

## Diary dates

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Club events and activities have now mostly returned to a degree of normality, and will be shown in this column and posted on the *News & Events* page of the Club's website at :

[www.thetickerclub.co.uk](http://www.thetickerclub.co.uk)

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### Annual Volunteers' Seminar 2022

**Monday 16th May**  
**09.30am - 3.30pm**

in the 1st floor ward room of Education & Research Centre, Wythenshawe Hospital

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### Members' Social Evenings

[Dates & venues will be confirmed on the website]

## Lottery winners

FEBRUARY	No.
1st £50 M Brooks	182
2nd £25 T Gunner	136
3rd £13 M Kemp	80
MARCH	No.
1st £50 N Woodward	144
2nd £25 D Boland	46
3rd £13 M Merriman	21
APRIL	No.
1st £50 B Summerfield	93
2nd £25 A Hunt	170
3rd £13 A Warne	6



### Belinda's sports quiz p.2

#### The answers

6	Oxford
5	2001
4	Sam Waley Cohen
3	Noble Yeats
2	Seven
1	Mo Farah

## Heart surgeon expresses his thanks

I would like to express my gratitude to the Ticker Club in supporting the purchase of the heart models for use primarily in the outpatient clinical setting.

These models are large, accurate representations of the human heart at approximately two times life-size. Beyond surface anatomy, the front wall can be removed in order to view the inner chambers and structures of the heart. It has proved an invaluable asset in the



**Mr Dimarakis uses the Club-funded heart model to explain heart functions and procedures to a patient**

outpatient clinic as patients can appreciate in 3D the technical aspects of various cardiac surgeries. For example as this high quality model encompasses venous bypasses it is much easier to describe coronary artery bypass graft surgery. This eliminates misunderstandings not only for the patients but also for family members who accompany them.

I am sure that patient experience is improved whilst very likely consultation times are slightly shortened, thus reducing overall waiting times.

I cannot emphasize enough the usefulness of these models as anatomical teaching tools for junior medical staff as well as non-medical hospital staff. They are the next best option to a real heart in order to understand operative anatomy; this assists junior surgeons to grasp the fine anatomical details of open-heart surgery, preparing them to carry out procedures in the future.

Many thanks to the Ticker Club for their continued invaluable support to Wythenshawe Cardiac Surgery.

**Ioannis Dimarakis**

In his *Member's Tale* in our Spring 2019 Newsletter, David Norbury recalled his early experience of Wythenshawe, and a photograph still displayed in the Hospital.



**David Norbury makes the first bedside 'mobile' phone call in Greater Manchester**

**Mr Dimarakis recalls :** For many years I have been observing the numerous photos in the corridors of the Heart Centre from the Hospital's archives depicting the history of treating heart disease. Interestingly, the one that always stood out in my memory was that of a young boy making a phone call whilst surrounded by several members of staff. It was a great pleasure meeting David Norbury in outpatients and finding out that he was the boy portrayed in that picture!

I heard with interest as he proceeded to explain in the greatest of detail the

story around that inpatient stay. David had been referred for heart surgery and it was touching how much trust he had in Wythenshawe Hospital, stemming from his very early experience as a child treated for heart disease. It was with even greater joy that we took another photo, again at the bedside, prior to his discharge.

It has been quoted that he who wishes to foresee the future must consult the past; in this case David's patient journey almost acts as a time warp linking two different but equally exciting periods. It is reassuring that clinicians' sense of dedication and enthusiasm remains unchanged over the years mirroring patient trust and positive experience at Wythenshawe.

**Mr Dimarakis [R] with David Norbury**



Charity No. 519754



# The Ticker Club NEWSLETTER

[www.thetickerclub.co.uk](http://www.thetickerclub.co.uk)

Spring 2022

Founded 1987

Affiliated to the British Heart Foundation

## Ticker team

Chair :  
DAVID HOLMES



Vice Chair :  
MARTIN MERRIMAN

Secretary :  
[to be confirmed]

Treasurer :  
MARIE HOLMES

Committee members :  
BELINDA CARTER  
NAZIR CHOONARA  
KHALID GHAFFUR  
JOHN MILLER  
MUNEEB YASSIR

Co-opted members :  
[Three to be co-opted]

Visitor coordinator :  
MUNEEB YASSIR

Membership :  
BELINDA CARTER

Newsletter & Media :  
JOHN MILLER



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

For diary dates :  
see page 4

## Green shoots of recovery

We are seeing slow but steady progress back towards such normality as we can expect in our lives. It will no doubt be different from what we have encountered in the past, but certainly better than over the last two years.

From a Club perspective our support work for patients is resuming and we will be attending wards and clinics soon after this edition reaches you. After the break due to the Covid pandemic our volunteer visitors are looking forward to getting back to helping patients face-to-face, and seeing the staff we have all appreciated from afar for the good work they have done.

### Increasing need for Volunteers

Our need for more volunteer visitors is increasing, so that we can provide full cover for our support. Training will be given and a period of 'buddying' with an experienced volunteer made available. While heart surgery is back to pre-Covid levels, we are aware there are a number of patients who have not benefitted from our support, and it is time to address that gap.

The Annual General Meeting has taken place and a committee appointed to continue with the running of the Club. We say thank you to Gaynor who has been our secretary during the difficult period of Covid, but has not sought re-election this time. We acknowledge gratefully that two other officers have agreed to continue for another year, but will not be seeking re-election in 2023. These are the Treasurer and the Vice Chair. With the Chair standing down at next AGM in 2023, this unfortunately means three new officers will

be needed to take over the reins. Whilst it is unusual to have so many leaving at once, it should not be a surprise as we have had limited success from our requests in previous Newsletters in asking volunteers to take on committee roles. We very much hope that, over the next few months, members will be willing to step forward.

### Seminar a refreshing opportunity

The Volunteer Seminar is taking place in May [see p.4] and will, I hope, be attended by as many of our volunteers as can be there. The programme will include presentations from within the Hospital which are relevant to our work. Coupled with the imminent return to ward and clinic visiting, this will be an opportunity to refresh our knowledge and understand changes within Hospital working methods.

### How can you become a Volunteer?

As before, we'd still like to invite anyone to have a chat about becoming a volunteer, for ward or clinic visiting, or in an administration role. In the first instance please contact our Chair, David Holmes [for his details see Chair's Chat on p.2].

**Committee and members at the AGM 2022, back to its usual time of year on 27th April**



Page 2: Chairman's chat, and donations

Page 3: Key points from AGM & committee meeting

Page 4: A surgeon expresses his thanks

## Donations

Thank you for your donations, large and small, whether from individual members, from non-members, or organisations supporting our work.

**GIFT AID :** If you are donating, have you signed for Gift Aid?

If you are a tax payer, this increases your donation by 25%.

**Donations of £100 and over** received from February to April are shown below :

Donation from / for	£
In mem. G H Denham	1,000
Ruth Acton	1,000
Bernard Ryan	100
Various donors : PayPal	100
Congleton Probus	130
Shaz Naz birthday	155
Anonymous	150

Smaller donations are always individually recorded and are very much appreciated.



## Belinda's sports quiz

- 25-year-old amateur runner, Ellis Cross, won the London 10K on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Who came 2<sup>nd</sup>?
- Playing Wythenshawe, Heaton Moor 3<sup>rd</sup> XV recently won 65 to 7. At 56, it was their team captain Mike Ireland's farewell retirement game. How many of his sons played with him on the pitch?
- What was the name of the winning horse in the 2022 Grand National?
- Name the amateur winning jockey who retired after the race?
- Ronnie O'Sullivan is now a seven-time world snooker champion. In what year did he win the title for the first time?
- The 2022 men's Boat Race was won by which university team?

[Answers : see p.4]

## Chairman's chat

I'm pleased to say we're starting to see a return to some semblance of normality, as we're being allowed to resume our ward visiting. We're sure our volunteer visitors will be welcomed back to seeing patients with open arms. But, let's be aware, the virus is still around; it affected me in the early part of the year, but fortunately not too badly. Thank goodness for vaccinations!

There is also tentative good news about our office area. We're hopeful of being able to have that facility back, available for our use, in the not-too-distant future. This will enable us to work more actively within the Hospital's cardiac area. It's an increase in our presence that will also raise the Club's profile, always good for recognition of our work by both staff and patients. Once we have the office back in use, we will also be able to offer an area where patients and members can come to see volunteers and chat about any concerns of a non-medical nature they may have - or just to pass the time of day.

The Atrium café near our office inside entrance 6 is not at present scheduled to re-open but there will, I am reliably informed, be a vending machine. However, if vending machine drinks are not your choice of beverage, it's not too far to go to Costa or the RVS.

There are numerous changes being made within the Hospital presently and we are awaiting further details. But I do keep in contact with the people who seem to be in the know, and will always try to keep our members informed of any changes.

I know this has been mentioned before [see lead story on p.1] but, at risk of repeating myself, there is still very much a need for us to recruit willing members to the committee. At next year's Annual General Meeting there will be several officers and committee members not seeking to be re-elected.



David Holmes, Club Chair

This could become a serious issue for the future of the Club so, please think seriously about how you would want to see the future of The Ticker Club, and consider whether you might be able to help.

Should you, for this or any other reason, wish to contact me, you can ring me on : 07872 312205 or e-mail me at :

[david.holmes.ticker@gmail.com](mailto:david.holmes.ticker@gmail.com)

## Membership

Our thanks to all our Club members for continuing to support the Club in this way.

The following new members have joined the Club since the last Newsletter, and others are pending subject to receipt of membership fees.

2086 Anthony Cook  
2087 Margaret Mee

Belinda Carter, Membership Sec

## Annual General Meeting bullet points (continued from p.3)

- The Treasurer detailed Financial Activities for financial year that had ended on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022. Beyond that they had been estimated.
- The Treasurer confirmed that the designated funds for the vein harvester had now been processed and paid. The vein harvester was now in use for patients.
- The Vice Chair stated that interest on the Vernon Building Society books at this moment in time stood at £140.00.
- The Treasurer mentioned that accounts in line with the above dates were 'unusual' due to Covid implications.
- She mentioned she has enjoyed her work as Treasurer and had been going to stand down 2 years ago but remained in post to see the Club through. She is prepared to support and assist any new volunteer who is willing to take on this role.
- All other figures were correct in line with the Annual Report and everyone was in agreement with accepting the accounts.
- Trustees from April 2022 to April 2023 were appointed :  
**Officers :**  
David Holmes, Chair ; **Secretary [to be confirmed]** ; Martin Merriman, Vice Chair (2<sup>nd</sup> year in office, no election reqd) ; Marie Holmes, Treasurer (2<sup>nd</sup> yr in office)  
**Committee Members :**  
Belinda Carter, John Miller, Muneeb Yassir, Nazir Choonara, Khalid Ghaffur  
**Co-Opted Members :** none recorded
- The Chair thanked the current Secretary for her work in sending out the minutes in a professional and timely manner and keeping the committee updated and informed.
- Independent Examiner :** Steven Clegg agreed to continue as the Ticker Club's Independent Examiner for 2022/23.

Gaynor Slater

## Key points from March committee meeting & April AGM

With access to our office in the Hospital limited during lockdowns, committee meetings continued bi-monthly on Zoom until we were able to hold our first meeting back in the Hospital's Education & Research Centre (ERC) in September. Since then the committee has resumed its regular bi-monthly meetings in the ERC.

Please note : All items reflect the position at the time of the meeting but will hopefully still provide an insight into matters in hand.

### Committee meeting Wed 9th March

- Kris Bailey (KB), Lead Cardiac Nurse, is going to look into what it will take to allow volunteers back on to the wards and clinics, and to reoccupy our table at Entrance 6, in terms of infection control.
- Pre-op virtual CTCCU presentations have begun on Microsoft Teams.
- Vein Harvester is now in place but no invoice has been received to date.
- Virgin Charity Savings account has been made available again and is to be investigated further.
- A number of donations have been received, some in memoriam and some from non-member ex-patients.
- Social Meetings: Belinda Carter proposed social meetings every 2 months from June 2022. She will also ascertain if the Stamford would be available for our Christmas Social, possibly at lunchtime or afternoon.
- Hospital Funding Request - Caroline Gilroy from Cardiac Rehab has requested Welch Allyn vital systems monitor. A second one had been bought by the rehab's own charity fund but the original one funded in 2008 by the Ticker Club had now failed and was irreparable. Two are needed due to the increase of cardiac patients being referred from other hospitals in the MFT. Belinda Carter asked if those hospitals could not transfer their machines to Wythenshawe. Caroline Gilroy explained they were still in use as patients' assessments were done at different hospitals before referral.
- Leaflets are still being sent out and Dr Sastry has now got them in his stent clinic. Trauma for stent patients can be as great as for open heart surgery.
- The online Friday afternoon rehab sessions promote the Ticker Club. The Club continues to support the online rehab presentations.
- Nazir Choonara attended the MFT Hive online meeting. A system is being put in place so all patient records can be viewed over all the 10 sites of the MFT. There is a move away from individual hospitals towards the corporate image of MFT. We will need to address this in the future as our constitution is very clearly Wythenshawe Hospital based.
- BHVS led by Dr Laura Dobson wish to make 14 videos to put on YouTube and have asked for Ticker Club

involvement. It was agreed that we cannot financially support other charities due to the Charity Commissions rules governing all charities, and therefore no financial commitments should be made.

- Nazir Choonara and John Miller are going to talk to Dr. Laura Dobson about a range of videos and will emphasise that there will not be any financial involvement by The Ticker Club. The BHVS is a charity for professionals and, if they want to make videos, they need to be self-funding. Members of the TC can make a personal contribution to the content as we have done in the past, for example in Pathways.
- A letter will be sent to all volunteers inviting them to attend the Seminar and asking for a response so that catering can be arranged.

### AGM Wednesday 27th April

- The Chair greeted everyone, thanking them for attending the 34<sup>th</sup> AGM (the Ticker Club being 35 years old) and only the second face-to-face meeting since Covid struck 2 years ago. He gave an update on initiatives which have been taking place.
- Trust's video (an initiative by CTCCU), to replace the Friday afternoon face-to-face elective surgery presentations due to Covid, had to date not been uploaded on to the Trust's intranet. But virtual presentations, delivered via Microsoft Teams, are now taking place and 4 members of the Ticker Club are taking part in the presentations. It is hoped Friday face-to-face meetings will soon be returning.
- It is anticipated we will be able to return to volunteers' ward and clinic visits by the end of May 2022. Certain Covid rules, to be discussed with volunteers, will have to be followed.
- The Ticker Club office facility will be back in the near future, enabling us all to work more effectively and promote the Club after a 2-year gap. There is still work to be undertaken but David Holmes will keep everyone informed. Belinda Carter has been using the office in the evenings and weekends for membership purposes when hospital staff are not using it.
- The Chair discussed the future of the Club, following a communication

[continued on p.2]