

Orthopaedic and Trauma Alliance Conference Report 2017

The 2017 Annual OTA Conference, our 23rd, was held at the Jury's Inn Hinckley Island Hotel, Leicester, from 22nd to 24th September. This was a new venue for us and it was chosen to allow better access to Conference for delegates from the South and Midlands. The feedback from delegates and exhibitors concerning the hotel was good.

The OTA Annual General Meeting took place on Friday with the election Tracy Sproson to the Steering group and the re-election of Bronwyn Delbridge, Chris Wardman and Mel Turner. Scott Whittle was co-opted to the Steering group.

This year we started on the Friday afternoon with an Interactive Workshop covering Focused Rigidity Casting, which was well attended.

On the Friday night we held our usual Meet and Greet Reception for the Companies involved in Conference.

Conference itself began on the Saturday morning with the announcement by our Chair, Bronwyn Delbridge of the retirement from the Steering Group of Lynne Chadburn, our Paediatrics Lead and long-standing member of the Group. Bronwyn spoke about Lynne's contribution to OTA and presented her with a bouquet and gift vouchers.

Lois McGrath, chairing the first half of the morning introduced our first speaker Mr Graham Radcliffe from Bradford, presenting on the subject of "Bone Metastases".

Next, we had a presentation on "Open Fractures of the Tibia" from Mr Stephen Milner from Derby.

Following the mid-morning break which gave delegates the opportunity to visit the Conference Exhibition and see some of the latest innovations and developments in orthopaedic care, Mr Don McBride took over as Conference Chair and introduced the next speaker Mr Assad Qureshi from Leicester presenting on "Rickets and Osteomalacia".

The next speaker was Dr Clive Bezzina from Stoke presenting on "The Role of the Rehabilitation Medicine Consultant in Trauma Rehabilitation". He was followed by Dr Marc Cornock presenting on "Legal Issues - Documentation".

Conference then broke for lunch and longer look at the Exhibition before the afternoon Workshops. This year delegates were given a Workshop Workbook

covering details of all the Workshops, Saturday and Sunday with associated Anatomy and Physiology and space for personal notes. These were well received by delegates.

The Saturday afternoon Workshops were, Hip Spica Application sponsored by BSN, Humeral Shaft Fractures, Treatment Options sponsored by Beagle, An Overview of Scoliosis Bracing Casting Techniques sponsored by Allard UK.

Workshops concluded at tea time and delegates headed off to their rooms to prepare for the Conference Dinner - "The Roaring Twenties"

The evening kicked off in the Rotunda with Cocktails, and entertainment from Lee Lambert. Conference Dinner was held in the Paris Suite decorated in the Roaring Twenties theme of Conference, we had entertainment from Lee Lambert, some amazing dancing from Studio 79 and a disco from DJ Ron.

We were also pleased to welcome Carl "Foggy" Fogarty, the most successful World Superbike racer of all time and former King of the "I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here" jungle, who made a surprise visit.

Sunday morning saw our new style workshops, each one linked to and run from a different exhibition stand. This was an experimental venture and we will review how this worked for delegates and exhibitors alike.

The workshops were, Wounds Under Casts (BSN), Latest Approach to Hip Bracing (Chaneco), Treatment Solutions for Off Loading Diabetic Foot Ulcers (Benecare) and Dynamic Bracing of Anterior/Posterior Cruciate Ligament Injuries (Promedics).

Conference ended with the usual presentations and prize giving. This years' fancy dress winner was Michelle Lay-Flurrie from Bradford and best stand went to Benecare.

Our thanks go out to our AV provider, Warren at BAV for another brilliant set up despite the access timing problems, to Brian Hurst for the filming of the presentations and workshops and to Alan Janocsek for capturing the Conference in photographs.

Our thanks also to all our delegates, exhibitors, and sponsors.

Chris N Wardman
October 2017