SHORTLISTS ANNOUNCED
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A CLEARER FUTURE
AAA and AAUK close to merger

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From the editor

These are interesting times for the Association as the AAA and Air Ambulances UK (AAUK) approach a consensus on merging into one organisation. In marked contrast to what is going on at Westminster at the moment, the two parties share a vision, are seeking a solution together and have been having constructive discussions for some time. Now, a report they commissioned to explore the options around a merger has returned its verdict. Read more on page 4 about this news, including the views of both the Chair of the AAA, Patrick Peal, and the Chair of AAUK, Liz Campbell.

The topic of the merger is likely to be heavily discussed at this year’s Conference, which is to be held on Monday 18 November. Appropriately enough, the theme for this year’s Conference is Collaboration and there is an excellent line-up of speakers including Debra Allcock Tyler, Chief Executive Officer, Directory of Social Change; Nicola Tallett, Director of Engagement, Oxfam; Dr Stephen Heams, Consultant in Emergency Medicine, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde and many more. The final slot of the day goes to Jonny Benjamin MBE, a mental health campaigner who was talked down from Waterloo Bridge in 2008 by a stranger and since then has become a renowned speaker - often with the man who saved him, Neil Laybourn - on mental health, including his own challenges with it. It should be fascinating for those of you who sometimes have to deal with those in acute psychological distress to hear his perspective as a service user. Read more about the Conference on page 5.

Alongside the Conference, of course, is the annual Air Ambulance Awards of Excellence. Once again, entries were of an incredibly high standard but the judges had to whittle down the entries to create the shortlists. You can see those shortlists on pages 8-9.

Our cover story this issue comes courtesy of Dr James Rallt from TVAA. He explains how TVAA have been challenging the dearth of research and evidence in pre-hospital care by using Clinical Performance Indicators to assess the quality of pre-hospital critical care procedures carried out by clinicians. Read more on pages 10-11. If any other clinicians have something they want to share with colleagues and would like to discuss whether it could appear in Airway, do get in touch (details below).

There’s our usual collection of news from the sector, from the Association and from members themselves, including a rather remarkable product that comes courtesy of DSAA and Haynes Manuals (p6). Member Spotlights reveal more on Zoll and new member Aeroptimo, and Journal of Paramedic Practice editor Aysha Mendes continues to share some fascinating insights and challenges (p7).

Next issue, we already have plenty lined up, including a look at the impact of GoodSAM and other innovative location methods. I hope you enjoy this issue.

Nick Campion, Editor

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Dates For Your Diary

5-7 November Vertical Flight Expo and Conference (Helitech), Farnborough
18 November AAA Conference, London
18 November AAA Awards of Excellence, London

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Cover photo - Provided by Thames Valley Air Ambulance

www.aoaa.org.uk
TWO BECOME ONE?

The AAA and Air Ambulances UK (AAUK) have received the report they commissioned to explore the possibility of unifying the two organisations. The report, by experts Eastside Primetimers, comes after a period of detailed research, analysis and discussion with both members and non-members.

The report recommends unification and both organisations’ Boards are in broad agreement with that aim. Patrick Peal, Chairman of the AAA, adds: “Members have given us a clear message to get on with this process and that’s what we’re now doing. However, we will not sacrifice thoroughness for speed because this is something that must be done right first time. Therefore, although we are aiming to complete the process by 1st January 2020, it might straggle into the first quarter of 2020.

“It is very important we establish a tight, efficient structure that is fit for purpose and value for money for members. It must continue to deliver all that members value from their membership, while also opening up opportunities to grow our influence and fundraising ability on behalf of members.

“We have aimed to be transparent throughout this process, which is why we have made the full report available to all members. I would simply caution that the suggestions it makes for the future are only suggestions and it would be down to the new Chair, Chief Executive and Board to deliver a programme to meet members’ needs and approval.”

Liz Campbell, Chair of AAUK, adds: “AAUK has always been, and remains, fully committed to enabling the greatest advantage for all the charities in the air ambulance community. I think that the proposal for unification offers huge potential to deliver greater benefit to all air ambulances and their patients. We have enjoyed working with AAA and the consultants to get to this stage of unification and we are excited to move forward to deliver a better national organisation.”

The AAA and AAUK point out there are some principles and practices that will be followed:

1. Legal advice will be sought from the outset to make sure everything is done right. If pro bono legal advice can be used, all the better, but not at the risk of slowing the process down.

2. Some external project management may be needed in order to drive the process without calling too heavily on trustees and board members who already have busy day jobs.

3. A ‘board to board’ meeting will be convened to agree the ongoing process and to develop a Memorandum of Understanding as a guide to lawyers and project managers.

4. The intention is to call a CEO/members’ forum to discuss the programme, structure and so on.

5. Some form of EGM or EGMs will be required, possibly with a Special Resolution to support the major changes to both organisations.

6. A new independent Chair will be recruited and a new post of CEO is likely to be created and recruited.

7. All current employed staff in both organisations will carry over under TUPE or simply stay with their current employer, depending on how the unification happens.

All members are warmly invited to feedback or ask questions on the report and the proposals by contacting either Patrick Peal or Liz Campbell by emailing liz@inchfield.org or patrick.peal@eaaa.org.uk

GOLDEN HOUR GIVE AN HOUR

To celebrate National Air Ambulance Week 2019, Air Ambulances UK launched its first-ever targeted national fundraising event called, Golden Hour Give an Hour, which took place 4pm-5pm on Friday 13th September.

Golden Hour Give an Hour was aimed at businesses, organisations and employees across the UK, encouraging them to donate an hour’s profit or pay to Air Ambulances UK. This would highlight how vital it can be to receive rapid critical care from one of the UK’s air ambulance charities within the first ‘Golden Hour’ of a life-threatening injury or medical emergency.

A dedicated Golden Hour Give an Hour page on the Air Ambulances UK website detailed the importance of the lifesaving work of the UK’s 21 air ambulance charities. It also featured content from a number of charities and a downloadable campaign toolkit for businesses, organisations and employees to promote their participation in the event.

A number of individual air ambulance charities also used Golden Hour Give an Hour to target their local businesses, organisations and employees and it is hoped that next year it could be even more successful and become established as an annual event.

Nikki Wright, Head of Communications and Fundraising at Air Ambulances UK, said: “We worked closely with the team at the Association of Air Ambulances to create a National Air Ambulance Week event that communicated a key message about the lifesaving work of the UK’s air ambulance charities while providing a fun, quick and simple way for national businesses, organisations and employees to get involved.

“We hope a significant amount will have been raised through the event to help air ambulance charities save even more lives.”
CONFERENCE 2019: COLLABORATION

The AAA Annual Conference will this year focus on the theme of collaboration. As always, there will be a broad and inclusive mix of speakers, with material of interest to those working across the clinical, aviation and charity disciplines. The event will be held at the Millennium Chelsea Harbour hotel on Monday 18 November.

Among the excellent line-up are the following speakers:

**Debra Alicock Tyler, Chief Executive Officer, Directory of Social Change**
Debra has been the CEO of the Directory of Social Change (DSC) for 18 years. DSC has a vision of an independent voluntary sector at the heart of social change. Its independent status and well respected research and services to the sector enable it to challenge and create debate around issues affecting the ability of charities to do their work. DSC believes that society can be changed for the better when citizens take responsibility for themselves, their communities and each other and that the activities of independent charities, voluntary organisations and community groups are fundamental to achieve social change.

**Nicola Tallett, Director of Engagement, Oxfam**
Nicola joined Oxfam GB in November 2016 and has been acting as Director of Fundraising since March this year. In this role, she is responsible for the voluntary income from supporters and companies, trusts and foundations. She says her primary desire is that each of Oxfam’s supporters knows the impact their donations have made in the lives of millions of people around the world. With the increasing focus on financial, fundraising and safeguarding standards, Nicola says there is much we must continue to do to reassure our supporters and she is looking forward to sharing her thoughts with delegates.

**Joanna Dew, Director of Fundraising, East Anglian Air Ambulance**
Jo started out in the Telecomms industry in proposition marketing at Orange and T-Mobile. A desire to work in the third sector led Jo to apply marketing principles to a new environment as National Events Marketing Manager for Macmillan Cancer Support, managing a team of five and a range of products – including The World’s Biggest Coffee Morning. Since then Jo has worked at Oxfam as Head of Events, and as Director of Fundraising at The Hospice of St Francis in Berkhamsted. Jo now manages a team as Director of Fundraising at EAAA.

**Kirsty McQueen - The McQueen Charter**
Kirsty’s husband was Carl McQueen, an air ambulance doctor who died by suicide in 2016. Over the course of the last year Kirsty has been working with Sarah Atkins from EAAA on The McQueen Charter.

**Dr Stephen Hearns, Consultant in Emergency Medicine, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde**
Stephen is a Consultant in Emergency Medicine and from 2004 until this year he was the lead consultant for Scotland’s Emergency Medical Retrieval Service. Stephen has an interest in high performance teams and human performance under pressure. His book on this subject will be published in Autumn 2019. He provides performance training to leading sports clubs, the NHS, search and rescue teams and commercial organisations.

**Jonny Benjamin**
Jonny Benjamin MBE is an award-winning mental health campaigner, film producer, public speaker, writer and vlogger. At the age of 20 he was diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder, a combination of schizophrenia and bipolar, and later began making films on YouTube about the condition, which have been watched by millions of people. His 2014 social media campaign with Rethink Mental Illness to #findMike, the man who talked him out of jumping off a bridge when he was suicidal, went viral and led to Jonny becoming a prominent spokesperson on the subject of suicide.

Do come along to what promises to be an outstanding conference. Go to www.aoaa.org.uk/national-conference/ for more information and to book.

The conference wouldn’t be possible without the following sponsors:
Airbus, Bayards, Belt, Blizzard, BMW, BHA, Blue Stream Academy, Capital Air Ambulance, Chatsima Charity Recruitment, FEC Heliparts, Galen, Gama Aviation, James Holfarn, Leonardo, LFS, Pax, Rig Equipment, RAF, Saltian, Sloane, Specialist Aviation Services, Tower Lotteries, Zoll.

www.aoaa.org.uk
The famous Haynes Manuals have a new addition to their series of practical manuals: the Air Ambulance Operations Manual.

Famous for its hundreds of car and motorcycle maintenance and repair manuals, this new Haynes Manual explores the history of the UK air ambulance services and looks into the development of the network and a range of aspects of the modern-day air ambulance operation.

Buyers can read first-hand accounts from air ambulance crew, along with case studies from patients the crew have treated. In true Haynes style, the manual features technical diagrams of the Leonardo AW169 helicopter used by a number of air ambulance services, and photographs of each of the helicopters used by the various services throughout the country.

The book is written by author Claire Robinson and is produced with the full co-operation of Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance (DSAA). The manual features an extended case study which takes an in-depth look at the workings of DSAA and lifts the lid on the equipment and systems used.

With Haynes based in a village near Yeovil, Somerset, they decided to make an alliance with DSAA in order to produce the volume. With all air ambulances having different operational methods, different clinical models and different aircraft, there was no single service that could be an exemplar, so Haynes chose their closest service.

Haynes approached DSAA with the idea in 2017, with the subsequent project taking much time in planning and research across the air ambulance sector.

While this is a Haynes commercial product, they were clear that it should also help to generate some charitable funds and consequently brought Association of Air Ambulances Charity (now Air Ambulances UK) into discussions on how this would be facilitated. The result was an agreement that a 75p donation from the sale of each book would be made to Air Ambulances UK for distribution to all air ambulances equally.

Every air ambulance charity has been included within the manual, with each of them sharing a biography and imagery of their respective aircrafts. This helps builds the national picture and enables the reader to learn more about their local charity.

DSAA patron Jenson Button has written the foreword and with DSAA being the book’s case study, many members of their team provide an insight into their roles and responsibilities, both from a charity and clinical point of view.

DSAA also gave behind-the-scenes access to their air ambulance in action and the different aspects of being tasked to an incident during the day and at night. The manual contains substantial detail about the charity’s AW169 aircraft and how it is operated: there are chapters on how the aircraft flies, its anatomy, HEMS operations, maintenance, inspections and what it is like learning to fly the aircraft.

The Air Ambulance Operations Manual is available from www.haynes.com, priced at £22.99 or for £15+p&p via www.dsairambulance.org.uk. Air ambulance charities can also buy books at a significant discount in order to resell at a profit: contact DSAA for more details.
CRITICAL THINKING IN DECISION MAKING

Aysha Mendes, Editor of JPP, writes:

One of the most important skills required by air ambulance staff today is the ability to think critically when making decisions, despite often being under pressure. While, traditionally, paramedics mainly transported patients to hospital, this evolved to carrying out out-of-hospital care for patients.

Today, caring for patients in the air ambulance services requires both soft and clinical skills, including the ability to apply the latest evidence and guidance, while also relying on one’s own clinical observations, critical thinking and intuition.

Often there is reference to ‘training’ in paramedicine, however, similarly to the situation in which nurses find themselves, this training is not so much training anymore as it is education (Jones et al, 2019). Some might argue that the difference in terminology is simply semantics, but it is much more than that.

Paramedics in their varied roles today are not simply carrying out tasks which they are trained and directed to perform: they are making their own critical decisions about a patient’s care and treatment pathway, and undertaking complex clinical skills.

So much hard work has gone into progressing the paramedic profession. Using the term ‘training’ to describe the application of sophisticated cognitive abilities by today’s paramedic is undermining the profession and its evolution towards becoming an all-graduate profession.

In the August issue of the Journal of Paramedic Practice, Beavan et al (2019) highlight that needle decompression of the chest is sometimes inappropriately carried out in the absence of tension pneumothorax, despite the fact that most chest trauma patients can be safely managed without it. They importantly highlight that a level of clinical suspicion and critical thinking is required before needle decompression is carried out in this particular patient group.

Sometimes a particular course of action becomes the norm; but this doesn’t mean it’s the right course to take. Thinking critically about what is done routinely can lead to better care. Being aware of and applying the current evidence base to practice has become important.

Furthermore, it would make sense to become focused on the information on the screen regarding a patient’s condition; however, while this information is important, often what is needed is to go back to basics and simply look at the patient, making your own clinical observations. Perhaps the story told on the screen is a different one than what you can see right in front of you, and no amount of ‘training’ can replace the experience, expertise and intuition that is leading you towards providing the highest quality patient care.

Share your thoughts with JPP at jpp@markallengroup.com and access your subscription discount exclusively for AAA members at https://www.magsubscriptions.com/aaa25

References


AAA ON SHOW

Having just exhibited at the Emergency Services Show in Birmingham (18-19 September), the Association will next exhibit at the Vertical Flight Expo & Conference in Farnborough on 5-7 November and is encouraging members to attend and participate.

The shows are an excellent opportunity for members to network and update themselves on products and services. The Association also sees these shows as an opportunity to present a unified and clear message about the UK’s air ambulance community to European and global colleagues - and to UK colleagues from the Police, Search & Rescue, and other complementary services.

ALL PARTY SUPPORT

A reception held by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Air Ambulances (APPGAA) took place on the House of Commons Terrace, Westminster in the summer. The event, hosted by Chairman of the APPGAA Robert Courts MP, gave members of both Houses of Parliament the opportunity to meet with representatives from air ambulance charities and ambulance services.

A total of 152 attendees came together and used the opportunity to highlight and discuss some of the key issues that affect the sector.

Robert spoke generously about the sector and also highlighted the AAA’s five Key Issues, then introduced Andrew Bowie, MP for West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine and Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Prime Minister who also addressed the reception.

Patrick Peal, Chairman of the AAA, concluded proceedings by thanking those who attended and delivering a speech focusing on transformation.
The shortlisted nominees for the 2019 Air Ambulance Awards of Excellence, sponsored by BMW, have been announced. The winners will be revealed at the awards ceremony to be held on 18 November at the Millennium Chelsea Harbour Hotel, London.

Now in their seventh year, the Awards have given the sector an opportunity to honour some of the amazing individuals and teams that do extraordinary, life-enhancing and life-saving work every single day. The Awards acknowledge all those who make it happen, from the volunteers and back-room staff to the frontline doctors, paramedics and pilots. The independent judging panel met and considered all entries made across the eleven categories. Some categories received significantly more nominations than they had received in all previous years and there was a welcome increase in the number of different organisations making a nomination. The Awards are designed to represent the whole sector, so both members and non-members alike can enter at no cost, and the AAA is keen to encourage a still broader range of nominating organisations.

Charlotte Hawkins

Your host:
Charlotte Hawkins

This year, the Awards will be hosted by Charlotte Hawkins. Charlotte is one of the anchors on ITV’s breakfast show Good Morning Britain, having joined the show when it launched in 2014. Charlotte also has a show on Classic FM presenting every Sunday from 3-5pm. Charlotte presents on ITV Racing and has appeared on Celebrity Juice, Britain’s Got More Talent, The Chase, Pointless and Tipping Point - and danced with the one and only Brendan Cole on Strictly Come Dancing 2017. Charlotte has interviewed not only a number of prominent politicians over the years but also celebrities such as Oprah Winfrey, Sir Elton John, David Beckham and Sir Paul McCartney. Charlotte is a Patron of the Motor Neurone Disease Association and of Ellenor Hospice; and she is an Ambassador for Cancer Research UK Kids and Teens.

Further details about the awards, including how to book a place at the Gala Dinner, can be found at: http://www.aoaa.co.uk/aaae/
– Book now for the best night of the year!

"The award nominations were of an exceptionally high standard and my fellow judges and I were left with extremely difficult decisions to make. I'm delighted to have been involved in this important opportunity to recognise the sector's commitment and expertise, which is on display every single day across the UK."

Robert Courts MP
Chair of the Judging Panel
The Judges:
- **Chair of Judges:** Robert Courts, MP for Witney & West Oxfordshire, and Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Air Ambulances.
- **Mark Docherty,** Director of Clinical Commissioning & Strategic Development at West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust.
- **Steve Irving,** Executive Officer, Association of Ambulance Chief Executives.
- **Tim Fauchon,** CEO of the British Helicopter Association.
- **Debra Allcock-Tyler,** Chief Executive, Directory of Social Change
- **Professor Sir Keith Porter,** Professor of Clinical Traumatology

### Outstanding Young Person Award
- Harry Smyth, Air Ambulance of Northern Ireland
- Eliza & Leo McQueen, East Anglian Air Ambulance
- Chauncy School, Essex & Herts Air Ambulance
- Maisie Sheridan, Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance

### Charity Staff Member of the Year
- Lynne Harris, Air Ambulance Kent Surrey Sussex
- Khin Latt, Great Western Air Ambulance

### Air Ambulance Paramedic of the Year
- Chris Neil, East Anglian Air Ambulance
- Sally Boor, Magpas
- Vicki Brown, Great Western Air Ambulance

### Air Ambulance Doctor of the Year
- Matt O'Meara, Essex & Herts Air Ambulance
- Scott Grier, Great Western Air Ambulance

### Air Ambulance Pilot of the Year
- To be announced on 18 November

### Air Ambulance Campaign of the Year
- Air Ambulance of Northern Ireland - Ulster Farmers Union
- East Anglian Air Ambulance - Mission 24/7
- Great Western Air Ambulance - Buy Our Base
- Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance - Haynes Manual

### Charity Volunteer of the Year
- Andrew Pearce, Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance
- Teresa James, Essex & Herts Air Ambulance
- Iain McIntosh, Magpas

### Special Incident Award
- Cornwall Air Ambulance - Cliff fall
- Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance - Cliff fall
- East Anglian Air Ambulance - Rotovator

### Lifetime Achievement Award
- Winner to be announced on 18 November.

### Innovation of the Year
- Establishing the Service - Scottish Ambulance Service: EMRS(North)
- Crew Care Programme - Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance
- Go0dSAM - Air Ambulance Kent Surrey Sussex

### Air Operations Support Staff Member of the Year
- Kevin McGall, Cornwall Air Ambulance
- Lee Mayne, Thames Valley Air Ambulance
- Steve Munro, Scottish Ambulance Service: EMRS(North)

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**SPOTLIGHT ON…**

With the Awards now in their seventh year, we take a glimpse back down the years to see who has walked away with perhaps the most coveted award of the night, the Lifetime Achievement Award:

- **2013** - Dr Gareth Davies
- **2014** - Gerry Hermer
- **2015** - Peter Holden
- **2016** - Alastair Wilson
- **2017** - Christine Margetts
- **2018** - Angela Hughes
- **2019** - ?

www.aoaa.org.uk
Thames Valley Air Ambulance have been using Clinical Performance Indicators to assess the quality of pre-hospital critical care procedures carried out by clinicians to drive improvements in care.

Dr James Raitt, Research Registrar at Thames Valley Air Ambulance, tells us more about this innovative approach to ensure the highest quality of care is delivered to patients.

WHAT ARE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS?

Key performance indicators (KPIs) are metrics that compare actual care against an ideal structure, process or outcome standard; they have been widely used in business and management for some years. Clinical Performance Indicators (CPIs) are a more novel concept and focus exclusively on clinical and patient centred aspects.

HOW ARE CLINICAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS USED AT THAMES VALLEY AIR AMBULANCE?

An expert panel of Thames Valley Air Ambulance clinicians met to discuss what a high-quality pre-hospital critical care procedure would look like and these aspects or domains were established for each procedure. The chosen domains for Pre-Hospital Emergency Anaesthesia and Pre-Hospital Blood Transfusion are shown in box 1 and 2. Each month every case involving a critical care procedure is assessed against the domains and given a score of one if the domain has been achieved or zero if the domain was not achieved or if the data was missing. This process is repeated for each case and the data entered into a matrix, it has a green box where a domain was achieved, a red box if a domain was not achieved and a grey box if data were missing. Examples of the matrices can be seen in box 3.

HOW HAVE CLINICAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS HELPED DELIVER THE HIGHEST QUALITY CARE?

As an organisation, Thames Valley Air Ambulance feels that in order to improve patient care in the pre-hospital setting, guidance and latest evidence should be adhered to. We regard the CPI process as a way of assisting clinicians to achieve the highest possible standards. The process has driven noticeable improvements in the standard of completion of patient records. It has also helped with identifying equipment issues and has led to equipment upgrades, clinician education and further studies of system performance. We surveyed all the clinicians, and their feedback on the process from both paramedics and doctors was positive.
What advice would you offer to other organisations wishing to use clinical performance indicators?

- Ensure all paramedics and doctors feel involved in the creation and development of the performance indicators.
- Tailor the process to your own organisation and the particular environment you operate in.
- Adapt the process as you go along in response to feedback and the identification of trends.
- Maintain an open and non-judgmental atmosphere at the case review meetings.


### Domains for Pre-Hospital Emergency Anaesthesia CPI

1. Full monitoring
2. No decrease in blood pressure at induction of anaesthesia
3. No decrease in oxygen saturations
4. No more than 2 attempts at intubation before success
5. End tidal capnography within normal limits
6. Adequate anaesthesia maintained throughout transfer
7. Cardiovascular stability maintained throughout transfer
8. Anaesthesia within 45 minutes of 999 call
9. Indication for anaesthesia documented
10. Grade of laryngoscopic view should be <3

### Domains for Pre-Hospital Blood Transfusion CPI

1. Rationale for transfusion documented
2. Rationale in line with blood transfusion guideline
3. Aggressive management of hypothermia – blood warmer and heated blanket used
4. Tranexamic Acid used and given within an hour of injury
5. Evidence of bleeding in hospital
6. No blood transfusion complications
7. Overall - was use of blood justified? Yes/No
8. No units wasted this month
The Air Ambulance CONFERENCE 2019
Leading Prehospital Air Ambulance Conference

Monday 18th November 2019
Chelsea Harbour Hotel, London, UK.

The Conference is a must for:
- Charity Staff
- Doctors
- Fundraisers
- Paramedics
- Trustees
- Pilots
- Volunteers
- Senior Management
- Suppliers & Supporters

Book your place:
https://associationofairambulances.co.uk/product/national-conference/
**News in Brief**

**DRTV first**
London’s Air Ambulance ran a Direct Response Television (DRTV) campaign in the summer in a first for the charity. The advert, Every Second Counts, ran throughout July in London and was supported by digital advertising.

**Jean reaches £750k**
In 2004, Jean Dixon, 83, took on a Scarborough market stall to raise money for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance as a volunteer. Since then, and with help from her dedicated volunteer team, Jean has now raised over £750,000 for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance. She is now aiming for the £1 million.

**Grant for SCAA**
Scotland’s Charity Air Ambulance has received a significant multi-year grant from Dunloissit and Islay Community Trust, the charitable trust of Dunloissit Estate on the Isle of Islay. The helicopter is a regular sight on the islands, delivering expert paramedic care to the scene and airlifting patients rapidly to mainland hospital care.

**First V-P for CAAT**
Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust has appointed its first ever Vice President, Dr Ed Abrahamson, one of the country’s leading Consultant Paediatricians, to take on the honorary position, which is offered to the charity’s most committed and influential supporters.

**Smooth operators**
Bespoke ambulances which have been specially designed to give patients a smoother journey, while improving the care East of England Service NHS Trust (EAST) crews are able to provide, have started to hit the roads. A total of 12 vehicles are going into service in Norfolk and Waveney, with a further 43 set to be rolled out across the eastern region in the coming months and another 171 by next April.

**Do you have any news you’d like to share in Airway?**
Then email airway@aoaa.org.uk to be considered for the next issue.

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**£10M FUNDING SHARED BY NINE CHARITIES**

Nine air ambulance charities across England will receive a share of the £10m funding announced by the Chancellor in the Budget of October 2018.

The nine air ambulance charities receiving part of the government funding are:

- East Anglian Air Ambulance
- Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust
- London’s Air Ambulance
- Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Air Ambulance Charitable Trust
- Great Western Air Ambulance Charity
- Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Trust
- Devon Air Ambulance Trust
- MAGPAS Air Ambulance
- Midlands Air Ambulance Charity

A total of 14 of the 18 eligible air ambulance charities submitted applications for their share of the funding, with bids of up to £2m for improvement projects, which were then put through several stages of assessment to decide which bids were deliverable and offered the best value for money, according to the Department for Health and Social Care.

The funding will be used to improve the charities’ facilities, including modernising operational facilities at seven airbases, contributing towards a new helicopter for Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust and providing immersive interactive training suites to better prepare crews.

Health minister Stephen Hammond said: “Air ambulance crews work under extreme pressure in situations where every second counts. This one-off funding to help provide world-class facilities and equipment recognises the integral role they play in our health service.”

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**GIRLGUIDING PARTNERSHIP ENCOURAGES GIRLS INTO STEM CAREERS**

Great Western Air Ambulance Charity (GWAAC) have launched a new partnership with Girlguiding Bristol and South Gloucestershire, and Girlguiding Somerset North, to develop a new Challenge Badge, which will inspire girls to aim for a career in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM).

From learning life-saving CPR skills to planning, running, and recording aviation-based tests using simple methodology used in scientific experiments, the challenge pack requires the 5-14 year old girls to think about solutions to problems and learn the concept of a charity – all skills which are intrinsically linked to Girlguiding’s core values.

Lisa Williams, Assistant County Commissioner Support at Girlguiding Bristol & South Gloucestershire, said: “We’re so pleased to be partnering with GWAAC; it is very important that we teach our members important life-saving skills such as CPR and inspire our young members to achieve their potential in their future careers, whether that’s in a medical or healthcare setting, a pilot or a career in Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths.” The tasks have been tailored to meet the different age groups and education levels in order to inspire and encourage the girls to develop skills and aim for a career in STEM.

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**WMAS AGAIN OUTSTANDING**

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has once again rated West Midlands Ambulance Service as ‘Outstanding’, the highest possible rating from the health and social care regulator.

The CQC’s Chief Inspector, Professor Ted Baker, said: “WMAS was the first ambulance service in England to receive an Outstanding rating and I am pleased to announce that it continues to provide an excellent service.

“There was a positive culture that supported and valued staff and a strong and embedded focus on continuous improvement to offer the best quality service for patients, and effective systems for identifying risks or plans to eliminate or reduce them.”

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**KNIFE CRIME FOCUS**

Essex & Herts Air Ambulance’s (EHAAT) 10th anniversary Aeromedical Conference in the summer heard TV presenter Alex Beresford speak movingly about the impact of knife crime on society. Alex’s cousin Nathaniel Armstrong was killed during a knife attack earlier this year.

The Good Morning Britain weather presenter and anti-knife crime campaigner spoke about the impact of knife crime on his own family and discussed ways of tackling the issue. Keynote speaker for the day was Assistant Commissioner Graham Ellis, Head of Operational Resilience and Special Operations Group at London Fire Brigade (LBFB). Mr Ellis undertook the Gold Commander role for LBFB during several terror attacks on London in 2017.

The conference, held at Anglia Ruskin University in Chelmsford, brought together over 300 medical specialists and staff from emergency services to discuss aspects of pre-hospital medicine. The theme for the day was ‘Reflect, Learn, Innovate’.
BETTER DELIVERY, BETTER VALUE

Brand new associate member Aeroptimo is an independent aviation consultancy whose focus is helping organisations improve their service delivery and obtain better value for money.

Nigel Lemon, founder and managing consultant has worked in aviation all his life. After his aeronautical engineering degree, he did an MBA and spent time specialising in project and organisational change management. He has worked in both operational and commercial roles for blue-chip organisations and SMEs, covering aircraft sales, product support and contract management.

“We all understand the addictive nature of air ambulance work,” he says. “I came into it 16 years ago in a senior management position at one of the UK’s leading HEMS support organisations and had a hugely fascinating and successful time there.

“A year ago I moved on to a fresh challenge and I’m so pleased to continue working in such an exciting sector.”

So, what was behind Nigel’s decision to launch Aeroptimo? He explains: “The air ambulance industry is constantly developing. Each organisation strives for excellence in the service it delivers. In the UK, both younger and more established charities are experiencing so much transition.

“Some organisations don’t necessarily have the skills and capacity available to deal with the extra demand that this creates and this is where flexible, external aviation expertise can provide the solution. Aeroptimo draws on its independence from manufacturers and suppliers, together with the breadth and depth of my own experience, combined with additional expertise from within my associate network.

“Critically, an independent and objective viewpoint can lead to a better range of choices being considered, better informed decision-making and improved governance.”

Aeroptimo helps clients with both strategy and delivery. For example, you might be looking to re-let an aviation services contract or purchase your own helicopter. Even the simplest sounding of projects or change initiatives can place significant extra demand on your existing resources and be extremely costly - in both financial and human terms - if they go wrong.

Aeroptimo has managed a whole range of successful aviation projects and procurement exercises. It has experienced many different operational models within the air ambulance sector and has the tools to help you plan the best approach and manage your initiative right through to completion. Nigel adds: “Aeroptimo is passionate about delivering high quality, risk-free solutions. We are sensitive to your needs and can adapt to fit your organisation, tailoring the process to capitalise on your existing resources and to help you achieve your objectives in the most cost-effective manner available.

“I’ll be delighted to explain how we work and to discuss any initiatives that members may be considering. Contact me at nigel@aeroptimo.com or on 07725 241 204.”

PEAK PERFORMANCE: ZOLL’S AUTOPULSE AT 13,000FT

Switzerland’s Air Zermatt pilots are pioneers in mountain rescue. The crew use equipment and techniques they have developed and refined over the last five decades to treat patients in one of the world’s most dangerous terrains, including on 29 peaks over 13,000ft.

In 2013, Air Zermatt equipped its air rescue helicopters with the AutoPulse. AutoPulse helps to resuscitate patients with consistent, high-quality chest compressions, and allows Air Zermatt to maintain the same level of CPR efficiency throughout the entire rescue and transportation process.

As soon as an emergency call comes in, a pilot, a paramedic, and a doctor are dispatched. Details about the patient’s condition, the landing site, visibility and whether a winch operation is necessary are transmitted to the pilot and crew in-flight. Air Zermatt’s average arrival time is 6-8 minutes. Once the medical team arrives, they check the patient’s level of consciousness. If the patient has no circulation and is not breathing, resuscitation begins: they start manual compressions and place electrodes on the chest to see if there is ventricular fibrillation. If that is the case, one shock is given and manual resuscitation starts again. After one cycle of 30:2, the patient will be sat up and laid on the AutoPulse.

“This is an enormous relief,” says Dr. Mann, Chief Medical Director of Air Zermatt, “as it frees up an additional person who can perform medical procedures on the patient. The machine conducts a very consistent resuscitation, which we, as humans, couldn’t achieve.”

Despite limited space in the helicopters, AutoPulse’s low-profile design means compressions can be continued while loading the patient into the helicopter and during flight.

A study comparing outcomes of cardiac arrest patients transported in a helicopter who were treated with manual CPR or the AutoPulse found that the AutoPulse patients fared better. AutoPulse patients were significantly more likely to achieve ROSC (return of spontaneous circulation): 30% versus 7% in the manual CPR group. In comparative clinical trials, AutoPulse improved ROSC by 62% compared to typical CPR. In the CIRC trial, the largest randomised controlled trial evaluating an automated CPR device, AutoPulse was proven to have a significant survival benefit when compared to manual CPR when resuscitation efforts lasted longer than 16 minutes.

Learn more about how Air Zermatt uses AutoPulse at www.zoll.com/AutoPulse.

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SELECTING INSPIRED PROFESSIONALS

Charisma Charity Recruitment, one of the UK's leading charity executive search and selection specialists, are delighted to be working in partnership with The Association of Air Ambulances to offer recruitment advice and guidance to members. Our professional team have over 45 years' experience focusing on sourcing the best individuals for charities, making Charisma the ideal choice for your organisation.

To contact Charisma for more information or a confidential discussion, please find details for their dedicated team below.

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“The Trustees and I felt we had received a very professional and supportive service from every member of the Charisma team. I would have no hesitation in calling for Charisma's assistance again”.

Alex Lochrane - Chief Executive, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance

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