As a result of BJSM’s publishers, Butterworth Scientific’s, merger with Heinemann in 1990 to form Butterworth-Heinemann, this Journal is to have radically different operational arrangements with effect from January 1991.

It is regretted that BJSM is to face inevitable disturbance as the new format journal had just bedded down and virtually come up to its proper publishing schedule. Readers can rest assured that the changes promised will lead to improvements. While the Group headquarters will be established in the Oxford area, this Journal’s base will be established at the old Heinemann office in Grosvenor Street, Mayfair, London.

An unfortunate side effect is that two of our key publishing staff, Executive Editor Nick Mowat and Managing Editor Mary Korndorffer, will be unable for personal reasons to make the move from Guildford. I would like, publicly, to express my deepest gratitude to Mary and Nick for their incredible patience and support for the ‘greenest’ editor during the difficult but exciting first two years of the BJSM’s redevelopment. It is with very great sadness that I have to bid them both such a precipitate farewell and to wish them each the best of fortune.

Inevitably, we will face further difficulties in the next year. There will be a time lag until the new arrangements have bedded down (I am still receiving mail addressed as the Hon. Sec. of BASM seven years after stepping down!). But Butterworth-Heinemann have tried to ensure that we can use the changes to introduce drastic working improvements. With new computerization we expect to speed up the processing of the manuscripts, including their refereeing and editing. We are in the happy state of having a waiting list of accepted papers. I hope that we can now look for the necessary boost in advertising revenue which will permit more colour and the better features and reviews which this would allow.

Despite those drastic changes, we are particularly lucky to find replacement staff from within Butterworth-Heinemann; Cristiano Ratti joins us as Assistant Editor. Sarah Graham-Campbell, who takes over as Managing Editor, already has an established high reputation with the British Journal of Surgery and other related surgery journals.

These changes can bring forward several planned improvements. Please bear with any transient inconveniences – we should all gain.

Peter Sperryn
Editor-in-Chief