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SOCIETY OF BRITISH NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

SUMMER NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2006



Message from
the President,
Mr James Steers

My two years as president are nearly completed and have passed remarkably quickly. It has been a time of rapid change both in terms of the provision of service and training in neurosurgery and the Society has had to adapt to be able to manage an increasing agenda. The Society is now wholly involved in the design and management of its training and service and will in

the future be the source of advice to the Departments of Health both north and south of the border in addition to PMETB. The Continuing Professional Development Committee has already begun work on a paper to assist neurosurgeons and the Trusts with the processes of appraisal and revalidation. This will put us in a good position to respond timeously and effectively for neurosurgery to the recent consultation paper from the CMO "Good Doctors Safer Patients"

The changes to the constitution have proved to be workable and effective. The appointment of a Vice President to oversee the functions of the Clinical Standards Committee has enabled a more complete communication with NICE and its processes. There are now a significant number of consultation papers that involve neurosurgery, malignant spinal cord compression, nvCJD, Carmustine and Temazolamide and Dorsal column stimulators to name but a few. I am very grateful to Barrie White and Garth Cruickshank in particular who have put an enormous amount of time in to ensuring an accurate and authoritative report to NICE and challenging their conclusions where appropriate. The requests for input into these evaluations are currently sent round to members via the Unit Liaison Officers but will in future appear on the website and I would encourage all of you to respond constructively. In that way neurosurgery will have a greater involvement in future disease management. The appointment of the second Honorary Secretary has, I hope, reduced the pressures on Phil Van Hille who has taken on the responsibility of the CPD committee. James Palmer has effectively absorbed the post of the Editor of Proceedings and the development of the Business Plan for the Society to take on the Scientific Meetings in house. All the elected members of Council now have committee responsibilities and dates of meetings are set a year in advance to enable attendance to be properly planned around clinical activity.

The Council has developed a close working relationship with the SAC, with the President of the SBNS and Chairman of the SAC sitting on both committees. This has been essential in the development of the Basic Neurosciences Training Program. Neurosciences now being accepted as having its own entry point to higher training with its own selection, assessment and appointment systems. With the Society and SAC working together, the further challenges to training from the stricter application of the Working Time Directive in 2009

and its inevitable effect on service delivery will be more easily achieved. Rick Nelson has made a major contribution developing the new web based neurosurgical curriculum as well as stimulating important debate around the governance and responsible authorities for surgical training in the future. After the July Senate of Surgery the issues around the logbooks have been largely resolved. The data will be put into the FHI (Edinburgh) logbook as usual and trainees and trainers will be written to and asked if they will allow access to their data from the Intercollegiate Surgical Curriculum Project (ISCP). The data will stay in Edinburgh and the link to ISCP be severed on completion of training. The Edinburgh College is to set up a Caldicott Guardian Committee to establish clarity around issues of confidentiality. Now it is the turn of the neurosurgical community to play its part in developing the Schools of Neuroscience.

It is disappointing to have to report slower than anticipated progress toward charitable status. The membership might be surprised to hear that Companies House challenged our right to be titled The Society of British Neurological Surgeons. We have vigorously defended this and the English and Edinburgh Colleges have kindly written in support. We received our Certificate of Incorporation of a Private Limited Company on the 18th of July and can now submit our application to the Charities Commission.

Progress towards the Brain Centre continues. John Pickard and I were invited to join in discussions the ABN Council on the 21st June. This was a very useful meeting with an open discussion in which there was a very positive view supporting the concept of the Brain Centre and a holistic approach to the future provision of neurosciences. The acquisition of a building is proving more difficult and, although important, is less so than developing the concept into a working reality. John Pickard and I are both Trustees of the Brain Centre, which like the SBNS is making progress to become a Charity.

The SBNS office continues to be an issue, particularly in this recent spell of very hot weather. Unfortunately the space that might have become available with the move of the Faculty of Emergency Medicine is not going to be accessible. There has been a small increase in space made available with the development of two small adjacent rooms, which have been knocked into a single room and redecorated. This will enable the Society to have a small meeting room and for it also to move some filing cabinets to give more space in the main office. This however cannot be regarded as a long-term solution.

The changes to the structure of Council have meant the loss of the Position of Editor of Proceedings, a position previously held by Robert Maurice Williams. Robert has played a long and valuable role in the administration of the Society, as Member of Council, Treasurer and Editor of Proceedings. Peter Crawford, who has been the Neurosurgical Advisor to the Chief Medical Officer, also leaves Council. I would like to thank them both for their wise advice and support. Thanks also go to Charles West and Paul May who have completed their terms of office on Council. Special thanks goes to Professor Tony Bell who has had stewardship of the Society's funds for the last four years and has strengthened the Society's financial

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position as well as acting as the interface with the Society's legal advisors as we move towards charitable status. I still have optimism that we might achieve this in time for the autumn scientific meeting in early September.

There has been, and perhaps still is, a view in some quarters that the SBNS Council is a conclave of "Men in grey suits" inventing their raison d'être. This has not been the case for many years and is certainly not true today. The future of British neurosurgery is in its own hands. Council and its committees, along with the SAC, have a great responsibility. The Society belongs to the membership and the Council acts on your behalf. There is real opportunity for all to be part of the future and make a contribution through the SAC, the Council, the discussion pages of the website and the development of the Schools of Neuroscience. Council is now very strong, and I am sure will continue to be immensely supportive. On this note I can confidently wish John Pickard every success when he picks up the reins in September.

James Steers
President, SBNS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to new members of the SBNS

The following members had their membership ratified at the General Meeting held on 7th April 2006 at the Royal College of Surgeons.

Full

Mr D Crimmins - Leeds
Mr R Dardis - Coventry
Mr A Nader-Sepahi - Southampton
Mr R Pillay - Liverpool
Mr C Tolias - Kings College, London
Mr K Ashkan - National Hospital, London
Mr J Crossman - Newcastle
Mr P Grundy - Southampton
Mr D Porter - Bristol
Mr S Rutherford - Manchester

Associate

Mr P S Bhattathiri - Newcastle
Mr A Chackraborty - Royal Free, London
Mr G Dow - Nottingham
Mr T Elias - St Georges, London
Mr S Griffiths - Cardiff
Mr S Karanth - Royal London
Mr P Leach - Manchester
Ms A T Mitchener - Norway
Mr U Ghate - Swansea
Mr N Haden - Plymouth

Senior

Prof. A Crockard
Prof. A Strong
Mr D Hardy
Honorary
Prof Devkota

Membership Subscriptions

Annual membership subscriptions were due on the 1st January 2006. However, the number of members who are up to date with their subscriptions is very disappointing. Membership subscriptions account for a large proportion of the Society's income and help the Society to function and provide a good service to its members, so if you haven't already paid this

year's fees please do so as soon as possible. The current rates are:

Full - £200.00

Associates - £100.00

Methods of payment:

Standing Order (preferred method)

SBNS Bank details below:

Lloyds TSB, 114/116 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 3BD

Sort code: 30 00 03 Account: 00554357

If you currently pay by Standing Order please ensure you are paying the correct amount.

Cheque - made payable to the Society of British Neurological Surgeons and sent to the SBNS Office.

Credit Card - please contact the office for a form

RESULTS OF BALLOTS

I am pleased to announce the results of the recent ballots: Mr Neil Kitchen from Kings College Hospital has been appointed Honorary Treasurer, Mr James Palmer from Plymouth is the new 2nd Honorary Secretary and Mr William Harkness and Mr Nihal Gurusinghe are the two new Council Members.

Mr N Kitchen - The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery.



'I am honoured to be taking over as Treasurer of the Society after Tony Bell's 4 years excellent stewardship which has seen the society's financial position strengthened year on year. There are challenging times ahead with our move to Charity status and maintaining income from our meetings and subscriptions. I look forward to working responsibly in maintaining financial governance for the SBNS over the next 4 years.'

Mr J Palmer - Derriford Hospital, Plymouth



One of James' main roles as the 2nd Hon. Secretary will be to oversee the central organisation of the biannual scientific meetings and if the success of the Clinical Neurosciences 2005 held in Torquay is anything to go by he is the ideal man for the job. James will also be leading the bid on behalf of the SBNS for the 2017 World Congress. Meetings Secretary will not be his only role within the Society and his vast neurosurgical experience and his current roles as: Assistant Medical Director, WFNS Ethics and Medico-legal & Awards Committee, EANS Examinations Committee, UK representative UEMS, SBNS Workforce and Unit Infrastructure Committee & Informatics Committee, means he will be a great asset to both Council and the SBNS members.

Future SBNS Scientific Meeting Dates

Spring 2007 - Spring 2007 - 26-28 April hosted by Charing Cross Hospital

Autumn 2007 - 2-7 September 2007

(Joint with EANS), Glasgow

Spring 2008 - 16-18 April 2008, Liverpool

Autumn 2008 - Nottingham

Dates for your Diary

UK Meetings and Conferences

6-7 September 2006

INVOLVE Conference

Venue: University of Hertfordshire

<http://www.profbriefings.co.uk/involve2006/>

Email: Helen Hayes hhayes@invo.org.uk

28-29 September 2006

European Association of Neurological Surgeons Research Course

"The Methodology of Research and Publication"

Venue: Cambridge

Email: Mr P Hutchinson pjah2@cam.ac.uk

4-6 October 2006

Association of British Neurologists Autumn Meeting

Venue: Royal College of Physicians, London

Ms Sam Cooper - Confab Consulting

Tel: +44 (0) 208 906 7778

Email: sam@confab-consulting.co.uk

19-20 October 2006

Controversies in Neurosurgery Symposium

Venue: The Compleat Angler - Marlow,

Buckinghamshire

For further information please contact Aynsley Pix

or Rachel Kime, Aesculap Academia

Tel: 0114 225 9034/5

Email: academia@bbraun.com

19-21 October 2006

Joint Meeting between The Neuromodulation Society of UK and Ireland (NSUKI) & The Irish Pain Society

Venue: Kingsly Hotel, Cork, Republic of Ireland

For Further details contact: Busola Oguntula,

Executive Secretary, NS(UKI)

Tel: +44 20 7631 8894 or

Email: Neuromodulation@aagbi.org

30-31 October 2006

British Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery Group Meeting

Venue: Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow

For further details please contact: Laurence Dunn,

Consultant Neurosurgeon

E-mail: l.dunn@clinmed.gla.ac.uk

10-11 November 2006

British Cervical Spine Society Glasgow Meeting

Venue: Beardmore Hotel, Clydebank

For further details please contact:

Helen.Wilson@sgh.scot.nhs.uk

28 November 2006

The Trauma Audit & Research Network (TARN)

Conference

Venue: Churchill House, London

Tel: 00 44 (0)161 206 4397 Email: tarn@tarn.ac.uk

www.tarn.ac.uk

30 November 2006

Royal Society of Medicine

New Developments in Research and Treatment of Brain Tumours

For further details please visit:

<http://www.rsm.ac.uk>

International Conferences

31 Aug - 2 Sep 2006

Monitoring Severely Head Injured Patients:

Implications for Therapies and Outcomes

Venue: Tampere, Finland

<http://www.pshp.fi/koulutus/valtakunnallinen.php>

E-mail: Elina.Pitkakangas@pshp.fi

7-9 September 2006

International Workshop on Neurofibromatosis

Type 2 : State of the Art - Paris

<http://nf2-workshop.inserm-u674.net/>

14-17 September 2006

7th Congress of the European Association for

Neurooncology (EANO) - Vienna, Austria

<http://www.medacad.org/eano2006/>

28-29 September 2006

European Association of Neurological Surgeons

Research Course

"The Methodology of Research and Publication"

Venue: Cambridge

Tel: +44(0)1223336946 Fax: +44(0)1223216926

Email: pjah2@cam.ac.uk

16-20 October 2006

International Postgraduate Programme

"Hands on course Sulci, Gyri and Ventricles"

Venue: University of Minho, Braga, Portugal

For further information

Email: Sónia.Cruz.sec-pg@ecsau.de.uminho.pt

www.ecsau.de.uminho.pt/postgrad

5-8 November 2006

3rd International Microneurosurgical Anatomy Symposium

Venue: Kemer Resort Hotel, Antalya, Turkey

For more information and online registration:

www.isma2006.org - Email: info@isma2006.org

21-25 November 2006

Annual Scientific Meeting of Indonesian Society of Neurological Surgeons

To be held in conjunction with the WFNS Course

Venue: Bali International Convention Centre

(BICC), Bali, Indonesia

Email: indons@pharma-pro.com

Neurosurgery Courses 2006



The Royal College of Surgeons of England

Core Skills in Neurosurgery - 25-27 October 2006

A hands-on cadaveric workshop for post-MRCS BSTs and HSTs 1 to teach the anatomy and principles of basic Neurosurgical approaches

Endoscope Assisted Keyhole Microneurosurgery - 16-17 November 2006

Practical skills on cadavers course, with a high tutor to participant ratio. It is supported by lectures and tutorials and aimed at HST's 4-6 and consultants in neurosurgery.

Intercranial and Spinal Anatomy for Neurosurgeons - A range of courses aimed at HSTS

Neurological Anatomy -19-21 February 2007

A hands-on cadaveric dissection and lecture based course emphasising tract and vascular anatomy

Neuroradiology - 22 February 2007

Lectures and tutorials covering radiological intracranial and spinal anatomy

Approaches for Intracranial Surgery 23 February 2007

A lecture and demonstration based course covering applied anatomy

For further details please contact:

The Raven Department of Education

The Royal College of Surgeons of England

35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3PE

Tel: 020 7869 6341

Fax: 020 7869 6329

Email: neurosurgery@rcseng.ac.uk

Web: www.rcseng.ac.uk

Specialist Library for Surgery, Theatres & Anaesthesia - now LIVE

'Specialist Libraries' are an integral part of the National Library for Health, a library and information service for the NHS that aims to deliver a range of services to support patient care, staff development and research. On 30th June 2006 the Specialist Library for Surgery, Theatres and Anaesthesia (www.library.nhs.uk/theatres), an easily accessible and up-to-date collection of evidence-based guidance, practical websites and patient information, was made available from the NLH Site. The Library is a work in progress, and its future development and value depend on feedback from its users. The testing phase starts now - if you have any comments about the site or suggestions for resources please email us at speclib@rcseng.ac.uk or visit the website at <http://theatreslibrary.blogspot.com/> to post your ideas.

The Newsletter is your chance to communicate with your SBNS Colleagues and is also a vehicle for any announcements of interest to Society members. This is your newsletter and contributions are welcome for the next issue - please contact:
Suzanne Murray, SBNS Administrator
Society of British Neurological Surgeons
35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 3PE
Tel: +44 020 7869 6892 Fax: +44 020 7869 6890
e-mail: admin@sbns.freereserve.co.uk

Message from the Honorary Secretary Philip van Hille Continued...

The Society, will in the late summer and autumn, again be involved in supporting members in their application for **Clinical Excellence Awards**. I will be giving administrative support to the ACCEA committee. We are conscious there are a number of colleagues who have made major contributions to neurosurgery that have not yet been recognised. Please give this some thought and ensure that all deserving cases can be considered, perhaps by nomination through the ULO's. The application process must start with the individual and local Trust support. The Society and the Colleges, on our recommendations, are keen to support them.

I'm sure the members would join me in wishing James well and thank him for his fine leadership of the Society, progressing the development and implementation of the new training process under MMC, achieving charitable status and company registration, and developing the concept of the Brain Centre. I look forward to John Pickard's term of office as President and working with him.

Philip van Hille
Honorary Secretary

SBNS Website – www.sbns.org.uk

The SBNS website was launched at the Royal Free SBNS meeting in April. For those that have not yet visited the website you will find it at www.sbns.org.uk

Since its launch the website has been used successfully for the Safe Neurosurgery conference registration as well as SBNS abstract submission and marking.

We are nearly there with the ability to take credit cards through the website. Once this has been set up then we will be in a good position to fully support conference registration. You will also have the option of paying your membership subscription with a credit card.

The seamless (single login) link to the logbook is planned and the content is evolving all the time. We will concentrate on getting the discussion boards running properly over the next few months.

Finally, a plea ... the website e-mail systems do not work unless you have logged on at least once. **Please log on at least once otherwise as the SBNS moves towards electronic communication you risk not being kept informed.**

Thank you – any suggestions or comments about the website are welcomed.

Simon Thomson
SBNS Website Committee

The SBNS Celebrates its 80th Anniversary



Sir Charles Ballance

This year the Society celebrates its 80th Anniversary. It was founded in 1926, which makes it the second oldest Neurosurgical Society in the World, after the Society of Neurological Surgeons in America, which dates from 1920. Geoffrey Jefferson, later Professor of Neurosurgery at Manchester, was the main architect of the Society, the idea of which resulted from discussions between himself, Sir Charles Ballance, Sir Percy Sargent,

Wilfred Trotter, Bathe Rawling, Donald Armour, James Learmonth and Norman Dott. The idea was to form "a small neurological surgical group which would be as much a small scientific club as a formal society".

The Society was created at a meeting and dinner at the Athenaeum Club, London, given by Sir Ballance on Thursday 2 December 1926. Sir Ballance was the first President of the Society.

The earliest copy of the constitution and by-laws was dated from 1938. Geoffrey Jefferson had drawn up the original, basing it on the constitutions of the Neurosurgical Society of America and the British Orthopaedic Association. The initial rules defined the types of membership – Full, Emeritus, Honorary and Associate. The number of Full members was to 15 (the Society currently has 219 Full members and just over 100 Associate members) and laid down that there should be two scientific meetings a year; autumn and spring, and that there should be foreign meetings. Thereafter meetings continued to be held twice yearly (apart from the war years) and took the same form, starting with an operative demonstration followed by papers or cases.

The initial subscription was 1 guinea, a British gold coin with a nominal value of twenty-one shillings – £1.05p. The current Full subscription rate is £200 – I am not sure if this is in line with inflation!

The first SBNS Scientific Meeting was held at Queens Square on 3rd December 1926 and was attended by 13 of the 14 founding members. At this meeting Sir Percy Sargent removed a portion of a pituitary adamantinoma (craniopharyngioma) and explored what was thought pre-operatively to be a parietal endothelioma (meningioma) but the skull was very thick and no tumour was found. Donald Armour carried out a cordotomy for gastric crises and tabes, the cord being split in the midline. The patient died within days. Armour described the case in his Lettsonian lecture published in the Lancet. The idea of the operation had been suggested to him by Godwin Greenfield, the great neuropathologist, but Armour remarks that perhaps it was not a good idea to do such an operation for the first time in these circumstances. He also explored the cerebellopontine angle for a suspected neurofibroma, but again, the exploration was negative. There was a luncheon at the Holborn Restaurant.

The next spring meeting, hosted by Charing Cross Hospital in April 2007 will mark the Society's 150 scientific meeting so it is one not to miss.

On July 7th the SBNS Council, and former SBNS Presidents held a celebratory dinner to mark the 80th Anniversary (not funded by the SBNS) at the Athenaeum Club. A good time was had by all and they are all looking forward to 100th Anniversary in 2026!

Blue Plaque for Sir Victor Horsley

Michael Powell has applied to the English Heritage for a Blue Plaque for Sir Victor Horsley's first major residence in Gower Street, London.

Sir Victor Horsley would celebrate his 150th birthday next year. Whereas he is not the first UK surgeon to perform brain surgery, that was Macewen in Glasgow, nevertheless, he was unquestionably the first to be appointed to a hospital post to operate on neurological conditions in 1886.

By the turn of the century he had accumulated an astonishing number of neurosurgical firsts as well as a huge personal series of brain operations with surprising success. He had also been largely instrumental in ridding the UK of Rabies and had made major advances in experimental studies in neuroanatomy, neurophysiology and in endocrinology.

The SBNS was founded by a number of his friends and pupils and his oldest and most faithful friend, Ballance, was our first president. We will keep you posted as to whether the plaque is granted.

SBNS Spring Meeting 5–7 April 2006 at the Royal College of Surgeons, London (Hosted by the Royal Free Hospital)



A copy of the group photograph taken at the meeting can be downloaded from the SBNS website or a hard copy purchased from the SBNS Office.

Mr Maurice-Williams and his colleagues from the Royal Free Hospital in London hosted the Spring SBNS Meeting at the Royal College of Surgeons,

England. The meeting was a great success thanks to all their hard work and effort; 164 delegates registered, 64 abstracts were presented and there were 30 Exhibitor Stands.

The Trainees Workshop held on the Wednesday morning was also well attended, with lectures from prominent neurosurgeons and a Spinal Instrumentation Workshop sponsored by Depuy.

I would like to thank all the Chairpersons who not only did an excellent job in chairing their sessions but also scored the presentations. Professor David Mendelow, a member of the SBNS Academic Committee, also performed the mammoth task of attending and scoring all the sessions, including the posters. The combined scores resulted in Mr T Byrnes from St George's University of London winning the 'Codman Prize' for the best Oral Presentation for his abstract entitled:

DTI and tractography can predict tumour histology

And Mr Howarth from Addenbrookes Hospital was the winner of the 'Link Poster Prize' for his poster entitled:

The forgotten side: in-vivo assessment of inflammatory atheroma burden on the contralateral side to symptomatic carotid stenosis using high resolution USPIO-enhanced MR imaging

All the abstracts presented will be published in the British Journal of Neurosurgery and will also be available on the SBNS website.



Mr T Byrnes



Mr S Howarth

They will both be presented with a certificate at the Gala dinner at the Autumn SBNS Meeting in September 2006. Mr Byrnes will go head-to-head with the winner of the best oral presentation from the Autumn Meeting to find the best oral presentation of 2006 and the Medtronic Travel Bursary of £1,500.

The Gala dinner was held at the atmospheric Old Hall in Lincoln's Inn where guests were treated to delicious food, excellent wines and a chance to socialise with friends and colleagues.

A big 'Thank you' goes to everyone involved in making the meeting such a success.

Annual Safe Neurosurgery Conference 30 May 2006 at Royal College of Surgeons, London

The 7th Safe Neurosurgery Conference was held on 30th May 2006 at the Royal College of Surgeons, England. The meeting was attended by 60 delegates – 35 Consultant Neurosurgeons, 5 Trainees, 9 Neuroscience Managers and 5 Commissioners. A wide range of topics were on the agenda for information and debate and a report of the meeting and copies of the presentations are available to SBNS members via the SBNS website. <http://www.sbns.org.uk/site/1415/default.aspx>

Next year's conference will be renamed to 'Future of Neurosurgery UK' and is booked for 29th June 2007 at the Royal College in London. The lecture room is to be changed hopefully improving the ambient temperature and acoustics. The meeting is open to all members, as well as Clinical and Medical Directors, Trust Chief Executives, Neuroscience Managers and Commissioners. Topics for discussion will be the Interface with Neuro-Rehabilitation, Training issues under MMC, Neurosurgical Team Working, Academic Neurosurgery, Specialist Commissioning arrangements and the impact of NICE Guidance. However further suggestions are welcomed – please contact Suzanne at the SBNS Office or the Hon Sec. Please visit the SBNS website for further details nearer the date.

SBNS Autumn Meeting 6–8 September 2006 at the Low Hall Hotel, Lake Windermere (Hosted by the Neurosurgical Unit of the Lancashire Teaching Hospital, Preston)



The SBNS Autumn meeting, which is hosted by our colleagues at the Neurosurgical Unit of The Lancashire Teaching Hospital, Preston, will be held in the picturesque Lake District, on the shores of Lake Windermere, with splendid views across the Lake to the Langdale Pikes. Details regarding the preliminary programme, registration, accommodation etc. are available on the website under 'Conferences'.

The Trainee Workshop will take place on Wednesday morning and has been organised in conjunction with the BNTA and the Hosts and is free to SBNS members. The Academic programme will be enhanced by two lectures from, Prof. D T Thomas from the National Hospital, London and Prof. R Fahlbusch from Hanover, Germany and an interactive debate session.

There will also be a symposium on Wednesday, 5.30 – 6.30 pm followed by the Welcome Reception which will take place at the Low Hall Hotel 7 pm to 9 pm and will give everyone the opportunity to meet up with fellow colleagues – drinks and canapés will be provided.

The SBNS Business meeting will take place on Thursday afternoon 3.30pm to 5.30pm and all Full members are encouraged to attend. Professor John Pickard will be inaugurated as President at this meeting. The BNTA will also hold their business meeting during this session.



Holker Hall – Windermere

The Gala dinner will be held in Holker Hall, which is situated in exceptionally beautiful countryside with gardens merging into parkland, with hills on one side and the expanse of Morecambe Bay on the other. It is over 400 years old and is the family home of Lord and Lady Cavendish. Places are limited so please book early.

The Academic programme will end on Friday after lunch, which will give delegates the opportunity to explore the beautiful countryside or play a round of golf at Windermere Golf Club, www.windermeregolfclub.net. There is a competition and the SBNS Golf Cup is up for grabs!

The Conference is once again organised by Karen Williams and her team at Project Planning International who did an excellent job at the Belfast, Manchester and London Meetings. If you have any queries regarding the conference please contact her at the address below or me at the SBNS office.

Conference Organiser: Karen Williams, Project Planning International, Montalto Estate, Spa Road, Ballynahinch Co. Down
Tel +44(0)28 9756 1993 Fax: +44(0)28 9756 5073
Email: karen@project-planning.com

I would like to thank all those who submitted abstracts for this meeting and I hope you found submission via the website convenient and easy to use. As usual I will be manning the SBNS Stand throughout the meeting so if you have any queries or just want to say 'Hello' please visit the stand.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Autumn Meeting.

Suzanne Murray
SBNS Administrator

Mr W Harkness – Great Ormond Street, London



William Harkness will be a great asset to the SBNS Council. He is the Clinical Lead for Neurosciences, has good management skills, experience of committee work, and has acted as an SBNS Advisor to NICE as well as being a Specialist Advisor to the ILAE working party in paediatric epilepsy surgery (and he has a nice hat!).

Mr N Gurusinghe – Royal Preston Hospital



Nihal Gurusinghe is no stranger to the SBNS Council. He served the Society as Honorary Secretary for 4 years 2000-2004 and now wishes to contribute further. His concern and dedication for high standards of patient care, training, the workload of neurosurgeons, National targets and the Consultant Contract will be invaluable to Council.

Mrs Sue Besser – Lay Council Member



I am also pleased to announce the appointment of a Lay member to the SBNS Council, Mrs Sue Besser. The SBNS were seeking a lay member to join the SBNS Council so that they could contribute to SBNS documents and initiating debate by bringing to the attention of the Council issues of interest and concern to patients/general public. Sue Besser was the ideal candidate as she has vast experience on various committees during her career and is a member of the Royal College of Surgeons Patient Liaison Group, the inter-collegiate MRCS Communications Skills Group, the RCS Internal QA Group, the Quality Assurance and Inspection Standing Committee, and the RCS Advisory Panel. She also represented the Patient Liaison Group at the GMC for several years and since 2005 has been a member of the Anatomy Steering Group at the RCS.

Forthcoming Ballots

As a result of the changes to the new constitution, we require two additional members of Council and a call for nominations has been sent out to Full members. The newly elected members will take up office in October 2006.

RCS England – New Vice President



Ms Anne Moore from Derriford Hospital, Plymouth, was appointed as Senior Vice President to the Royal College of Surgeons of England in April 2006 and takes up office on 13th July 2006. Her main role will be to look after the Professional Affairs side of the College business, i.e. Professional Standards, Education etc. Well done and congratulations!

Message from the Honorary Secretary Philip van Hille

It is with some relief that I find myself almost half way through my term as Honorary Secretary of the Society. Although onerous this has been a hugely enjoyable position and I am grateful for the support and tolerance James Steers, as President has shown me as I became familiar with the post. I am delighted James Palmer has been appointed as Second Secretary and already he has making real contributions in planning and developing the Scientific Meetings. He is also leading a bid to host the WFNS Congress in London in 2017 along with his bid team.

I am also grateful to all the **Unit Liaison Officers**, who are invaluable in distributing Society information to the wider membership, for their communications and feedback. I am very conscious that communication can always be improved, but appreciate that the demands made on all our times are excessive. Any suggestions as to ways of improving this, particularly as the role of the Society is becoming increasingly important, as James has outlined, would be appreciated.

The Safe Neurosurgery Conference is a forum to discuss business matters, along with Commissioners and Neuroscience Managers. This is open to all Society members. The meeting is to be re-branded as **Future of Neurosurgery UK** to reflect the change of emphasis and the relevance to all providers of neurosurgical services. Your attendance at the next meeting on 29th June 2007 is sought.

The activities of the **CPD committee** are largely to support the membership in their annual appraisal and revalidation processes. Documented evidence of operative workload and continued medical education activities in its many guises form the basis of this. The FHI logbook, accessed through the Society's website, has the facility to record all this. Simon Thomson has made a huge contribution in developing this and almost all trainees use this facility. Although over a hundred consultants are registered, very few actually log activity. I would encourage you all to familiarise yourself with this and appreciate its value. The 360-degree appraisal process although viewed by many with understandable apprehension will become increasingly used. Whilst most Trusts will have their own forms the CPD committee are developing a Neurosurgical specific form that members may find more useful. This will be posted on the website when completed.

Finally, along with the SAC, the committee are developing criteria and standards for pre and post CCT subspecialty fellowships as well as maintaining evidence of subspecialty expertise. These criteria are already being demanded by NICE in the development of cancer services provision.

David Peterson, who is hosting the **Spring Meeting of the Society** on behalf of the Caring Cross Hospital, has requested that the Society banquet returns to the Friday evening on this occasion to allow a suitable venue to celebrate the 150th meeting of the Society. Council has agreed to this and the meeting will therefore run from Thursday midday to Saturday midday, using the same format as recent meetings, but advanced by 24 hours. Please note these changes and await his announcements.

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