

NATIONAL BLOOD AUTHORITY

Minutes of the First Meeting of the National Blood Authority  
held on 22nd April at 12.30 p.m. in the Crest Annexe at Elstree

Present: Sir Colin Walker (in the chair)  
Mr J F Adey  
Mr D Allison  
W Mr L Banks  
Dr H H Gunson  
Mr B J Savery

In attendance: Mr J Canavan  
Mrs S M Chapman  
Dr A Rejman

PART II

The DOH observers were asked to join the meeting.

93/02 Statutory Instruments and Secretary of State's Directions

A copy of NBA 93/03 was received. Copies of the relevant Statutory Instruments setting up the NBA and the Secretary of States Directions had been received and from these the Rules and Regulations of Meetings had been written.

93/03 Standing Orders and Rules of Meetings

A copy of NBA 93/04 was received. In the next few months the other documents required for the NBA to function would be prepared i.e. Delegations of Power and Standing Financial Instructions.

In the interim the existing CBLA rules would continue to be used. Mr Allison considered that the appointment of the Chief Executive should be covered in the Standing Orders.

In the miscellaneous section it said that standing orders should not be varied except on the orders of the Finance Director. Mr Allison said this was more usually the Chief Executive or the Chairman. It was agreed that the Chairman should be substituted.

- 93/04      Apologies for Absence  
            There were no apologies for absence.
- 93/05      CBLA Minutes of Meeting held on 25 March 1993.  
            The Minutes were accepted as a correct record.
- 93/06      Matters Arising

6.1    Hepatitis A

An investigation was still going on and the Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products (CPMP) had suspended the Octapharma licence. Germany had said they were not prepared to accept any products treated by solvent detergent (SD). This could have serious implications for BPL who were going to the SD process later this year. Brussels were looking at this whole issue carefully and it was possible that the European ruling could be that the SD process could only be used with terminal heat treatment.

This would also affect the Scots, the French and Alpha.

There was a meeting arranged in Scotland at the end of May to look at the Hepatitis A problem and by then hopefully more information would be available.

6.2    Haemoglobin

The Phase I studies had been completed and the FDA had now agreed Phase II studies. Clinical trials had been arranged to start this summer in Leeds.

Haemoglobin was a derivative from human blood but work was ongoing on a clone to ultimately take over which would be a blood substitute. It would not replace red cells as the product would only have a life of 24 hours whereas red cells had a life of three months. The product would be used for emergency usage, cardioplasty surgery and possibly for strokes.

6.3    Hepatitis B in Liver Transplants

If cerosis of the liver was caused by Hepatitis B and hepatitis IgG was given there was a better chance of the liver surviving.

At present a limited amount of product had been made by Scotland from a combined pool of Scots and BPL plasma. It would be a big job to set up a donor panel to provide the quantities required and in view of Wellcome's recombinant product, which should be available in three years, BPL were looking at obtaining a product elsewhere to sell in the interim.

#### 6.4 Implications of New Filling Line

Formal approval for the AIP had now been received from the DOH. BPL would now go out to tender for the machinery and when this was agreed go out to tender for the installation. The old line was difficult to clean which caused contamination of product; because of unreliability it was also a major limiting factor for production.

Mr Adey and Mr Savery to ask BPL why they were not tendering for the equipment and installation together, as if two companies do this it could cause problems.

A report to the DOH and the next NBA Board Meeting.

#### 6.5 Patent Issues

Cedars Sinai had agreed to give BPL a royalty free licence in the UK and 4% on exports if the other licensees agreed. To date two had agreed and a response was awaited from the third.

Scripps Rorer

No formal ruling had been received but this was a Baxter problem. Experiments were being done at Elstree to prove there would be no infringement.

#### 93/07 Chief Executive's Report

A report NBA 93/02 covering BPL activities was circulated.

Mr Adey gave a slide presentation covering the four strategic areas he considered needed to be addressed.

- 1) BPL
- 2) Regional Transfusion Centres
- 3) Europe
- 4) Technology

Resources were needed to make the right decision and Board approval was sought to put together a requirements plan and to use consultants. This was agreed in principle.

BPL was an issue that needed to be resolved sooner than later as the Minister wanted to know what was suggested by autumn.

Discussions were ongoing with various companies who were interested in buying BPL or having a collaborative venture.

It was agreed that BPL could

- a) stay as is with improved efficiency
- b) be sold
- c) joint ventured
- d) put out to contract

The organisation structure was looked at for the NBA HQ.

At present recruitment was underway for a PR and National Donor Manager and Quality Assurance Manager, a Computer Manager, a Cost Accountant, a Receptionist and a secretary for the Chief Executive. Adverts have been put in to national press and also circulated around the RTC's and BPL.

A Personnel Manager had also been agreed. His brief would be to deal with the implications of the RTCs coming into the NBA for the 1.4.93. There would certainly be union implications and possibly people to consider as well if centres were ultimately amalgamated. The International Blood Group Reference Laboratory (IBGRL) was a World Health Organisation (WHO) managed in the past by the CBLA. Dr Anstee was the Director and he and his staff have international recognition for the work done there. IBGRL had connections with Bristol and Cambridge Universities.

With the formation of the NBA it was hoped to co-ordinate research which was often duplicated around the country by various RTCs and other organisations.

There were two major capital projects in the pipeline for RTCs and these needed to be looked at in the light of the new organisation as to whether they were the right decisions.

Tooting wished to spend £14/15m on moving to a green field site and a £10m programme for Cardiff had been agreed with the Welsh Office. In future projects would come to the NBA for approval.

## 8.1 Appointment of Chief Finance Officer (CFO)

The Authority formally approved that Mr Savery would be the CFO.

## 8.2 March Accounts

A copy of NBA 93/05 was received.

These were the internal Management accounts. The formal year end accounts would come to the meeting in two to three months time when they had been audited.

## 8.3 1993/94 Budget

A copy of NBA 93/06 was received.

The budget had been submitted to the DOH in August 1992 and had been agreed by the DOH in January 1993 with some reductions.

## 8.4 Other Matters

## 4.1 Oak House

It had originally been hoped to move to Oak House by the 10th May but due to problems with the Landlord and the lease it seemed more likely that the move would not take place until 1st June.

## 4.2 RTCs

Mr Savery said he was visiting RTCs and meeting with Business Managers to look at the financial side of things. So far had received good co-operation from the two centres and RHAs visited.

A copy of NBA 93/07 was received.

A paper on the sale of surplus products was circulated which covered waste product which would normally be destroyed for example buffy coats. A National contract had now been entered into with DeToxx to purchase these at £1.10 per individual donation.

Cryo poor plasma was another area and Armour were interested in buying but in the first instance it should always be offered within the service. Scotland were taking the cryo poor plasma for their Fibrin Glue Sealant and in exchange supplying red cells.

One to four on Dr. Gunson's paper should be followed and then should go to the NBA to get agreement to proceed further.

A request from Dr Anstee at IBGRL was noted for an automated DNA sequencer. It was agreed this was essential equipment and Dr Gunson should put forward a proposal in conjunction with Dr Anstee to go to Professor Peckham asking for special research DOH funding. Dr Gunson said he had received a letter from Dr Contreras about the reference services she supplied - platelet and granular site antibodies and anti-D quantitation which she had to charge for but IBGRL provided free which meant more business went to them. This whole area needed to be looked at but should continue as is for the next year with IBGRL not taking on additional work or putting a charge on the work as the RTCs do.

Dr Gunson and Mr Adey to discuss this matter.

93/10 Staff Structure

A copy of NBA 93/08 was received.

93/11 Proposed Meeting Dates

A copy of NBA 93/09 was received.

The fourth Thursday caused some problems if it was the last Thursday. The following times, places and dates were agreed:-

27 May 12 p.m. Elstree

(24 <sup>June</sup> ~~May~~ changed to the 29 <sup>June</sup> ~~May~~ - 10.30 a.m. Oak House, Watford)

22 July 10.30 a.m. possibly at Colindale, (to be confirmed)

21 September 2 p.m. Robert Fleming

25 November 12 p.m. Oak House, Watford

It was agreed for the following year to hold some meetings at IBGRL and RTCs.

93/12 Any Other Business

12.1 Trade Marks & Patents

Mr Canavan said he was still awaiting legal advice from the DOH on this issue. Mr Savery said that CBLA patent lawyers considered the Statutory Health Authority should hold them.

93/13 Date of Next Meeting - 27 May at 12.30 pm.

Buffet lunch provided to be held in Crest Annexe at 12 noon.