

16th Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date: 26th September 2023

This meeting was held as a Hybrid with delegates having the option to join face-to-face at the SEC Scottish Event Campus or virtually and was chaired by Adrian Boyle

1. Welcome by the President:

The President, Dr Adrian Boyle, welcomed 189 Fellows and Members including Associate Fellows and Associate Members to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from John Heyworth, Christopher Cutting, Gautam Bodiwala, Henry Guly and Darren Walter

3. 2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes:

Approved

4. To consider matters arising from the Minutes not included elsewhere on the agenda:

None

5. President Report on Key College Matters

Dr Boyle spoke on the policy and communications highlights for the year, which included our lobby activities to influence the government in the UK underpinned by the College's assertive media strategy and coverage across the five nations, the crisis summit hosted in parliament in March to raise awareness on the crisis that faced emergency care, the effective campaign to increase training places expanded in Wales following the workforce census report, which the College hopes to replicate in England. In addition, in England we have successfully changed the definition and reporting of the 12 hour patient wait metric. The President also highlighted that the College had ensured that emergency medicine remained a government priority.

In other areas we have published research priorities for emergency medicine and achieved a groundbreaking launch of the Green ED initiative. Our RCEM learning activities had flourished. We have also focussed heavily on improvements to our examinations and examination system.

Dr Boyle informed the meeting that the Board of Trustees had been actively managing the College's risks and general governance over the past 12 months.

6. CEO's Report

Mr Miles gave the Chief Executive's update on the operative performance of the College. He shared a link to the annual report for 2022 which showed the work the college's committees had done and set out the College's financial reports.

Mr Miles explained the significant challenges inflation posed to the operational cost base of the College. He noted that as a consequence examination fees, international membership fees and ACP fees were under review.



Mr Miles spoke to presentation slides which explained the organisational structure. He then discussed the activities of the operations.

He introduced the Education Directorates' three-year Examinations Transformation Plan. The Education Directorate, led by Romana Moss, had reported 20 sets of accurate of results issued in the previous year, the longest run of error free results reporting since the College was established in 2008. The Directorate delivered Phase One of its Examinations Transformation Plan a month earlier than planned in August 2023. The College examinations are a substantial operational undertaking with 14 examinations held last year in 54 countries with over 12,000 candidates.

The Education Directorate also reported 373 newly enrolled trainees at core training, 242 CCTs recommended, 80 CESR applications submitted to the GMC and 106 ACP credentialed since pilot. He mentioned that work was being done to establish fairer training cultures, reduce differential attainments and develop careers strategies. Mr Miles updated on the externally funded International Development Partnerships in Ghana, Uganda, Pakistan, India and Syria.

The Engagement and External Affairs Directorate, led by Catherine Feast, reported increased membership subscriptions, e-learning activities and membership participation in College continuing professional development events. The College had won the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine FOAMed showcase 2023 award, attained one million podcast downloads, recorded 3,865,344 website page views, redesigned the e-learning website and enabled 190 new and 173 reviewed learning publications.

The Corporate Services Directorate, led by Nigel Pinamang, reported significant customer service improvements had been made supporting our Quality improvement Programmes. We have also a strong human resource, IT, facilities and financial management approach.

Mr Miles narrated how IT services had proactively defended the College against a denial of service cyberattack earlier in the year. He noted that the College had reduced paper trails and was working to move fully to cloud services under the green emergency services portal in a couple of years.

He concluded by explaining how the wealth of College activities is underpinned by a staff of c80 and an emergency medicine volunteer community of c 2500.

7. Treasurer's Report

7.1. Financial accounts and auditors report for the year ending 31 December 2022

Dr Hepburn reported on the Financial Performance Year Ending 31 Dec 2022 as set out in the Annual Report & Accounts. He advised that the Financial Statements and Accounts were audited in March 2023 and subsequently signed off by Trustees in June 2023. The highlights were:

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| Income: | £9,645,680 |
| Expenditure: | £9,810,466 |



Net Deficit: (£164,786)

Dr Hepburn noted that the inflation impact on the College was significant at a time when the College was also challenged by high interest rates; he explained the need to act because it was not sustainable to continue to experience deficit budgets over time.

7.2. Subscriptions for 2024

The meeting voted to increase the membership subscription fees by 6% and replace the previous formula for these. Of those voting the result was 53% in favour, 47% against.

7.3. Reappoint the Auditors

The meeting voted to reappointed Moore Kingston Smith as auditors with 95% of those voting agreeing and 5% dissenting.

Dr Boyle acknowledged and thanked Dr Hepburn for his service as the RCEM's Treasurer for the last six years.

8. 2023 Honorary Fellowship awarded

Professor Jonathon Bengier was congratulated on his achievement being award an Honorary Fellowship.

9. To learn of the winners of:

9.1. The Alison Gourdie Medals for 2023:

Dr Joshua Davison - FRCEM SBA & OSCE
Dr Ronald Manuhwa - MRCEM SBA & OSCE

9.2. The Luka Randic Medal for 2023:

Dr Christopher McCoy - FRCEM SBA & OSCE

9.3. The William Rutherford medal for 2023:

Dr Richard McQuillan - FRCEM SBA & OSCE

9.4. The Manjeet Singh Riyat Medal for 2023:

Dr Anju Menon - FRCEM SBA & OSCE

9.5. Dr Cliff Mann President's Medal for 2023:

Dr Christopher Moulton

9.6. Other College Medals for 2023:

Dr Sohom Maitra
Dr Mark Buchanan
Dr Emma Redfern
Dr Simon Carley
Dr Daniel Darbyshire



Dr Emma Rowland
Dr Ian Higginson
Dr Hodon Abdi
Dr Alexander Robertson
Dr Jayne Hidderley
Dr Sarah J Evans
Dr Jason Long
Dr Timothy Spruell
Dr Shashank Patil

10. To note the passing of some of our membership since the last meeting

The meeting noted with sadness the passing of some of our membership as described in the paper provided.

11. To note the list of College role holders

The paper was noted.

12. Any other business

None.

13. Question and Answers

A member asked what was being done to address the long wait for the examiner training course. Romana Moss said that her team was actively working on it.

A member asked why the rising costs fell disproportionately on trainees since membership and examination fees were the major sources of funding for the college, but consultants could cancel their memberships and did not have to pay for examinations. Dr Hepburn clarified that subscription fees were increased at a flat rate across the board and not for trainees only. Mr Miles pointed out that the college incurred significantly higher costs supporting trainees and our examinations and when costed out in detail it was clear that in fact consultants were cross subsidising trainee costs. This had always been the case as trainees of yesterday were at the time cross-subsidised by consultants of yesterday. Mr Miles referred the questioner to the financial accounts which show how our costs and income fall.

A member asked why the poll results were not made open. Mr Miles replied that the poll data would be made available all members after the results count was verified.

14. Date of 2024 AGM

The next Annual General Meeting will be held during the Annual Scientific Conference at Sage Gateshead on 8 October 2024.