

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of THE ORAL SURGERY CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN**

**Meeting held at Latimer Place 6<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

## Apologies

Tim Mellor, Steve Layton, Barrie Evans, Glenn Lello, Alex Babajews, Mark McGurk, Ewen Thomson, Manu Patel, George Emerson, Keith Altman, Tim Hall, Mark Wong, Steve Dover, Peter Leopard, Richard Kendrick, Andrew Stewart, Graham Wood, Steve Olley, Sheila Fisher, Lawrence Oldham, Reg Anand, Khursheed Moos, David Laugharne, Andrew Camilleri, Phil Earl, Willie Gray, Andrew Lyons, Peter Revington, Daljit Dhariwal, Nick Baker, Stuart Hislop, Ewen Thomson

Minutes of last meeting - Brighton 2013.

## Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Mike Amin was welcomed as a new member to his first meeting

## Deaths

It was reported that members David James, Geoffrey Howe and Dennis Smith has passed away.

Peter Ramsay Baggs said:

'David Rodd James studied dentistry in Leeds and Medicine in Cardiff, qualifying in 1961. His Senior Registrar rotation was through Roehampton, where he came under the wing of Norman Rowe, who I believe though highly of him. He was awarded the Presidents Prize after he presented a paper at BAOMS on hyperviscosity and surgery, I'm not sure which year.

The rotation in those days included time at the Eastman. Munster, UCH and Great Ormond Street. He was obviously taken by the places he encountered as he was appointed as consultant at UCH in the mid 1970's at such an early age that there was a degree of controversy about his appointment. Raymond O'Neil, another club member, however was a strong supporter.

I met him there as a pre-medicine Registrar in 1981. The post-medicine Registrar was Nick Hammersley and the Senior Registrar was Danny Archer. David was inspirational to all of us there. It quickly became clear to me that

he was not only a good surgeon and teacher, but he had developed an excellent working relationship with David Matthews, an influential Plastic Surgeon at UCH and GOS who had been trained by Tessier. Between them they had set up a craniofacial unit which David ran with that unique combination of skill and diplomacy that led to the Maxillofacial Senior Registrar being on call for hand surgery and teaching the young plastic surgeons tendon repair. I also found a man of refined tastes who played the organ with flair and was genuinely interested in things out side of work.

When the Edinburgh College developed the Maxillofacial FRCS he was in the vanguard of those to sit the first diet - and later become an examiner in the same exam, failing me on my first attempt, with a wry smile, a pat on the back and best wishes for the next attempt, which he passed me on.

He was appointed Hunterian Professor in 1988, he was treasurer of the Craniofacial Society and continued to work at King Edwards Hospital after retirement.

David was in the Navy for some time, and on one memorable occasion he was asked to see a patient who required the removal of a troublesome wisdom tooth. As they were at sea In the largest aircraft carrier in the British navy he offered to remove said tooth in the well-equipped operating theatre, which was locate directly under the flight deck. There he calmly removed Lord Mountbatten's offending molar, a story he liked to tell his trainees.

The last time I saw him was in Groningen at Richard Kendrick's meeting, where he was in great form He retired from clinical practice in 2009.'

David Adlam said:

'David was my boss when I was a Senior Registrar an i remember that he was very generous in sharing his surgery and very early in your career as a consultant letting go is like letting your children go. He was very generous with his surgery and I really appreciated that. For me and for many of us here he was not only a friend and colleague he was also a mentor. In his final years down in the West Country he was very much a part of society and he passed away in the hospice.'

Peter Banks said:

'Not many people remember Geoffrey Howe. He was a member of this club. He became a member in 1959 together with a number of very distinguished people. There was Hardman, Whitlock and Mike Ireland and he outlived all of them.

He has an interesting career. He came from quite humble stock but his uncle was a quite prosperous dentist. He was one of the people who went for the double degree before the last war but the war got in the way and he had to take his medical qualification after the war.

He became a committee man. I got to know him and he taught me about the etiquette and mechanism of running committees. There was a time when he wore so many hats it must have been difficult to put them all on at once. He was very involved with the BDA and particularly with all the negotiation over the

harmonisation with Europe; that was his greatest enthusiasm. He was on the faculty of Dental Surgery. He was the youngest, then and ever, Professor of Oral Surgery at Newcastle. He wrote a number of very good basic dental educational textbooks which were a model of a number of other short texts; at the time they were all widely read.

Then he gave it all up, he sat on the advisory committee which was to set up the new dental school in Hong Kong and to everyone's surprise he became the first Dean giving up everything in the UK and taking his family to Hong Kong.

He did a lot of good work at the school but when he left he left under a political cloud. I don't really want to harp on but a lot of really bad things were said about him and a lot of good things from people like myself who did like him.

He almost faded out of coming to meetings. He didn't come to the club meetings. I remember the Leonard buttons guy who rang me up when I was in the office at East Grinstead one day and he said: 'have you heard about Geoffrey Howe?- a terrible tragedy he lost both his wife and his son?' I won't go into the circumstances because they are private.

I rang him up and persuaded him to come to the next meeting of this club which happened to be in Swansea, it was Eric Morgan's meeting, we shared a hotel with, I remember, the All Blacks. He came to the meeting but he then really faded out. But he was, and people forget as he was forgotten by a lot of people, President of the International Association of Oral Surgeons.

When he moved to Hong Kong he moved away from the British Committee structure to where he had to develop a more international perspective. After he finished he wouldn't come to any meetings he just wouldn't move in professional circles after Hong Kong. He contributed a lot but people have forgotten.

I wrote a few words for the International Association in which I summarised his life. I said:

'Geoffrey Howe has a somewhat sad ending after a distinguished academic career, he left his post in Hong Kong under a political cloud which was never satisfactorily resolved. He was then asked to undertake some Oral medicine teaching at Yarmouk University in Jordan where there was a project to set up a new dental school. He continued to work in Jordan in an advisory capacity until he was 72 when finally retired. In the twilight of his life he tragically lost both his wife and son and was rarely seen at Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery meetings. It is difficult to escape the feeling that Geoffrey Howe was a man of exceptional talent for whom the organisation of dental education was of more interest and importance than the excitement and challenge of Maxillofacial Surgery. However his contribution to the speciality was still considerable and it is right that this should be remembered.'

Mike Awty said:

I am having to cast my mind back 50 years, Dennis Smith was a singly qualified Senior Registrar at East Grinstead when I got there in 1954.

East Grinstead was quite a tough place in those days and Dennis protected me from our well known Senior Colleague who shot first and asked questions afterwards. It was quite a taxing time for a chap in short trousers who has just come down from Guy's.

Dennis was a very private person and he had quite a difficult time starting his career as a Consultant. He got a job at Canterbury. Well you think now that you get the job and set up the service at Canterbury but in those times it was quite tough and he had only 4 or 5 sessions at the most and he had to do sessions in the school service and do all sorts of odd jobs to make ends meet. He persevered and built up a very good service down there working on his own for many years.

He has lovely Elizabethan house not too far away and he fathered several extremely clever daughters by Marie who was a staff nurse in our theatres and was a lovely girl.

He had a very quiet life, he didn't indulge in much national politics but he had enough to do ploughing his own furrow. In those days there was a lot of prejudice against dentists working in hospitals, he managed very well.

I was pleased that when he retired they had quite a nice time together in the village and took great comfort in the success of their daughters. After Marie died he went down but I can't remember how old he was but he was ninety something. I saw him on his ninetieth birthday and he was still quite sparky really.

I look back at him as a very nice chap who had a very hard start in our speciality, he did his best to put the flag up in quite trying circumstances; we all complain but the chaps who started like this had a much harder time.

There was then a minutes silence in respect for our former colleagues.

### Retirements.

It was announced that there were two retirements from active practice under the rules of the Club, Bob Woodward and David McPherson. Both were transferred to Honorary Membership.

### Resignations

Helen Witherall and Carrie Newlands had resigned.

### Attendance

Three active members were in danger of losing their membership due to non-attendance and it was reported that the committee had asked the secretary to write to remind them.

### New Members

It was reported that there were thus seven available places in the club and the committee recommended that the following persons be invited to join: Sanjay Sharma, Ceri Hughes, Carl Jones, Mahesh Kumar, Paul Norris, Andrew Dickenson and Heliotis Manolis. This was accepted by the meeting and the secretary will write to invite them

#### Honorary Treasurers Report

The Honorary Secretary projected to accounts for the year and reported that the club was in a good financial state. The accounts for the year are to be appended to the minutes of the AGM.

#### Honorary Secretary's Report

The Hon. Secretary was unable to be present so there was no formal secretary's report.

#### Honorary members

David Patton reported there he had received no communication from any of the honorary members with any specific problems.

#### Committee

The President recorded his thanks to Tim Mellor for his work as secretary. Jon Hayter has agreed to become the new secretary. Tim will be the president elect for 2015/16 and Iain McVicar for 2016/17.

The new committee will therefore be:

Mick Gilhooly President, Jon Hayter Secretary, Andy Brown Treasurer, David Patton Hon. Members representative, Peter Ramsay-Baggs and Stuart Hislop members representative, Andrew Sadler Archivist, Jim Herold Immediate Past President, Tim Mellor President Elect.

Andrew Sadler offered to do the minutes, report and letters from this meeting as neither outgoing nor new secretary was able to attend.

#### Golf

It was announced that Paul Robinson won yesterday's Golf tournament

#### Communication

There had been one concern by a member over communication and another letter from an honorary member requesting written information about meetings. The President reported that this had been discussed at the committee and it was recommended that letters should not be sent out routinely due to the work involved, expense and lesser convenience than emails. The details will all be in the web site as well as emails being sent and as there was knowledge of only one member not having access to emails a letter will be sent to that one member.

### Membership list.

It was discussed that the last membership list was made in 2010 and it was requested that an updated version be supplied to members. It was agreed that this would be in the form of a PDF file loaded onto the web site which would be encrypted so as not to compromise contact details and that members could then download it and for those who wanted a printed copy print it themselves.

### History of the Club

This has been updated and will be updated again after the meeting with details of the new officers and group photo of the members of the meeting. The book will be available for those who want a copy in print from Amazon for approximately £7.90. The most recent photographs will now be in colour. Digital copies are available to buy from the Kindle store and will be emailed free to those who want them. Some printed copies are to be ordered for the club to be sent to those who being invited to join and for the President to send to overseas hosts so they know more about us.

### New President

Jim Herold handed the Semmelweis Medal to Mick Gilhooly and he was inaugurated as the new President.

### Next meeting

The next meeting is to be held in Salzburg on Thursday 30th April and Friday 1st May 2015. 20 rooms have been provisionally booked to arrive on Wednesday 29th April, depart Saturday 2nd May at the Mecure City Hotel (not the Mecure Central Hotel). The rooms will be reserved for us until January 31st 2015 after which they will be released for others.

Next year's home meeting will be held at Old Thorn outside Portsmouth on November 12th and 13th.