

Chairman's Report 2022

At last we are able to return to normality and hold our customary AGM and speaker meeting. As a charity we have survived unscathed, unfortunately the same can not be said for many of our members who have suffered disruptions and delays to their treatment. We are looking forward to a positive message from our speaker Marcello Leucci who will bring us up to date with the new approaches to the clinical services at Moorfields.

On a positive note, the change in circumstances forcing us to use zoom has brought us closer to our wider membership across the country. It has provided excellent videos from Howard Maile and Frank Larkin along with the recording of Bitu Manzouri's talk at last years AGM, giving substance to our website. As well as these formal presentations our Coffee Morning zoom meetings, held on a Saturday morning roughly every other month, have proved very fruitful. We have been joined by a number of professionals and following the helpful contribution by Szuzsi Hybel we have been able to expand the section dealing with 'Access to Work' on our website. On one occasion I had an email from Aneel Suri, senior optometrist specialising in contact lenses for KC, who asked to join us; this turned the meeting into a valuable question and answer session. Recently we were joined by Dr Stephanie Campbell who used our event as a focus group to help her with ideas for the important role she is playing improving the KC services in Wales. In addition, though not as widely advertised, John Thatcher has been holding Coffee Mornings for the West Midlands group which have proved to be equally valuable.

On the negative side restrictions have delayed progress on the three research programmes we jointly funded with Fight for Sight. Hopefully we will be able to report on their findings in the not too distant future.

The highlight of the year was the Moorfields Keratoconus Day held in November. Our newsletter contains a full report on the event. It was pleasing to hear praise for Anne Klepacz and Mike Oliver for the help provided by the KC Group and for serving on the committees.

Our focus now is on hosting the KC national conference which has been postponed since 2020. We are aiming for September but there is much to do before we can make any definitive announcements. Unfortunately, the £7,500 lottery grant we received to finance the event had to be refunded but we can reapply. It is important that maintain our current surplus just in case the lottery funding is no forthcoming.

That is all for now, but just remember if you wish to help in any way or have ideas about what we can improve, we would love to hear from you.

David Gable
Chairman
The Keratoconus Self-Help and Support Association

15th February 2022