

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society of Orthopaedic Medicine took place at the Hilton London Metropole on Saturday 2 December 2006 at 12.50

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from William Ennes, Meg Gilbert, Paul Hattam, Jill Kerr, Alison Smeatham and Gordon Smith.

2. **President's address**

Richard Ellis congratulated the SOM on another successful year, in particular on progress regarding the MSc.

Richard also made reference to the opportunities presented by the Musculoskeletal Framework for those who work in orthopaedic medicine as well as those offered by increased use of ultrasound to aid diagnosis of the soft tissue lesion

Keith Bush was welcomed as the incoming President.

Richard was thanked for his time and support as President of the SOM and was presented with a small gift of appreciation.

3. **Minutes of the previous AGM held on 3 December 2005**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.

4. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

5. **Proposed amendment to the Memorandum and Articles of Association**

Resolution 1 - amendment to Memorandum and Articles of Association

It is proposed that sub-clause 7 (2) of the Articles of Association of the Society should be amended to allow any Council-approved individuals to mark the SOM membership exam papers by deleting the word 'fellows' in the following text:

"Provided that in this clause the expression "The Society's course of tuition and examination for members means a course of tuition on Orthopaedic Medicine taught over a period of time by the Fellows of the Society of Orthopaedic Medicine consisting of practical and

theoretical study, as approved by the Education Committee and followed by an examination, the whole thing being set and marked by examiners who are (Fellows) approved by the Council of the Society as examiners"

Proxy votes had been received with 2 votes in favour of resolution 1.

The resolution was put to the vote at the meeting, resulting in a unanimous vote **in favour of** the resolution. The motion was therefore carried.

6. **Secretary's report**

Fiona Ottewell reported to the AGM on the following:

- Thanks were extended to all who work tirelessly for the Society, The Chair David Knott; the Administrative Director Amanda Sherwood;; Newsletter Editor Meg Gilbert; Treasurer Anne-Marie Ainscough-Potts; Education Committee Chair Graham Hebenton; Research Committee Chair Angela Clough and to Richard Ellis for his continued support as President and Editor of the journal. Elaine Atkins and Emily Goodlad were also thanked for their help in organising this years splendid symposium.

- The year has seen a strong focus on consolidating our links with universities to support our underlying mission; that of education orthopaedic medicine. Meg Gilbert and Elaine Atkins were thanked for their sterling efforts in this direction and were congratulated on the success of the Programmes at Teesside and at Middlesex Universities.

- The SOM has also consolidated links with the University of Hull by initiating the SOM research post. Angela Clough was thanked for her continued support with this initiative and also Research Fellow, Debbie Cox, for her evidence-based practice reports which have been warmly received.

- Opening up the society's membership to other disciplines is still under review following the questionnaire sent to members earlier in the year.

- Amanda Sherwood has indicated that she will be retiring from the SOM within the next year and plans are underway to safeguard the future administration for the organisation. A risk assessment has been undertaken for the organisation and a strategy is in place to ensure smooth succession. Amanda will stay with us for a while in a consultative capacity.

- Membership administration will be outsourced as part of the future administration strategy and Sue Cottrell was thanked for her tireless commitment to the SOM for decades. Sue was presented with a gift from the organisation in recognition of her work and loyalty over the years.

7. **Treasurer's report**

The 2005/06 Statement of Accounts was available to members on-line prior to the meeting.

Anne-Marie Ainscough-Potts reported that the organisation had seen another successful year financially, with a profit of £92,133. The increase in profits is mainly due to an increase in course numbers.

A reserves policy has been undertaken in line with Charity Commission guidelines and reserves approved in order to safeguard the future of the organisation.

The investment portfolio is also performing well.

Future budgetary considerations will include vulnerability for the organisation due to reduced NHS funding, increased administration costs and funding the development of the Journal.

8. **Education report**

Graham Heberton reported on the SOM Education developments throughout the year:

- The Education Committee has met 3 times during 2006.
- The highlight of the educational year was the MSC in Orthopaedic Medicine passing through the validation. Elaine Atkins and the team of Angela Clough, Jill Kerr, Paul Hattam, Emily Goodlad, Amanda Sherwood and Karen Middleton were thanked for their hard work in achieving this.
- The teaching year has been successful with the SOM Fellows continuing to be committed to achieving the highest standards of professionalism in presenting the theory and practice of orthopaedic medicine.
- The Course Manual and Handbook updates are now complete and Elaine Atkins was thanked for all the effort, skill and time she has put in to finishing this project. Margaret Rees, Jill Kerr and Emily Goodlad were also acknowledged for their input.
- In 2006 there have been 34 modules, with a total of 900 students, 120 of which passed the membership exam.
- Each year the Saunders prize (named in recognition of the work of Stephanie Saunders in the field of orthopaedic medicine) is awarded to the highest scoring medical practitioner and physiotherapist in the membership examinations. This year the prizes were awarded to Dr Heather Montague and Damian Honey.
- 5 overseas courses were held in 2006 – 3 in Portugal with 96 participants and 2 in Italy with 49 participants
- An Advanced module also took place in 2006 with 10 participants.
- Two one day GP seminars were organised this year in Essex and Edinburgh and were very well received.

- The injection module continues to be hugely popular. Two courses took place this year with 50 participants. Paul Hattam has developed a new programme timetabling structure for next year, which will allow future units to run back to back in 5 day blocks. Paul together with fellow course principal, Dr David Knott were joined by Gordon Smith and Alison Smeatham as teachers this year and now Dr Bob Smith has also joined the IT teaching team, which increases the Doctor involvement within the course. Paul and the team were thanked for all the time and dedication in maintaining such a high quality course.
- The Fellowship programme is an area that is crucial to the future of the SOM. With this importance in mind the education committee has been actively working on policies and future strategy in this area. Angela Clough has continued her role on overseeing and developing the programme and was thanked for her commitment and enthusiastic approach to the task.
- Debbie Cox was welcomed as the SOM's new Research Fellow. Once again this is an area which is vital to the development and future standing of the SOM. This year Debbie has compiled and circulated several comprehensive reports and was thanked for her commitment to the role.
- Collaboration continues with ACPOM and OCPMP
- The annual Teachers Study Day was held on 1 December and an informative and enjoyable day was had by all. Jill Kerr was congratulated and thanked for her hard work in organisation the day.
- Thanks were extended to Dr Richard Ellis, the Society's President, for his continuing support of the Society and its educational aims; Gill Jordan, the external examiner, for monitoring our courses and giving us invaluable feedback on the educational quality of them; Hazel Townsley, the course administrator, for her commitment throughout the year and the magnificent support she provides and Amanda Sherwood whose expertise and commitment to this post is truly incredible.

9. Election of Council

David Knott and Emily Goodlad are due to retire from Council, but are willing to stand for re-election. Karen Flynn has resigned from Council. A nomination had been received from Paul Hattam who is a teaching fellow. Anne-Marie Ainscough-Potts had indicated that she would be willing to stay on Council as Honorary Treasurer, thereby releasing one position on Council for a teaching fellow member.

Proposal: to re-elect David Knott and Emily Goodlad and elect Paul Hattam onto Council

Proposed by: Elaine Atkins
Seconded by: Ramesh Vaswani

The proposal was carried unanimously.

10. **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is to be confirmed.