

Witness Name: Katherine Victoria Burt  
Statement No: WITN6392001

Exhibits: WITN6392002 - WITN6392267

**INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY**

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**WITN6392257**

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# THE HAEMOPHILIA SOCIETY

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THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HAEMOPHILIA SOCIETY was held on Thursday, 8th August, 1974 at 7.00 p.m. at the Society's offices, 16, Trinity Street, London SE1 1DE

Those present: Mr. K.R. Polton (in the Chair)  
Mrs. Hunter, Dr. Kuttner, Messrs. Abrahams, Hunter, Leven,  
Morris, Prothero

Apologies: Miss Atkin, Mrs. Stopford, Rev. A. Tanner, Messrs. King,  
Knight, Rosenblatt

## AGENDA

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 11.7.74.
2. Matters arising.
3. Honorary Treasurer's Report.
4. Honorary Secretary's Report.
5. Group Matters.
6. World Federation and Overseas Matters.
7. Any other business.

The Chair was taken by Mr. Polton, due to the unavoidable lateness of Mr. Hunter, and he continued to occupy it after Mr. Hunter's arrival, at Mr. Hunter's request.

### 1. Minutes of the meeting held on 11.7.74

The minutes were signed as a correct record.

### 2. Matters arising

Mr. J. Bruce had written to the Honorary Treasurer at his home setting out his various debts amounting to £53, due to his mother and brother-in-law. The Honorary Treasurer had written to him and spoken to him on the telephone and had learned that Mr. Bruce was no longer considering applying to Canterbury University, but was planning to continue his home study of electronics. It was agreed that we should reimburse the loan made to him to meet telephone bills, to his mother, who would be asked to contact Mr. Polton, and that the case should be referred to Mrs. Stopford, for her action.

The donation to the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council was, the Honorary Treasurer had discovered, £100,000. The Council had decided to circulate all Haemophilia Centres with details to enable applications to be made by those doing appropriate research, for the part earmarked for haemophilia. After consultation with Dr. Biggs, the Honorary

Treasurer had marked the list of Centres he had passed to the Council to indicate the major Centres.

A letter had been sent to the Lancet, supporting Dr. Biggs' appeal for an increase in Factor VIII concentrate supplies, and had been published in the last issue. Dr. Biggs had been interviewed about the problem on Radio Oxford and Mr. Rugman had sent a copy of the transcript to MPs we knew. Some questions concerning the matter had been put down in the House and the answers given were discussed and felt to be inadequate. It was agreed that copies of the Lancet letter, the transcript, parliamentary questions etc. should be sent to Ministers, our Vice Presidents and other parties who might be able to help. It was also agreed to include copies of the letters in the next News Bulletin, thus keeping members aware of the problem and possibly enabling them to approach their MP.

3. Honorary Treasurer's Report  
Bank Balances 31.7.74

Current Account	£2,023.36
Deposit Account	7,000.00
Lombard North Central	25,000.00
RFH Current Account	127.66
RFH Deposit Account	NIL
RFH Lombard North Central	30,000.00

During his conversation with Dr. Biggs, she had informed the Honorary Treasurer that she now felt that the Society should be represented at the meeting of Centre Directors and suggested we contact Prof. Blackburn again. It was agreed this should be done and that we should point out to him that in conversations with members of the Medical Advisory Panel and other Centre Directors, they had also expressed their agreement with our wish to be represented.

A meeting had been held between Dr. Holman, Director of the Lewisham Centre, several of his technical staff, representatives of the Lewisham Group and the Honorary Treasurer, to discuss the problem regarding the low supplies of cryoprecipitate at Lewisham Hospital. The Honorary Treasurer reported that not only were the physical conditions such that the safe preparation of cryoprecipitate and the reconstitution of the remaining blood, very difficult, but that various staff problems existed. Dr. Holman had agreed to write to the Society outlining the financial help that he would need to improve the physical conditions, which the Honorary Treasurer had promised would receive the Society's sympathetic consideration.

The Honorary Chairman commended the Society's representatives - the Honorary Treasurer, Mr. King and Mr. Willmott - for their efforts on this very difficult problem.

4. Honorary Secretary's Report

Professor G.I.C. Ingram, St. Thomas' Hospital, had written to ask if the Society could provide financial assistance, in the region of £150, to assist with travelling expenses of Sister J. Cadogan, who gave the routine treatments to the Centre patients. Her husband was being transferred to Canterbury for 9 months and as the Centre was very anxious to retain her services, which were of great benefit to patients, she was prepared to commute to London each day. However, she was unable to afford the greatly increased fares and the Department of Haematology could make only a small contribution towards the cost. It was agreed that in view of the patients' needs and the adverse effect on them that Sister Cadogan's resignation would have, the Society should help, and it was felt the most sensible way would be to provide Sister Cadogan with the necessary Season Ticket.

The Birmingham and District Group reported the resignation from his various hospital posts of Mr. Tavenner and had suggested a letter of thanks be sent from the Society, for his work for haemophiliacs, especially in the dental field. It was agreed this should come from our President.

Mrs. [GRO-A] of Wolverhampton has asked for £15 deposit to enable her to get their telephone reconnected. The telephone is a necessity, as her daughter suffers from Thrombasthenia and the rental became in arrears when Mr. [GRO-A] became unemployed. The arrears had been paid off by instalments, but they are unable to put down the deposit for reconnection. The Honorary Secretary and Mrs. Stopford had been in touch with the Social Worker at Wolverhampton Social Services and had discussed the matter and the family circumstances and the Committee agreed to make the payment.

Mr. [GRO-A] of Warley, Worcester, had asked for financial help in order to take his haemophilic son on holiday. At the Honorary Secretary's request, the family had been visited by the Birmingham and District Group and in the light of their report on the family circumstances and in view of the help given in the past it was felt that we could not help on this occasion. It was suggested that the Family Fund be brought to the notice of the family.

Dr. J.K. Wood, Leicester Royal Infirmary, has written of his plans and progress in making his Haematology Department of a sufficient standard to be designated a Haemophilia Centre. He asked if it was possible for the Society to help him by advancing £766 for a Platelet Aggregation Meter and Recorder which he had been unable to get from the hospital. He had given details of his work and present facilities. The Committee were delighted to hear of his plans and agreed to place his request before Council. Dr. Kuttner said he would be able to visit Dr. Wood before the Council meeting and the Committee accepted his offer.

The GRO-A family of Sudbury, Suffolk had asked for help with a holiday. Mrs. Stopford had been in touch with a Suffolk County Council Social Worker who was able to arrange suitable accommodation at a cost of £18 per week for the children, £28 for the adults. On Mrs. Stopford's recommendation, it was agreed to help in this instance and it was agreed to meet the cost of the childrens' holiday.

The Honorary Secretary was empowered to purchase various dictating equipment for the use of Mrs. Stopford. He agreed to endeavour to obtain it below the recommended price of £191.

5. Group Matters

Dr. Kuttner reported on the news he had from Bristol, Birmingham and District, and Southern Groups. Mr. Leven and he reported on the possibilities of the Southern Group organising holidays for haemophilic boys.

6. World Federation and Overseas Matters

The Honorary Secretary reported on the decision reached by the Committee's WFH Sub-Committee at a meeting on 6th April 1974.

In reply to a request from WFH for suggestions for elected officers of the WFH, they had nominated Mr. F. Schnabel as Chairman, Prof. B. Grobbelaer, Prof. P. Manucci and Rev. A. Tanner as Vice-Chairmen and Drs. Aledort, Allain and Vanderfield as Medical Secretaries.

They felt the Society should vote in favour of the proposed new method of assessing member countries WFH subscriptions, based on each country's Gross National Product, as being the fairest of the several alternatives examined.

The Sub-Committee had also considered future WFH conventions, the efforts that should be made with regard to the European Committee in Istanbul, and the General Assembly Agenda.

7. Any other business

The possible arrangements for the next Council Meeting were discussed.

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GRO-C

12.9.74