

**CRI DU CHAT SYNDROME SUPPORT GROUP  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 24<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2006  
AT WILLIAM BRADFORD COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
EARL SHILTON, LEICESTER**

Apologies for absence; There were none

**1. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no outstanding matters from the 2005 minutes, which were accepted.

Proposed Damian Haywood, seconded Irene Clark

**2. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Audited Accounts at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006

Assets were £26623 made up of bank balances as follows

CURRENT	1662
MEMBERSHIP	2510
BUILDING SOCIETY	22451
(£11712 was shown as being held specifically for research purposes.)	

Major items were 2006 (2005)

Income 9630 (8173)

Expenditure

Cost of Conference 5846 (5021)

General administration 2679 (2589)

Copies of the accounts were made available to the meeting and can be obtained from the Treasurer or Chairman.

**3. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT**

Database shows 240 British, 19 Overseas and 18 Professional members.

There were 6 new members last financial year, 2 so far this year.

84 standing orders now established and 2 cheques were received in respect of annual subscriptions.

It was encouraging to note an almost 50 % increase in the number of annual subscriptions paid last year but still only 36% of registered families are forwarding payments. That means 64% of families did not pay. Did you? Have you paid for the current year? Just £10 per annum from every family would mean our general administration costs being met.

Contact either Steve Gregory or Ray Clarke, contact details in the newsletter.

**4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

A major achievement this year has been the National Lottery (Now called the Big Lottery) grant of **£306247** to a consortium of ourselves, Cornelia de Lange, and Angelmans support groups to fund further research into behavioural and family related problems.

Families have been most supportive in the ongoing research project and we hope they will continue to take part in the future. If the research team do contact you please consider your involvement as without the contribution of as many families as possible it will be impossible to attain meaningful results for yours and future generations. Depending on where you live correspondence will come from either Birmingham University, University of Wales, Bangor or St George's Hospital, London. (Any correspondence from the researchers will be sent via the support group unless you have already

provided your contact details to them)

Unfortunately the proposed separate project on Aging has not moved forward. Professors Tony Holland and Kim Cornish are liaising on a North American and UK project but funding will prove to be difficult.

We hope to have our new website completed in the near future. Unfortunately it has proved to be a drain on the time of our already stretched volunteer committee members and a decision has been taken to outsource to a commercial web-designer.

Last year we decided on a part-time paid facilitator position because of identified time pressures on committee members. We are now looking to fill that role from a non-Cri du chat family and hope to have a candidate in situ by the end of August. Should there be any other interested parties, say aunts, uncles, grandparents etc please contact Ray Clarke.

We have been grateful to welcome three new members to the committee but our total numbers are still dwindling. The Group does need new blood to evolve properly. Those of us with older children and adults do not have the same issues as those with younger children and a balance must be maintained to ensure the needs of all families are included in our workload.

Please consider whether you can become involved, contact Ray Clarke as directed in the newsletter.

## **5. AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION**

At the 2002 AGM it was necessary to increase the number of terms that individual committee members could serve. Next year even that figure will be approached by three of the existing committee. So before we can undertake the Election of Officers this AGM will need to confirm an amendment to the Constitution and the committee recommendation is that;

“Trustees are empowered to serve a maximum of nine terms of two years each.”

Proposed David Girvan, seconded James Black and carried by a majority show of hands.

## **6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The offices of Chairman and Treasurer have to be specifically nominated

Chairman .... Ray Clarke, there were no other nominations.  
Proposed David Girvan, seconded... Marylou Girvan

Treasurer...Darren Waldron, there were no other nominations  
Proposed...Leroy Richards, seconded Jackie Wilkins

Re-election of existing committee members/trustees

Firstly mention should be made of Jeff and Sian Noneley who have decided to stand down after some 14 years serving on the committee. Increasing commitments elsewhere mean that time is no longer available. On behalf of all our families, I thank them for their valuable input over the many years.

Committee members....Angie Stokes, Steve Gregory, Louise Hull and Lisa Waldron  
Proposed...Mandy Clarke, seconded Simon Stokes

Election of new committee members

Thankfully, after last year's Conference, the following joined the committee and their appointment now has to be confirmed by this AGM

Irene Clark, Damian Haywood and James Black

Proposed..... Caspar Hull, seconded David Girvan

## **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**

### Conference 2007

Angie Stokes advised that after many years of organizing she feels it time to let someone else take over. Meeting thanked Angie for all her on site input over the years.

Whilst there were many reservations as to moving the Conference to another location committee will consider any reasonable and cost-effective alternatives and Damian Haywood will conduct a feasibility study at a known venue in Oxford.

In its deliberations committee will be mindful of the importance attached to existing crèche and hotel arrangements. It is confirmed that both SNIPS and caterers are happy to continue and there shouldn't be any problem with the Group coordinating from afar.

Concern that we are seeing a decline in the numbers attending Conference. In particular this year there were fewer new families and for the first time in memory there were no overseas visitors. Our website seen as a contributing issue as we failed to promote Conference on it and our site is not prominent when searching for Cri du chat. Completion of the new site required urgently!

**End of meeting**