

**London Ambulance Service NHS Trust  
A&E Vehicle and Equipment Working Group  
10<sup>th</sup> November 2005, 1300-1600**

**MINUTES**

Chris Vale (Chair)	Acting Head of Operational Support	Bow
Colin Jolly	Fleet Manager	Greenwich
John Selby	Safety & Risk	Pocock St
Alison Mckee	Purchasing	Pocock St
Tug Wilson	Staff Side Representative (EC)	Islington
David Campbell	AOM	Romford
Karen Walling	Staff Side Representative (W)	Hillingdon
Glen Winnister	Staff Side Representative (SW)	Croydon
Tony Sales	Staff Side Representative (SE)	Mottingham
Ian Lee	Staff Side Representative (NE)	Becontree
Roy Hopkinson	Principal Project Manager	HQ
David Rock	Emergency Care Practitioner	Islington
Ken Murphy	Team Leader	Waterloo
Eddie Brand	Staff Side Chair	Romford
Paul O'Neill	Staff Side Representative	Tottenham
Alan Payne	Duty Station Officer	Hillingdon
David Selwood	Acting Corporate Logistics Manager	Pocock Street
Scott Velleman (Minutes)	ASSD Supervisor	HQ

**Action**

**80/05**

**Apologies**

Mick Maynard  
Bob Fellows  
Paul Stewart  
John Pooley  
Dipak Chauhan  
Claire Thomas

**81/05**

**Previous Minutes (15<sup>th</sup> September 2005)**

The previous minutes were agreed with the following amendment

- 66/05 (line 3) change “reduce accidents” to “report conditions prior to accidents”

**Pegasus Trolley Bed Demonstration**

The group were given a demonstration of the Pegasus Trolley Bed by a representative from Ferno. They then returned to the conference room to discuss it.

CV told the group that the Service needed to decide quickly whether to move to the Pegasus or not. He felt that many of the problematic issues had been addressed and that it is a better product.

AP asked if the previous 65 new vehicles could have the trolley beds swapped

to the Pegasus free of charge.

CV replied that it was unlikely. That there would be a significant cost, but he would talk to Ferno on this.

The group then agreed to purchase Pegasus trolley beds for the next 65 vehicles.

## **82/05 Matters Arising**

### 82.01 Numbers 1,2 and 3 Dressings – Alternatives (06/05)

AM distributed alternative products from Timesco for the group to examine.

After further group discussion of other possible alternatives IL suggested a sub group be set up to look at this issue in greater detail with AM.

CV asked AM to lead the sub group, and for IL to nominate members.

**AM/IL**

### 82.02 Melonin – Alternatives (65.03)

AM stated that she had spoken with Southern Syringe and that she was waiting for prices.

CV asked the same sub group described in 82.01 to look at this issue.

**AM**

### 82.03 Loud Volume of MDT Speakers (31/05)

CV said that he had preliminary discussions with Peter Suter and Vic Wynn however neither of them have expressed a definite view yet.

### 82.04 Spinal Immobilisation Equipment (60/05)

CV told the group that Bob Fellows would not be available to sit in the group for the foreseeable future and so would discuss this issue with him.

**CV**

### 82.05 Disposable Bag & Mask (61/05)

DS gave the group several alternative products to look at. He stated that Mark Whitbread has suggested trialling 6 different products, 1 month on each product at 6 sites. DS said that he felt this was excessive and that both the number of products and duration of trial should be reduced.

AP told the group that Hillingdon have been using a Merlin bag and mask for months without any problems that cost approximately £4.00 each.

JS told the group that if AP can provide evidence a trial had been carried out then a new trial would not be required.

DS said that he could make some calculations regarding usage volumes and costings and therefore whether a tender process would be required.

CV asked AP to provide trial evidence and DS to do the calculations discussed.

**AP/DS**

CV asked that the disposable bag and mask be looked at by the sub-group considering other products, before a final decision was made.

**CV**

#### 82.06 Pocket Stretchers (62/05)

DS told the group that a carry sheet was already being distributed across the Service that could do the same job.

After further discussion CV said that the group were not showing great enthusiasm for the pocket stretcher and collectively they decided not to pursue the product.

#### 82.07 Safety Canulas (62/05)

AM stated that the safety canulas were not on EROS yet.

AP stated that there were approximately 200 of each colour canula still unused throughout the Service.

AM told the group that as long as these unused stocks could be dealt with by station management teams, the new safety canulas could be put onto EROS next week.

CV asked AM to go ahead and put the safety canulas on EROS.

**AM**

DS suggested that the old products were collected and stored.

CV asked DS to put a bulletin in next week's RIB.

**DS**

AP also suggested that Station Administrators needed to be informed.

#### 82.08 Mangar Elks Storage Bags and Servicing (75/05)

CV said that he had spoken to Open House and they anticipated delivery by the end of November/early December.

AP undertook to send a definitive list of the Mangar Elk locations to CV.

**AP**

CV also told the group that there was now a servicing agreement in place.

#### 82.09 WAS – UK Vehicle Quality/Corporate Quality

CJ stated that he had received some feedback. He said that both North East Ambulance and Sussex Ambulance were both happy with the vehicles, but that contrastingly Scottish Ambulance were very unhappy.

AM added that her research indicated that WAS were financially sound.

CV stated that as the vehicle purchasing strategy was fixed for the next two years there was no need to progress with anything further at this point.

82.10 Safety Helmet Inspections – Make Ready (76/05)

CV announced that Make Ready were happy to do basic inspections but require some guidelines.

JS replied that he has sent some information to Gadge Nijjar.

CV then suggested that monthly intervals would be sufficient for basic inspections.

CJ added that a closer inspection could be carried out whenever a vehicle deep clean was undertaken.

**83/05 Alternative Response Steering Group (Standing Item)**

AP stated that the group had met at the beginning of the month. They were attempting to get the new FRU and ECP vehicles on the street later this year. AP also said that the redesign of the vehicle racks has proven very difficult, therefore the vehicle equipment lists have been scaled down. Martin Flaherty will be publishing a bulletin stating that FRU and ECP vehicles will restock from ambulances. Finally AP stated that FRU's are going to trial 'black boxes'. The next meeting is scheduled for 12/01/06.

**84/05 Risk (Standing Item)**

JS distributed and discussed the updated risk register.

CV asked DS to look at the fixings for a new sharps box for the new 65 vehicles.

**DS**

**85/05 Manual Handling Sub Group (Standing Item)**

JS stated that the carry chair trial had commenced yesterday and DC would give feedback at the next meeting.

**86/05 MRU Working Group (Standing Item)**

KM asked if there was a problem with the new bikes' markings.

RH replied that the bikes are being sent to Macneillie for a respray, paid for by Honda.

KM also asked about the internal bags for the panniers.

CV said that nothing was agreed by the MRU group as none of the bags the group looked at were acceptable.

**87/05 Ambulance Procurement Update (Standing Item)**

RH reported that the final vehicle from the previous batch will be delivered next week. 27 chassis from the next 65 vehicles are at Macneillies who are assembling the bodies.

**88/05 RRU Procurement**

RH stated that 29 vehicles are on order, 8 of which are currently being converted. Open House are going to change the size of some storage bags, then

the racks can be redesigned. Reversing sensors and cameras will also be installed.

**89/05 Specialist Vehicle Update (Standing Item)**

RH told the group that the Service was considering the Megabus trolley and a large wheelchair. We currently have an ergonomic company looking at the layout of the vehicle. Once these issues have been dealt with new quotes will be obtained.

**90/05 Carry Chair Update (Standing Item)**

CV said that it was still an aim to put forward a recommendation as soon as possible for the next financial year. CV then asked DS to speak to the Carry Chair Group regarding the problems of having an appropriate chair for airport usage.

**DS**

**91/05 Trolley Bed Update (Standing Item)**

This item was covered prior to the Matters Arising.

**92/05 Trolley Bed Mattresses**

IL sought confirmation that Ferno have not replaced the 130 mattresses.

CV replied that there are ongoing negotiations as Ferno argue the Service never paid for the original mattresses which we dispute.

RH refuted Ferno's position by saying that he had invoices proving that the original mattresses had been paid for. CV asked RH for copies of the invoices.

**RH**

**93/05 Falcon Six**

IL asked if there has been any progress on the decision to bring in an independent engineer to examine the Falcon 6.

CV replied that unfortunately there had not.

IL raised concerns that the issues of concern were still there.

CV felt that Ferno would argue that most of the problems have been corrected (particularly with the kits they were providing) and that the other issues are down to the way the trolley bed has been used. 65 further Falcon six had also been purchased for the last 65 ambulances. CV continued that due to the market conditions, i.e. there being no other suitable products available, the Service must continue its relationship with Ferno.

JS suggested that the Service obtain legal advice from Capsticks through Nicola Foad.

CJ added that from an engineering viewpoint the modifications carried out by Ferno seem to have corrected the faults.

**JS**

CV asked JS to look through the LA52's to see if there had been any reported incidents connected to the Falcon 6. He agreed to discuss the matter further with Nicola Foad.

**CV**

**94/05 Vehicle Fault Book**

IL reminded the group that there had been no progress.

CV asked DS to find out the timescale for when this function can be added to the MDT. In the meantime CV suggested that they could resubmit an ISON with a robust case. **DS**

CJ stated that he would give CV the costings the following day. **CJ**

CV also stated that he would also look through the budget to see if he could identify any unused money. **CV**

**95/05 New Equipment – STOR IT**

AP passed round a storage bag that he proposed could be used on the Emergency Support Vehicles. He stated that the cost was approximately £700 each.

CV alerted the group that the Service has a bag manufacturer that could reproduce something similar but cheaper.

AM agreed saying that if a specification could be agreed she could approach Open House.

DS stated that he would speak to Open House with AM. **AM/DS**

**96/05 GEL Body Batteries for LDV AEU's**

CJ updated the group that he had the budget to introduce gel batteries which appear to have a better charge life.

**97/05 Zafira Tyres**

TW alerted the group that he had been told that Hi Q do not carry Goodyear replacement tyres, they carry a cheaper tyre.

CJ responded that our contract with Goodyear dictates that all replacement tyres must be Goodyear's. Further CJ explained that Hi Q are owned by Goodyear. CJ asked TW to supply him with the details and he would take the matter up with Hi Q. **TW**

CV asked CJ to send a message to station management asking that any future problems with inappropriate replacement tyres are reported to him. He said that staff needed to advise managers when this occurred. **CJ**

**98/05 Any Other Business**

Vests Bag for Incidents

DS stated that Jonathan Edmondson has suggested that the vehicles carry a small bag containing labelled vests for incidents.

The group discussed the issue and decided that this was not necessary.

Mattress Covers

IL told the group that the Service still needs to progress a disposable mattress cover following the successful trial.

CV replied that once a cost has been agreed they can be put onto EROS. CV asked AM to speak to Mediwrap.

**AM**

#### Dust Masks

JS proposed that the Service should adopt using the P3 Dust Mask when working in tunnels.

IL suggested that the sub group discussed in Matter 82.01 could add this item to their list.

TW expressed concerns that crews would end up using the masks in atmospheres not suitable for their design.

JS suggested TW have an input into the sub group.

**TW**

#### Oxy Clips

CV asked Staff Side if they were still using an oxy clip on the Compact 2.

They agreed that they were.

CV established that the clip does not fit the new CD cylinder.

DS reported to the group that PTS had developed a piece of equipment to carry an oxygen cylinder. He agreed to bring an example to the next meeting.

**DS**

**Date of next meeting: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2006, 1330-1630  
Conference Room, HQ**