

The Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital Nurses League

Charity registration number 290546

Executive meeting held on **Saturday 9th May 2020 2pm**
using Internet via Zoom (vocal & facial contact)

Present: Mary Dolding (President), Margaret Allcock, Hilary Barker (Treasurer), Elizabeth Blaxell, Doreen Betts (Joint Editors), Jan Beart, Ann Copsey (Membership Secretary), Sondra Gorick, Chris Parfitt, Mike Surkitt-Parr & Ruth McNamara (Secretary).

Mary Dolding setup & chaired the first meeting on Zoom setting the rules for the first meeting many of the committee had not experienced. This was held on the internet because of social distancing & home lockdown for the whole of the UK during the pandemic Coronavirus sweeping the world in 2020.

1. Apologies: Jennie Cropp who has poor internet connection in her area.

2. i. Minutes from the last meeting & 2019 AGM: These had been sent to Trustees who agreed they were correct but will be officially signed when social contact is resumed. Both will be sent to Paddy to be added to our official website.

Trustee's news: After announcing themselves the Trustees spoke on how they were dealing with these restricted times. Many had spoken to Senior Members who they contact at Christmas & found no problems.

- i. Mike Surkitt-Parr had good news following a profoundly serious & sudden illness of his wife Debbie. Flowers had been sent from the Nurses League & we were happy to hear of her gradual progress.
- ii. The Editors were congratulated on their excellent 90th Anniversary edition of the Journal & both thanked Members for their flowers which had been sent to their homes.
- iii. Many compliments had been received from Members, especially Seniors, contacted by Trustees following the social shutdown from their own family/friends. All were pleased with the contact from the League.
- iv. Sondra reported that she was working from home for the hospital with family isolation restrictions but was busier than usual.
- v. Ruth reported that £450 had been raised for the League funds following donations for the Hospital badges. All recipients were delighted to be sent their 'new' badge. Two Members had theirs stolen many years ago. *The oldest N&N badge 1929-33 has been kept for use of future League Presidents who trained after the last issue of 'the cross'.*

3. Update from the Chairman Mary Dolding:

- i Following the cancellation of the 90th AGM & Reunion for only the second time in its history, the other time was during WW11. The AGM was to be held on this day & it had been agreed, with their consent, that Officers should remain in their current positions Mary Dolding President & Jennie Cropp Trustee until 2021. Proposed: Ruth McNamara Seconded: Elizabeth Blaxell.
- ii. Regretfully, we have had to also cancel the concert planned by Annette Jude for Saturday 20th June 2020. She had agreed to rearrange when conditions allow. The League will carry any costs accrued.
- iii. *Kay Marrison (Gillingham) Service was nominated & has agreed to join the Trustees.* A letter was sent thanking her for her support & she will be invited to partake on Thursday 13th August 10am Zoom. meeting.
- iv. Chris Parfitt & her Mum, Mrs Bramble, have made a flag bearing our badge for display at the N&N on International Nurses Day 12th May 2020. The material used was from one of the bags given to Members.
- v. An article about Florence Nightingale in our Journal by Elizabeth Blaxell will be displayed in our cabinet.
- vi. The costs involved in our website have now been transferred to be paid from the League account. Our thanks to Paddy for his continued support. Approved: Mike Surkitt-Parr Seconded: Doreen Betts
- vii. The Nurses League Twitter account has proved very popular with many followers.

4. Financial Reports. Hilary Barker, Treasurer, distributed to Trustees the annual financial report 2019-20 & reported on the end of year accounts. i. Due to restrictions they have not yet been independently audited by Charlotte Ayres. These will show we have not overspent despite paying more for printing the excellent & special 2020 Journal.

- ii. Postage for the Journal, not included in these reports, totalled £291 & thanks to all the Trustees who delivered 81 Journals saving £102.06.
- iii. Unfortunately we had already paid £330 for enamel pins which were to be given out at our 90th celebrations but they will be used next year cost of which are in next year's figures.
- iv. The concert in June has had also to be cancelled which was to provide the League with extra funds.
- v. PayPal Giving fund has given us a bonus this year of £737.50 & hopefully this will continue.
- vi. Investments have given us a good return but concerns for the future with the worldwide economy following Covid 19 virus. Overall, because of funds we have in accounts to date, Hilary assured the Trustees there is enough to pay for coming year plans. She was thanked for her hard work on behalf of the League.

5. League Membership. Ann Copsey reported: i. There are now 340 League Members & 2 Honorary.
 ii. Four new Members: *Veronica Rogers (Barrett) Service, Wendy Louis (Cullington) 1963-7, Gaynor Carter (Rouse) 1981-3 & Susan Emery 1973-6.* Sadly, *Margaret McGowan (Wright) 1955-8* has died.
 iii. 100 outstanding subscriptions but some may have used a new standing-order payment which will be shown on the next bank statement to the Treasurer. Ann was thanked for her busy task with membership & subs.

6. Heritage report: Margaret Allcock reported progress had been slow with everyone in lockdown.
 i. A February meeting was held at her home with Mary Dolding & Elizabeth Blaxell. Sandra Ferguson was unable to attend but two new heritage Members, Jan Beart & Tony Barber, arrived keen to learn of their activities. Future meeting showing them plans had to be postponed along with meeting Anne Farrow & a friend who were donating photographs to the League.
 ii. It is hoped Norwich Archive Centre can do a display next year at the hospital for their 250th Anniversary.
 iii. Virginia Playford was contacted & is forwarding a book 'The Jenny' about the Jenny Lind Hospital.
 iv. Pam Green (Crisp), one of our Seniors, contacted Ruth about her badge being stolen years ago but not her Jock Carruthers medal - of interest because we only have a newspaper cutting. Margaret will contact her.
 v. Surprise donation from the Postle family. Jessica Woodhouse & partner Charlie were clearing a relative's garage & found a wooden box containing glass slide photographs of the N&N Hospital. Some are in poor condition, but an appointment will be made with the Restoration Dept. Archive Centre Norwich to see if they can be dated & possibly used in the 250th N&N celebrations. The first hospital was built in 1771. On contacting Mrs. Postle she knew little except they could have been stored by the family in a cellar before the garage. Margaret has had them delivered to her home.

7. The Future:

- i. **Betty Lee Lecture:** Mr Richard England has agreed to lead the lecture Thursday 8th October 2020 "The Two Nightingales" if the situation at the hospital allows such gatherings. Mike said planning is underway & Richard was delighted to be asked to speak on the occasion. Ruth remarked that all group meetings held at the hospital will be under their control & she had not yet heard of any future bookings of League functions/meetings accommodation withdrawn for August, October or November 2020.
- ii. **Future of the Journal:** Chris Parfitt has shown interest in the task with possible help from Sondra Gorrick. Both needed reassurance from the past Editors on how to manage the workload, IT skills needed & the printers. Doreen & Liz agreed to help where needed but said luckily the printers put it together for them. Mike remarked that the Editors had done a phenomenal job & new Editors would develop in their own way.
- iii. **Newly Qualified lectures:** Mary suggested Jan Beart might try to make a recording for future meetings - none had yet been planned. Jan hesitantly agreed to tackle the task if events take place.

8. Any other business:

- i. Hilary reported more Members had paid by standing order this year on the bank statement – giving names. She will inform Ann of those who paid in this manner.
- iii. New website entry: *league 2021* password: *sun-mountain*
- iii. Mary will set-up another **Zoom meeting for the Trustees Thursday 13th August 2020 10am.**

Signed:

Date: