

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF PAEDIATRICS & CHILD HEALTH

22nd Annual General Meeting

St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, Friday 6 September 2024 at 6.10pm

Present:

Committee:

Dr. Tony Hulse, President
Dr. Jonathan Dossetor, Hon. Treasure
Penny Dossetor, Administrative Secretary
Nick Baldwin Hon. Secretary
Professor Mike Dillon
Dr. Mary Clare Martin
Dr. Colin Michie

Members:

Dr. Tony Edelsten
Dr. Doug Addy
Dr. Tim Chambers
Dr. Sabiha Haque-Lobbes
Dr. Adrian Minford
Dr. Mary Wheeler

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Dr. Robert Scott Jupp.

2. Matters arising

All matters arising to be dealt with in agenda items below.

3. President's Report

Dr. Hulse reported that the 2023 Autumn Meeting had been successfully held at the University of Central Lancashire, and likewise the Spring Meeting as part of the RCPCH conference in Birmingham. Dr. Lee Hudson had given the George Armstrong Lecture, accompanied by two other impressive talks, and the event had been well attended with good feedback from the College.

4. Committee Membership.

Mike Dillon requested to leave the committee, and was thanked for his services to the Society as President and committee member. The other membership remained unchanged.

5. Hon. Treasurer's Report

Jonathan Dossetor reported that both the Society's accounts maintained a healthy surplus, with a balance in the main account of £6248.21 as of 16 August, although this was prior to payments for the Cambridge meeting. Over £7000 was held in the deposit account. The Preston meeting had required a £700 subsidy, and the subsidy level was likely to increase for future meetings. The membership fee had been held at £20 for many years, but putting it up might risk 'dormant' members ceasing renewal of their annual standing orders. Membership was currently 80, with 4 new members joining in 2023-4, but 3 dying or resigning. The Spring meeting provided an opportunity to recruit members at the RCPCH conference, but the high cost of day registration discouraged non-College members from attending the Society's session at the event.

6. RCPCH Archives and Significant Historical Events

Tony Hulse noted that 2026 would be the 30th anniversary of the Royal College, and the Centenary of publication of 'Archives of Disease in Childhood'. 2028 would be the Centenary of the founding of the British Paediatric Association and its first conference at Windemere. The RCPCH Archivist Sarah Broady had a stall at the Birmingham conference, and had been contacted about participation in anniversary events in collaboration with the Society, possibly giving a talk about the College/BPA archives at the next Spring meeting. Robert Scott Jupp would be liaising with the College about other potential joint activities.

7. Archiving the BSHPCH on MedShr.

The President had continued his investigations into this, but had not yet been able to set up the required technology for recording 'live' presentations. Contributors to the Society's meetings should be able to re-record their talks for MedShr storage. Members only access could be authorised, and a link to the Society's website could be established.

8. Future Meetings

i) **2025 Spring Meeting.** Tony Hulse reported that the 2025 Spring Meeting would be at Glasgow SEC on Wednesday 25 March. An afternoon session of greater length than in recent years had been agreed with the College. There would be a gap between the College Seniors' lunch and the start of the session, which might risk reducing attendance. Guest speakers would be sought, with the hope of encouraging some local interest, and a presentation on the history of the Glasgow Professorship of Paediatrics. Lawrence Weaver was proposed as potential Armstrong lecturer, by Mary Clare Martin, who also suggested links with Strathclyde University.

ii) **2025 Autumn Meeting.** Dr. Hulse had been investigating London and Kent options. The Royal Society of Medicine was likely to be very costly. Guy's Hospital could offer the Robens Suite in Guy's Tower for both meeting and Dinner, with options in another building. Leeds Castle offered an impressive venue and an inclusive package, but would also be very expensive and not easily accessible to non-driving members. Options at Guy's were supported as a first choice. Colin Michie proposed University College Oxford as a non-London alternative.

9. Any Other Business

Mary Clare Martin reported that there would be a Children's History Conference at the University of Greenwich on June 25 2025, at which she hoped to include some medical history content. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 6.40pm.

Nick Baldwin

Hon. Secretary 17 September 2024