

The Society of Chiropractors and Podiatrists of Ireland
MINUTES of 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
15.00 Sunday 21 March 2021 via Zoom

The meeting was opened by the Chair Meave Keaveney (MK)

PRESENT: One hundred and thirty three (133) members

APOLOGIES : 2

Council members present: Meave Keaveney (MK), Cheryl O'Neill (CoN), Olga Carey (OC), Nuala Lowney (NL), Frank Dowling (FD), Sian Stokes (SS), Emily Haworth (EH), Christine Kiernan (CK), Elaine Thompson (ET)

Secretary: Laura Lowney (LL)

There were initial Zoom technical difficulties due to the unexpected large number of participants however issues were quickly resolved and the meeting re-commenced.

The Chair commenced the meeting outlining ground rules.

The Chair invited those present to pause for a minutes silence in memory of current and former members who have passed away this year.

PRESENTATION TO DONALD MAXWELL:

Celebration of Donald Maxwell - MK and CoN thanked Donald for his commitment to SCPI over the past 19 years. Retirement and thank you messages from members were shared with Donald on screen. Donald spoke about highlights over past years. On behalf of SCPI, Jennifer Maxwell presented gifts to Donald.

Elaine Thompson (ET) presented the Donald Maxwell Prize which was won by NUIG 3rd year student Caroline Kelly.

2019 minutes - proposer - Nuala Lowney, seconder - Mary Stokes

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

MK outlined this year's activities particularly with accelerating moving the society online, progress with CORU and updating members on topics such as insurance, LA & POMs.

SCPI Update: MK commenced with an update on SCPI including investing time digitally transforming the society, moving memberships online and establishing a new website with the help of outside web developers.

Welcome Laura: Laura Lowney was welcomed to SCPI and her specific role in helping transition the society online was outlined. Laura will be with SCPI until late summer 2021.

COVID: Podiatry being identified as an essential service was a milestone for the profession. The delay in this has emphasised the need for representation in DoH Department of Health for Health and Social Care Professionals (HSCPs). SCPI has also developed links with the HSE vaccination taskforce. SCPI members were thanked for their efforts during the past difficult year by ET.

Brexit: presented by Nuala Lowney (NL).

NL outlined issues with Brexit. NL acknowledged the effort being made by many in terms of trying to overcome supply issues and developing podiatry supplies themselves here in Ireland.

NL announced that Canonbury has joined Orthorest Healthcare Ltd to supply stock as of March 1st 2021.

Insurance presented by MK.

Arachas have a scheme policy with AIG and individual policy with Balens.

LA is a legislative issue - once legislated, insurance companies will be open to discussion of further cover.

CORU presented by MK.

Positive news announced → CORU register opening 31st March 2021 - the board will remain open for two years.

SCPI and CORU will provide education on the process to help members.

From 31st March 2023, it will be a legal requirement for anyone using title Podiatrist/Chiropracist to remain on register for as long as they are practicing in ROI.

LA & POMS presented by MK.

MAK highlighted legislative changes needed before members are enabled to legally use LA in ROI.

Coru now enables SCPI and NUIG to resume talks with DoH.

AUDITORS REPORT:

MK presented the audited accounts for 2019 which showed:

Total income: €122,607

Total expenditure: €84,047

Profit 2019: €38,560

Minus conference: €12,264

Reserve fund: €109,537

2020 accounts will be processed later this year.

Appointment of Auditors - proposer Kelly Duke, seconder - Rebecca Conway

2021 and beyond for SCPI:

MK outlined activities planned for 2021 and beyond highlighting making progress with CORU, LA & POMS, stock and supplies and the aim to outsource work to professionals as well as utilising the website more as a depository for members with the introduction of a forum which will offer a platform for members to support each other.

Upcoming opportunities:

There will be new upcoming internal positions within SCPI such as CPD, secretary and council.

MOTIONS:

Motion 1: proposed by Meave Keaveney on behalf of SCPI.

“A motion is proposed to amend the name of the society from The Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists of Ireland to The Society of Podiatrists and Chiropodists of Ireland.

The change of name is to reflect the upcoming wording and order of terminology used by CORU.”

Speakers:

Meave Keaveney spoke in favour of Motion 1 on behalf of SCPI Council.

Joe Kelly

Cheryl O’Neill

Jillian O’Driscoll

Motion 1 vote: Decision made to postpone decision for Motion 1 - 71% For, 29% Against

Motion 2: proposed by Jennifer Maxwell.

“A motion is proposed for The Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists of Ireland to review the membership fees and offer a two tier structure.

€250 for HSE employees

€400 for private practitioners”

Speakers:

Jennifer Maxwell spoke in favour of Motion 2.

- Increase in fees to employ a CEO, run a society office and establish new society offices to deliver services to Private Practitioners - need proper structure & reform.
- Need to address SCPI business model - no longer represents needs of members.
- CEO going to cost €50,000 annually plus 11% employer PRSI €55,525 (estimated cost)

Meave Keaveney spoke against Motion 2.

- Business case has been commissioned
- SCPI council not against increase in fee however need to wait until outside professional advice has been provided.
- Against inequity of a two-tier scheme.

John Conway
Mary Moore
Mary Stokes
Joanne Makarus
Mark Whelan
Frank Dowling
Kelly Duke
Jillian O'Driscoll

Motion 2 vote: Decision made to postpone decision for Motion 2 - 13% For, 23% Against, 64% Postpone

Motion 3: proposed by Lisa Cullina

“Would it be possible for the society to put together a magazine of sorts so that we feel like we are getting something from our membership fee or find out what our fees are going towards?”

Decision made by proposer to withdraw Motion 3.

Motion 4: proposed by Mary Moore

“I move that the SCPI professional body be reformed, modernised and restructured to represent current Podiatric needs, in private practice and HSE and reflect the evolution of our profession in both private and public sectors across health and education.”

Speakers:

Mary Moore spoke in favour of Motion 4

- Highlighted that there are opportunities for SCPI now with the exit from COP UK.
- Need to look at needs of profession
- Seeking reform of council and better communication
- Time to review structure → look at systems before and combine with systems now.

Sian Stokes
Nuala Lowney
Joanne McKenna
Joanne Makarus
Joe Kelly
Olga Carey
Frank Dowling

Motion 4 vote: 89% For, 11% Against

Motion 5: proposed by Kelly Duke

“A detailed census of membership to ascertain our demographics and needs.”

Kelly Duke spoke in favour of Motion 5.

Motion 5 vote: 97% For, 3% Against

Motion 6: proposed by Kelly Duke

“Engaging the services of a strategist in order to plan for growth and development into the future to meet the membership requirements. If we fail to plan we plan to fail.”

Decision made by proposer to withdraw Motion 6.

Motion 7: proposed by Kelly Duke

“Proposal of increase in subs by at least 75 euro per member in order to fund further administrative and staffing costs.”

Kelly Duke spoke in favour of Motion 7

- Society is under-funded
- Employ - 20 hrs/week €18/hr → €18,720 plus 11% employers PRSI
 - If increase 293 members fee by €75 - €21,975
 - Surplus under €1500

Meave Keaveney

- Not opposed to an increase but wishes to wait until the business plan/scoping project is completed.

Motion 7 vote: 67% For, 33% Against

Motion 8: proposed by Kelly Duke

“I propose the establishment of sub committees devoted to specialist areas of Podiatry such as private practice and disease specialist groups.

These sub committees, similar to that of other governing bodies such all the College of Podiatry and the Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists, would be chaired by a member of Council and include members who have expertise within these areas, and would feed back its progress council. This will

lessen the burden on council and engage members within these specific areas to contribute their knowledge and expertise.”

Kelly Duke spoke in favour of Motion 8

Motion 8 vote: 94% For, 6% Against

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

MK thanked previous Council members.

The following were nominated, seconded and duly elected to fill vacancies on Council:

- Jennifer Maxwell (proposer - Kelly Duke, seconder - Donal Hayes)
- Colm Kelly (proposer - Jennifer Maxwell, seconder - Joe Kelly)
- Rebecca Conway (proposer - Lynda Cowan, seconder - Joanne Makarus)
- Kelly Duke (proposer - Jennifer Maxwell, seconder - Mary Moore)
- Mary Moore (proposer - Donal Hayes, seconder - Frank Dowling)

The other members of Council are: Olga Carey, Frank Dowling, Meave Keaveney, Cheryl O’Neill, Sian Stokes, Elaine Thompson, Nuala Lowney

RICK DRUGGAN AWARD

Following an invitation to members to nominate candidates for the award there were a number of nominations and due to having the highest number of nominations, Christine Kiernan was declared the winner.

Sian Stokes presented this award to Christine Kiernan.

AOB/QUESTIONS:

- Will fees be increased by €75? Yes
- Future meeting will be held re motions
- Will there be a lower rate for private practitioners?
- Can we consider co-sharing an office with another professional body?
- How will members be informed of results of the scoping project? Will be sent to members.
- Can Zoom be used for future AGMs? Yes
- Can the chairperson issue monthly newsletter? - SCPI will improve on communication, perhaps a quarterly newsletter
- CORU information will be disseminated by SCPI and CORU website
 - There will be weekly evening live zooms for everyone to support registration.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

Signed by Chair:

Date: