

Annual General Meeting, 26th April 2005 Apex City Hotel & Spa, Dundee

Chairman's report
Geoff Ridgway

This is my third and final annual report as Chairman. I am pleased to report that the Club has had another very successful year. I would like to highlight yet again the considerable efforts of the Committee to ensure that not only are events such as this Conference smoothly organised, but also that the routine running of the Club continues in the background. To this end, the Committee has decided that it is time to recognize the unpaid and largely unsung work carried out by one of the Club's most loyal non-members. I trust that the membership will welcome Mrs Shirley Hooper as our latest Honorary Member. We are also recognising the continuing support of Professor Mike Emmerson OBE (Chair 1996 to 1999) with an Honorary Membership.

The Club is financially sound, with particular thanks to our Treasurer, Peter Hooper, who will be completing his term of office next year. That will be a total of 16 years on the Committee; 10 as Treasurer. During this period he has seen the fortunes of the Club return to something of their former glory. Unfortunately Peter has now run out of constitutional time and must step down as both Treasurer and Committee member. He will be a hard act to follow, but no doubt the membership will rise to the challenge.

Craig Mackintosh took over from Lynda Taylor as Secretary in April 2004. He soon discovered first hand that Societies do not run themselves. His learning curve has been rapid, but by and large seamless. Duties involve not just the committee minutes, but also ensuring that conference and scientific meetings are successful. So far so good!

Our Editor, David Hurrell and our Webmaster Tina Bradley give much time to promoting the Club's interests. David has been a loyal Club member since its earliest days. He has been a Committee member for longer than I can remember and has now also reached the end of his current term of office. I have no doubt that he will continue to promote the Club's interests in the future despite his prodigious workload. I would take this opportunity to thank him personally for his support.

During the year, Ken Toal resigned from the Committee owing to ill health. As the Northern Ireland connection he will be missed, but the Club wishes him well. Dr Gabby Phillips has also resigned from the Committee owing to work pressures – but not before leaving us a lasting memory of Scottish hospitality, as the home team member for this Conference. Ros Thomson and Ros Jackson come to the end of their Committee terms and retire accordingly. Again, my personal thanks for their support. Also on the casualty list this year is Committee member John Barker, unable to join us (and therefore not able to give his presentation) because of a broken arm. We wish him a speedy and uneventful recovery.

Active membership is now approaching 360, although there are some 20% of subscriptions outstanding. Conference attendance has this year been hit by the competing recent International Decontaminating Sciences Conference. However, there are over 100 delegates registered for this meeting, confirming that we still occupy an important niche in the Conference circuit.

Sadly, during the past year two notable deaths occurred. These were Professors Robert EO Williams and Robert Blowers. Both were doyens of the emergence of clinical microbiology as a foremost medical specialty and also of the principles of the management of Healthcare Associated Infection.

In October 2004 we held the fourth of our series of successful workshops on the subject of Decontamination - Then and Now. This was an exercise in pure CSC nostalgia, with a number of "Old friends" reminiscing on what had been. The meeting also looked forward to an exciting future for the Decontamination Industry. The meeting was oversubscribed, which was unfortunate as the venue did not have elastic walls, resulting in a restriction on numbers. My thanks to Tina Bradley and Craig Mackintosh for the organisation of this event.

The members of the Committee have been involved in the production and management of a number of guidance and policy documents and specialist bodies. These include:-

- Decontamination Programme Strategy - "National Standards – Local Delivery". A strategy for modernising the provision of decontamination services.
- Guidelines for the prevention and control of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (particularly the F1 appendix on Endoscopy)
- HBN4, supplement 1 (Isolation Facilities)
- HBN 26 Operating Departments
- HTM 2025 (Ventilation in Healthcare Premises)
- NHS Estates Engineering and Science Advisory Committee (ESAC)
- UK Endoscope Task Force
- Irish Endoscopy Enquiry (www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)
- Scottish Survey of Decontamination in General Dental Practice (www.show.scot.nhs.uk/publicationsindex.htm)
- Endoscope Reprocessing Guidance (Scotland <http://decontamination.hps.scot.nhs.uk>)
- Microbiological Advisory Committee Manual on Decontamination, revision of Part 2, Protocols.

The Chairman on behalf of the Club responded to a request by the Infectious Disease Research Network to respond to a Department of Health initiative on setting up a National Infectious Disease Research Network. I committed the Club to overall support of the initiative which would encourage both multicentre and multidisciplinary collaboration.

As Chairman of CSC I was honoured to represent the Club at the recent International Decontamination Sciences Conference 2005, in Islington in March. Over 500 delegates from over 40 countries were present. I gave the opening address on behalf of the newly renamed Institute of Decontamination Sciences (formerly the ISSM) and of the CSC.

Our website www.csc.org.uk is fully operative, and has yielded both applications for membership and attendees at our meetings. We propose having a members protected area where we can fast track the proceedings of meetings, and then release material for open access as newer material is produced. Contributions are always welcome, via our Webmaster Tina Bradley,

Returning to the Conference, we are delighted to welcome Dr Dorothy Canter as our Kelsey Lecturer. Dr Canter was a central figure in the management of the anthrax incident in the USA. Sadly, bioterrorism is now a fact of life and we will be interested to learn from her experience. Consistent with our opening speaker's presentation, our theme is Decontamination of the Environment, an area reflected in the campaign manifestos of our political masters and highlighted, frequently inappropriately, in the Press. The experiences of our colleagues in dealing with hospital acquired infection will be of wide interest. As ever, we are grateful for the support from our Commercial colleagues for the Open Forum section. It is important to be aware that one of the major strengths of the Club is the involvement of our commercial colleagues on an equal footing with the engineers, estates managers, sterile services managers, nurses and medical practitioners who comprise the core membership. Please book early for next year!

The organisation of this meeting involves a lot of hard work by a few people, and I would like to thank personally Craig Mackintosh, Gabby Phillips, Peter Hooper – and of course Mrs Shirley Hooper.

I look forward to another successful year as I step down and pass the reigns to the more than capable hands of my successor, Dr Adam Fraise.

The Club is its membership; tell your friends, encourage them to join, volunteer to serve on the committee. We need you!