



National Kidney Federation Annual Report of the Executive Committee 2011-2012

Annual Report of the Executive Committee 2011 -2012 (incorporating elements from the 2011 Half Yearly Report)

The year two thousand and eleven has been both successful, and challenging, for the NKF. The continuing downturn in the UK economy has hit many charities hard and the NKF did not escape the financial whirlwind although it took immediate and effective action to minimise any impact on both its reserves and investments. What it could not control however was the effect of UK wide austerity measures on its income.

The Officer team

The AGM of 2011 saw David Macdonald step down as Treasurer and Ray Mackey take on the role – our thanks go to David for all his sterling work and support over many years serving on the Executive Committee. The other officers remained in post: Marion Higgins (Chair), Kirit Modi (Vice Chair), Michael Abbott (Secretary), Frank Howarth (President) so that the full Executive Committee was the officers plus :- Alan Sutton, Barbara Morris, Bob Price, Ewen Maclean, Claire Lewis, Mick Walker, Richard Cooke, Sandy Lines, Tracy Sinclair, William Bradbury. A strong team that has worked very hard to proactively support the NKF throughout the year.

The NKF is also pleased to announce two new Patrons – Sir Ranulph Fiennes (Explorer) and Lawrence Keogh (Celebrity Chef)

Campaigning

One very important success has been the NKF campaign to get the NHS to harvest organs for transplant from Accident and Emergency Departments. At first the NKF view on this was widely scorned, the prevailing view being that organs could only be retrieved from Intensive Care Units – however the NKF view won the day and is taking place in many hospitals. A & E organ retrieval has been fully recognised as a necessary part of the Transplantation infrastructure. This can only increase the number of Transplant operations taking place each day. The NKF is also pleased to reveal that the Organ Donation Taskforce is to be replaced with another body when its work is completed in 2013 – this follows NKF direct lobbying of Government Ministers.

A second very significant success has been the swing towards Dialysis at Home. The NKF does realise that this option is not for everyone, but it has continually demanded that the option should always be available for suitable patients. For a while it looked as though the new Tariff system would work against this option, but the NKF rose to this challenge and continually pressed home the point that the Tariff must not work against Home Dialysis – whilst it is early days to be sure, the NKF is now confident that the new Tariff when introduced in April 2012 will not create a hurdle to home dialysis.

The Tariff also threatened the future of Dialysis away from the base unit (holidays dialysis) and working with others the NKF argued its case with the Health Minister Simon Burns MP. Concessions have now been made to the original plans so that small Holiday Dialysis centres can now argue their own case for an increased Tariff which should keep their centres viable.

Finally, and working with the All Party Parliamentary Kidney Group (APPKG), the NKF held a summit meeting within the House of Commons (chaired by Robert Buckland MP) to address the renal and transplantation issues affecting Black and Minority Ethnic groups. This meeting attracted more than 70 participants from Faith groups and the resulting report from that meeting is keenly awaited.

We congratulate Owen Smith MP (joint Chair of the APPKG), who was promoted to the front bench, and we welcome Madeline Moon MP who has taken his place within the group. We are also pleased to announce the appointment of Chris Van Roon as Kidney Ambassador within the Palace of Westminster.

Organisation

Whilst the NKF remains deeply grateful for the support received from its Industry Partners, it is clear that a greater degree of financial security is required. To assist with this the NKF appointed Pete Revell as Head of Fundraising and he appears to be getting off to a great start, with new initiatives and a fundraising supplement within Kidney Life magazine and on the website.

The NKF made application to the British Kidney Patient Association (BKPA) for a grant to enable the expansion of its essential Advocacy service. The application was successful (thank you), and the NKF is currently advertising for applicants to fill five new posts. Once filled the NKF will have Advocacy officers spread evenly throughout the entire United Kingdom. This innovation should also enable the NKF to act as a conduit for patients in need of financial support to reach the BKPA. Nick Palmer is now Head of Advocacy – a new position awaiting his return to work following transplant. The five new posts, still to be filled are as follows, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, South West, West Midlands, North East. Dennis Crane remains covering North West and Denis Cawdron covering East Midlands and East of England.

The NKF Executive Committee formed a new subcommittee – the Governance and Finance subcommittee which is headed by the NKF Chairman. Several new NKF policies will be introduced as a direct result – Complaints Policy, Appraisal Policy, and Recruitment Policies to begin with. The subcommittee has also introduced various training sessions for staff and Executive Committee members.

The NKF held the first meeting with NHS Blood and Transplant – these meetings will be a regular feature of NKF activity.

The NKF also has a number of items of merchandise available for sale on its website and in Kidney Life.

Kidney Life

Kidney Life circulation now stands at 20,000 copies, four times a year – yet there are 45,000 renal patients. We must do more to promote this excellent communication tool to the corners of the UK

where it has yet to reach – we thank Deborah Duval for her superb work as editor and we thank Peter Walker (shortly to retire) for his design skills. Come on KPA's – please ensure that you let the NKF have all the names and addresses of your patients – if you don't do this – they lose out.

The NKF website

If the issue is renal – then the answer will be found on the NKF website www.kidney.org.uk Now over 5,000 pages large it is the most incredible and valuable aid to the NKF and its membership. Thanks are due to the webmaster Ken Petrie – always available and willing to solve NKF website needs.

Helpline

Pauline Pinkos and Julie Watson remain the NKF's first line of assistance on the telephone Helpline 0845 601 02 09. If you need help or assistance – call them

young@nkf

Claire Lewis has taken over the leadership of the young NKF renal patient movement. Unlike her predecessors, this is no longer a formal committee - instead it lives in cyberspace with a very real presence on both facebook and Twitter and with hundreds of followers – something the formal committees never ever achieved. We wish Claire and this movement well – our young patients need this level of communication and friendship.

Roadshow

Once again we have to thank Barbara Morris and her Roadshow subcommittee for the excellent Roadshow held in Blackpool in October. Please see the Winter edition of Kidney Life for details, or go online to <http://www.kidney.org.uk/roadshow11/> to hear the speeches again. This year we will be returning to the Hinckley Island Hotel. We are indebted to SHIRE for their sponsorship of the 2011 Roadshow.

In conclusion

There remains much campaigning work to be done – however none of this will be possible unless we can find new ways to raise income.

I commend this report to you

Marion Higgins

Marion Higgins

NKF Chairman