchester, on Thursday 7th June, commencing at 7-30pm.

Apologies: received from C.Coakley, W.Newsom and D.Harrison.

Minutes of last AGM: having been previously circulated were accepted as a true record of the proceedings by the meeting.

Matters arising: there were no matters arising.

Chairman's report:

GOS Review

At the beginning of the year the outcomes of the GOS review of Ophthalmic Services were announced. Ophthalmic services will be divided into essential, which all PCTs must commission and all contractors provide; advanced, which all PCTs must commission but not all contractors provide; and enhanced, which are voluntary for PCTs and contractors. At the moment the NHS Sight Test is an essential service, shared care/co-management schemes are enhanced services, and there aren't any advanced services. The review comes without any extra funding but the NHS has provided the PCTs with a toolkit for commissioning Ophthalmic services.

It will be the responsibility of the LOC to negotiate with PCTs to commission enhanced services and ensure these services are provided by Optometrists. To help LOCs expand and develop their negotiating skills the AOP, ABDO and FODO together are setting up the LOC central support unit. Some of the services the support unit will offer are training; negotiating and influencing skills; development of services; political lobbying, and general and specific support for LOCs as needed. There will also be regional advisors to provide a link between the Central Support Unit and LOCs.

To fund the LOC support unit each LOC has been asked to increase their statutory levy by 0.6%. The proposal at the Cambs LOC AGM will be to increase our statutory levy to 1.5% to allow funding for the LOC Central Support Unit and fund LOC members to take advantage of the training offered. Our benefits under the LOC Central Support Unit will be reviewed annually to decide whether to continue with funding.

Diabetes

The promised implementation date of 1.9.2006 for the Diabetic Scheme based at Hinchbrooke Hospital has come and gone. There are technical software problems with the Clinysis programme and until this has been ironed out, and the system piloted with one practice, the scheme won't be rolled out to the community. However, as we all signed service agreements a year ago we are negotiating the annual fee increase that was promised. Diabetic screening remains an area of constant concern to the LOC committee and David Ireland and Wendy Newsom are negotiating on our behalf.

Cataracts

There has been a policy document for Cataract extractions carried out in Cambridgeshire PCT during this year. The policy is that when the patient has a VA of better than 6/12 a reason for surgery must be cited on the referral form. If anyone hasn't received a copy of the policy please contact the LOC.

Glaucoma

The Peterborough Glaucoma pilot has reported to the GOS Review and was part of the RNIB conference in York in January. The Hinchbrooke CHANGES Glaucoma scheme has been implemented with seven OSI's (Optometrists with Special Interest in Glaucoma). The scheme has been shortlisted for an Allergan award.

Clinical Governance

This year has seen the production of an excellent toolkit for Clinical Governance from the AOP. Geoff Robinson presented the interactive toolkit at a meeting on Clinical Governance in

May, together with a lecture from Melanie Hingorani. The next PCT Clinical Governance Audit will be on preventing cross infection.

CET

We have had interesting lectures throughout this year and the One Day Conference Application forms should be with you in the next few weeks. The Conference will be held on Wednesday 7th November 2007.

Elections

This year there will be elections for the LOC committee at the AGM. Nomination forms have been circulated by the PCT and I would encourage you to consider standing for the LOC committee.

I will be standing down from the LOC at the AGM after eight years as LOC Chairman. These are just a few of the developments the LOC has made in that time - appointment of an Optometric Advisor; development of direct cataract referrals at Hinchingsbrooke and eventually Addenbrookes; appointment of Optometrists at Hinchingsbrooke; One day conferences; Glaucoma schemes at Peterborough and Hinchingsbrooke; excellent education meetings; Low vision scheme still pending; clinical governance pillars, discussions and audits; Peer review groups; and long endless discussions of the new Diabetic screening programme replacing the well functioning Volk lens programmes.

The Huntingdon CHANGES Glaucoma scheme won the second prize (£5,000) in the Allergan competition.

I would like to thank all the members of the LOC for their help and support over this last year, and the seven preceding years of my Chairmanship too.

Best Wishes,

Caroline Hurst

Treasurer's Report: The accounts have been audited by our two auditors, Trevor Smith and Jeff Gregory.

The Holiday Inn has proved a popular venue for most of our lectures over the last few years, and although the cost of hiring lecture rooms has varied it remains a good venue to hold our evening meetings.

We donated £500.00 to the central fund in 2006-07.

The honoraria payments below are the amounts paid to each official for the year 2006-07:

Chairman:	£500.00
Secretary:	£500.00
Treasurer:	£500.00
Programme Secretary Cambridge:	£500.00
Day Conference Secretary	£500.00

It is proposed that the amounts remain the same for 2007-08. The figures will continue to be reviewed at the annual general meeting.

It is also proposed that the £70.00 payment to committee members for attending LOC meetings will remain unchanged for 2007-08. Committee members attending other meetings on behalf of the LOC should continue to be paid at £40.00 per hour.

The travel allowance will remain at 40p per mile to avoid involvement by the inland revenue.

The total balance for the year to March 2007 was £11303.99. This represents an increase of £588.27 from the balance on 1st April 2006. Spending during the year 06-07 has been very similar to the year before.

Over the last eight years I believe the LOC committee have provided an excellent educational programme that would be the envy of many larger LOCs. However when we have been in negotiations with PCTs , or in communicating with local optometrists, a small group of mainly individual practitioners do not have sufficient experience or training to deal with difficulties that can arise. The help offered by the LOC support unit would appear to be the opportunity to provide assistance in these areas. Therefore the propose increase in the Statutory Levy from 0.6% to 1.5% should be supported. This includes a 0.6% contribution to the LOC Central Support Unit, and A further 0.3% that will be required by committee members for training. This will undoubtedly be time consuming and it is essential that there is sufficient money available to fund this properly. The change in the Statutory levy would continue to be reviewed at the Annual General Meeting.

The proposal to increase the statutory levy was proposed by D.Ireland, seconded by C.Edwards and passed unanimously by the meeting.

Finally I have decided not to stand for re-election to the committee. Over the past sixteen years first as chairman and then as treasurer there have been many changes. The introduction of the day conferences would be a highlight. I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work and enthusiasm over the years.

D. Ireland

Election of committee: nine completed nomination forms were received from C.Edwards, D.Harrison, L.Hodgson, G.Kirk, A.Lask, G.Macalister, W.Newsom, V.Rosamond and S.Urquhart who are all elected to the committee.

The committee thanked the retiring members, C.Coakley, C.Hurst, D.Ireland and J.Wade for their work and involvement over the preceding years.

Election of officers: the committee elected the following officers:

Chairman:	W. Newsom
Secretary:	S. Urquhart
Treasurer:	L.Hodgson
Programme Secretary Cambridge:	C.Edwards
Day Conference Secretary	A.Lask

Any Other Business: none

Date of next AGM: to be announced