OBITUARY

Herbert Edward Harding, FRCS

Mr. H. E. Harding died on February 4th, 1982, at the age of 75. He qualified in 1931 from the London Hospital Medical School, where he had been an outstanding student in a hospital renowned, as it still is, for its high standard of orthopaedic surgery. He gained the FRCS in 1935, and was appointed to the staff of the Westminster Hospital in 1939. During the war he commanded a surgical division in the North African campaign and after the war returned to the Westminster Hospital where he was soon appointed Dean of the Medical School.

It was in this capacity as Dean that he helped and supported Sir Adolphe Abrahams in the early days of founding the British Association of Sport and Medicine. He gave us facilities for holding the initial business and scientific meetings, and as a keen golfer and participant in field sports was in full sympathy with our aims. In 1954 as a token of appreciation for all his help, he was elected an Honorary Life Member of BASM, and continued to take an interest in our proceedings until the time of his death.

H. E. Robson

CORRESPONDENCE

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To the Editor:

Dear Sir,

EAST MIDLANDS SPORTS MEDICINE POTENTIAL

A recent spell on the Executive Committee of the BASM leaves me with the view that the Organisation should be far more involved in producing some form of National Care Scheme for sportsmen. The proposed Scheme outlined by Peter Sperryn is a step forward, but will it be too complicated to work? I am myself, far more interested in providing a sports injury service at "grass-roots" level, and with this in mind, I am writing to ask any members of BASM, who live in the East Midlands regional area of the Sports Council to write to me if they are interested in convening a Meeting in order to set up a Regional Organisation for the exchange of practical ideas and experience which is specifically aimed at maintaining existing services and expanding these where possible.

The area comprises the counties of Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Northamptonshire. It is not at all clear what existing facilities are operating in these areas, and also, it is not clear how many of these are based on National Health Service hospitals and clinics, and to what extent facilities available, are co-ordinated with available physiotherapy skills and experience and to what extent rheumatology-based clinics have access to the necessary orthopaedic units.

Any physician, surgeon, physiotherapist or other member of the BASM who is seeking in even a small way to provide help; be it in hospital or general practice, within the five counties, is invited to write to me and indicate if they would be prepared to attend an exploratory meeting to form an East Midlands Regional BASM Organisation.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Newton, MRCS, LRCP, DA,
Clinical Assistant,
Sports Injury Clinic,
Northampton District General Hospital,
Northampton