

## CORRESPONDENCE

## "GRASS ROOTS" SPORTS MEDICINE

Dear Sir,

As one of the members who is not a doctor there is a fundamental point about the Association that I would like to raise and as the AGM is always during the working week I am unable to attend and raise the matter there.

The Journal of Sports Medicine is an excellent means of publishing erudite papers on our subject, some of which as a lay person I can wholly or partly follow. When I realise that a paper is fundamental to my sports coaching I obtain the help of a doctor pal of mine.

Is there not a great risk that the material that is published after much effort by the contributors is liable never to reach the coaches and benefit British Sportsmen and women? Is there not a case for a synopsis of the most important articles to be published in lay language at regular intervals, possibly with the help of the Sports Council?

The isolation of the B.A.S.M. from grassroots level sport in general seems regrettable. We in coaching need scientific medical advice as there are too many witchdoctors about on the fringes of sport. Can the B.A.S.M. reconsider this aspect of its policy?

Yours faithfully,

**Kenneth Jones**

*British Cycling Federation Coach*

*This letter raises some interesting points. It is always difficult for an editor to be able to offer an immediate interpretation in terms of a change of, for example, coaching techniques, that will apply to all sports, based upon research reports. Most governing bodies of sport have their own medical officers and professionally trained national coaches. Some also have research or scientific advisory committees, and one of the functions of such should be the scanning of relevant literature, evaluating articles, and perhaps trying out suggested techniques. Courses such as those run by B.A.S.M. on behalf of F.I.M.S. are available for the medical advisers, physiotherapists, or physiologists who are members of such committees. Suggestions for modification in training, maintenance of health, diet and so on should then be passed on to the coaches or athletes through the medium of the specific coaching journals of the various sports. This is done in the U.S.A. through such publications as "Track Technique" and Miss Penny Chuter of the A.R.A. has asked our permission to abstract articles in B.J.S.M. for the benefit of rowing coaches. Possibly an organisation such as the C.C.P.R., or the Sports Council through its Research and Information section, could be persuaded to run a similar abstracting service for coaches of all sports affiliated to these bodies, in which case we shall do our best to help.*

*Editor*

## NOTICE

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE/SPORTS COUNCIL  
REGISTER OF SPORTS RESEARCH**

The Sports Council is compiling a register of current research into sport and physical recreation, covering not only physical education and socio-economic but medical/psychological, environmental and design/technical work. This will form the UK input to a Council of Europe register. Questionnaires are being despatched and collated by Judy White at CURS, University of Birmingham.

ANYONE DOING PERSONAL, CONTRACT, OR THESIS RESEARCH (Ph.D. or M.A. WITH ONE FULL YEAR OF RESEARCH) WHO DOES NOT RECEIVE A COPY AND WOULD LIKE THEIR WORK INCLUDED, PLEASE CONTACT GEOFFREY STRETTON AT THE SPORTS COUNCIL 01-589-3411 x 212 OR JUDY WHITE AT CURS, J. G. SMITH BUILDING, RING ROAD NORTH, UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM. TEL. (021) 472 1301 x 2744 or 2693.