

VRA AGM

Midday, Tuesday 26 January 2021 by zoom.

VRA Chair Deborah Edwards welcomed members to the meeting, confirmed it was quorate and reminded attendees that it would be followed by the VRA CPD webinar given by Dr Devdeep Ahuja on Pain Management.

The minutes of the 2019 meeting were confirmed to be an accurate record.

Details about all those standing for election had been circulated ahead of the meeting and the following were elected as officers and trustees:

- Julie Denning
- Deborah Edwards –*chair*
- Andrew Frank
- Sue Godby
- Beth Rose Husted
- Linda Ingram
- Chris Parker – *secretary (vice chair)*
- Alex Pugh
- Joy Reymond - *treasurer*
- Matt Smith
- Andy Tyerman
- Helen Valls-Russell

The Chair thanked all the trustees who had served in the last period for their efforts. She highlighted some key areas of recent focus for trustees:

- increasing awareness and recognition of the benefits of VR for the UK economy
- ensuring that VR practice in the UK is current, effective, high-quality and professional
- growing the organisation and ensure the sustainability of the VRA as a supporter and influencer of VR practice.

It was recognised that it has been a challenging time for charities particularly small organisations such as the VRA with the pandemic but that it has included the following activities and achievements.

- The membership group have improved membership pages on the website had and a reach out programme to attract new membership resulted in the VRA welcoming many new members during 2020; increasing both organisational and professional membership.
- An Irish network has been launched, an exciting achievement for both arms of the VRA moving forward.
- The events group touched over 500 people delivering events that were extremely well received. They delivered 11 monthly webinars including an innovative Christmas social event in social distancing times and incorporating the annual VRA Awards programme. In addition, the events group organized and delivered time critical educational content responding proactively to the pandemic with 3 specially arranged COVID focused webinars in addition to the monthly schedule; all were extremely well received.
- The attendees to the Awards Programme were treated to an extra special event in 2020 which saw the nominees share their practice and demonstrate why their expertise was short-listed as well as winners. Our thanks to Professor Kim Burton who helped us celebrate VR and also by providing us the opportunity to reflect on developments in VR since the What Works, For Whom and When evidence review. We also considered the opportunities for VR **and** VRA to make a difference in 2021.
- In 2020 the VRA stepped up to engage in how the government views and reacts to issues around VR with regular liaison with government leaders on VR issues and contributions to multiple NICE consultations including 'Work is Everyone's Business'
- A COVID Focus – as the virus emerged, teamwork ensued and in addition to the webinars, we produced the first of 3 COVID Guides providing useful links, resources, and guidance on March 15. We followed that up with 2 subsequent guides over the next 2 months covering free online CPD and return to work.
- The VRA contributed the advancement of the Institute of Registered Case Managers (IRCM) which continues to gain strength and develop a strategy for members of the 3 membership organisations during 2020. The IRCM Strategic Planning Team, which is made up of representatives from BABICM, CMSUK

and VRA formed working groups including Standards Group, Communications Group, Business Management Group and Education Group; together these groups are gradually pulling the various threads together to enable registration for the PSA. 2020 has been a year of forward movement analysing the work that has been being developed over the last 8 years and comparing it with the requirements of the PSA so that a formal application process is within sight.

The treasurer's report was shared ahead of the meeting as an unaudited financial report. The treasurer summarised the report; the VRA was in a better financial position than at the previous AGM with an increase of £2,292.81 in the Association's funds which was a significant achievement in the current challenging times. A substantial investment had been made into the website and members were encouraged to complete their entries.

At the previous meeting members had been asked to ratify the updated constitution. When this was picked up with the Charity Commission it became clear that several further changes were needed before it could be adopted. The required alterations were reflected in the version circulated to members ahead of the meeting and members were asked to vote to approve this. This was passed.

Members were asked if there was any other business and any questions they would like to pose to trustees. No matters were raised, and the meeting was closed ahead of the webinar at 12:30.