Welcome, The New World?

This complete relaunch of our *Journal* is but the next stage in the development of our founding fathers’ dream of an active, recognized place for Britain’s sports medicine in the growing world of sport, medicine and the public health.

We hope that readers will enjoy this recast official journal of Britain’s national sports medicine association enough to take up pens and make it what all such journals should be—a mixture of reputable academic papers, authoritative reviews, entertaining and educative features, a one-stop source of news and information, a platform for clinical cases, correspondents and their controversies—and, above all, the sort of read that has to be completed before the delivery day dies.

Thanks to the encouragement and professional support of our new publishers, Butterworths, we have the chance to expand all aspects of our *Journal* and to appeal to a wider audience. New features are planned and we invite ideas no less than manuscripts, knowing that our readers want a wider range of ‘background briefings’ of all sorts as well as academic papers. We seek, above all, originality. Boredom is to be banished, even from some of the dustier deserts of Academe! The ideal remains that legendary paper, a totally original one-sentence communication—preferably well illustrated!

A central challenge of sports medicine’s growth is now the accelerating departure of specialisms from a comprehending centre. So we will try to ensure that each professional group among our readers will be enabled clearly to understand the contributions of others. We will actively seek authoritative reviews and practical guides to clinical and scientific aspects of sports medicine. There may be a little less emphasis on chi-square and a bit more on clear conclusions. Not-very-original ‘me too’ studies will be squeezed.

The challenge of sports medicine in Britain has recently changed quite dramatically. For most of its thirty-five years, BASM was the lone voice in a wilderness in which sport’s health needs were largely ignored by the medical profession, taken for granted or shrugged off by the governing bodies of sport, and signally evaded at nearly every turn by a Sports Council which cynically sought to pass the buck back to an ailing National Health Service (NHS).

Suddenly, the tide has turned. BASM changed from club to company and charity, and The Princess Royal attended its annual congress; the London Sports Medicine Institute was endowed and works closely with BASM; the Sports Council funded a BASM education officer; the British Olympic Association set up a medical centre; the Society of Apothecaries established Britain’s first publicly recognized diploma examination in sports medicine and recognized BASM’s courses.

The floodgates are open. We have to supply enough training and support for the new tide of enthusiastic young doctors who will be the first to be identified as trained and certified in sports medicine in the UK. The *Journal* accepts a major role in this challenge.

We shall campaign strongly for the further development of sports medicine services. Let no-one be complacent about the present British scene. Our few surviving NHS sports clinics are again under dire threat with yet another ‘reorganization’ and this Government’s ambivalence about the interface between public and private health sectors. Our sports’ governing bodies are still complacent and inconsistent in their medical care of highly stressed young performers. One major sport is to take no team doctor to its world championships ‘because it’s only a small team’; presumably hoping that they may have only small injuries (and no illness)! The same sport has recently axed a paid medical management post to save...
money and encouraged a foreign attendant to inject British performers with, believe it or not, an intramuscular nostrum of ox-blood and honey.

This sort of medievalism must be changed. We have many excellent team doctors but, clearly, we need urgently to raise the public image of sports medicine to the level where our sportsmen and women can take responsible care for granted.

The Journal is fortunate in acquiring not just the help but the active and enthusiastic personal support of our most distinguished team of section editors and members of the international editorial board. A glance at its membership will indicate just how far their commitment and authority in sports medicine can take BJSM. They are supported by a fine team of regional corresponding editors to help us avoid the inevitable constraints of life in one parish while working strongly within the global framework of that other founding institution of sports medicine—the International Federation of Sports Medicine (FIMS).

A major change sees the BASM Bulletin revived as a separately produced newsletter, sent only to members. This keeps the purely parochial within the parish and allows for its growth while BASM news of wider interest finds its place in the body of the Journal.

As we enter the next age, we must express our unbridled admiration for the stupendous efforts of Dr Henry Evans Robson as accoucheur to the infant Bulletin, then editor of the growing Journal for a quarter of a century. It is upon his broad shoulders that we can climb with confidence to achieve the full recognition and professionalization of sports medicine in Great Britain. It was with universal acclaim and admiration that the BASM chose to denote ‘our Henry’ as Editor Emeritus.

Chairman’s Message

I would like to warmly welcome this new version of the British Journal of Sports Medicine and take the opportunity of welcoming members to a new era in the British Association of Sport and Medicine.

The advent of a new journal with professional publication should enable the activities of the British Association of Sport and Medicine to reach a very much wider audience and therefore, I hope, considerably expand the membership of BASM with kindred souls, many of whom may still be quite unaware of our activities.

The advent of the Society of Apothecaries Diploma Examination in Sports Medicine will, I hope, attract a great deal of interest among doctors in sports medicine as a legitimate activity and the launch of the new white paper by the government may make it possible to practice in sports medicine within the health service and be duly rewarded for so doing.

This is therefore a time of great change and it is up the Association, and in particular its officers, to grasp all the opportunities that arise for the expansion and recognition of sports medicine in this country. Through our new education officer we hope to be expanding the educational activities of the British Association of Sport and Medicine and although initially it may appear that the emphasis is very much towards the Society of Apothecaries Diploma Examination for doctors, we also hope to be laying on courses of interest to our other members, and indeed non-members as well.

The initial attempt to get data on all our members which would be of use to the Association and to people wanting local contacts interested in sports medicine and its various aspects has not been as successful as we hoped and we may be sending further questionnaires to members on the basis that it is important that we know what our members do and can inform the Sports Council and its regional officers of particular expertise in their area. I hope members will bear with me if they therefore receive in due course another questionnaire about themselves.

Dr Dan Tunstall Pedoe  
Chairman  
BASM