

# My experience as a new Lindsay Leg Club Foundation® Trustee



MARK GLASSCOCK  
Vice Chairman of the Board  
of Trustees, LLCF

**M**ark Glasscock was recently appointed Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of The Lindsay Leg Club Foundation (LLCF) — below, he outlines how he became a Trustee less than a year ago, his experience as a Trustee to date and how he intends to help his fellow Trustees progress the objectives of the Foundation in the years to come.

## HOW DID IT ALL START?

As somebody with no medical education or background, my first encounter with wound care was on a social basis. It was Friday 4th March 2016, and I had travelled to The Banking Hall in the City of London with my wife, Alison, to attend the Journal of Wound Care Awards. Alison, a Consultant Oncologist, had nominated one of her associate practitioner colleagues, Wendy Trodden, for one of the award categories. We were both there to support Wendy, in the hope that she would be an award-winner on the night.

By purely random chance, we were allocated to a table with four other folk whom we had not met previously. I was seated next to Ellie Lindsay OBE, the founder and Life President of the LLCF. Little did I know at the time, but my journey to becoming a Trustee of the LLCF began with that chance meeting and the conversation between Ellie and myself that evening.

Ellie told me how the LLCF had first been set up, its purpose and primary goals, and that, as a small-scale charity within the health and personal care sector, there was always a need to keep an eye out for potential new Trustees who might bring a different set of skills and a fresh perspective to the Trustee Board. Having explained that I had worked in a bank for 17 years after my Law degree, and was now a management consultant within IBM, Ellie asked me directly if I might be interested in becoming a Trustee — and to let her know within a few days. By the end of the evening, I certainly had plenty to think about. I'd previously been considering how I could channel my work experience and current skills into something more useful; now, by pure chance,

here was just such an opportunity. I emailed Ellie during the weekend with a 'Yes!'

## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

On the following Monday, we spoke on the phone and I received my first assignment as a prospective Trustee. The request: *"Attached as discussed. Please remove what you think is waffle as we need to make it straight-forward, factual and focus on the real priorities...and welcome on board."* I'd been sent the Foundation's draft Five-Year Business Plan, both to read and help edit and re-structure. This not only helped me learn more about LLCF, but I suspect also enabled Ellie to better determine if I would actually meet the required standards and be able to contribute positively from the word 'Go'!

With an encouraging response from various members of the Trustee Board to what I subsequently submitted, I was already starting to feel properly involved. It was suggested that I meet with the Foundation's then-Chairman, Roland Renyi and the Treasurer, Dr Rob Bawden, together with Ellie and her PA, Lynn. Q: The clandestine venue? A: Stansted Airport — a convenient venue for all of us.

After a very pleasant meeting, I was confident I could get on well with colleagues like Roland and Rob, so it was agreed that I meet them and all the other LLCF Trustees at the next quarterly Board meeting. That was to be my 'official baptism'... and so it was that I became a Trustee of LLCF.

## WHAT HAS BEING A TRUSTEE INVOLVED SO FAR?

From that first Trustee Board meeting, I learned more about what goes on within the 30 or so Leg Clubs that are already up and running here in the UK. I began to better understand the sense of purpose underpinning the LLCF and saw how passionate its Trustees are about promoting the Leg Club Model®. I have since visited two of these Leg Clubs, in Thetford and Worcester, and have seen first-hand how each runs, and how well the members and nursing teams interact

with one another. I attended my first Annual Leg Club Conference in Worcester last September, and am looking forward to an even more active participatory role at the next annual conference.


Within the range of specific roles and responsibilities taken on by each Trustee, I have been proactive in: reviewing and updating the Foundation's Risk Log, drafting an application to the Big Lottery Fund — as we need to help to finance the promotion of the Leg Club Model to further one of the LLCF's primary objectives — and revising one of the LLCF's excellent publications, entitled 'How to set up a Leg Club'.

#### WHAT DO I SEE AS MY ONGOING ROLE AS A TRUSTEE?

Whilst I have had the privilege of being a Trustee of the LLCF for just a year to date, I have no doubts about the direction of the Foundation and how I might help ensure we continue to fulfil our key objectives, as set out in our Five-Year Business Plan to 2020. Instigate and facilitate the introduction of new Leg Clubs.

▶ Support the sustainability of current Leg Clubs

- ▶ Produce and communicate a robust evidence base
- ▶ Provide high-quality public information on prevention and treatment of leg ulcers
- ▶ Create a management team that effectively sets and monitors LLCF strategic direction
- ▶ Maintain a good funding stream that meets the charity's financial objectives.

As highlighted in the last *Wounds UK* article by our departing Chairman, Roland Renyi, the LLCF is aware of the gaps in the network of Leg Clubs that we have around the UK. We need more Leg Clubs in inner cities, more in the North of England and more initiated by clinical commissioning groups, where we have had exceptional results. As part of my ongoing role, I shall support our new Chairman, Dr David Foster, and my fellow trustees in engaging effectively with Leg Club teams, their members and other key stakeholders. I shall also do my best to ensure that we make progress towards the roll-out of further Leg Clubs in areas where we are not currently present. 

#### WHAT BEING A PATRON MEANS TO THE LINDSAY LEG CLUB FOUNDATION

Patrons are people 'of note' who are prepared to support our cause. They are usually very busy people who agree to lend their name to the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation® as a way of supporting us.

The Foundation currently has eight Patrons, who support the board of Trustees to further enhance our mission. Our Patrons are our most valued ambassadors who represent us (when appropriate) at senior clinician, scientific and governmental levels, and who support us by providing introductions and contributions to our published materials and at our events. They are willing and passionate enough to speak out, when needed, about our mission and values, and they give dedicated time throughout the

year. They have the opportunity to enjoy a close and special relationship with the Foundation, meeting the people involved and getting behind the scenes.

I was delighted to be able to liaise with two of our patrons at a recent conference, Marco Romanelli and Jacqui Fletcher. In the late 90s, I became aware of Professor Marco Romanelli's research and extensive clinical experience of managing people with leg ulceration. His work on changing the way clinicians approach wound management made sense to me, as were the resulting benefits to the patients. His many published papers have contributed greatly to research, practice and education.

I first met Jacqui Fletcher at a lecture in the mid-90s, when she gave a very moving

lecture on fungating malignant wounds. It was a presentation that has remained with me over the years as she presented with such passion, stressing the importance of the physical and psychological care of the patients and carers. Jacqui has an extensive clinical and academic background, and she is internationally recognised for her clinical and academic work and publications.

Regardless of their hectic schedules and demanding roles, Jacqui and Marco have always dedicated time to our Foundation, partaking in demanding workshops and, as plenary speakers, highlighting the importance of education, assessment, early detection and correct diagnosis leading to improved healing. I wish to thank them both for their hard work. *Ellie Lindsay*