

EDITORIAL

The first number of Volume 11, 1977, heralds in what could be a most important year for the British Association of Sport and Medicine. Until recently, the Association has been a membership club, holding meetings on topics interesting a large proportion of its membership. It publishes a journal itself, to circulate the proceedings of meetings, some original articles — research reports, reviews, descriptions of clinical conditions and their treatment, reports of business meetings, book reviews and so on.

The membership of the Association is growing slowly — over 800 at the last count, and over 250 libraries, hospitals, colleges and individuals throughout the world are external subscribers without membership privileges. As medical and scientific journals go, this is a very small circulation. The £5.00 membership subscription enables us to supply all our members with four numbers of the journal each year, some 230 pages, and to pay the other essential expenses of running the B.A.S.M. Any profit made from external sales gives us a bonus, used for defraying the cost of scientific meetings, and rarely, of making a small contribution to the out-of-pocket expenses of delegates attending meetings elsewhere on behalf of the membership of the Association, where funds from no other sources are available.

The Association may be growing slowly in actual numbers, but is growing much more quickly in its activities. Two courses have already been run by us on behalf of F.I.M.S., the International Sports Medicine Federation, and a third is planned for the end of March this year. B.A.S.M. members have played a major part in lecturing in Sports Medicine courses in India and South East Asia and participating in courses in Europe and America. We are assisting candidates training for the Diploma in Rheumatology and Rehabilitation Medicine at the request of the Post-graduate Medical Federation.

Now that a body of knowledge has been accumulated and is being propagated, it must next be put to practical use, in the hospitals, specialised clinics, and on the side of the track or games field. How can clinics be financed? How can casualty officers be trained in the diagnosis of fresh sports injuries? How can we improve the health of the athletes by better team care, by protection against infection and against the abuse by drugs, especially anabolic steroids?

Amongst some of these new developments, where does the future of this journal lie? Should it continue more or less as it is? Should it be taken over by one of the large medical journal publishers? This would increase our circulation and advertising revenue might make the journal self-supporting, but what might we lose? Should we give it a more popular presentation, aiming at the coaches and the athletes rather than the doctors, physiotherapists and scientifically trained physical educationists and human biologists that make-up our readership at present? Should we run a separate magazine, with commercial backing to give information in a simplified fashion? The views of our members on these topics are important, to give guidance to the new Executive Committee on how YOU want this Association, and its journal, to be run. We must therefore have your support at the Annual General Meeting on May 25th and your votes in your choice of officers and committee members, and your guidance on our future.

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This issue of the journal contains both clinical and physiological articles and the Proceedings of a meeting run at Liverpool Polytechnic last May, 1976, for the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Sports Medicine.

Preparations are already in hand for the publication of Vol. 11, No. 2 (June 1977) but articles are needed for future issues, in both clinical and physiological fields.

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NEW YEAR HONOURS

Her Majesty the Queen has graciously conferred the Order of Companion of the British Empire upon Mrs. Mary Glen Haig, Chairman of the Central Council of Physical Recreation, and the representative of that organisation on the Executive Committee of B.A.S.M.

The Order of Officer of the British Empire has been conferred on Dr. James Raymond Owen, Medical Adviser to the British Olympic Association, and a former member of the Executive Committee of the B.A.S.M.

The Société Médicale Belge d'Éducation Physique et de Sports have awarded our Secretary, Dr. Peter Sperryn, Honorary Membership of their Society, in recognition of his contribution to sports medicine and to the cordial relationship he has established between them and the B.A.S.M.

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PRESS STATEMENT

Issued by the Racecourse Information Bureau, February 17th, 1977

Following the recent detection of anabolic steroids in horses, and the withdrawal of medals from Olympic athletes it is proposed to convene a joint meeting of scientific and medical advisors to horse and greyhound racing authorities and the British Association of Sport and Medicine.

The meeting, the primary purpose of which is the exchange of information, is to be arranged by Racecourse Security Services and will take place at Newmarket in May.

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CHANGE OF TELEPHONE NUMBER

Dr. H. E. Robson, Treasurer BASM and Editor BJSM.

From April 27th 1977 the new telephone numbers are:

Leicester (0533) – 303436 (Surgery, 9-10.30 a.m., 4.30-6 p.m.)
(0533) – 303971 (Residence, bypass number)

rudiments of sports medicine. The annual BASM/FIMS course is not enough, nor is the annual meeting of the Chartered Physiotherapists in Sports Medicine; these are only pilot schemes, enjoyable and instructive as they undoubtedly are. We need much more effort, not just for national events, but also for local organisation. In this issue there is a letter from Dr. J. W. Walker, trying to enlist support for a new area in Berkshire and surrounding counties. A meeting has been arranged in Leeds for September 25th, during which it is hoped to constitute a Yorkshire Area of B.A.S.M. The two mainstays of the Lancashire area have departed to professorial appointments; John Brooke at Guelph University, Canada, and Harry Thomason to the Foundation Chair of Physical Education at Loughborough University. Both were lecturers in physical education at Salford University, and their departure has left Don Masterson, who has done so much for BASM in Lancashire, unsupported until he can rebuild his team, both for the work in his department, and for BASM. We are pleased to note that two of our members, John White and Bruce Davies, have been appointed, so there should be continuity of the work in the human performance laboratory in Salford.

A group of physical educationists with post-diploma qualifications in physiology, together with some physiologists, are in the process of forming an Association of Sports Scientists. We wish them every success, and hope to see a more extensive organisation of human performance laboratories to serve sport. How they will be financed is not known; at present, largely through the research grants of the individuals working in them. It is hoped that enough interested doctors will be available to assist in the clinical assessment in such institutions, and not only to give qualified cover and to "carry the can" if anything goes wrong. It is also hoped that the many BASM members in this group will keep in close touch with the clinical members, and prevent more fragmentation of various groups of people, working towards the same aim, but in ignorance of the results of work of each other. Publication of results of research to a small group working in the same field can be of great value, especially in the form of colloquia or seminars, where detailed techniques, pitfalls, failures, and early experimental work can be discussed freely with colleagues, but the end results must be fed to a wider readership, where they can be applied to those coaching or otherwise caring for the athlete.

In this issue of the Journal, most of the papers are on applied physiology. Some more papers are being refereed by the Editorial Board, and may be published in a later number. We still need a regular inflow of manuscripts, in clinical fields as well as physiological, as short case reports or preliminary reports of pilot work as well as fully documented original articles. Reports and proceedings of meetings are needed, and it is hoped that more will be forthcoming as we can organise area meetings, and have the benefit of communications from others apart from our regular contributors.

H. E. Robson

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CORRECTION: TREASURER'S/EDITOR'S TELEPHONE NUMBER

In some recently printed BASM stationery, the STD code for Leicester is incorrectly given as 0553 —. Please note that the code printed in BJSM 11:1 March 1977 is correct namely 0533 — 303436 (Surgery) 0533 — 303971 (Residence).