

IN CONFIDENCE

SCOTTISH NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

Minutes of a meeting of the Co-ordinating Group
held in the HQ Unit on 28 August 1984

Present: Dr J D Cash (in the chair)
Dr E Brookes (not 3b ii)
Dr D B L McClelland (3b ii onwards)
Dr R Mitchell
Dr R J Perry
Dr S J Urbaniak
Dr W Whitrow
Miss M Corrie (Secretary)

1. INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology was notified from Dr Morris McClelland.
Dr Cash confirmed the following changes to the agenda:
Include: BTS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING 29 AUGUST
Delete: NBTS WORKING PARTY ON THE TRAINING OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS IN
BLOOD TRANSFUSION and DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS BLOOD PRODUCTS
the items being transferred to the Directors' meeting of 11 September.
He explained also that he wished to discuss item 9 over lunch with the
Regional Directors only.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 May 1984 had been
circulated.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) NEQAS Scheme (3a)

Dr Holborn had been notified that Dr Mitchell would remain the
Scottish representative on the NEQAS Steering Group. He had
acknowledged the notification with pleasure.
Dr Holborn had agreed to release to Dr. Urbaniak information
required by the latter.

(b) SNBTS Anti-globulin Working Party (3b)

i. Membership - as agreed at the previous meeting Dr Cash had
written to Dr Angus Munro to express the Directors' disquiet about
the invitation to Dr Phillips of BGRL to attend the Working Party
and about the apparent incursion of the working party into policy
matters. He had also discussed these problems by telephone with

Dr Munro who had assured him that Dr Phillips was not a formal member of the Working Party and would be invited only as appropriate as a representative of BGRL. Dr Munro also accepted that the Working Party was not a policy making body.

11. Transfer of red cell reagents: Dr Mitchell had made good progress in continuing the survey begun by Dr Brookes and would report soon. He asked those Directors who had not yet completed the return for the third part of the survey to do so as soon as possible.

(c) Association for the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) (3c)

Dr Cash reminded the meeting that the matter of compensation for volunteers in clinical trials had been raised at the 1984 meeting of Haemophilia Directors and Transfusion Directors and the latter were due to clarify their ideas and make a recommendation to the BTS Sub-Committee in November so that a report could be made to the 1985 meeting with Haemophilia Directors.

Dr McClelland had circulated to the Directors a paper on compensation for medicine-induced injury in clinical trials based on an ABPI document to which he had added item 2.4.

There was a need for clear and firm guidelines on compensation to volunteers injured in the trial of a product.

Previous experience had shown that the Secretary of State would not allow the BTS to take out insurance and it was assumed that the SNBTA would be unable to do this partly on account of the cost, partly because they received their income from the SHHD. The Co-ordinating Group felt the need must be expressed nevertheless and Dr Cash undertook to consult the Central Legal Office and draft a paper for the BTS Sub-Committee.

Dr Cash undertook to find out (through Mr David Smart, Chairman of the CBLA) whether the ABPI would accept the Blood Transfusion Service as a member. Dr Cash recollected this idea having been mooted on a previous occasion

(d) SNBTS Crossmatch Procedure (3d)

Dr Urbaniak had circulated to the Directors a table (revised in line with comments which he had received from them) of existing procedures. He was still receiving amendments to this revision. Dr Urbaniak would complete his survey, then prepare and circulate a draft common procedure as the basis for further discussion in the Co-ordinating Group.

Dr Mitchell asked his colleagues' advice about a paper which Mr Martin Bruce of his Centre hoped to read at the BBTS meeting. This concerned problems of compatibility testing and Mr Bruce hoped to refer in general terms to the survey being undertaken. It was agreed that (the survey being treated at present as privileged information between Directors) his mention could be only in the

most general terms. It was agreed that Dr Urbaniak should vet the reference in the proposed paper.

(e) NBTS Principal and Senior Chief MLSO Meetings (4)

As agreed at the previous meeting Dr Cash had invited Mr Bill Muir (W Scotland BTS) to represent Scotland for the first year, only to discover that the Principal and Senior Chiefs had already nominated their Chairman. Dr Cash had decided it would be best to accept this situation and had therefore invited the Chairman, Mr Robert Wilson, formally on behalf of the Directors and had notified the Chairman of the RTD meeting accordingly. In future a properly accredited Principal/Senior Chiefs Meeting could choose its own nominee and ask the Directors' approval.

Dr Cash would be meeting the Principal and Senior Chiefs in October 1984 in fulfilment of his remit from the Co-ordinating Group to explain to them the role which the Directors wished them to play.

(f) Honorary Consultants (7)

As agreed at the previous meeting Dr Cash had written to CSA Secretary to say that there was a need for honorary consultants to the BTS and that he would invite individuals to fulfil this role unless he heard to the contrary. Mr Mutch had replied that the issue was a sensitive one but that he would refer it to the Management Committee if Dr Cash prepared a paper for the purpose.

(g) Scotblood 1985 (10)

Dr Urbaniak confirmed formally that Scotblood 1985 would be held in Aberdeen on 30 March. 150 rooms had been reserved provisionally at Crombie Hall for Friday 29 March and accommodation for lectures and posters had been reserved also.

The Organising Committee had been nominated and would meet shortly. Dr Urbaniak undertook to convey to the Chairman of the Organising Committee the views expressed at a previous Co-ordinating Group meeting, namely that Scotblood should revert to the pre-Glasgow pattern of having local speakers and a generally less ambitious programme. The Organising Committee should make suggestions for the Iain Cook Memorial Lecture. They should be recommended to invite the Chairman of the English and Welsh RTD meetings and the DHSS Adviser as well as the Chairman of other English meetings such as the Principal/Senior Chiefs, RDOs and Administrators on the basis that these people would require to pay their own expenses.

(h) "Burns" SPPS (13)

Dr Perry reported that he still did not understand why the participants in W Scotland required in the first year 200 bottles more than had been estimated for the entire trial. He had issued the SPPS in proportion to population and the trial had begun. Miss Sutherland - who appreciated that any further supplies would

take three or four months to produce - would review the position at three-monthly intervals, and Dr Perry agreed to keep Directors informed.

(i) Intravenous Immunoglobulin Preparations

Dr McClelland reported that eight patients at Northwick Park were receiving PFC intravenous gammaglobulin in the trial. There had been no further complications following the earlier experience of raised ALT levels.

Dr Mitchell reported a problem in W Scotland BTS concerning the trial there of the I.V. immunoglobulin on ITP patients. Following the earlier problems at Northwick Park Dr Perry had been obliged to dedicate the succeeding four batches (700 vials) to Northwick Park, thus depriving the trial in W Scotland of material. It was underlined that this shortage was a temporary one resulting from the decision to dedicate more material to Northwick Park and that the total quantity was on target.

Concerning CMV immunoglobulin it was noted that the renal transplant trial was on target. The demand for ad hoc issues for purposes other than clinical trials was growing. It was agreed there should be no further issues outside Scotland before the December 1984 special meeting on immunoglobulins.

4. DONOR REGISTRATION CARDS.

The Scottish Donor Organising Secretaries having recommended the replacement of the present donor book (designed many years ago) by a plastic card had organised a demonstration in Glasgow to which Directors had been invited. Although they had all hoped to attend, in the event only Dr Brookes and Dr Mitchell were able to do so and both explained the advantages and snags of the prototype card which they had seen.

Basically the idea was to produce a "credit-card" on which (as in the case of credit cards) some of the required information would be embossed and some entered on a magnetic strip. The card would be read at donor sessions in a magnetic tape reader.

It was clear that a radical reassessment of donor registration procedures would be required. Ideas would emerge as the computer development proceeded and it was agreed that there should be a working party of people from the relevant Transfusion Centres for whom the Directors would prepare a remit. Dr McClelland undertook to propose the membership and it was agreed that Mr Mike Moores should attend as appropriate.

5. REPRESENTATIVE TO ENGLISH REGIONAL DONOR ORGANISERS MEETINGS

The Scottish Donor Organising Secretaries had requested permission to nominate Mrs Mairi Thornton (Edinburgh) as the next Scottish representative to the meeting of RDOs for England and Wales for a period of two years. This was agreed.

6. EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL FOR SCHOOLS

The showing of material from which an educational video would be made professionally was deferred to the next earliest opportunity.

7. NOTES ON TRANSFUSION

A new issue of Notes on Transfusion had been circulated to the Directors on 8 June. The discussion centred on two main aspects:

(a) Printing

There was a large number of printing and similar errors in the publication. It was understood that a list of errata was due. Even if it was possible to amend every copy fully so that the changes did not become separated from the original publication the result would be inefficient and likely to discredit the SNBTS.

(b) Content

Dr Cash reminded the Co-ordinating Group that, following the unfortunate performance of the working party, the Directors had agreed to await publication and decide then whether a separate Scottish edition would be necessary. Dr Bell of SHHD had refrained from issuing the large quantity he had received and awaited the Scottish Directors' views. It was noted that Notes on Transfusion claimed to have been prepared in association with the SNBTS and this was regretted.

After a thorough discussion it was agreed that Dr Cash should write to Dr Bell of SHHD explaining that the document was regrettably unacceptable from a professional point of view and that the Scottish Transfusion Directors felt that it should not be issued to the NHS in Scotland.

Dr McClelland and Dr Urbaniak undertook to circulate to the other Directors a copy of the practical information which was issued to house officers in their respective regions. Dr McClelland drew attention also to current relevant documents published by the AABB.

It was agreed that local documents would have to be prepared as a matter of urgency and the topic would be discussed again at the next meeting.

8. NBTS WORKING PARTY ON THE TRAINING OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS IN BLOOD TRANSFUSION

Transferred to Directors' meeting 11 September.

9. SUPPLY OF BLOOD TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

This topic was discussed between Dr Cash and the Regional Directors only. It was noted that Clause VI of the Model Agreement with the Private Sector might not be acceptable to the SHHD but the Directors agreed that Dr Cash should pursue its retention.

10. DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS BLOOD PRODUCTS

Transferred to Directors' meeting 11 September.

11. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Development funds for 1984-85 had just been released and Dr Cash had written to each Director.

Concerning 1985-86, it was expected that the BTS Sub-Committee would appoint, at their meeting on 29 August, an ad hoc group. There would be an opportunity soon to revise these proposals for the last time and Miss Corrie would send out to each Director a list of his or her unfunded developments which would be added to 1985-86.

Meetings had been organised for November to present the proposals for 1986-87 and blank development proposal forms had been issued.

12. JOINT CONSULTATION

It was noted that CSA were being asked by staff associations to implement the Agency's scheme for joint consultation. This scheme was for a CSA-wide JCC and one for each Division. The Personnel Officer had discussed the scheme with the Co-ordinating Group in 1982 and had recommended that the BTS should begin with local JCCs. The position now was that in PFC and W Scotland BTS the local Joint Shop Stewards' Committee was being used for consultation while in SE Scotland BTS Dr McClelland had established a JCC on Whitley Council lines. This had not been very successful. The staff in the three smaller Transfusion Centres did not wish to engage in formal joint consultation. After a full discussion it was remitted to Miss Corrie to explain the foregoing to the Personnel Officer and to add that it would be improper to move to establish a national JCC without local ones from which the staff side membership could come.

13. BTS SUB-COMMITTEE AGENDA

The agenda for the meeting to be held on 29 August was discussed. Dr Cash explained that his paper on computer proposals for the smaller Centres would be discussed under any other business, having been circulated to the Directors by the General Administrator after the latter had issued the agenda.

14. MEMORANDUM ON THE CARE AND SELECTION OF BLOOD DONORS

Dr Cash reported that Dr Bell, SHHD, had received in mid August, for immediate comment, a copy of a recent revision of the above. He had consulted Dr Cash who, having glanced through the document, decided that it was important for the Transfusion Directors to have an opportunity to comment. He had therefore told Dr Bell that there was unlikely to be any BTS comment till 31 December 1984. He was sending a copy to each Director and would arrange a meeting to discuss the memorandum.

15. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Special Meetings

6 November: Factor VIII Study Group/Plasma QA/Blood Components/QA

7/8 November: Developments

Ordinary Meeting

Tuesday 20 November.