

Outgoing President's Letter

MR DOUG MCWHINNIE



As I step down as President, the Editor has asked me to review the past two years, and update members about what has been achieved. I usually find such self congratulatory overviews rather smug and self satisfying, but as I planned this newsletter, the scale of the Association's achievements and the number of people involved in their execution became apparent and obvious. I am therefore proud to offer the following summaries of BADS activities, as a tribute to all of those who have assisted me over the last two years.

Membership: Despite the economic downturn and cost cutting within our hospitals, our membership remains at approximately 470. Every month we enrol new members but because of churning, we are only slowly progressing towards our stated aim 500 members. Many other professional organisations have seen significant falls in their membership over this period.

ASM: Southport (2009) and Portsmouth (2010) have both provided excellent scientific content and superb social networking. Delegate numbers were over 250 at each event and neither made a loss. Trade partner interest remains high and BADS conference remains one of their favourites due to the friendliness and interest of the delegates.

Strategic Partners: Over the past two years our strategic partners of Ethicon, Storz and Abbott have been joined by Ethicon-Endo, Anetic-aid and Arizant. All partners have a portfolio of non-competing products and benefit from the availability of BADS Council members for lectures and meetings, training days and professional advice. Web space on the BADS website is also provided.

Conferences: In addition to BADS annual conference, we have produced partner conferences with the Health Service Journal, SBK, Ethicon-Endo surgery, Circle group, The Scottish Government, NHS Elect and The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

Courses: Local anaesthetic hernia and pre-assessment courses are held three times a year in Milton Keynes and Torquay respectively. Both are "hands-on" and a waiting list has developed for places on each.

Booklet publications: The BADS publication group produces three booklets per year. The six booklets for 2008-2010 are:

BADS Directory Third edition was produced in June 2009. The directory has currently been adopted by the Scottish Government for its day surgery targets for 2010/2011 and for the Audit Commission's day surgery toolkit.

Consultancy: BADS council members have provided input advice and review of the day and short stay surgery services in Dorset, St Albans, Whitby, Tayside, Greater Glasgow and Clyde and Lothian region. Our experience in analysing pathways and internal structure and the production of an end report has provided BADS with a valuable source of revenue.

Department of Health: Liaison with the Department of Health has allowed BADS to be involved in best practice tariff for day case laparoscopic cholecystectomy and the setting of a joint day case / inpatient tariff for elective surgical patients. Input into single sex provision has allowed first stage recovery to remain exempted.

The BADS "brand" is currently held in high esteem. It represents quality and integrity and remains the voice of day and short stay surgery in the UK. All in Council are proud of what has been achieved and look forward to the challenges of the next two years under the direction of new president, Ian Smith. Succession planning has enabled Ian and I to enjoy a prolonged and fruitful handover. I wish President and Council my very best wishes for a successful BADS future.

DOUG MCWHINNIE