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# XXVth FIMS World Congress of Sports Medicine

## Pheidippides goes to Athens

After the drama of Amsterdam, Pheidippides was happy to return quietly to his spiritual homeland for his seventh FIMS World Congress in three decades. Man's follies are addictive and this cyclical migration is a compulsive soap opera about the vicissitudes of fate as they strike a little Cinderella, poor but idealistic, with big ideas. At last, Athens signalled an up-turn in FIMS' fortunes.

Congress brings excitement, new friends and foes, fear of peers, the thrill of the chase for new ideas, the stereotype parade. Are physiologists all muesli-munching close-cropped blonds in powder-blue suits who get up to run before Pheidippides gets to bed? Are Americans happy, or merely successful as they twitch, tense tenured tenacious tight-scheduled, pursuing only purposeful preplanned pleasures? Are sad young Germans old before their time, so long stooped in *Alter*-worship by the sheer weight of knowledge; a sort of Academic Progeria?

Expectations aroused by the modest promotion of this twenty-fifth celebration of our art and passion were fulfilled by the cosy arrangements in a costly corner of the Hilton's massive lounge. The little trade show hosted books, machines and the mineral replacement drinks so essential to the metabolic welfare of itinerant academics. At the far end, if you were punctual, you could queue for your daily single cup of coffee, uncluttered by pastries, and edge past the keener trade reps in your search for acquaintances. Otherwise there was always the three pound sandwich for sterling value.

A jolly and briefer than usual Opening Ceremony passed without drama with the assistance of all four translation channels in the lingua franca. This didn't detract from the haunting rhythms struck up for the folk dancers by clarinet, drum and strings. The sole social event for the masses, the Opening Reception, followed at the ample poolside where delegates pursued local-flavoured nibbles before immersion in customary rituals.

Back in the theatres, the programme showed more changes than a stripper and the non-appearance of many speakers further exposed a thinner than usual programme. Several chairmen broke the cardinal congress rule – "start late, or on time, but never early!", leaving lost souls to seek speakers long shot through. Leafing through the papyral economy of the abstract book, Pheidippides noted that its remarkable compression of four A4 abstracts to a single page leaves trees intact, eyes taxed and text encrypted.



Bitter mixes readily with sweet at the feast. One of the distinguished lecturers felt the need to detract from his own otherwise superb keynote speech with a plug for the I.O.C.'s pretentious new science prize ('will . . . consolidate the link between the world scientific community and the Olympic movement.'). Big men outgrow even their own boots and little men acquire great solemnity when seduced by mere association with this self-appointed cabal. Pheidippides had almost forgotten an old motto about taking part rather than winning.

Political antennae followed our other *raison d'être* – FIMS business. New young faces blended with older ones returned, some almost from beyond, in conspiratorial corner huddles as every sort of group, subgroup, committee and commission joined the fray. Even Pheidippides, seeking escape in a little epidermal gratification by the pool, caught the grinding monotones of a colleague earbashing a hapless newcomer on every facet of sports medicine politics through two solid sunsoaked hours. What, he pondered, drove us to these extremes of striving? Or even going to Greece to lobby at the American Embassy ('prior application essential for formal invitation for security purposes')?

The subterranean shambles in the Theatre Hesperides was the General Assembly, the dress rehearsal – witness a sartorial spectrum of quiet suits and loud shorts. This serves the same wind-letting purpose of such meetings round the world. An impressive array of people stand up and recite an impressive array of their achievements. Candidates for office insert themselves by means of mock-gravitas and ever-so-helpful points of information. We see the way the land lies, learn of a meeting of 200 sports physicians in Barbados and retire for the morrow without harm.

The quadrennial cabaret of the Council of Delegates is FIMS' parliament. Pheidippides was astonished to see no sign of the ancient ceremony of the purchase of the proxies as 64 voting members were enumerated from a membership of 106, now including Burkino Fassa and perhaps even Macao for a few

final moments of its history. Our chairman tried valiantly to emulate the resplendent scarlet shirts of the Copamede group but his cheek was trumped by the dramatic entry of the President's wife wearing a fine jacket of a similar hue in a notable gesture of solidarity. Officers reported, reports were debated, we got to 5.30pm with only two agenda items to go. But FIMS has no money and nobody really knows how it is to acquire enough for its ambitions, so discussions dragged on. It is clear that the Latins have set a fine example with their own fund-raising and financial discipline which leaves the north Europeans standing. Things have changed and the political reality of the ensuing vote should not have surprised anyone.

Not until 6.30 did the auditors complete their task and declare the election results, which were very clear indeed. FIMS emerges with a strong, predetermined, regional balance. This is intended to strengthen FIMS in a democratic way. As the incoming President declared, as his eight year stint of preparation as Secretary-General came to its triumphant conclusion: "My team is in place." We shall see and Pheidippides wishes him well.

## Results of FIMS Elections, Athens, September, 1994

## Officers (all unopposed)

<b>President</b>	Prof. E. H. DeRose	(Brazil)
<b>Vice Presidents</b>	1. Prof. P. Renstrom	(Sweden)
	2. Prof. C. Roux	(Côte D'Ivoire)
	3. Prof. K-M. Chan	(Hong Kong)
<b>Secretary-General</b>	Prof. H. G. Knuttgen	(USA)
<b>Treasurer</b>	Prof. J. J. G. Iturri	(Spain)

## Executive (64 voters)

1. C. Christodoulakis	(Cyprus)	57
2. D. Hamar	(Slovakia)	50
3. N. Mallick	(Pakistan)	48
4. J. Wesseling	(The Netherlands)	47
5. A. Parker	(Australia)	41
6. W. Frontera	(Puerto Rico)	41
7. A. Sentissi	(Morocco)	38
8. F. Pigozzi	(Italy)	38

## Not elected:

Fowler (Canada)	28	Jenoure (Switzerland)	24
O'Brien (Eire)	23	Kontoulakis (Greece)	15
Frenkl (Hungary)	12	Raslan (Bahrain)	11
Iwane (Japan)	10	Medved (Croatia)	7
Mann (Israel)	6	Mufti (Saudi Arabia)	5
Radvani (Czech Republic)	3		

# British Association of Sport and Medicine



Would Regional Secretaries and members please note we now have a new membership application form which should be used for membership applications. Please destroy and do not issue old forms to prospective members. Supplies of new membership forms can be obtained from the Membership Secretary: Dr Patrick Milroy MB ChB, Brook House Farm, Mill Lane, Kingsley, Warrington, Cheshire WA6 8ID, Tel: (0928) 788662 (Home), Tel: (0928) 733 249 (Day), Fax: (0928) 739 367.

## Scotland

Committee meetings have been held every 2-3 months and are enriched by the combination of medical students, chartered physiotherapists and sports scientists, as well as the doctors present.

BASM-Scotland members were involved in the successful Sports Medicine Festival held in Glasgow in September which over 3 days looked at Sports Medicine, especially with relation to the Impending Scottish Royal Colleges Diploma sitting, and also at Sports Science. The developing Scottish Sports Medicine and Sports Science Institute was introduced to the media and public. Real progress is being made to establish the Institute as you will read elsewhere. BASM-Scotland is represented at all levels.

For the Autumn/Winter we have another series of small group tutorials starting on October 19 in Edinburgh.

These are alternated between Glasgow and Edinburgh. We encourage similar meetings elsewhere in the country. In November the first weekend of a modular Sports Medicine course for GPs in the West of Scotland will be held, aiming for the syllabus of the Scottish Diploma. Tutorials continue in the New Year and then on May 5-7 BASM-Scotland will be running another Advanced Module, this time on the Upper Limb and Back. We have the same venue as this year... the Carlton Highland Hotel in Edinburgh.

Further to all this I can report that a BSc and MSc in Sports Medicine will be available from Glasgow University from October 1995 and associated with this two lecturers posts are to be created and will be advertised in the next few weeks.

The Scottish Sports Council Consultative Group have asked me to let BASM members know that there is a database of some 6000 entries from the Scottish Sports Medicine Centres which has been and continues to be collected for another 2 years providing information on persons attending the Centres. Further information is available from Dr Robin Knill-Jones, Senior Lecturer in Epidemiology, University of Glasgow, Department of Public Health, 2 Lilybank Gardens, Glasgow, G12 8RZ. The database work has been funded by the Sports Council who also provide assistance to individual Centres wishing to undertake clinical audit.

The next Scottish Newsletter is

planned for December to include items and for any further information please contact Dr F. Gardner, 60 Hunter Road, Crosshouse, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire KA2 0LO.

## BASM Regional events

### Scotland

*Dr. F. Gardner, 60 Hunter Road, Crosshouse, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, KA2 0LD*  
Contact: Dr. G. Haggerty 0294-823327

### North-west

*Hon. Sec: Carole Atkinson MMedSc, BA, 061-745-3365; Fax: 061-736-1579*

### Eastern region

*Dr. Colin Crosby 0582-841158; Dr. Tom Crisp 0245-421517*

### East Midlands

*Kate Kerr MCSP, Nottingham School of Physiotherapy*

### Yorkshire

*Dr. Ian Adams, Leeds, 0532-785318, or 433144 (St. James University Hospital)*

### South-west

*Dr. Suzy Brosh, 3 Chapel Gardens, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol BS10 7DF*

### West Midlands

*Shona McGibbon Tel: 0782-717047; Fax: 0782 204051*

### London and South-east

*Dr. Philip Bell, Tel: 071-407-3277*

### Northern Ireland

*Dr. Bruce Thompson, 28 Church Walk, Lurgan, Co. Armagh, NI, BT67 9AA*

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