



Annual Report of the Executive Committee 2016 January 2016 to December 2016

A Momentous year

2016 has been an amazing year. Whatever perspective you have of it; you cannot fail to be shell-shocked by the speed of change. Change has come within the NKF, within the NHS, within the renal environment, within the UK government, within Europe and within the world at large.

We began by re-electing the members of the All Party Parliamentary Kidney Group (APPKG) following a general election. We reviewed the success of moving our 2015 Conference to Reading and resolved that in 2016 the conference would be at Blackpool and the 2017 Conference at Hinckley Island Hotel. We held a further successful KPA day and AGM near Birmingham. We prevented Dialysis Commissioning from being “demoted to” a level three service. We brought common sense back to those who were planning a 15% Tariff cut to dialysis services and we saved Immunosuppressant drugs from being severely curtailed by NICE. Although restricted to three issues per year, Kidney Life reached a circulation figure of 26,000 per issue. Faced with continued political pressure for “health cut backs” renal largely escaped unscathed – thanks to continuous and effective NKF campaigning.

The decision by the country to vote “Brexit” caused the immediate resignation of David Cameron MP as Prime Minister and the need for the NKF to direct its campaigning at a new government led by Theresa May MP. We also had some unsettling weeks wondering whether the all-important APPKG could continue – thankfully it could. The year also saw the announcement by NICE of a new guideline for renal replacement therapy – there is much work for the NKF to do to assist this development before it is published in 2020.

New Faces

NKF also followed with its own clean sweep following the April AGM. In came David Marshall as Chairman, Mick Walker as Vice Chairman, William Beale as Treasurer and Denny Abbott as Secretary – out went Jim Higgins (resigned) and Bud Abbott (completed his seven-year term). The staff also lost Stephanie Scott who retired after ill health.

Our Executive committee currently has the following members:

Angela Beale, David Macdonald, David Marshall, Denny Abbott, Diane Griffiths, Guy Richards, James Barr, John Burdett, Jonathan McGann, Mick Walker, Rajesh Sanghani, Richard Van Roon, Vanessa Hardy, William Beale.

Sadly, David Davies an Executive committee member died during the year as did Ian Cundell a former NKF national treasurer.

Ken Tupling remains NKF President.

Fund Raising

Whilst the income NKF receives from our industry partners (pharmaceutical companies and Dialysis machine makers) continues to fall as a direct result of the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries (ABPI) code of conduct, it is pleasing to see the tremendous success that Pete Revell our Head of fundraising is now achieving – having started with a blank sheet of paper, his sterling work now sees a positive army of volunteers working for the benefit of the charity – and a careful study of the NKF accounts shows just how important and vital that work and support is. We now need to concentrate on expanding our reach towards Trusts and corporates, and ensure that we are not forgotten by our members when planning their wills. Without finance, the good work that the NKF does would come to a halt.

KPA subscriptions. For some years now the NKF has waived the Membership subscriptions that KPA's are asked to pay, in return for their agreement to circulate draw tickets inside Kidney Life magazine. The Executive committee considered carefully whether that agreement could continue faced with the gloomy financial position the NKF faces. They have resolved not to alter that arrangement in the foreseeable future, and instead continue to develop other income streams wherever possible, however they also hope that those KPA's who feel able to help NKF financially will do so by way of voluntary donations as and when they feel able.

Kidney Life

During the Council meeting on 2nd April concern was expressed by members that Kidney Life had dropped from four to three issues a year – and the meeting urged the Executive Committee to keep this decision under constant review. The Executive committee have done as requested, but have not found it possible to afford the re-instatement of the missing paper issue however they have voted unanimously to re-instate the fourth issue as soon as it is financially possible.

William Beale NKF Treasurer made proposals that the future of Kidney Life may lie in electronic distribution – which would reduce its cost (Kidney Life currently costs £25,000 per issue). With this in mind the NKF are currently carrying out trials to put Kidney Life onto the NKF website in a much more reader friendly format than a simple PDF – this to be done in tandem with the continued distribution of the paper version of the magazine.

Should this trial be successful then the Executive committee will be able re-evaluate the future of both paper and electronic issues of KL.

Our continued thanks to Deborah Duval the Kidney Life editor and the many contributors who together produce such a marvellous read.

UK Renal Research Strategy

The NKF is pleased to have joined with six further renal organisations to produce the first ever Research plan for the coming years. The document published in April 2016 is an important step in leading the future for our patients. The document is being launched in many influential forums.

Transplant Numbers

Faced with the continued fall in retrievable organs from deceased donors, kidney transplantation has relied heavily on the growth in living donation. It is therefore of the greatest concern to see published figures from NHS Blood and Transplant recording a drop in living donation numbers in the last two years. The NKF has been quick to act and has held an emergency meeting of the APPKG, and that group has now demanded answers from three bodies they believe to be germane to this issue.

Secretary of State

The NKF were also concerned to read a speech made by Jeremy Hunt MP the Secretary of State for Health, made at the Best Practice conference in Birmingham in which he canvassed the idea of moving all end stage renal failure activity to GP practices, away from hospitals. The NKF believes this to be a total non-starter and have published an article in the British Journal of renal medicine saying so.

World Kidney Day (WKD)

WKD grows larger year on year, yet by clever management and financial aid from supporters, the cost to NKF is negligible compared with the good it does in respect of public awareness of kidney disease. The activity created by KPA's during 2016 was great – let's see if March 9th 2017 can beat it.

British Renal Society (BRS) – and the Transplant games

NKF were not only present at this major conference (BRS), but also ran a session there looking at the problems surrounding Dialysis Away From Base. Five patients related their experiences and contributions from the floor produced a lively and informative debate.

In contrast the very successful Transplant Games did not feature prominently the NKF – this is because NKF cannot afford the participation fees which are large. In 2017 we are resolved to find a solution to this.

The Renal Registry

NKF are now working closely with the renal registry to ensure the annual report reflects patient issues and is patient friendly to read.

Kidney Charities Together

NKF continues to attend this meeting of the five national renal charities and indeed hosted the last meeting at its Worksop HQ. This forum continues to provide ways in which the charities can discuss common issues and work together without overlapping each other's core interests.

NKF Helpline, website and IN Touch

The NKF Helpline continues to provide the core NKF service to patients, and the website and "In Touch" Newsletter keep everyone informed about current NKF/Kidney matters.

I commend this report to you
David Marshall
NKF Chairman

16.1.17