69th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of The League of Friends of the St Helier NHS Trust

Held on Friday 11th September 2026 15:00-17:00hrs

Present: Mr J Dalton – Chair and Chairman, League of Friends
Mrs L Fletcher – Hon Treasurer, League of Friends

Attending: Mrs J Duff – Committee
Mrs H Irwin – Committee
Mrs S Doyle – Committee
Mrs V Renwick – Committee
Mr J Norton – Committee
Mr R Fletcher – Committee
Mrs L Barker – Committee
Mrs G Cutting – Committee
Others – per sign-in sheet.

It was noted that none of the membership, other than volunteer members, responded to the invitation and attended this AGM.

1. Welcome by Chairman. Jim Dalton opened the meeting with a thank you to those attending. Next year being the League's 70th AGM (though the League had been supporting St Helier in one form or another since 1951) some kind of recognition would be made at the 2027 AGM.

The Epsom and St Helier Trust now operate under the umbrella group with St George's - known as **'gesh'**. The League though continues to operate only for the patients and staff of St Helier. Both St George's and ESTH operate their own hospital charities quite separate from the League.

JD has been nominated for the 'Volunteer of the Year Award' at **gesh**'s Care Awards ceremony on 23rd September 2026.

2. Apologies for absence. Apologies received from the following volunteers: Olive Edwards, Ryan Tappin, Carole Reed.

3. Minutes of 2025 AGM. The minutes had been posted on the League website since the 2025 AGM. No amendments to the minutes had been received, none were raised at the meeting and were therefore accepted as a true record.

4. Matters arising from the 2025 Minutes.
There had been a mail out to the full League membership which included the 2026 Newsletter and the proposals to update the League Object & Rules (Constitution). The Newsletter re-iterated that all future Notices, information, and minutes etc. will now only be available on the

League website - https://lofsth.org.uk. Mail out costs, including printing and stationery, amounted to approx. £2000. Some 200 members have since been removed due to death or being unknown at the recorded mail address. As described in the 2026 Newsletter annual membership is no longer available. Life Membership is still available for £25 but has no quantifiable benefit other than helping fund the Charity. All volunteers automatically become Life Members. All members are able to vote at the AGM. Gift aid recovery is still being explored by the Treasurer. **ACTION: Lynda Fletcher**

5. Object & Rules (Constitution). Jim Dalton addressed the Resolution to change the Object & Rules and asked if there were any objections, none were made. No objections had been received from the wider membership either. A vote was taken and everyone present approved the Resolution and that the next step be taken, that is seeking Charity Commission approval to the revised Object & Rules. The result will be made available as a Notice on the League website. **ACTION: Lynda Fletcher and Jim Dalton**

6. Chairman's Report. Jim Dalton reported that we have continued to develop good charity ties with both ESTH and **gesh** and have significantly raised the League's visibility around all sites in the process. As part of this drive the League donated £5000 to the **gesh** Big Thank you day, and had volunteers present throughout that day handing out branded pens and leaflets to all the staff present to remind them of our presence in the hospital.

The company continues to have a healthy bank balance, and outgoings excluding stock purchases include a replacement coffee machine for the café, new League lanyards, better corridor signage, upgrade to the League website and new security cameras in both the office and café (the shop camera remains working). The unused landline in the office has been cancelled which will bring an annual benefit of around £350.00, and the hospital office extension now has voicemail enabled and is the primary contact number (020 8296 2462)

Radio St Helier dedicates a segment on its show to the League every Saturday to again raise awareness, and leaflets, posters and articles in various publications have also helped raise our charity's awareness.

The ESTH Voluntary Services Manager had left the Trust and a replacement WAS awaited. *[Post meeting note – her replacement is Chris Mullings, and Jim Dalton met with Chris on September 29th for an initial introduction].* It is hoped that a close relationship under the Patient Experience team along with the ESTH charity manager can be developed. **ACTION: Jim Dalton** *[Post meeting note – Jim Dalton meet with Patient Experience on September 23rd].* At present, the League has 53 volunteers.

Hospital news - £57 million has been allocated to SH to rebuild Urgent Care. QMHC lift is out of service for the foreseeable future, and both the ward and Day Surgery Unit have been relocated to ward C3 in the main building. The CEO and COO have both just left post and with the new CEO on seat, Jim Dalton will arrange to meet soon and report to committee. **ACTION: Jim Dalton**

7. Treasurer's Report.
Lynda Fletcher reported that we are in a very good position thanks to our supporters, hospital staff and the public continuing to donate generously to the League, through our Shop and Café, our Collection Boxes and via some bequests and legacies.

Donations for the financial year April 2025 to March 2026 amounted to around £498k, which included £30k in profit from our Ltd Company (the Shop and Café), bequests and legacies of around £456k, and £6k raised from selling goods donated to us, such as books, jigsaws, and hand knitted items. During that same period, we also gifted the following to the hospital:

- £2000 for a Jungle Mural for Queen Mary's Children's Hospital Playroom;
- £4775 for an Accuvein Handheld Unit for Mary Moore Ward;
- £2069 on various Stacking Chairs for ward C3 & the Sexual Health Clinic;
- £8734 for a Cardiac Central Monitoring Station for CCU;
- £350 on a Heavy-Duty Self-Propelled Wheelchair for AMU;
- £9700 on an ECG Machine for Outpatients;
- £2919 on 2 Manual Reclining Chairs for Maternity;
- £7725 Air Conditioning Unit for a room in Springall Unit Outpatients;
- £1000 on a Sara Steady Hoist for Radiography Dept;
- £24,300 on 2 Bladder Scanners for C3 & Frank Deas Wards;
- £6458 on numerous Nebuliser Control Kits for C1 Respiratory Ward;

and numerous other items for various other wards & departments, ranging from around £900 down to just £36. We also supported the Trusts "Big Thank You" to staff with a gift of £5k and have agreed to fund the refurbishment of a Paediatric Mental Health Room in A&E at a cost of around £29k.

Some Gift Aid claims remain outstanding, but we are working through the guidance for making a claim. However, in the meantime, we will direct supporters to donate via our Just Giving account, where the Gift Aid is automatically claimed and added.

As the Chairman has already reported, League membership has changed because of the costs involved, with annual membership now ceased. Life membership remains an option (at £25) but with no quantifiable benefit. Being a member or supporter now means you use our Shop and Café - which allows the profit made to be passed to the League - and by continuing to donate, make bequests and leave legacies where possible. That ongoing support provides the income to continue helping the hospital, its patients and its staff.

Many staff, patients and public we meet still don't realise that we are here. Many thought we left the hospital when the Trust moved us from the Ground Floor corridor of the Main Building some years ago. However, we've been in the Ground Floor of Ferguson House since then, and our Shop, and Café (which is accessed through the Shop), are opposite the Springall Unit. The League Office is next door to the Cashier at the entrance to Ferguson House.

8. Election of Officers and Committee (Trustees).

The Treasurer, Lynda Fletcher, has agreed to remain in position. She does not require re-election as described in the League Object & Rules. The other elections were as follows:

Name and Role	*Nominator*	*Seconder*
Jim Dalton, Chairman	Lesley Barker	Jackie Mahoney
Joseph Norton, Committee	Veronica Renwick	Sue Winspear
Lesley Barker, Committee	Jenny Duff	June Davis
Heather Irwin, Committee	Lesley Barker	Suchita Patel
Robert Fletcher, Committee	Heather Irwin	Emilio Abajo
Gillian Cutting, Committee	Veronica Renwick	Joseph Norton
Jenny Duff, Committee	Sue Winspear	Julie Haggis
Susan Doyle, Committee	Lesley Barker	Heather Irwin
Veronica Renwick, Committee	Lesley Barker	Jenny Duff

The committee continues to look at our organisational structure, but this has been delayed until after Charity Commission approval is obtained for the proposed changes to the Object & Rules.

9. Trust Guest Speaker.

Katie Fowler - Ward discharge flow co-ordinator, ward A5 (accompanied by 3 of her colleagues from the ward) addressed the meeting. She thanked the League profusely for their kind donations which continue to make a huge difference to both staff and patients on A5, B5 and C5. Donations to ward A5 have included – a motorised wheelchair, 8 wall mounted fans to cool patients during hot weather, as well as a bladder scanner. The ward had also received funding support for 8 riser/recliner chairs which were awaiting delivery. Kate added that those wards were also recipients of the annual Christmas gifts for the elderly. When questioned about what would best be provided suggested – toiletries including shavers and shower gel, as well as socks. **ACTION: Lesley Barker.**

10. Any Other Business.

Cafe tables. Jim Dalton proposed changing to smaller square tables so that more people could be seated - there have been incidents of customers leaving because of lack of space. This was supported, and quotations will be obtained and submitted to the committee.

Contactless Card machines keep losing signal. The Chairman offered to investigate whether a new router was needed or just a repeater. Emilio Abajo offered to bring in a signal repeater to try for a better signal. **ACTION: Jim Dalton and Emilio Abajo** *[Post meeting note – this work was completed on 17/9/2026 and improvement seen]*

Robert Fletcher mentioned that fridge units keep freezing up. Should they be serviced or replaced? Jim Dalton explained that he has been approaching a possible number of service providers and will report back at the next committee meeting for further discussion. **ACTION: Jim Dalton** *[Post meeting note - an engineer has been identified and following a brief site inspection will return in early October to service all refrigeration units]*

Emilio Abajo mentioned that many people asked for newspapers, and when told we do not sell them, walked out before spending time in either the shop or cafe. It was suggested that M&S be consulted regarding their local arrangements and a further discussed held at next committee meeting. **ACTION: Lesley Barker & Jim Dalton**

Diane Holden - said that many people had remarked positively on new coffee cup signage in the corridors.

Joseph Norton pointed out that only Radio St Helier station should be played in the café (or shop/office if further speakers could be provided by Radio St Helier) to comply with public performance licensing laws.

Christmas - Annual volunteer lunch. This will again be held in January. All volunteers to be balloted about location preference. **ACTION: Jim Dalton**

A Christmas raffle will be held again as this was a great success. Joseph Norton said that he would like there to be at least 6 prizes and asked those present to find/make donations to that end. This and other specifically Christmas issues will be fully discussed at the interim committee meeting on October 6th. **ACTION: All**

There were no other points raised, the Chairman thanked everyone again for attending, and the meeting concluded at 4.15pm.

Signature: *James (Jim) Edward Dalton*……Chairman

Date: *11th September 2026*