

Diary dates

With Club events and activities now returned to near-normal, the search goes on for a new venue for our social events.

Upcoming dates will be shown in this column and posted on the *News & Events* page of the Club's website at:

www.thetickerclub.co.uk

Annual General Meeting

Wed 24th April 2024
at the Cresta Court Hotel,
Altrincham

Members' Social Events

Currently suspended, it is hoped these resume in the coming months, subject to sourcing a new venue



Eamonn O'Neal
Club President since 2015

After growing up in Wythenshawe where his parents were teachers, Eamonn became the managing editor of the Manchester Evening News. He is also an established broadcaster, having worked in TV and radio for 40 years, and continues to present programmes on BBC Radio Manchester. He won awards during his time with ITV and Granada TV, taking part both in front of the camera and in executive roles. He has a long association in various roles with St. Ann's Hospice, and has been a governor at various education establishments, and is also a trustee of a number of charities around Manchester. Eamonn was commissioned as a Deputy Lieutenant in 2014, and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II appointed him High Sheriff of Greater Manchester, 2020/21.

Introducing the Club's new presidents . . .

Following the retirement of two of our previous presidents [see *Spring newsletter*], I personally approached, as agreed by the committee, two current highly-regarded members of the Hospital's cardiac team, Prof. Venkateswaren and Dr. Sastry, to ask if they would be willing to take their places. And both expressed themselves willing to become joint presidents of our charity. Along with our third longstanding joint president Eamonn O'Neal, who had already expressed a wish to continue, we now once again have three joint presidents who are as passionate about patient care as we are.

Both Prof Venkateswaren and Dr.Sastry needed little encouragement as they are aware of the good work we carry out in the Hospital and also know of the items we have funded to help with patient care and support. Eamonn has already been in the presidential role for several years and has always been supportive of our work throughout his time with us.

We hope that they will continue in their roles for some time to come and we will be able to call upon their support into the future.

David Holmes



Prof Rajamiyer Venkateswaren

Mr Venkateswaren completed his medical degree and post-graduate training in India. On arriving in the UK, he started his cardiac surgical training initially in Papworth Hospital, Cambridge and later in the West Midlands training programme. His research involved optimisation of thoracic organ donors for heart and lung transplantation.

He completed his MD in the University of Birmingham. Mr Venkateswaren was appointed on the first national fellowship in heart and lung transplantation in Papworth.

He was appointed in 2010 to Wythenshawe Hospital, Manchester, where he is now the Director of Heart & Lung Transplantation and lead for mechanical circulatory support and also the Clinical Director for Cardiac Surgery in Wythenshawe.

Sanjay came to the UK with his parents, aged one. After studying medicine in St Andrews and Manchester, his training as an Interventional Cardiologist (performing stent procedures) included 12 months working in Paris. Sanjay's first Consultant job (2007-2014) was at Bolton Hospital as well as working at Wigan Infirmary and Manchester Royal Infirmary as an Interventional Cardiologist. In 2014 he moved to Wythenshawe Hospital continuing as a Consultant Interventional Cardiologist. In 2017 Sanjay became the clinical lead for Cardiology at Wythenshawe and, following the formation of Manchester University Hospitals NHS FT (MFT), he became the Clinical Head of cardiac services responsible for cardiology, cardiac surgery and transplant surgery at Manchester Royal Infirmary, Wythenshawe Hospital and Trafford General Hospitals. As well as being joint President of The Ticker Club, he is a trustee of the North West Hearts Charity.

Sanjay is married to Karen, and they have two children. He is also an avid cricketer!



Dr Sanjay Sastry



Charity No. 519754



The Ticker Club

NEWSLETTER

www.thetickerclub.co.uk

Summer 2023

Founded 1987

Affiliated to the British Heart Foundation

Ticker team

Chair :
DAVID HOLMES



Vice Chair :
MUNEEB
YASSIR

Secretary :
MAGGIE MEE



Treasurer :
MARIE
HOLMES

Committee members :
NAZIR CHOONARA
KHALID GHAFFUR
JOHN MILLER
[Two vacancies]

Co-opted members :
[Two may be co-opted]

Visitor coordinator :
MUNEEB YASSIR

Membership :
MARIE HOLMES [temp]

Newsletter & Media :
JOHN MILLER



You can now
contact us direct :
07395 071479

Volunteers' Seminar celebrates our work



L to R front : David Holmes, Marina McGrath, Lynne Duggan, Pat Khan, Marie Holmes, Khalid Ghaffur.
L to R back row : Ken Duggan, David Latham, Brian Dorward, Nazir Choonara, Andrew Seddon,
Margaret Mee, Muneeb Yassir

Our annual Volunteers' Seminar took place on 30th May in the Education Research Centre of Wythenshawe Hospital. The Club's chairman, David Holmes, welcomed all attending and reminded them of the wonderful work which the volunteers undertake, providing comfort to the cardiac patients in the Hospital. The first speaker was **Beth Frost** from the Hospital Volunteers Office, who explained about the volunteer's role and the help available to all volunteers from her office. **Adele Brearley**, ward manager of Ward F6, spoke next about her ward which is the main cardiac ward whose staff members take care of the cardiac patients during their stay before and after their surgery or other procedure, observing them as required. She made it clear how much she appreciated the work undertaken by the

Club's ward visitors to give comfort and reassurance to those in the ward by just talking to them.

Eleanor Murphy and Jason Hancock from the Cardiac Physiology department then spoke about the work their department does, involving various types of scans as required by the medical professionals to assess the patient's condition and then take the correct action to help them recover.

Chairman David Holmes then told the Seminar that **Prof. Venkat and Dr Shastry**, the Club's newly appointed presidents [see p.4], had been kind enough to accept our invitation to speak about their respective work, but, due to their theatre commitment were unable to join us.

[continued on p.2]

Page 2: Chairman's chat, and fundraising support

Page 3: A half-marathon & committee meeting reports

Page 4: Presidents' profiles - new and long-standing

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 May to July are shown below :

Donation from / for	£
W Chew	100
D Hibbert	100
M Elliott	200
J Williams (Geneva Marath)	1400
In mem. Sean Doran	2006

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



Lottery winners

MAY	No.
1st £50 W Parnell	15
2nd £25 J Morrow	188
3rd £13 A Hazelhurst	
JUNE	No.
1st £50 N Woodward	143
2nd £25 C Shillito	65
3rd £13 C Laithwaite	158
JULY	No.
1st £50 K Jerath	67
2nd £25 N Woodward	77
3rd £13 T Gunner	135

Chairman's chat

I hope everyone is keeping well and looking forward to a summer to enjoy. Hopefully we will not have to swelter in the level of temperatures being seen in the rest of Europe as I write, but a bit of heat would be good. Whatever you are going to be doing, I hope you get a lot from it.

Normal service is being resumed; following on from our last edition there is better news about the office. We are back in residence and are hoping that there will be volunteers in attendance on various days to meet members and visitors. So please, if you are going to the Hospital for any appointments and the door is open, do call in for a chat. There is still an ongoing situation with the overall refurbishment of the area and we may need to vacate for a short time whilst the work happens but we're back for now.

Our three presidents are profiled in this newsletter [see p.4] and I thank them for their support. Eamonn has been a supporter in this role for some years, and I trust that Prof. Venkateswaran and Dr. Sastry will now be involved as best as they are able for the future. This of course will depend on their surgical commitments - we don't want to compromise their work helping patients. You will see from their profiles that they are all busy people in their own fields. We are lucky that they also feel they want to support our work in the Hospital.

We are hoping to recruit more volunteers to support patients on the wards and in the clinics within Wythenshawe Hospital and maybe, if enough are available, take our work further afield. This is a present thought and perhaps may be difficult to arrange, but there

... Volunteers' Seminar

[continued from p.1]

Jenny Aindow from Cardiac Rehab spoke about her department's role, which helps the patients on to their road to recovery, so that they can enjoy their daily life with ease.

Karen Brennand, acting Critical Care ward manager, described her ward's crucial role in the very early stages of patient care, immediately after their surgery.

Muneeb Yassir, the Club's Volunteer Co-ordinator, briefly spoke about the Trust's rules regarding volunteers and the Club's protocols including 'does and don'ts', and reminded all participants about their commitment to patient support. This is well received by the patients and is very much appreciated. He added his personal thanks to all the volunteers for their contribution and support.

Muneeb Yassir

is no harm in trying. For example, one of our volunteers in the Leigh area is willing to start a local group of members and we are hoping that this will also be picked up in other areas. Please give some thought to you might become locally involved and get in touch if you feel you can help. This is a great initiative and opportunity for the Club to reach out more - to be more inclusive rather than purely parochial.

Please contact me on either 07872 312205 or e-mail on david.holmes.ticker@gmail.com should you wish to contact me for any reason.

David Holmes, Club Chair



Membership

Our thanks to all Club members for their support of the Club through membership.

There have been six new members confirmed since the last Newsletter :

- 2094. Andrew Calder
- 2095. Martin Elliott
- 2096. Jan Entwistle
- 2097. Ajaz Haq
- 2098. Stephen Kay
- 2099. Andrew Haines

Others may be pending subject to receipt of membership fees.

Meanwhile, we are sad to report the recent passing of Malcom Blessitt, our former member and longest-serving official as independent examiner.

Marie Holmes,
Acting Membership Sec



Key points : May & July committee meetings

Committee meetings have now fully returned to being held bi-monthly at the Hospital in venues to be advised.

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 Wednesday 10th May

The committee welcomed Maggie Mee who agreed to take on the Secretary role and she was co-opted on to the committee for this purpose.

Unfortunately, we still did not have full access to our office which was impacting on our support ability.

There was to be a volunteers meeting later in May to which all ward visitors were to be invited.

The Treasurer reported that we were financially sound and she was working through paperwork to allow for Gift Aid to be claimed.

The next AGM has been booked to take place at the Cresta Court Hotel, Altrincham on 24th April 2024, this having proved to be a good venue.

Jan Williams was to run a Half Marathon in Geneva to raise funds and more details would be in a future Newsletter [see R].

The website is going to be reviewed, as is the mandatory training for volunteers in conjunction with the Trust.

Patient contact is being maintained through the mobile phone.

There is a move to bring our Constitution up-to-date and a meeting is to be arranged to discuss this.

A 4D probe was approved for the Physiology Department to enable them to obtain better heart pictures.

Ticker Club committee

Committee meeting Wednesday 12th July

It was reported that the office was now back with us and would be available for the volunteers to use as necessary.

Photos on the banner and the website are to be reviewed to make them more relevant to our current situation.

The Treasurer reported that the Gift Aid would be claimed in August after the Independent Examiner had checked the paperwork.

More lottery members are required as we have numbers available. More were to be asked to consider joining.

There has been an encouraging number of new members joining the Club, possibly due to increased ward visiting.

Clinic visiting within the Hospital is to be encouraged. We are missing out in this area as volunteers used to be involved in visiting both clinics & wards.

There was a move to start support groups in local areas and one of our volunteers was thanked for offering to be the point of contact for his area.

Several requests for funding were received by this meeting; these had been approved, including new equipment for the Cardiac Rehab gym.

Extra information was asked for in respect of a request for Patient Information monitors for the cardiac outpatients department.

Another meeting is to be arranged for all volunteers to keep them aware of any changes or requirements being introduced within the Hospital.

Lisa Williams

In January 2016 Lisa found herself in Wythenshawe Hospital A&E with a strain of flu, which attacked her heart and caused it to fail. Lisa was placed on an extra corporeal membrane oxygenation machine (ECMO) which acted as an external heart/lung, extracting blood, adding oxygen, removing carbon dioxide and then returning it to the body, letting the heart and lungs rest.

At this point Lisa was given a 50 / 50 chance of survival. Mr Venkat performed open heart surgery and fully removed the BIVAD machine, an operation which we believe he hadn't done before. So, with Lisa's heart damaged but still beating, she didn't need a transplant!

Lisa became a member of the Ticker Club in 2016, representing the Club by going on regular ward visits, speaking to patients both pre- and post-op. And post-surgery, Lisa is now also a ward clerk on the CTCCU ward.

Jan writes : I was looking for a fresh challenge and an opportunity came up to run a half marathon in Geneva.

Having previously ran just two other half marathons, Wilmslow in 2018 and Manchester in 2022, it was not a distance I was overly familiar with. The unfamiliar ground of the Alps and Geneva's lake added extra challenge to my aim to raise some money for the Ticker Club. We knew how helpful the donations received would be to the Club.

Having started with the aim of raising around £200, news soon got out and fundraising spiralled with very kind and generous donations from family, friends, colleagues at Network Rail, fans at Wythenshawe Town FC and runners at Wythenshawe Parkrun. Training consisted of my local 5k parkrun and at a social running club. Half marathon distance though meant putting in additional hours and miles, including long lonely runs down the river Mersey and around Chorlton Waterpark.

The training paid off and I completed the Geneva Half Marathon in 1 hour 39 minutes- a fair achievement for a man in his late 40's!

Final donations at closing down the JustGiving Fundraising page stand at £1,400.



Lisa and Jan Williams