

LUPUS UK. Registered Charity No.

EAST DORSET LUPUS GROUP

MINUTES OF A G M 2nd April 2005 10.30am

VENUE Howard Centre Christchurch Hospital Dorset.

1. WELCOME

Margaret Hosking Chairman of the Dorset Lupus Group opened the meeting by welcoming all those present, especially Chris Maker who had come from Head Office and would talk to us later in the programme. We are very grateful that he had found the time and had made the journey to be with us. Margaret said that numbers for the meeting were a little lower this year, but that was possibly because of the beautiful weather and every one was in their gardens.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following people

- Carol Burkauer
- Sarah Williams
- Jenny Helyer
- Jayne Baker
- Christine

3. MINUTES OF LAST A.G.M

There were no minutes read or tabled as unfortunately they had been mislaid.

4. CHAIRMANS REPORT

It had been a good year for the group. Last year there had been 3 members on the Committee now there were 11. During the past year the Committee had tried to address some of the problems and suggestions that people had put forward.

- Social Events
- Areas for talks and subjects
- Concerns about the outlying members of the group i.e. Weymouth, Salisbury, Dorchester, Sherborne, and Gillingham for example

The chairman thanked everyone for their support particularly at the Social Events held during the last year. A special thanks to Ian the treasurer for all his hard work, for being such a dependable member of the Committee and for making the figures add up. Thanks to Debbie for her sterling work as the Social Secretary and News Letter Co Coordinator.

During the past year Debbie had done a tremendous job in notifying and keeping in touch with members of the group. Thanks also to Janet for faithfully making the teas and coffees and for the craft lessons. (In the future) Thanks to Dave for stoically putting items onto the web site. In future news letters will also be sent this way. Finally, thanks to Gerry for his support and help with the web site.

During the year there had been many events, and here are a few.

- Bristol Conference which 5 people had attended. It can be thoroughly recommended
- Patricia and Debbie attended the International Patients Conference in March which proved to be very informative.
- During Lupus Awareness Week Margaret and her son had been interviewed and an article was published in the Echo. This had attracted a lot of attention both good and bad
- We all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas Lunch at a hotel in Bournemouth where we were able to say thank you to Kathleen and present her with a lovely engraved vase.
- “Walk the Extra Mile” was supported by 10 people who got soaked to the skin. Patricia was carried across ditches, but it had all been great fun.

Blackmore Vale Lions Club had given us a very substantial donation of £2,000.00. Some of which will be sent to Head Office and the remainder will be put into a Trust fund, which could be used in so many different ways to help members of the group, fares, flowers when members ill or in hospital, expenses when visiting London Hospitals/Consultants.

Basically it has been a very successful year, and we look forward to the next year which we hope will be even more successful. We must look at the role of the regional groups. Margaret ended with thanks and the feeling that everyone was going in the right direction.

5. TREASURERS REPORT

Copies of the treasurers report were handed to all those present. (Copy enclosed with this report). Ian reported that this was the first year that subscriptions would be paid direct to Head Office.

Ian talked us through the accounts sheet and asked for any questions.

Q&A. Does the Lupus Goods include the books? YES and these were in the library so they were assets of the group.

6. SOCIAL SECRETARY

Debbie reported that we had had 11 events during the past year.

- Coffee Morning
- Cream Tea
- Skittles
- Christmas Lunch
- Go the Extra Mile walk

Debbie thanked everyone for their support at these events, and thanked all those who had donated Raffle Prizes. Debbie asked if we all like the new format of the News Letter. A resounding YES.....We are always open to new ideas for social and fundraising events. We shall try during this year to branch out into the North and West of the area. Debbie asked that we all remember to send her snippets for the News Letter.

7. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

The meeting was handed over to the Treasurer

As there were no other nominations for Chairman, Margaret Hosking was voted in

As there were no other nominations for Treasurer, Ian was also voted in.

All the Committee was voted back en bloc.

In addition two new members were voted onto the Committee - Janet Bourne and Gerrish Gray.

8. CHRIS MAKER

Chris thanked the Committee for inviting him to the meeting. He said that he was always very pleased to meet people in the other areas and was delighted to hear all about what had been happening in the Dorset area. He said that our last year had been quite amazing. He praised us for the format and content of our Newsletter. He thanked the Committee for the money that they had sent to Head Office. There were things going on nationally

- World Lupus Day May 10th
- International Patients Conference, where Lupus UK would have a stall.
- National Conference being held in Newcastle this year, well worth attending.
- Lupus 'Go the Extra Mile' in October

Chris felt that the key 'The awareness of Lupus' was important to everything, not only information to the general public but also to Health Professionals and Doctors.

Money was being channelled into providing

- Research
- Lupus Nurses
- Grants
- General Support to Lupus Patients

There were over six and half thousand members of Lupus UK. He thanked us again for our welcome and wished us well for the future.

The meeting closed and refreshments were served.

After the meeting and refreshments we had a very interesting talk on Stress and Fatigue Management by Shirley. We did all just manage to stay awake..... a most informative morning!