

sities of Ohio State, Penn State, UCLA, Washington, Vanderbilt and India [na].

The course was held in one to two sessions per day on four consecutive days. Timetabled into the structure were periods that relied heavily on the active participation of the delegates. Keynote presentations were made by the faculty, followed by a short comment from a further faculty member, with a subsequent discussion period of 30-40 minutes. The emphasis on encouraging discussion and debate and hearing the experiences of other delegates on the chosen areas was most stimulating. Other sessions included "How I manage...", "Case presentations" and "Pearls of practice" where faculty members would, in short presentations, share their usual practice or experiences with the audience. The final session concluded with a debate and a round table discussion. The course was accompanied by handouts which were on the whole helpful and very well referenced.

Impression

Overall I thoroughly enjoyed the course and felt that it has improved my knowledge and understanding on many issues. It was professionally organised and executed and provided a stimulating environment for discussion, both in and out of the formal sessions. The course format relied on a significant input from the audience and it was gratifying to see the delegates' enthusiasm that caused every session to overrun, with questions still to be asked and comments to be made. Hearing the views and often differing opinions between members of the faculty was enlightening, and the skilled chairmanship of the sessions made sure that none got away without having to commit themselves. At times, however, the use of unfamiliar drug names did cause some degree of confusion. On balance, I believe the course

largely achieved its aims of "addressing state-of-the-art, cutting edge issues" and I would recommend the course to others believing that at £230, it does represent good value for money. Nevertheless, one does need to balance this with the significant cost of travel to and accommodation in the United States. The ongoing relationship between the BASM executive and the Sports Council's international office has enabled a small number of BASM members to attend international conferences and courses with substantial financial assistance, in this case representing 70% of the total costs. Their support for me on this occasion is gratefully acknowledged and will be matched by a continuing commitment to clinical sports medicine and sports medicine education.

The sports medicine system in the USA, with its established pathways for access to treatment and rehabilitation, is often envied. The epidemiological data, such as those held by National Center for Catastrophic Sports Injury Research and the National Collegiate Athletic Association, and the opportunities and funding for research are unfortunately not matched in the UK. The unprecedented availability of MRI scanning and how this is revealing the extent of associated articular cartilage damage, bone bruising, and meniscal injury in apparent "isolated" ligament rupture was illuminating. However, the recent shift towards medical practitioners paying a retainer fee for the "privilege" of providing care to high profile teams was of great concern to most delegates. It was also reassuring to see that despite a wealth of information, they also have similar difficulties to us in situations such as the practical aspects of return to play following the sporting head injury.

KEVIN BOYD

Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Introductory Sports Medicine (course)

22-27 September 1996; Lilleshall Hall National Sports Centre, Shropshire (residential) Further details: Education Office, British Association of Sport and Medicine, c/o The National Sports Medicine Institute, Medical College of St Bartholomew's Hospital, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6BQ. (Tel +44 (0)171 253 3244; fax +44 (0) 171 251 0774.)

Practical Sports Medicine (course)

3-10 October 1996; Club La Santa, Lanzarote (residential) Further details: Education Office, British Association of Sport and Medicine, c/o The

National Sports Medicine Institute, Medical College of St Bartholomew's Hospital, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6BQ. (Tel +44 (0)171 253 3244; fax +44 (0)171 251 0774.)

Fifteenth Congress of Sports Medicine of the AZ Sint-Jan

11-12 October 1996; Belfry Halls, Brugge, Belgium Further details: J Gabriels, Revalidatiecentrum AZ St-Jan Ruddershove 10, B-8000 Brugge. (Tel +32(0)50 45 22 30; fax +32(0) 50 45 29 17.)

BASM National Congress

31 October- 3 November 1996; Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle, County Down, Northern Ireland Further details: Education Office, British Association of Sport and Medicine, c/o The National Sports Medicine Institute Medical College of St Bartholomew's Hospital, Char-

terhouse Square, London EC1M 6BQ. (Tel +44 (0)171 253 3244 fax +44 (0)171 251 0774.)

Intermediate Course: Sports Specific Injury Management and Normal Examination of Joints

17-22 November 1996; Lilleshall Hall National Sports Centre, Shropshire (residential) Further details: Education Office, British Association of Sport and Medicine, c/o The National Sports Medicine Institute, Medical College of St Bartholomew's Hospital, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6BQ. (Tel +44 (0)171 253 3244; fax +44 (0) 171 251 0774.)

World Congress of Sports and Locomotor Medicine

27-29 December 1996; Colombo, Sri Lanka Sponsored by the Sri Lankan Government Ministry of Youth Affairs, Sports and Rural Development in association with Medicina Alternativa. Further details: Administrative Secretariat, 28 International Buddhist Centre

Road, Colombo-6, Sri Lanka. (Tel +94-1585242; fax +94-1584148.)

2nd Post Olympic International Symposium on: The Process of Training and Competition in View of the 96 Atlanta Games

28-30 December 1996; Netanya, Israel
Further details: Dr Yitshak Ben-Melech, Elite Sport Department of Israel, Wingate Institute for Physical Education and Sport, Netanya 42902, Israel. (Tel +972-9-639533/5; fax +972-9639536.)

Introductory Sports Medicine (course)

13-18 April 1997; Lilleshall Hall National Sports Centre, Shropshire (residential)
Further details: Education Office, British Association of Sport and Medicine, c/o The National Sports Medicine Institute, Medical College of St Bartholomew's Hospital, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6BQ. (Tel +44 (0)171 253 3244; fax +44 (0)171 251 0774.)

Intermediate Course: Sports Specific Injury Management and Normal Examination of Joints

13-18 July 1997; Lilleshall Hall National Sports Centre, Shropshire (residential)
Further details: Education Office, British

Association of Sport and Medicine, c/o The National Sports Medicine Institute, Medical College of St Bartholomew's Hospital, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6BQ. (Tel +44 (0)171 253 3244; fax +44 (0)171 251 0774.)

XIX Symposium of the European Group of Paediatric Work Physiology

16-21 September 1997. The Manor House Hotel, Moretonhampstead, Devon,
Further details: Professor Neil Armstrong, Children's Health and Exercise Research Centre, University of Exeter, Heavitree Road, Exeter EX1 2LU. (Tel 01392 264812; fax 01392 264706.)

Introductory Sports Medicine (course)

21-26 September 1997; Lilleshall Hall National Sports Centre, Shropshire (residential)
Further details: Education Office, British Association of Sport and Medicine, c/o The National Sports Medicine Institute, Medical College of St Bartholomew's Hospital, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6BQ. (Tel +44 (0)171 253 3244; fax +44 (0)171 251 0774.)

Practical Sports Medicine (course)

2-9 October 1997; Club La Santa, Lanzarote (residential)

Further details: Education Office, British Association of Sport and Medicine, c/o The National Sports Medicine Institute, Medical College of St Bartholomew's Hospital, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6BQ. (Tel +44 (0)171 253 3244; fax +44 (0)171 251 0774.)

BASM Congress (London and South East Region)

7-9 November 1997; Hotel Metropole, Brighton

Further details: Education Office, British Association of Sport and Medicine, c/o The National Sports Medicine Institute, Medical College of St Bartholomew's Hospital, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6BQ. (Tel +44 (0)171 253 3244; fax +44 (0)171 251 0774.)

Intermediate Course: Sports Specific Injury Management and Normal Examination of Joints

23-29 November 1997; Lilleshall Hall National Sports Centre, Shropshire (residential)
Further details: Education Office, British Association of Sport and Medicine, c/o The National Sports Medicine Institute, Medical College of St Bartholomew's Hospital, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6BQ. (Tel +44 (0)171 253 3244; fax +44 (0)171 251 0774.)