



# Faculty of Sport and Exercise Medicine UK

Excellence in Musculoskeletal Medicine, Exercise Medicine and Team Care

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## **Unconfirmed minutes of the Faculty of Sport and Exercise Medicine UK Annual General Meeting held on 19 November 2020 at 7pm.**

**The AGM was held virtually by Zoom video Conferencing with Mr Ian Williamson explaining the procedures.**

### **President's Welcome**

The President welcomed everyone attending the Annual General Meeting and was pleased to see so many present. He confirmed that we have a quorum for the meeting and thanked everyone involved in setting up this unique Annual General Meeting.

The President asked those present if there were any queries or discretions to the unconfirmed Minutes of the AGM held on 19 September 2019. No comments were received, the minutes were approved, proposed by Dr Rod Jaques and Seconded by Dr Paul D Jackson.

### **President's Address**

The President addressed the membership advising that this has been a challenging time for the whole nation, with unprecedented demands placed on the health and social care systems as well as the economy. Despite these challenges, the President believes the Faculty remains in a strong position to guide the nation on the importance of physical activity and exercise medicine in the prevention and management of illness and injury, a message which is ever more critical at the time of Covid

The President feels that the main challenge facing the Faculty is in getting our voice heard. Covid has drawn the national debate in health towards, understandably, public health, respiratory medicine and intensive care. But we know that physical activity has an important role in preventing the disease and that Sport and Exercise Medicine has a role in managing the consequences of it. Although we now know Covid may have long-term consequences for patients, the provision of services to identify, assess and rehabilitate these consequences, has lagged behind the acute response.

The President asked members to be assured that the Faculty has strongly represented their concerns on multiple occasions to many of our health leaders. across all four nations, which include the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, NHS England, NHS Scotland, the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health, Professor Chris Whitty and our host colleges. He advised that whereas, we have frequently received support for our views there has been little in the way of substantial action to support the patients this condition affects.

The President is delighted to see that the support provided for patients with 'Long Covid' is being led by Members and Fellows of our Faculty. Many clinics are being developed by local initiatives, directed by Sport and Exercise Medicine Consultants. Despite our best efforts we are a small voice in a crisis which has, so far, focused on the acute management of these cases. If we want to achieve our vision of improving the health of the nation through physical activity and improved musculoskeletal care, we need to better influence government and the public.

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At the beginning of the Covid crisis, Dr Etherington and the President of the British association of Sport and Exercise Medicine (BASEM), discussed the future of our respective organisations. It was clear that we and many of our members, shared the same vision, contributed to the same debates and collaborated in many areas. In a small specialty, with a vital national role to play, we believed it was time to combine our strengths and resources to maximise our effect and to that end we wrote to our respective councils asking for their support in initiating non-binding discussions about the possible merger of our two organisations.

The council of the Faculty were very supportive of starting these preliminary discussions. However, problems arose within the BASEM executive, due to differences of opinion and constitutional issues. Consequently, we were not able to proceed. The President believes that this was a missed opportunity for our two organisations to combine resources. BASEM has recently had their own AGM and a new executive committee has been elected so there may be opportunity for further discussion.

The President said that it is this Faculty's aim to become an independent college to better achieve our vision and he believes that we are more likely to achieve this aim if BASEM and the Faculty are one organisation. He also believes that by combining our two organisations we will have a stronger and more influential voice to direct the governments and key stakeholders of our four nations, which in turn can generate the policies we need to truly revolutionise the health of the United Kingdom and benefit its economy.

The President said that he believes that any College of Sport and Exercise Medicine, and we hope for a Royal Charter, should be an inclusive organisation, embracing all those with a similar vision, those who recognise the value of sport, musculoskeletal and exercise medicine for the population as a whole. It should provide an academic home for all elements of the specialty, including those doctors on the specialist register, those on the general professional register and committed to the specialty and appropriately qualified Physiotherapy, Rehabilitation and Exercise Professionals.

This multi-professional approach will be different and may seem challenging to some of our Members and Fellows but there is much interest from other professional groups (both nationally and internationally) to belong to such a college and with a larger, more diverse voice our influence will grow. He recognises that not all Members and Fellows will welcome the move to separate from our host colleges and said that there are undoubtedly arguments against it but reiterated that the possible merger with BASEM, and the possibility of becoming a separate college, are for debate. All points of view will be acknowledged and the pros and cons of the various options properly discussed and appraised, before being presented to an AGM or EGM. It will be up to the Members and Fellows, not the President, the Executive or the Council, to decide the way forward.

He reported that the Faculty are in ongoing discussions with the Primary Care Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Medicine Society (PCRMMS), the British Association of Sport Rehabilitators and Trainers (BASRaT) and others about how we can work more closely and advised that this has led to very positive discussions with Health Education England (HEE) around the development of the educational frameworks for First Contact Practitioners and Advance Practitioners and how the Faculty might support this through our exams and educational systems. The Faculty are having further discussions with HEE about setting standards for GP's who wish to develop an extended role within musculoskeletal medicine. This incorporates our newly developed syllabus and diploma for primary care musculoskeletal medicine.

The President thanked all those volunteers who have worked so hard for the programmes of work the Faculty have been involved in including, Moving Medicine (MM) which has gone from strength

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to strength. Under Dr Natasha Jones' leadership they have produced more modules, including the new paediatric module and entered income generating agreements with the Australasian College and others and developed the Active Conversations programme, which is now generating further income to help sustain the overall MM programme. Dr Jones will demit this role shortly and a replacement will be recruited to take over her role. She has made an outstanding contribution to this work.

He thanked Dr Tim Swan and the exams team who have produced an excellent programme, despite the challenges of Covid and advised that we hope to go ahead with the Part 2 exams shortly. The President advised that the exams team, with excellent support from our newest Vice-President Dr Chris Tomlinson, also developed the diploma syllabus and exam in musculoskeletal medicine which goes live next spring. He thanked all those who contributed to that work, which has been done in collaboration with PCRMMS.

The President reported that education collaboration is growing between the Faculty and BASEM through a lot of hard work and dedication by Dr Jo Larkin, this has now been taken over by Dr Courtney Kipps.

Vice-President, Dr Mike Rossiter has published the commissioning guidance for Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) and others who wish to commission specialist sport and exercise, and musculoskeletal medicine services. The President said having worked for NHS England, he knows that it is vital for patients that this Faculty sets the standards for the highest quality specialist care to guide commissioners when designing services. Dr Rossiter, with Dr Sarah Rollins, has also published guidelines, developed in combination with the British Society of Skeletal Radiologist (BSSR), for musculoskeletal ultrasound.

The President advised that Dr Julia Newton, who leads the Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC), has worked incredibly hard to rewrite the SEM curriculum which has recently been agreed by the General Medical Council. This has been a critical piece of work to help guarantee the survival and growth of the specialty and he thanked Dr Newton and said that it is an exceptional achievement.

The President also thanked Dr Ralph Smith for his initiative in developing the New Consultants Committee which will support our newest Fellows at the most challenging times of their careers.

The President said that he would particularly like to thank Mr Jim Foster who demits office as Honorary Treasurer at this meeting after many years of excellent service to the Faculty, he said the fact that the Faculty is in such a strong financial standing is in no small part due to Mr Foster. Mr Foster has not only been a sound financial adviser but an incredibly knowledgeable voice on the issues arising from college business and a wise head in times of difficulty. As an Honorary Fellow of the Faculty Mr Foster has volunteered to support the Faculty in the mechanics of becoming a Royal College. He is handing over as Honorary Treasurer to Dr Patrick Wheeler. The President is confident that Dr Wheeler will be an excellent replacement.

The President welcomed the newest Honorary Fellow to the Faculty, Mrs Yvonne Gilbert whose outstanding contribution to the development of the Faculty and the specialty as a whole has been recognised in this way and advised that we would look forward to celebrating this award with her in less restrictive times. He then thanked all Council Members, volunteers and office staff who work on behalf of the Faculty.

The President said that this is a very exciting time for the Faculty with a national vision and an aim to become an independent Royal College and reiterated that it cannot be achieved without the support and efforts of all membership. He said that he is particularly pleased that this year the

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Faculty had more candidates for the council elections than ever before, all very high-quality candidates, and consequently the competition for places was fierce. He said if unsuccessful, this time around please do not give up, please consider applying again. Addressing the membership the President said, please do not feel that you have to be a member of the council in order to contribute to the development of the Faculty, we need all your support, we need to grow this organisation if we are to improve the health of the nation through increased physical activity and enhanced musculoskeletal health.

The President thanked everyone for attending and said he would be happy to take any questions.

*Q. How do we think we would proceed the discussions with BASEM about the two organisations coming together?*

*A. The new BASEM Executive have just taken up their posts following their AGM on 12 November 2020. As soon as they have settled into their roles, the President will liaise with the Chair of the new BASEM Executive and try to initiate discussions in this area. If the BASEM Executive is keen to start discussions, they will do so in the New Year. We hope for a very full and frank exchange of ideas and discussions on various options.*

### **Amendments to FSEM UK Standing Orders**

Dr Mani-Babu referred to Appendix 2 and advised that there were two Resolutions put forward by Council.

The first proposal is to amend the Standing Orders to advise that in the event of a tie in the election of Ordinary Members of the Council, there shall be a further vote by Members of the Council to decide the successful candidate. In the event of a tie in the Council vote, the President shall have the casting vote.

The second Resolution is to amend the Standing Orders to state that Honorary Fellows who were previously Members or Fellows of the Faculty will retain their right to speak and/or vote at General Meetings of the Faculty and the right to participate in the electoral process for Officers and Council Members.

Dr Mani-Babu asked members for a proposer and seconder for first resolution. Dr Mike Rossiter Proposed the amendment and Dr Rod Jaques seconded the proposal. It then went to a ballot of members present and the motion was passed. 51 members cast their online votes to accept the proposal which was unanimously carried.

Dr Mani-Babu asked members for a proposer and seconder for the second resolution. Dr Rod Jaques proposed the amendment and Dr Geoffrey Davies seconded the proposal. The motion was passed by a ballot of membership. 50 members casted their online votes with 47 accepting the proposal, two rejecting the proposal and one abstention.

### **FSEM (UK) Accounts**

Mr Foster referred to Appendix 3, the rolling three-year Faculty accounts, which included the audited outcome for the year ending 31 December 2019. Mr Foster advised that the Faculty was in surplus by some £15,000. He informed members and fellows that past accounts have shown the Faculty moving between modest deficit and modest surplus. He advised that the Faculty has significant reserves which cushion such fluctuations. However; as the Faculty grows and as we move towards 2021, he hoped to see a consistent surplus. Mr Foster asked members if they would first accept the audited accounts for 31 December 2019. Dr Stephen Chew proposed accepting the audited accounts and Professor Angus Wallace seconded the proposal. 48 members cast their online votes to accept the accounts which was unanimously carried.

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Mr Foster advised that the budget projections to 31 December 2020 shows that the Faculty may look to have a surplus of about £38,000. He concluded that this was due to the cancellation of major meetings and other expenses during the year as a result of Covid restrictions. He proposed, as the projection shows the Faculty having a surplus in 2020 and the potential to be in surplus for 2021, that there should be no change to annual subscription fees for 2021. He asked members to accept that 2021 subscription fees would not increase. Dr Richard Seah proposed that there should be no increase to 2021 Subscriptions fees and Dr Jane Dunbar seconded the proposal. The motion was passed. 51 members cast their online votes to accept the proposal which was unanimously carried.

Mr Foster informed the meeting that as a charity under the auspices of the Hill Square Educational Trust our accounts are open to public inspection on application.

Mr Foster reported to membership that earlier this year the Faculty's bank account was subject to online fraud. They succeeded in obtaining the sum of £4,900, the Royal Bank of Scotland's fraud department and Police Scotland were made aware of this. Some of the money has been retrieved, the Case has been closed by the Bank but is currently being investigated by the Financial Ombudsman.

Mr Foster then informed Members and Fellows that after 11 years in office it was his intention to stand down as Treasurer. Council had earlier approved the appointment of Dr Patrick Wheeler as his successor.

Mr Foster said that he had enjoyed his time at the Faculty and as he hands over to Dr Patrick Wheeler, he intends to enjoy his retirement but he will not be far away and will be available and willing to help the Faculty in any way he can in the future.

Dr Etherington thanked Mr Foster for all his work over the years and his knowledge and said we may tap into that knowledge in the future. Dr Etherington took the opportunity to reflect on the accounts and how during this year the Faculty have saved on expenses, he said it is something that we must learn from. At the last face to face Council meeting, before Covid restrictions, Council had discussed reducing our carbon footprint and the possibility of moving to an online platform with some scepticisms. Clearly with Covid, it has taught us to use platforms such as Zoom, MS Teams, etc. to great effect and although we lose the personal contact the advantage is that attendance is a lot better. Next year, we will look to save costs and our carbon footprint by reducing the amount of time travelling to meetings. Revenue from appraisals and revalidation has fallen as people have put their A&R on hold, however it is expected this will return to normal next year.

A question was tabled.

*Q. Does the exam make a profit?*

*A. The Faculty does not aim to make a profit from exams and endeavours that they should be cost neutral although they should provide revenue for training and development. The Faculty will be launching a new musculoskeletal diploma exam in the spring. This will be a written exam and the Faculty hopes to take this examination overseas.*

### **Any Other Business**

Dr Etherington asked if there were any other questions that members would like to raise? There were none.

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Dr Etherington thanked Mr Ian Williamson and Mr Ryan Lowry for setting up and hosting the event and the team in the office for their hard work throughout the year and called the meeting to an end.

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**Members and Fellows in attendance at the AGM on 19 November 2020**

<b>BAINS</b> , Sonia	<b>HUGHES</b> , Justin	<b>POWER</b> , Jonathan
<b>BAKER</b> , Bruce	<b>IZQUIERDO</b> , Dionisio	<b>REID</b> , Hamish
<b>BATT</b> , Mark	<b>JACKSON</b> , Paul	<b>ROBERTS</b> , Simon
<b>BRENNAN</b> , Kay	<b>JAQUES</b> , Rod	<b>ROBERTSON</b> , Angus
<b>BROOKE</b> , Dan	<b>JENNER</b> , John	<b>ROGERS</b> , John
<b>BROOKS</b> , John	<b>JOHNSON</b> , Brian	<b>ROLLINS</b> , Sarah
<b>BURGESS</b> , James	<b>JONES</b> , Natasha	<b>ROSENBLOOM</b> , Craig
<b>CHATTERJEE</b> , Robin	<b>JONES</b> , Nigel	<b>ROSSITER</b> , Mike, Vice-President
<b>CHEW</b> , Stephen	<b>KEMP</b> , Simon	<b>SCHINDLER</b> , Oliver
<b>CHU</b> , Wing	<b>KERSS</b> , Jim	<b>SEAH</b> , Rick
<b>COLLINS</b> , Richard	<b>KIPPS</b> , Courtney	<b>SENARATNE</b> , Pumi
<b>CREANEY</b> , Leon	<b>KONCHWALLA</b> , M. Ashfaq	<b>SHARMA</b> , Neeraj
<b>DAVIES</b> , Geoff	<b>LARKIN</b> , Joanne	<b>SMITH</b> , Ralph
<b>DHARM-DATTA</b> , Shreshth	<b>LAUPHEIMER</b> , Markus	<b>STRIDE</b> , Matthew
<b>DODDS</b> , Wendy		<b>THING</b> , James
<b>DUNBAR</b> , Jane	<b>MACKINNON</b> , Anna-Louise	<b>THING</b> , John
<b>DURING</b> , Vicann	<b>MASSEY</b> , Andrew	<b>THOMPSON</b> , Stephen
<b>ETHERINGTON</b> , John – President	<b>MANI-BABU</b> , Sivanadian Honorary Secretary	<b>TILLET</b> , Eleanor
<b>FOSTER</b> , Jim – Honorary Treasurer	<b>MILLER</b> , Stuart	<b>TOMLINSON</b> , Chris, Vice-President
<b>GALASKO</b> , Charles	<b>MORRIS</b> , Daniel	<b>WALLACE</b> , W. Angus
<b>GILBERT</b> , Yvonne	<b>NEALE</b> , Jill	<b>WHEELER</b> , Patrick, Hon. Treasurer Elect
<b>GLOVER</b> , Danny	<b>NICOL</b> , Alastair	<b>WILKES</b> , Graeme
<b>GOMES</b> , Clint	<b>O’HANLON</b> , Denise	<b>WILMSHURT</b> , Peter
<b>HERON</b> , Neil	<b>PARMAR</b> , Kalpesh	<b>WYNTER BEE</b> , William
<b>HOGG</b> , Andrew	<b>PATRICIOS</b> , Jon	
<b>HOUGHTON</b> , Jonathan	<b>PETER</b> , Noel	

**Apologies received for the AGM on 19 November 2020**

**Macleod**, Donald  
**Lester**, Catherine

**In attendance**

Mr Ian Williamson	PR & Communications
Mrs Siobhán Watts	Senior Administrator
Mrs Shona Cunningham	Senior Administrator

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