

Report of Hamburg meeting Thursday & Friday May 3rd & 4th.

27 members and 12 accompanying persons attended the meeting in Hamburg. Most arrived in the afternoon or evening of Wednesday May 2nd when a small reception was organised in the hotel and we were greeted by our President John Hawkesford and our host Professor Thomas Kreuzsch. The Hafen Hamburg Hotel was comfortable and beautifully situated above the St. Pauli Pier on the river Elbe.

The following morning we were collected from the Hotel by coach and taken to the Asklepios Klinik Nord/Heidelberg where we were divided into groups according to our interests and were invited to join Thomas and his colleagues in the operating theatres where we were able to witness a variety of clinical cases which included some cleft cases, laser surgery, removal of recurrence of an unusual mandibular cyst, reconstruction of frontal bone which has previously been resected for frontal sinus cancer, ENT surgery and the harvesting of a horseshoe shaped bone graft from the inner table of the ileum for augmentation of an edentulous mandible.

After a buffet lunch we were treated to some lectures from Thomas and his colleagues on the organisation of the Head and Neck Centre, peri operative management of children, large mandibular cysts laser surgery, surgical management of craniosynostosis and Oral Surgery in anticoagulated patients.

In the morning the accompanying persons were met by Evelyn Kreuzsch and taken on a comprehensive city bus tour. The weather was glorious and Hamburg was seen at its best from the open-topped bus.

Following our day at the clinic we returned to the hotel by coach and in the evening were entertained by Thomas and his colleagues to dinner in a large glass walled elliptical room at the top of the Tower at our Hotel with views across the city.

After dinner we set off for a tour of the adjacent Reeperbahn led by two guides. Later we were escorted around the streets by a young lady stopping at places where there used to be buildings which contained clubs where the Beatles had once performed in the 1960s. She was very knowledgeable about the exact dates on which they played and where and we all enthusiastically celebrated this pivot period of Germanic-British cultural history by singing Beatles songs in the street accompanied by her ukulele.

On the morning of Friday May 4th we again travelled to the clinic by coach from our hotel and were able to watch some more surgery in the operating theatres, including palate closure, cyst removal, laser surgery. We also demonstrated the use of SonicWeld resorbable plates and CO₂ lasers. In the afternoon we were treated to lectures on the problems of Bisphosphonate induced osteonecrosis, management of Cleft Lip and Palate in children,

harvesting bone from the iliac crest using the monocortical technique and finally Thomas Kreuzsch treated us to an inspirational talk about his Cleft work at Padhar Hospital, a mission hospital in India. While we were at the Clinic Evelyn took the accompanying persons on a very informative talk on tea-tasting in the warehouse district, with the opportunity to taste a variety of teas. This was followed by an excellent lunch at the Deichgraf restaurant.

In the late afternoon we all went on a boat tour on the Elbe leaving from the Pier just below our Hotel.

The meeting finished with our entertaining our hosts in the evening with a grand dinner at the Atlantic Hotel in Hamburg. Most members left on the Saturday but some of us prolonged our stay for a day and a party of eleven joined Thomas and his family at a concert on the Saturday evening at the Laeitz Music Hall where we listened to the Albert Schweitzer Youth Orchestra play Dvorak, Ibert and Haydn.