

Chairman's Report to the 2019 AGM

It has been a pleasure being Chairman this past year and a challenge to take over from Mike Oliver who has loyally performed this role for many years. I shall not mention anyone by name through fear of missing someone out.

The more society progresses, the more choices there are, compromises to be made and decisions to be taken; by the bodies who fund the activities, the healthcare professionals and the patients. All this requires information and cross pollination between the interested parties. Patient groups like ours are becoming increasingly important, respected and valued.

The first thing we have to do is let people know we exist. This involves getting our leaflets displayed in clinics wherever possible, increase our Facebook activity, maintain a presence at events like Sight Village and participate on committees like the Keralink trial. The West Midlands group has been a great success and we made a promising start in Brighton. With the prospect of a group in Bristol, the future looks bright for our Regional Groups.

This year we have upgraded our website which is now much easier to use and keep relevant. In this regard, we welcome comments and ideas for things to post. It is not an authoritative source more a directory to point visitors in the right direction.

The quality of the Newsletter is tremendous and although the printing and postage is relatively expensive, I think its good to get this through our letterboxes twice a year.

Our grateful thanks must go to Amy Musto and her employer, Barbican Insurance for their generosity and support. Also to our many members for their donations. This income has enabled us to award our first research grant in partnership with Fight for Sight and support the training of two optometrist at Ken Pullum's Symposium on scleral lenses for KC patients. We hope to do much more in the future. I must also mention the concert given by Michelle Urquhart and her friend, an Australian Viola player who raised £900. It was a delight for anyone lucky enough to attend.

Our conference in September was a great success. The attendance was not as high as we had hoped but the quality of the speakers was excellent and the chance to share experiences in the interval was invaluable. I do recommend that you look at the videos on our website.

All our speakers and Dan Gore who spoke in September, give up their valuable time freely for which we are extremely grateful. It is remarkable how little our expenses are; apart from a few train fares no one receives financial remuneration for their contribution.

To conclude, I just want to say thank you to the committee. We are very lucky to have such a variety of talents.

David Gable
Chairman