



Worcester Nurses League AGM Minutes

May 10th 2025

11:00

Worcester County Cricket Ground

New Road

Worcester

Committee Members Present: Maxine Chong (Chair) Lorna Davies, Jane Young, Julie Poultney, Agnes Young, Gwyneth Biddle, Alison Wills, Bernadette Green, Jacqui Fernell and Sharon Ellson.

No.		Action
1.	<p>Programme for the Day</p> <p>11:00 Registration, Collection of badges, sale of raffle tickets and refreshments and reconnect.</p> <p>11:30 Welcome and Presidents Address – Gwyneth Biddle</p> <p>11:45: Nurse Education Insights – Jodie Walker-Heywood and Jacqui Fernell</p> <p>12:15 Annual General Meeting– Maxine Chong (Chair)</p> <p>12:40 Lunch and licensed bar</p> <p>14:00 Guest Speakers- Associate Chief Nurses Sue Smith and Alison Robinson Worcestershire Royal Hospitals</p> <p>14:30 Refreshments, Raffle draw, Mix and Mingle</p> <p>16:00 Close</p> <p>The theme for the day was the changing face of nursing.</p>	
2.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Gwyneth Biddle (President) opened the day by welcoming everyone to the 74th AGM and introduced this year's theme which was <i>The Changing Face of Nursing</i>, which would be explored by the guest speakers today.</p> <p>She went on to thank members of the committee for their ongoing work – Agnes Young and Bernie Green for their work on promoting the league with the Facebook page and the new website, Jenny Hull and Alison Wills for the production of the newsletter and for manning a stall at the Worcester Show – assisted by Julie Poultney and Rosie Roberts which raised £234 for the league funds.</p> <p>She gave a special mention to Julie Poultney for managing finances, membership records and correspondence.</p> <p>She informed the league that Maxine Chong – chairperson had been liaising with Louise Price of the Charles Hastings Medical Museum about the contents of the display cabinets – the plan was for one to have an enlarged photograph of the stained-glass window from the WRI chapel in one and a display of nursing memorabilia in the other.</p> <p>She continued by thanking all committee members for their continued support – Rosie Roberts for maintaining the Memorial Book, Sharon Ellson for the minute taking and Agnes Young for arranging the AGM.</p> <p>She announced that Olive Hall had resigned from the committee this year and went on to say how much we all missed her input and persona at every meeting. Olive came to work at Ronkswood hospital in 1978- first as ward sister then as ward manager of ward 5 Gynaecology. Since her retirement she has engaged in voluntary work for which she was recognised by the High Sherriif of</p>	



	<p>Worcestershire – Gwyneth offered her congratulations on attaining such recognition and invited all present to show their thanks and appreciation in the usual way.</p> <p>She informed the meeting that due to the poor attendance at the last Carol Service the committee had decided not to hold a service in the Jenny Lind chapel this year – this was the second carol service event and each had been run at a loss to the Nurses League.</p> <p>Gwynneth made a special mention to Muriel Clayson who until her death in February 2025 had been a valued member of the committee, editor of the annual magazine and a previous Vice-chair – she expressed our sadness at her passing and said how much we all missed her presence, wit and ideas.</p> <p>Finally, she made an appeal for members to support the League by buying raffle tickets for the many lovely prizes available.</p>	
3.	<p>From Passport to Practice - Jodie Walker -Heywood and Jacqui Fernell</p> <p>Jodie is a senior lecturer at the University of Worcester responsible for teaching skills and simulation to 3rd Year students and is also the Lead for International Recruitment. He gave a very interesting insight on nursing student recruitment at the University. At the moment student numbers are 50% UK and 50% international nurses but from this September intake this will change as there will be 407 UK students but 499 International nurses. There are currently over 1,000 international students representing 70 different countries – the main source of overseas nurses are recruited from India, Nepal, Kenya and Nigeria. International students are recruited via agents who promote UK universities and apply for visas, arrange travel and relocation. Interviews are held online but Jodie does visit India and Nepal twice per year to hold face-face interviews. The costs for these students are very high so the majority come from wealthy middle -class families who have been educated in English speaking schools - University fees will be rising to £17,200 per year (UK students pay £9,500 per year) but the full annual cost is likely to be up to £40,000 when accommodation, subsistence and travel are taken into account.</p> <p>The main challenges to these students include culture, communication difficulties, different teaching methods, financial and mental health (stress, isolation and homesickness).</p> <p>Once qualified their visa allows them to stay for up to 2 years – if they wish to extend this they have to apply for a new visa.</p> <p>Jacqui Fernell stated that the international students required additional support and appealed to the Nurses League to consider whether the membership could help with this.</p>	



4.	<p>Introduction to the AGM</p> <p>Maxine Chong (Chair) addressed members and welcomed them to the 74th meeting of the nurses league – she reported there had been 23 apologies. She then officially opened the AGM.</p> <p>Minutes of the last AGM 2024</p> <p>The minutes were available on each table – members were asked to look at the minutes and agree if these were a true record.</p> <p>They were agreed as a true record – minutes to be signed by Maxine Chong plus another elected officer.</p> <p>Election of Officers</p> <p>Maxine informed members that the current committee were due for re-election and asked if members were happy for them to continue – this vote was carried unanimously by the membership.</p>	
5	<p>Membership Update</p> <p>Julie Poultney gave a membership update. The League had been notified of the loss of several colleagues – this information is shared via Facebook and emails – all deaths are recorded in the Memorial Book.</p> <p>She welcomed new and returning members – Rinna Chong, Audrey Barnard, Corrina Winkworth, Catherine Beadle, Jane Ledger, Melanie Trussler, Julie Patrick, Elaine Bevan-Smith and Mel Rayson.</p>	
6	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Donation of birthday money from Bridget.</p> <p>Resignation letter from the committee from Olive Hall who has shared many years' experience and knowledge with younger members of the committee – a big thank you to Olive.</p>	
7.	<p>Treasurers Report</p> <p>Julie Poultney detailed the finances of the League – the opening balance on 01/04/2024 was £2681.43 and the closing balance on 31st March 2024 was £3939.74.</p> <p>Lloyds bank have moved the league from a business account to a community account which incurs charges of £4.25 monthly, 42 pence per cheque and fees on incoming funds of between 5-7%.</p> <p>Last Years AGM at WCC -New Road cost £1.125, in comparison to Worcester University- Castle Street £1957.56</p> <p>There were some printing costs due to the last magazine being published £235</p> <p>Julie outlined some of the costs of the League and stated that the electronic newsletter had been well received - printing, stationary, ink and postage costs for those receiving printed copies was £292.77 for the year.</p> <p>The Worcester show raised £274 for the league – cost for the stand was £40.</p> <p>The carol concert in December 2024 ran at a loss – cost of hire for the chapel was £102, donations received £76 – the committee provided refreshments and carol books.</p>	



	<p>Maintenance of the old website to allow retrieval of information and photographs cost £182.40 – a new website has now been developed.</p> <p>Sundry costs included renewal of Public liability insurance - for this year the cost was £56 compared to £96 last year.</p>	
8.	<p>League Activities and Update</p> <p>Agnes Young informed the membership that the new website was almost complete – outstanding issues were the uploading of photographs and the development of an online application form. She went on to encourage members to use the Nurses League face book page and also to promote nursing assistants to join the league.</p> <p>The plan for 2025 is to hold a joint carol service with the Acute Trust at the All Saints Church Worcester – comments from members please.</p> <p>Finally, she requested feedback from members about the AGM as there was no satisfaction survey this year.</p>	
9	<p>Any other Business</p> <p>There were no items to discuss and the AGM closed at 12:52.</p>	
10	<p>Boarding and Corridor Care.</p> <p>After lunch Maxine introduced our guest Speakers – Associate Chief Nurses Alison Robinson and Sue Smith who spoke to the membership about the rising use of corridors and temporary escalation spaces to deliver patient care. This had been introduced in September 2022 in order to improve ambulance handover times and response times. Overall, on both main acute hospital sites there are 44 temporary escalation spaces in use. There are 8 corridor spaces in the ED at the Alexandra hospital and 5 in the ED at WRH.</p> <p>They also informed the meeting that patients also receive treatment in the waiting rooms of both EDs when cubicles are full.</p> <p>Senior managers hold frequent daily meetings to monitor the use of escalation spaces – they monitor patient feedback in the Fundamentals of Care Committee, regularly review complaints and have boarding assurance audits.</p> <p>Medical and Surgical same day emergency care (MSDEC and SDEC) have been expanded to improve patient assessment and discharge. Other initiatives include ambulance pitstops where patients are diverted from A&E to MSDEC or SDEC or back to primary care.</p> <p>They reported that the Acute Trust was working closely with the Community Trust to try and resolve these problems.</p>	
11	<p>Use of Volunteers in the Acute Trust</p> <p>There are currently 309 volunteers to regularly support services in the Acute Trust – opportunities include wayfinding, discharge response, telephone support and membership of the Patient and Public Forum.</p>	



12.	<p>Any members interested in volunteering opportunities at the Trust should email wah-tr.volunteers@nhs.net or look at the website worcsacute.nhs.uk/volunteer</p> <p>Raffle draw, Refreshments and Catch up with colleagues Following the guest speaker's presentation members enjoyed an assortment of cake, coffee and tea and took the opportunity to mingle and reminisce with friends and colleagues.</p> <p>Next Meeting – 11th July 09:00 Waitrose Community Room London Road Worcester.</p>	