

## **PMG TRUSTEES' REVIEW 2019/2020**

### **Welcome to the Annual General Meeting!**

This is a more current and informal report than the one published in the PMG end of year annual report/accounts, which naturally has to focus its attention on 2019 affairs; however, this time we were instructed to include a COVID-19 section about the potential financial implications of the pandemic for PMG going forward. Download the *Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019* via [www.pmguk.co.uk/about-pmg/accounts](http://www.pmguk.co.uk/about-pmg/accounts)

### **Conference & Training**

In addition to the annual conference, which was held at Telford International Centre (TIC) in July 2019, PMG provided further training opportunities in the form of the basic wheelchair training day, modified for the UK from the International Society of Wheelchair Professionals' (ISWP) hybrid training package. This was run by Richard Earl and Susan Gold as a pre-conference workshop at TIC, with generous support from Invacare and Sunrise Medical in providing equipment for the wheelchair skills section taught by a small team from Back Up.

The course was due to run again in Derby in early 2020, this time with support from AJM Healthcare, who run the local wheelchair service, providing the wheelchairs. Disappointingly, the take-up was poor, and the course was pulled in December 2019. PMG has not renewed its agreement with ISWP for running future courses, but we maintain friendly links with them.

With the European Seating Symposium scheduled for June 2020, the decision was made in 2019 to move the PMG Conference to November 2020. Now, of course, we're back to July for 2021!

As TIC proved to be such a popular venue in 2019, we have signed a contract with them for July 2022 and 2024 too, the plan being to go to a more northern venue in 2023.

### **Committee meetings**

Since lockdown, PMG committee meetings have moved online, with all the challenges this entails, lost or poor connections being the biggest bugbear. These virtual meetings will no doubt become the norm for a long while. See the Treasurer's report regarding savings made.

### **Journal**

We are fortunate that Clare Canale continues as editor of the PMG journal, with support from Susan Hillman and Carolyn Nichols. We would really appreciate more content from members though. Please consider writing for the journal - it's an excellent CPD opportunity!

### **Networks**

PMG continues to work with the *National Wheelchair Managers' Forum* on matters of common interest. There is also PMG representation on the British Standards Institute's *Sub-committee CH173/1 [Wheelchairs and wheelchair seating]*. We maintain links with the *Rehabilitation Engineering Services Management Group*, the *Wheelchair Leadership Alliance*, and the recently formed *Wheelchair Advisory Group* (a merger of the *Personal Wheelchair Budget National Strategy Group* and the internal *NHS England Wheelchair Improvement group*).

### **Research fund**

Following an extensive review, the trustees closed down the PMG research fund in 2019, and will be considering other methods of supporting external projects in future.

### **Staffing**

After 5 years as our Events & Marketing Co-ordinator, in 2019 Ffion Lane took the tough decision to move on to pastures new, and left PMG in February 2020 to go travelling. Her work on the annual conference was outsourced to Conference Collective Ltd (CCL) in Teddington, who had already been employed by PMG in 2018 and 2019 to oversee the exhibition, and were therefore familiar with the PMG event and personnel. CCL staff and PMG Manager, Olwen Ellis, moved to home working when Lockdown happened, and

continue to do so. CCL will pick up conference registrations and stand bookings again in Spring 2021.

**Finally.....**

Many of you will have read PMG's September appeal for donations, and we must thank the handful of PMG members who responded so swiftly.

*Just to re-iterate:*

Since membership fees were abolished in 2016, PMG's only income has come from the annual conferences. With the 2020 event having to be postponed to July 2021, exactly two years will have elapsed since the last PMG conference in July 2019, with the consequent strain on resources.

PMG continues to provide educational material and networking opportunities for members, for example

- organising the highly topical webinars for November and December 2020
- the PMG Facebook Forum is flourishing, with now over 560 members
- the library of webcasts from past conferences is freely available to members, and the recordings of the new 2020 webinars will also be uploaded before the end of the year
- the *Best Practice Guidelines on Transportation of People Seated in Wheelchairs* were revised in 2019, and the new document is now online, with a second review underway
- the PMG website also provides details of relevant events and reports, as well as hosting the online journal and an archive of PMG funded research studies
- a very well-used PMG service is the free online jobs listings
- and, of course, preparations for next year's conference haven't let up – postponing such a big event creates more work than you might imagine!

We hope you'll agree that membership of PMG at no cost is a pretty good deal, and that you'll therefore kindly consider making a donation (if not done so already). To donate, please go to: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/11466#!/DonationDetails>

Your support will be hugely appreciated.  
Thank you!

With best wishes from us all

**PMG Trustees**  
**October 2020**