



BASK – January 2015

NEWSLETTER TO BASK MEMBERSHIP

INTRODUCTION

First of all may I take this opportunity to introduce myself to you all as your new BASK president and wish you all a very happy and prosperous new year. I consider it a great honour and privilege to have been invited to be president and I will do my very best to serve the interests of BASK and its members for the next 2 years.

Simon Donell completed his term of office in September last year and formally handed over the presidential reigns to me at the BOA in Brighton. We owe many thanks to him for his leadership and enthusiasm over the last 2 years. He remains on the executive committee as immediate past president and we will still rely on him for his wise advice and counsel.

For those of you who I have not met before, I work in the Mersey Deanery on the Wirral at Arrowe Park and Clatterbridge Hospitals. I have been a member of BASK since my Senior Registrar days on the North West training programme and did my overseas knee fellowship with John Bartlett in Melbourne Australia. I have been involved with the BASK executive in various roles for the last 8 years or so. The Treasurer's position which I have vacated has now been filled by Leela Biant, who works in Edinburgh and I am sure she will do a fine job administering the BASK finances during her term of office. Thanks to the success of our Spring meetings and the generous support of industry BASK remains in a strong and healthy financial position.

The other members of the Executive team are as follows:

Colin Esler	Leicester	Secretary
Leela Biant	Edinburgh	Treasurer
Simon Donell	Norwich	Immediate past President
Andrew Price	Oxford	Research
Andrew Porteous	Bristol	Education
David Johnson	Stockport	Web Master
Sean O'Leary	Reading	Registries
Caroline Hing	London	Editor of Knee Journal
Sanjeev Anand	Teeside	Member at Large
Will Jackson	Oxford	Early Years Consultant
Adil Ajuied	London	Early Years Consultant

We are all here to serve you and promote learning, education and research into all aspects of matters related to the knee joint.

Positions on the BASK Executive come up on a regular basis and are all advertised. We encourage application from the BASK membership.

BASK SPRING MEETING TELFORD 10 -11 March 2015

The preparation for our spring meeting in Telford is well advanced and we owe a great deal of gratitude to Hazel Choules who is our events manager. The venue is a huge purpose built conference centre with easy road and rail access. In addition there is plenty of local parking and there are hotels on the doorstep. We hope that as many of you as possible will attend, for what we think will be one of our biggest and most successful meetings to date.

This spring we are delighted to welcome a small delegation of German knee surgeons to our annual congress in Telford. Herman Mayr will be our Lorden Trickey guest lecturer and speak on "The Stiff Knee". BASK have also provided funding for two German trainees to come and present papers at the meeting and in addition we are inviting three other members of the German Knee Society to attend. Surprisingly the German Knee Society is in its infancy and this small delegation is keen to come and see how we run our society and the spring meeting. I am sure you will all give our visitors a warm welcome when we meet at Telford in March.

For the first time we are running a mock medical negligence trial, similar to the one Peter Kay ran at the BHS recently. We have a team of lawyers and expert witnesses and a judge. Many of us are involved with medico legal work and we hope this experiment will be popular and generate interest. We also have a registry session, a mini debate on microfracture in addition to the free paper sessions.

The course dinner is at RAF Cosford. As is now customary there will be after dinner entertainment. We thought it was right to support our armed forces in this year commemorating the centenary of the outbreak of The Great War. Several of my relatives served in that conflict, some survived and others did not. It is right that we remember all who took part in that terrible period in history.

For those of you who golf, John Ireland has once again kindly arranged a game for us at Shifnal Golf Club on Monday 9 March, the day preceding the meeting. I hope as many golfers as possible among you will play. Lunch will be provided and tee times are from 12.10. There is also dinner afterwards.

OVERSEAS LINKS

BASK continues to develop links with other international knee societies and orthopaedic associations. For example, last autumn I was invited to New Delhi in India for the Annual ISKSAA (International Society for Knowledge for Surgeons on Arthroscopy and Arthroplasty) meeting. I was able to spend a day instructing basic arthroscopy techniques on cadaver specimens to a group of keen and enthusiastic trainees and then give several talks at a very well organised and interactive meeting. The president of ISKSAA is Pushpinder Bajaj, who masterminded the congress. He trained in the UK and I am sure many of you know him. Amongst many contributions, he performed a beautifully demonstrated live hamstring ACL reconstruction.

On the back of that meeting, BASK have agreed to fund two Indian trainees, nominated by ISKSAA, to visit the UK to attend our spring meeting, this year to be held in Telford. The two Indian trainees will have the opportunity of travelling in the UK for two weeks to visit hospitals of their choice.

ISKSAA have asked BASK to badge their courses which naturally we are happy to do. ESSKA and ISAKOS are already academic partners and we will join them in supporting and officially approving the academic standing of their meetings.

Furthermore, there will be opportunities for one or two BASK members to travel to India as faculty members on ISKSAA cadaver courses. More details to follow.

Lastly, ISKSAA have launched a new journal called JAJS (Journal of Arthroscopy and Joint Surgery). This is a review journal similar to JAAOS. We have been invited to put names forward for BASK members (including senior trainees) who may be interested in becoming members of their editorial board. Please contact Sanjeev Anand who is our link with ISKSAA.

On a different continent, a small group of BASK members flew out to the Portuguese Orthopaedic Society (SPOT) meeting held last autumn on the Algarve. We gave talks on ODEP for Knees, Beyond Compliance, patello-femoral disorders, knee arthritis and patient selection for total knee replacement. These were instructional course lectures and seemed well received by the local delegates. I expect that BASK will continue to receive similar invitations from other international societies to participate at similar events.

TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIPS

It is current BASK policy to award two travelling Fellowship each year to the value of £2,500. These will be advertised shortly on the BASK website. Applications are invited from Specialist Registrars (years 5 +), or consultants in the first 5 years of appointment.

Last year we had four high quality applicants and the executive decided to award travelling fellowships to all four applicants, thus demonstrating our commitment towards assisting BASK members to travel and learn new techniques and philosophies at other centres, often overseas. The fellowship holders will report of their travels in Telford. This year we will revert again to two travelling Fellowships.

However, in addition and in order to build our links with the Indian subcontinent, we are specifically advertising a third fellowship to the value of £2,500 specifically to travel to India. We have developed links with Pushpinder Bajaj who is president of ISKSAA. The successful applicant will attend the annual ISKSAA meeting, which will be held in Coimbatore later in the year and then have the opportunity to visit a number of centres. If any of you are interested in applying please liaise with Sanjeev Anand who will provide the details. This fellowship will be advertised in the next few months.

PRIVATE PRACTICE

Life has been made more difficult for many of us in the last few years since one or two of the large private medical insurers (PMIs) decided unilaterally, without discussion and at short notice to decrease the benefit maxima payable for private knee surgeries. The background behind this is well known to many of you but basically some of the PMIs have embarked on a campaign to divide and rule. The reimbursement levels paid to newly appointed surgeons are in many cases substantially less than in the early 1990s which is when I started consultant practice. Many of us feel that this is not a sustainable state of affairs, bearing in mind the rapidly increasing costs and overheads of running a private office. We owe a great deal of thanks to Geoffrey Glazer, the Chairman of FIPO who are appealing the recent decision of the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) which did not identify an adverse effect on competition in relation to insurers. Our thanks also to Robin Allum, one of our past presidents who now sits on the FIPO committee.

We circulated a newsletter to you all in October 2014 from FIPO explaining the current state of play in regards to the appeal to the competition appeals tribunal (CAT), against the CMA report.

BASK have contributed £10,000 to help fund the considerable legal costs involved in mounting this appeal and we are prepared to provide further funds to assist this worthy cause if required. The appeals tribunal is scheduled to hear the case in January and Geoffrey Glazer has promised to write to us to keep us updated on the latest developments. FIPO are specifically appealing against the fee information remedy.

In the meantime the private medical insurers appear to have successfully divided orthopaedic consultants into three main category's a) "premier consultants" who appear to receive remuneration at the lowest rate b) consultants who receive remuneration at the high / intermediate rate and lastly c) those of us who have declined from having to agree fees with the private medical insurers and who are labelled as "non fee assured". The PMIs are taking away the referral process from GPs and effectively in some cases directing patients to the cheapest bidder. BASK still maintain that the best person to decide who the patient is referred to in secondary care should be the GP. The PMIs appear to be following the American model of managed care and we have been warned of the dangers of this concept by our North American colleagues.

Unfortunately the level of the remuneration in private practice is sometimes hardly any better than you receive for doing NHS work in the private sector taking into account the considerable overhead costs of running a private practice, not least of which having medical indemnity. It is not my place to advise you what course of action to take if you are approached by PMI's but clearly whatever the decision there are risks involved for us all.

REGISTRIES

BASK remains fully supportive of the several registries now relevant to knee practice and the largest of these of course is the National Joint Registry which recently released its 10th Annual Report. There are no some very interesting and valuable data coming out of the largest arthroplasty register in the world and BASK are pleased to note that section of knee outcomes is fuller and more comprehensive than has been in the past. The NJR we feel, has always been somewhat biased to hip data but following lobbying from the BASK Executive we are pleased to see the trend changing.

Sean O'Leary has done sterling work in setting up the National Ligament Registry (NLR) many of us have now registered our interest and the database of ligament reconstructions is growing steadily. Sean will update us at our spring meeting in Telford. Sean has a seat on the Executive and represents BASK on the BOA Quality Outcomes Committee. We also owe a great deal of thanks to Adrian Wilson and his colleagues in Basingstoke for starting the knee osteotomy registry and that is in its infancy. Adrian will have a slot at the Telford Meeting to update us all. BASK have provided significant funding to both of these registries as can be seen in the Treasurer's annual report.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Liverpool 15 – 18 September 2015 BOA Congress

BASK have been asked to provide some instructional course lectures. This is a fine venue and we hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Liverpool 30th – 31 March 2016 BASK Spring meeting.

I am delighted to announce that Dr Al Burstein has accepted my invitation to be our guest speaker. He is a true giant of the orthopaedic world. I have met him recently and he speaks beautifully on matters relating to the prosthetic knee joint. I hope his presence will encourage your attendance at the meeting.

I am planning our customary pre-conference golf match at Hoylake (Royal Liverpool Golf Club) on 29th March and I hope that will encourage the golfers among you to attend and play on one of the finest championship links in the world.

Please put those dates in your diary.

Take care all of you and I hope to see as many of you as possible in Telford.

Best Regards

Richard Parkinson

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