**Hello from ART’s new Chairman**

Hello one and all and the first thing I would like to say is what a huge success the 2014 National Conference was. It was a great testament to the hard work done over the years by David Gandy and fitting that it was such a success in David’s last year as ART Chairman. The other Executive Committee members should not be forgotten as it takes the efforts of all to ensure a successful Conference for you the members. Particular thanks must go to Peter Jones who time and again does a fantastic job in his role of Conference Organiser. As soon as one Conference is over work starts on the next and Peter keeps us all on track with venue, topics, speakers, exhibition, the list goes on.

As I have mentioned this was David’s last year as Chair and for those who attended the Conference and AGM you will know that David stood down as Chair. The committee had known of David’s intention for some time and I was more than happy to put myself forward as a potential candidate for the position of Chair. At the first post AGM committee meeting of 12 November the main order of business was election of office bearers with the positions being; Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. I remained keen to take on role of Chair and I’m pleased to say that I was proposed by Peter Jones, seconded by Terry Simpson and with the support and backing from the other committee members duly elected as ART’s new Chairman. Lindsay Taylor will continue as Vice Chair and Terry Simpson as Treasurer, both were keen to continue and were unanimously supported by the committee. This just left the position of Secretary, which I will continue to do on an interim basis until such time as a new Secretary is appointed.

The first thing that became apparent to me is that I have some very big shoes to fill, following in the footsteps of Chairmen such as Andy Mosson and David Gandy, to name but two, and I’m sure that we will all agree that both and others have done a fantastic job and ART would not be the strong association it is today without the hard work done by previous Chairs. So you see big shoes to fill.......

Probably best that I now tell you something about me. At present I’m Operational Quality Manager in the Medical Physics and Clinical Engineering department at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton. A brief summary of me professionally is; over 13 years experience in renal technology, of which 7 years were as Chief Clinical Technologist at New Cross. I was a member of the West Midlands Renal Network group responsible for developing *Quality Requirements for Services for Patient with End Stage Renal Failure, including Renal Transplantation* for use in self-assessment and peer review. Following this I participated in several peer review visits to Trusts within the West Midlands Renal Network. I was also a member of the West Midlands Renal Network Herefordshire and Worcestershire Workforce Group. I have presented to a regional Specialist Registrar group and dialysis unit nurses on the subject of *The Role of Water in Dialysis and Principles of Water Treatment Plant Design and Operation*. I have also chaired sessions and presented at the ART National Conferences and chaired technical sessions at BRS conferences. I have also in my time as committee member represented ART on the BRS Executive Council.

That’s me from a professional perspective but what are my interests outside of work and ART. I’m a passionate supporter of Liverpool FC, not just arm chair I do go to matches when I can get a ticket! Enjoy watching Formula 1 and have only missed going to the British GP on two occasions since 1997. As middle age progresses I try to keep fit with swimming and cycling and with my wife Sue enjoy holidays in the sun, with Greece being top of our destination list.

Anyway back to ART and my role as new Chair and as mentioned I have some very big shoes to fill. It is a huge honour and privilege to have been given the opportunity to fill this role, it is a fantastic association with a dedicated committee and our priority is you the membership. If I were asked how ART will move forward I would say evolution not revolution, the association is in a strong position and has a very good national profile and as said many times before consistently punches above its weight.

I see the position of Chair as but one cog in the machine that is the Executive Committee, with no position being more or less important than any other. As with any machine all the right component parts are required to run smoothly and be effective and that is what we have, a fantastic committee working together for you the membership. That said on occasion the machine will not run smoothly, committee members bring differing viewpoints and opinions on various subjects, all of which are valid. These are discussed, decisions made and the machine returns to optimal performance. If the committee were a dialysis machine what would the various members/roles be if they were components? Answers on a postcard, sorry there isn’t a prize and please no jokes about the Chairman and effluent.

So the new committee have now met for the first time, officers bearers, apart from Secretary, appointed and work is underway for the National Conference 2015. Other plans for 2015 include regular regional meetings and if it doesn’t happen before the end of 2014 launch of the new ART website, so exciting times ahead.

I’m going to close my hello and introduction as new Chair with a few questions for you the membership. Do you feel that ART is meeting your needs and expectations? What can we do differently? What can we do that we are not already doing? Are we doing anything that you don’t see the point of? What changes should we make? Please feed your views and comments on these questions and anything else you want to raise to any member of the committee. It is your association, so have your say, we want your views and opinions.

Both I and all members of the committee wish you and your families a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Kindest regards

Roger Moore – ART Chairman