

British Society of
Prosthodontics

Platinum Jubilee Publication

1953-2023



bsspd 

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Foreword

S Nayar

With immense pride and heartfelt joy, I pen this foreword to the publication commemorating the Platinum Jubilee anniversary of the British Society of Prosthodontics.

It is an honour and privilege as we celebrate this momentous occasion, which pays tribute to the collective efforts and unwavering commitment of our esteemed members who have played a pivotal role in shaping the landscape of prosthodontics in the United Kingdom.

Seventy years ago, a dedicated gathering of dental professionals envisioned a group that would bring together dental prosthetics. Little did they know that their humble beginning would blossom into an organisation of such prominence and prestige within the dental community. Today, as we commemorate this extraordinary journey, we take pride in the Society's evolution, growth, and accomplishments, which have left an indelible mark on the field of prosthodontics. Established in 1953, the British Society of Prosthodontics (formerly the "British Society for the Study of Prosthetic Dentistry") has played an instrumental role in shaping the landscape of prosthodontic science in the United Kingdom and on the global stage. Through our members' dedication and collective efforts, this esteemed Society has become a beacon of knowledge, facilitating collaboration, and professional growth. As the Platinum Jubilee President, I am deeply honoured to lead this exceptional organisation and to work alongside some of the most brilliant minds in our profession.

This Platinum Jubilee publication is a testament to our shared pursuit of excellence in prosthodontics. Within these pages, we track the profound transformations our organisation has undergone over the years – its genesis and growth and the changes that occurred over the decades. It is a journey that reflects not only the evolution of Prosthodontics and dentistry but also the passion and resilience of our members. I want to thank Richard Welfare for leading a team of great authors and for their energy and dedication in collecting, collating and preparing this magnificent document that chronicles the 70 years of BSSPD.

Over the past seven decades, the British Society of Prosthodontics has been at the forefront of excellence, fostering education, research, and professional development in Prosthodontics. Our journey has been marked by countless milestones and

achievements that have not only elevated the standards of dental care but also significantly improved the lives of numerous patients who benefit from our specialised knowledge and skills.

As we reflect on the past and celebrate our achievements, let us also look forward to the future with optimism and determination. The next significant anniversary will be our centennial. The following 30 years hold boundless possibilities for the British Society of Prosthodontics. I am confident that with the continued support and collaboration of our members and stakeholders, we will continue to lead the way in prosthodontic care in the UK and worldwide. We must nurture and inspire our next generation of prosthodontists who will continue to carry the torch of excellence and ensure the British Society of Prosthodontics remains a vibrant and influential force in the years to come!

I dedicate the Platinum Jubilee publication to all the members – past, current and future – of the British Society of Prosthodontics!

Foreword

J Owens

I am delighted we are publishing The British Society of Prosthodontics, Platinum Jubilee book at our 70th Anniversary Conference in Cardiff. I would like to thank all the authors who have contributed to its production, particularly Richard Welfare, Suresh Nayar and Raelene Sambrook who have been so instrumental in its production. I would also like to thank Rachel Jackson for providing the artwork that compliments the cover so well.

I hope you enjoy this gentle meander through the history of the Society, from its inception 70 years ago up until now, as much as I have. In our busy Professional lives we often do not take time to stand back and reflect on the progress we have made or to 'take stock' of achievements. Sometimes we just need to make 'time to stand and stare'. I hope this book allows us to do just that with our Society. While BSSPD is a learned Society of the highest calibre it is also fun, inclusive and welcoming. It is notable that many of the issues debated by the Society over the years are just as relevant today as they have ever been.

I am sure for our older members this 'walk down memory lane' will bring back many fond reminiscences of times gone by. I have particularly liked pictures and references to my earliest teachers and mentors who have helped me on my way. I am sure others will have their own favourite moments that will make them smile and reflect. To our younger members, who will take the Society into its next 70 years, I hope you will sense by the warmth and affection that our authors have conveyed that this is truly 'The Friendly Society'.

Thank you and enjoy.

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Introduction

RD Welfare

The following is, as far as we know, an unpublished paper prepared to mark the first 25 years of the Society. It makes a fitting start to the Platinum Jubilee publication to bring this document to light; some of the activities mentioned are covered again in other chapters; some show the green shoots of the growth of the BSSPD.

THE B.S.S.P.D. - ITS GENESIS AND GROWTH

by Emeritus Professor E. Matthews

The Society was born at 10 a.m. on Friday, September 11th, 1953. So runs the agenda of a meeting held at London House, Guilford Street, London, W. C.1, on that day. Its first President was Professor H.B. Fenn of Guy's Hospital.

The accoucheur was the Conference of 'Prosthetics Teachers' which, at its meeting in 1952, decided to start such a Society. A sub-committee comprising Professors Fenn, Osborne and Mr. Watt, had been appointed to draft a Constitution and Bye Laws of the Society and to make arrangements for its inauguration in September, 1953.

The 43 delegates attending the Prosthetics Conference at London House were teachers from 18 dental schools in the British Isles and were welcomed by Mr. J.H. Lee on Thursday, September 10th. The opening address was by Professor Fenn, the Chairman, and there followed a series of discussions throughout the day, opening speakers including Dr. Lammie Mr. Ainsworth, Dr. Chick and Mr. Anderson. The debates were wide ranging; subjects discussed included the content of courses, correlation of clinical teaching with technological training, and schemes for interchange, for short periods, of teachers of Prosthetics between schools.

The next day the naissance of the Society was celebrated with a series of Clinical and Table Demonstrations at the Eastman Dental Hospital under the guidance of our host of the previous day, Mr. J.H. Lee.

The five page document comprising the Bye-Laws of the Society drawn up in 1953 and later amended in 1957 and 1958, states quite simply that "This Society is instituted for the promotion of the Study of Prosthetic Dentistry".

The formation of the Society was really the culmination of the earlier meetings of the then small group of teachers of Prosthetic Dentistry. In 1950 John Osborne had promoted the need felt by those teachers to debate the problems that concerned them by inviting his colleagues to a two-day meeting at the Birmingham Medical School. 14 schools were represented and 28 persons attended. This Prosthetics Conference, as it was styled, was a lively one and revealed the deep concern for greater understanding between teachers, of the many technological and teaching problems involved. It even had the temerity to address itself to the need to re-vivify the Dental Investigation Committee of the then Dental Board (the pre-cursor of the G.D.C.) and to press for this both directly and through the D.E.A.C. (Dental Education Advisory Committee) and the Research Advisory Committee of the B.D.A-

As if this were not enough it also addressed itself to the question of a form of dental auxiliary, namely a Prosthetist, such was the pressure of demand at that time for prosthetic services. The meeting ended with a decision to hold such Conferences annually, and an executive committee consisting of Professors Osborne, Fenn, Matthews and (the then) Mr. Liddelow was appointed to deal with such matters. The Prosthetics Conference of 1951 was held in Manchester, with 37 delegates from 19 dental schools and continued the analysis of the many problems raised at Birmingham. The social and professional success of those meetings inevitably led to wider aspirations, particularly under the enthusiastic and persistent pressure of pioneers like David Watt. The need to involve general practitioners was fully recognised and, in fact, all who were interested in the broad field of prosthetic dentistry and its related disciplines.

The minutes of the 1952 Prosthetics Conference held in Bristol record that:- "Mr. Watt proposed the formation of a Society for the Study of Prosthetic Dentistry

It was decided that any meeting of such a Society should be concurrent with but separate from, the Annual Conference of Prosthetics Teachers;

The second meeting of the newly formed British Society for the Study of Prosthetic Dentistry was held in Edinburgh under the Presidency of Professor E. Matthews. 24 members from 16 schools attended and there was a notable list of candidates for membership including Sir William Kelsey Fry, J.W. McLean, H.H. Boyle, Eric Scher (Cork), W. Bartolo (Malta) and W.A. Gardiner (Kuwait).

J.F. Bates records that the meetings of the B.S.S.P.D. and the Teachers Conference at Edinburgh on September 8th - 11th, 1954, were held in the very pleasant atmosphere of the Edinburgh Dental Hospital and that members were accommodated at the Balfour University Hostel, which in his opinion helped in promoting the success of the meeting. He noted the wide differences of opinion on the basic concepts of prosthetic dentistry, not apparent to the casual observer. It is of some interest to record the existence in these early days of study groups, and that under the heading of 'Casual Communications' the Edinburgh and the Bristol groups reported on 'Nylon as a denture base material' and 'Mandibular movement' respectively.

Although the Bye Laws of the Society stated that there should be one Annual General Meeting held each year, preferably in the month of September, there were those who favoured a biennial meeting, and it was finally decided at the 1954 meeting to hold the next meeting jointly with that of the Teachers of Prosthetic Dentistry at Manchester

in April 1956. Meanwhile an invitation from Mr. J.H. Lee to a one-day meeting at the Eastman Dental Hospital on April 1st 1955 was warmly accepted as an interim one. A final note on the 1954 meeting records subscriptions at £55.13.0d and a bank balance of £29.17.2d.

The Manchester meeting developed the theme of materials science and from it came the first publication by John Wright of the main proceedings. The obvious pleasure of a common meeting ground for friendly discussion and interchange of ideas was also proving invaluable to that small group of first-generation teachers, some of whom were only too conscious of their former isolation.

The pattern for the future was established. The annual meetings were now held in April, and under the presidencies of J.H. Lee, N.J. Ainsworth, J. Osborne, K.P. Liddelow, D.M. Watt, J.N. Anderson and A.O. Mack the Society visited London, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Dundee and Newcastle.

In 1964 Hamish Thomson chose Cambridge for his presidential meeting, a break away from the dental school environment of earlier meetings.

1966 saw a repeat of this experiment under the presidency of S.F. Fish, a meeting felt by some to represent a watershed in the affairs of the Society. Both socially and professionally it was an outstanding meeting, as the names of some of the contributors to the 16 papers read testify: — C.F. Ballard, D.C. Berry, C.K. Schreiber, M. Mahood, D.M. Watt, N.R. Thomas, M. Woodhead, R.M. Watson, N. Brill, H. Thomson, G.M. Ritchie, D.M.G. Main, A. Fletcher, A.S. Prophet, E.A. Scher, J. Marsden, G. Blair, A.R. MacGregor, G. D. Stafford, D.C. Smith and J. Osborne.

There have been those among our dental colleagues who criticise the narrowness of outlook of the “denture makers” among their number. A perusal of the title papers read at the annual conferences must surely answer this criticism. The welcome to those from other specialties to give of their viewpoint is embodied in the names of such contributors as D. Downton, J.W. McLean, J.A. Pedler, W. Krogh Poulsen, N. Brill, B. Cohen, W.J. Tulley, A.S. Prophet, Allan A. Brewer and B. Hedegard.

The Society has played its part also in encouraging younger members of the profession to play their part. The Reckitt Prize was first awarded in 1971 has done much to encourage research workers to submit the results of their efforts. It constitutes a cash reward of £200 together with a certificate. The Council of the Society also has a continuing concern with student involvement and has recently recommended an increase in the value of the undergraduate Essay Prize to £100.

The influence of the Society has continued to grow through its liaison with the other Specialist Societies. More recently, the formation of the Consultants in Restorative Dentistry Group has prompted considerable debate within the Society as to the academic and possibly political implications of such a liaison.

On the wider scene the Society has played a very significant part in the formation and development of the European Prosthodontic Association. At the 5th Annual Conference in Lyons, 250 participants attended, and 53 papers were read. Much credit is due to their honorary secretary, R.C. Fereday, to whom our own Society is already much indebted. It is indeed to that small band of devotees who have carried the responsibilities of the Society, not least the secretaries and the curators, that we owe its present status.

A few have been privileged to gain the Society's Gold Medal, and it will have given pleasure to many older members of the Society that a special posthumous award was made to that much loved personality, Niels Brill, whose wise contributions at our meetings extended over so many years. The latest award, in 1981, to Professor D.M. Watt is a fitting recognition of his own contributions.

In spite of all our achievements, much remains to be done. Our failure to attract more general practitioners to our ranks suggests that we may, in part, lack understanding of their special problems. Anyone with a knowledge of the geriatric situation will welcome the paper by M.R.Y. Dyer, a general practitioner, on "Clinical Studies on Alveolar Bone Atrophy", as pointing the way to a much-needed expansion of work in this field,

As if to answer one's own criticisms it is of special pleasure to note that the 1982 meeting of the Society in Edinburgh will be under the presidency of Alan Lawrie – a general dental practitioner par excellence. Salve!

Postscript

The minute DL25 GR28 in 1982 states:

The Honorary Secretary had received Professor Matthews' history of the first 25 years of the Society.

A copy had also been forwarded to the Honorary Curator and the President had had the opportunity of reading through the work. It was felt that, although Professor Matthews had captured the spirit of the early days of the Society and identified some key points in its development, the account was insufficiently detailed for publication at this stage. The Honorary Secretary believed that Professor Matthews would be unwilling to extend this paper and it was therefore agreed that it should form the nucleus of an historical document. The Honorary Secretary would write to surviving Past Presidents, requesting brief memoirs of their years of office.

The responses received from the Past Presidents may be seen in Appendix I Presidents Memoirs.

Whilst it was perceived that this 'nucleus' was insufficient for publication at the time, it is these recorded words which give us insight into the roots of the society. It is appropriate that Professor Matthews efforts are recognised in this commemoration of the BSSPD at 70 years young.

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Presidents, Conferences, and Venues

PS Wright

According to the constitution agreed in 1953:

“The President, shall regulate all the Proceedings of the Society and Council, state and put questions, interpret the application of the Bye-Laws, and decide every doubtful question. He shall check irregularities and enforce the observance of the Laws. He shall sign the Minutes of all Meetings of the Society and of the Council; and return the thanks of the Society to those who furnish contributions or exhibit Specimens.”

The President, being one of the Officers of the Society, ‘*shall be elected from the Ordinary Members, by postal ballot annually before the Meeting in September*’. Similarly, the Vice-President, whom despite a lack of clarity in the Constitution, was expected to be installed as President the following year.

It is also noticeable that, despite the stated preference for the Annual Meeting to be in September, following the first Annual Meeting held on 9th September 1954, all subsequent Annual Meetings were held in the Spring, most often in the week preceding Easter.

Changes to the Constitution were made from time to time and by 1965 the duties of the President had been generalised to ‘*supervise the arrangements of all meetings of the Council and Society, to preside at them, and to act in the best interests of the Society at all times*’. Also, the Vice President title was replaced by the President-elect, thus formalising the expected succession.

Thus, in September 1953 the Society was ‘*initiated for the promotion of the Study of Prosthetic Dentistry*’ at the inaugural meeting held under the chairmanship of David Watt (Edinburgh University) in London and Professor Harold B Fenn (Guy’s Hospital Dental School) was elected as its first President. An association, with a previously known ‘Conference of Prosthetics Teachers’ seems to have faded away, but the new BSSPD was essentially a society of teachers of Prosthetic Dentistry and the first Annual Meeting held in Edinburgh included 43 attendees from 18 Dental Hospitals (see Figure 1).

As with many new organisations there were a few active protagonists. David Watt, who became its first Secretary, organised the first meeting in his home University which

largely consisted of reports from regional study groups, as suggested at the inaugural meeting. Papers from the President on 'Balanced Occlusion' and from A. Mack (Royal Dental Hospital [RDH]) on 'Implant Dentures' were given, followed by demonstrations in the Prosthetic Clinic and The Prosthetic Laboratory. The proceedings were included, handwritten, in the minute book, together with the discussion from the meeting. Professor Ernest Matthews (Manchester University) was elected as the second President.



Figure 1: 1st Annual Meeting 1954

Similarly, it appears that the second Annual Meeting was hosted by the first Treasurer at the Eastman Dental Hospital (EDH) on 1st April 1955. This one-day meeting included an opening address by the President 'Future Progress in Prosthetic Dentistry'; and papers by JW McLean on 'Full Denture Impressions'; AO Chick on 'Some aspects of Occlusion'; and GA Lammie on 'Increased Vertical Dimension and Partial Dentures'. This was the last meeting where the proceedings were included in full, together with the discussion, in the minute book. There was no Annual Business Meeting (ABM) and a new President was not elected.

Consequently, Professor Ernest Matthews was the only President to date to serve two years and the third Annual Meeting was held in his home University in Manchester on April 12-13th 1956. He noted that the bias of the meeting was towards Dental Materials. There were three papers on the Thursday am and two on the Friday am together with an ABM. This meeting was notable for the organisation of an extra-curricular excursion to tour the new Radio-telescope at Jodrell Bank. The 1955 Proceedings were the first to be published, together with the discussion, by John Wright and Sons. Ltd. in a very professional format. Mr John Lee was elected as the fourth President, so it was back to EDH for the fourth Annual Meeting on 4-5th April 1957. This meeting included six papers which were published as those from the previous meeting but without discussion. Mr Norman J Ainsworth (RDH) was elected as the fifth President.

The early Presidents were mostly Heads of Departments of Prosthetic Dentistry around the country and conference venues were usually within the Universities or Medical/Dental Schools to which they were affiliated. Similarly, most of the early Presidents are well known names, older members of the society will have met at least some of them, and their names will appear on older publications, including well known textbooks on Prosthetic Dentistry. The archives include most of the early proceedings as well as the early minute books. However, despite records of a council meeting on 4th April 1958 and an ABM on the 5th April 1958, both at the RDH, there is no record of the programme. However, three papers from this meeting, previously published in the University College London (UCL) Dental Journal, were stapled together as proceedings from this conference. This collection also included a list of papers from the programme of the fifth Annual Meeting but not included in the proceedings. A discussion on 'Anatomical Articulation for Undergraduates' was opened by Professor Fenn and papers were given by Mr RI Nairn, Mr JA Pedler, Professor J Osborne, Professor AO Chick and Mr KP Liddelow. Professor John Osborne (Birmingham University) was elected and installed as the sixth President.

In the early minutes it is clear, that members of the Council made suggestions to the incoming President for suitable inclusions in the programme. However, the President always had the last word and by now it was clear that the arrangements for the annual meeting were firmly in the hands of the President. The sixth Annual Meeting held in Birmingham was notable for the first invited speaker from abroad. Professor Krough-Poulsen from Copenhagen presented a keynote paper 'Prosthetics – Therapy or Reconstruction'. He was subsequently elected as the first Honorary Member of the BSSPD. In the minute book the treasurer reported budgetary concerns and the curator reported difficulty in getting a copy of the paper given by Professor Krough-Poulsen, so no proceedings from this meeting were produced. Professor Kenneth P Liddelow (Kings College London [KCL]) was elected as the seventh President.

The seventh Annual Meeting was held in April 1960 and at the Council Meeting, held before the ABM on 6th April, encouragement was given to future Presidents that at least one day of the annual meeting should be devoted to short research reports. It is clear that this had already been planned by Professor Liddelow¹ because the Proceedings for 1960, once more published by John Wright, included two stand-alone papers; three papers comprising a symposium on 'Methods of Teaching Dental Prosthetics' and eight summary research reports.

Dr David M Watt was elected as the eighth President.

The eighth Annual Meeting was held in late March with the ABM on the 29th March 1961, at Holland House, Edinburgh. The published Proceedings included two papers given by invited speakers from abroad, Professor Björn Hedegård and Dr Neils Brill together with discussion; three papers comprising a symposium on 'Impression Techniques for Full Dentures' with discussion; 10 summary research reports with discussion and one clinical report as a film. The inclusion of invited speakers from both abroad and the UK was to be a feature of many future meetings, but the research papers were always enthusiastically supported by delegates. It is unclear when Annual Meetings became formalised as Annual Conferences but the enthusiastic discussions,

often reported in the Proceedings, fully justified the more academic format. Mr John N Anderson (University of St Andrews) was elected as the ninth President.

The ninth Annual Conference was held in early April with the ABM on the 6th April 1962 at St Andrews and Dundee Dental School. The published proceedings included three stand-alone papers, four papers contributing to a symposium on 'The Training of Undergraduates and Dental Technicians in Dental Technology' and eight research reports all with discussion.

It will be seen as we move through the decades there are few new topics in Prosthetic Dentistry. Professor Alan O Mack (Newcastle University) was elected as the 10th President.

At this time, the format of the Annual Conference was becoming established. There was not usually a theme, but the interests of the presiding President were often indicated by invited speakers and/or a single topic symposium. The lectures and reports can be derived from the proceedings, but other features of the programme are only sometimes recorded in the minute books. The conference normally lasted two days and there was always an ABM during that time. The tenth Annual Conference in 1963 included 18 papers, a mix of research, clinical and materials topics. Mr Hamish Thompson (EDH) was elected as the eleventh President.

In 1964, for the first time, the Annual Conference was not held in the President's home University, but in Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge on 6th-7th April. For some reason only 10 papers were included in the Proceedings. Mr Arthur O Chick (RDH) was elected as the 12th President.

It may be of interest to note that over the past 70 years the Annual Conference has been held 12 times in London; five times in Birmingham, Cardiff, Edinburgh and Manchester; four times in Cambridge and Newcastle; three times in Dundee and Liverpool and twice in Belfast, Oxford and York. One virtual conference was held during the pandemic (2019-2021) and the remainder were held in single venues.

The 1965 Conference was held in London with the AGM² on the 12th April. The conference included 13 papers plus three in a symposium on 'Denture Sore Mouth'. The opening presentation was from a different speciality entitled 'Problems in the assessment of Periodontal Prognosis'. Professor S Francis Fish (The London Hospital Medical College [LHMC]) was elected as the 13th President.

Professor Fish chose not to hold his Conference in London and again chose Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. This time the lectures were held in the Department of Anatomy Lecture Theatre on the 4th and 5th April 1966. For the first time in the Archives a printed program is provided but there is no difference in the format of the meeting. This was not the first time that delegates were accommodated in student Halls of Residence which had the advantages of being cheap and convivial, but the disadvantages of being basic, often with shared ablutions. Despite this, the use of such accommodation remained normal until around the mid-1990's.

The 14th President was Mr Philip Saunbury (Belfast) who held his Conference on 21st and 22nd March 1967, unusually a Tuesday and Wednesday, in the Queen Elms Halls of Residence, Belfast. For the first time the programme listed a Society

Dinner – dress informal and such an occasion was set to become a regular event at the Society's Conferences.

The 15th President was Professor David C Berry (Bristol) and his conference was held on 8th and 9th April 1968, back to a Monday and Tuesday, in Wills Hall, Stoke Bishop, Bristol. It included a Symposium on 'Postgraduate and Refresher Courses in Prosthetic's for General Dental Practitioners'. There was an evening reception but no society dinner. The 16th President was Professor Roy Storer (Newcastle), and his conference was held on 31st March and 1st April 1969 in Henderson Hall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. For the first time a session was included for table demonstrations. There was a Conference Dinner (dress informal) and on this occasion the first recorded after-dinner sweepstake took place estimating the length of the speeches from the start of the President's guest speaker standing up to propose the toast to the health of the Society to the president sitting down having proposed the health of the Guests.

Dr Eric A Scher (UCL), a general dental practitioner in Brighton, was the 17th President and the first part-time member of teaching staff to be elected to the Presidency. He chose to hold his conference from 12th to 14th April 1970 at the University of Sussex, Brighton and this time, more was made of the Conference Dinner, which was held, following a Reception, in the Royal Pavilion. Despite the venue, dress was still informal, and remained so until the present day. Professor John F Bates (Cardiff) was the 18th President and held his conference on 5th and 6th April 1971 in the University Hospital of Wales Dental School, Heath, Cardiff. The programme showed, for the first time, a theme for the meeting which was 'Mastication, Food and Nutrition'.

The next year we moved to the Dental School and Hospital, Glasgow, for the 19th President, Professor A Roy MacGregor (Glasgow) to hold his conference on 27th and 28th March 1972. For the first time a theme of 'Geriatric Medicine' appeared and there was also a joint session with the sixth Orthodontic Teachers Conference. Professor Alan W Lawson (Dublin), the 20th President, had planned to hold his meeting in Dublin but after discussion in Council, with concerns being expressed about the political situation at the time, he was persuaded to move the venue to Manchester. Thus, it was back to the Owen Park Hall of Residence on 9th and 10th April 1973 for his conference. The main topic or theme was 'Mandibular Posture'.

Two notable changes occurred in 1974 which were to alter the format of the annual conference for the future. For the first time, the Conference was to start on the Sunday evening with a Trade Exhibition and the table demonstrations, the latter which had been a feature of the conferences since 1969. Thus, Professor Derrick J Neil (Guy's Dental School), the 21st President, extended his conference in Eliot College, University of Kent, Canterbury to three days, 7th to the 9th April 1974. Perhaps to sweeten the pill, a visit to evensong at Canterbury Cathedral and a musical performance by the band of the Royal Marines was also included in the Sunday evening programme. It is not clear whether there had been Trade sponsorship before this meeting, but it would continue to feature, for obvious reasons, in all future conferences. Secondly, prior to the conference, abstracts of all the presentations were requested, collated and duplicated for all delegates at the conference. Such abstracts continue to this

day, but the presentation has become more sophisticated with time, and easier, more professional methods of publication.



Figure 2: 23rd Annual Conference 1976

At the time of writing, some 48 years after the event it is difficult to know why presidents chose particular venues other than their home universities. However, Mr John H Farrell (Bristol) chose St Johns College, Oxford and the Radcliffe Infirmary for the 22nd Annual Conference on 23rd-25th March 1975. In similar fashion Mr Sidney G Barrett (UCL) chose St Johns College, Cambridge and the Babbage Lecture Theatre for the 23rd Annual Conference on 28-30th March 1976 (Figure 2). This was the first meeting when speakers from the USA were invited. Kenneth D Rudd from the University of Texas and CL Bolender from the University of Washington gave an interesting insight into the differences between the UK and the USA, the latter having embraced Fixed and Removable within Prosthodontics.

Mr Robert I Nairn (RDH) chose to return to London for the 24th Annual Conference, which was held at Hanover Lodge, Bedford College and in the Lecture Theatre of the Royal Zoological Society of London on 3rd-6th April 1977 (see Figure 3). The extra day at the end of the meeting on the Wednesday was a joint meeting between the BSSPD and the Inaugural Meeting of the European Prosthodontic Association. Thus, it could be seen that the BSSPD was forging links across the world, in Europe and America.

Mr Wesley Johnson (Manchester), the 25th President stayed closer to home, holding his meeting at the Owen's Park Hall of Residence and the Stopford building, University of Manchester, on the 19th-21st March 1978. Similarly, Mr William M Murphy (Cardiff) stayed close to home for the 26th meeting, on the 8th-10th April 1979 (Figure 4). The latter meeting was marked by a full Sunday afternoon discussing 'Dental Education – How much Dental Technology?'. On the Monday, Cardiff laid on a Civic Reception followed by the Conference Dinner in Cardiff Castle, but the delegates had to pay for the latter.



Figure 3: Robert (Bob) Nairn



Figure 4: Mr William M Murphy (left) and Peter R Likeman (right)

Professor H Robert Tomlin (Birmingham) ran a traditional 27th annual meeting in Birmingham from 30th March to 1st April 1980, perhaps showing the popularity of the format, there were 10 table demonstrations. Mr Gordon M Ritchie (UCL) the 28th president demonstrated the popularity of University Campus for our meetings. The University of Warwick campus was well outside the centre of Coventry which focused the delegates on the business of the meeting, held from the 12th-14th April 1981, and on networking with colleagues from similar backgrounds.

Dr D Alan Lawrie (Edinburgh) took us back to Scotland for the 29th Meeting from 4th-6th April 1982, to Holland House and the Pollock Halls of Residence. The conference dinner was held in the Upper Library and the dinner in the Old Senate Room. Then back to the outskirts of London for Professor Mike Braden, the 30th President's conference at Royal Holloway College on 27th-29th March 1983 with the conference dinner in Kingswood Hall. Professor Braden was possibly the first person holding a qualification in basic science admitted to ordinary membership, though he was certainly the first such member to become President. No doubt this was mentioned in the speeches at the dinner, which by now had become quite formal, although never to the stage of requiring formal dinner dress.

Dr G Derek Stafford (Cardiff) stayed in his home University for the 31st Conference held in University College and Aberdare Hall on 15th-17th April 1984. The invited speaker this year was from Denmark and perhaps indicated an interest of the president and a more general appreciation of the relationship between prosthetic Dentistry and Gerodontology. John Christensen spoke on 'Introducing Gerodontology to students in Denmark'. The Annual Dinner in the Assembly Rooms followed a civic reception, both in Cardiff City Hall.

While not a competition, successive presidents always wanted their conference to be memorable. While the Halls of Residence were often memorable for the wrong reasons and the lecture facilities usually of a high standard, it was the Conference Dinner venue that offered opportunities to be special. Hence, during the evening, there was a Band Programme by the Band of the 3rd Battalion Royal Regiment of Wales Volunteers by kind permission of the Commanding Officer Lt. Col. M. Roberts, Royal Regiment of Wales.

Mr Rowland C Fereday (RDH) chose St Johns College Oxford for the 32nd conference held from 31st March – 3rd April 1985. The lectures were held in the Zoology and Psychology Building and included a symposium on Higher Standards in Prosthetic Dentistry. Over-all there were 35 abstracts submitted, a record number at that time, of which 11 were table demonstrations. The dinner was held in Balliol College Hall following an Organ Recital in Balliol College Chapel. The sharp eyed will have noticed an extra day on the Wednesday filled by an Open Meeting with an invited speaker from Canada, Professor George Zarb speaking on 'Osseointegration in Clinical Dentistry' a very new topic in the United Kingdom at the time. Another new concept at this meeting was an accompanying persons' programme visiting Waddesdon Manor and Blenheim Palace. The take-up was low but it was an innovation that would continue in the future.

However, Dr Paul R Geissler (Edinburgh) preferred a more conventional programme for the 33rd conference held in Holland Hall, Edinburgh on the 23rd-25th March 1986, with the reception and annual dinner held in the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh.

Mr Les RD Manderson (UCH) made some significant changes to the conference program running from 12th-14th April 1987 on the University of Bath campus. The programme started on Sunday morning with a coach tour of the City of Bath for both delegates and accompanying persons followed by a symposium on the 'Periodontal/ Prosthetic Interface' for the delegates on the Sunday afternoon. Meanwhile the accompanying persons were to visit the private home of Mr and Mrs Edward Nowell,

Antique Dealer, followed by Wells Cathedral, later to be joined for afternoon tea by the delegates at the Bishops' Palace. This meant moving the table demonstrations and trade exhibition to the Monday morning while the accompanying persons were taken on a coach trip to include Castle Coombe. On the Monday evening all were treated to a civic reception and a tour of the Roman baths followed by the annual dinner in the Assembly Rooms and a tour of the Museum of Costume. The President made an interesting entrance to the reception in a Sedan Chair, carried by willing officers of the Society (Figure 5). There was still time for lectures on the Monday and Tuesday.



Figure 5: Les Manderson arriving in grand style on a Sedan chair

1988 saw the publication of the first combined conference programme including abstracts, with lists of Officers, Sponsors, Prize-winners, and Honorary members. The detail in this printed booklet makes reporting on the conference even more complete than in the previous years. Dr M Robin Heath (LHMC) had chosen Wye College, University of London, situated in Kent countryside for the 35th conference on 27th-29th March 1988. As in the previous year it started on the Sunday morning with a coach tour to Port Lympne Mansion and Zoological Park. The afternoon was filled with five papers on Dental Implants while the accompanying persons went on a walking tour of Canterbury town and Cathedral, later to be joined at Chilham Castle by the delegates for a falconry display and reception. The following days were filled with themed sessions on Physiological Studies of Prosthodontic Relevance; Clinical Science; Towards improved Quality for Partial Dentures; Towards improved Quality

for Complete Dentures; the Quality and Handling of Dental Materials and Biological Reactions to them. There were 14 posters and a trade exhibition included. Notably this was the first time the descriptor posters, rather than table demonstrations was used and might indicate a change in the facilities available for producing this type of presentation. Accompanying persons went to Hever Castle and Plaxtol on the Monday.

Unusually, Professor Robin M Basker (Leeds) chose to run the 36th conference from Monday – Wednesday, 20th-22nd March 1989 in Bodington Hall Library. On the Monday there was an afternoon symposium and the Trade and Posters in the evening, and on the Tuesday/Wednesday in the Worsley Building Medical Lecture Theatre for the verbal presentations. A visit to the National Museum of Photography, Film & Television, Bradford was included and the reception/conference dinner was held in Rudding House, Harrogate.



Figure 6: Professor A Grant



Figure 7: Dr John Walter

Professor Alan A Grant (Manchester) reverted to the Sunday – Tuesday format for the 37th conference, 8th-10th April 1990 at the University of Manchester (Figure 6). A visit to Granada Studios was included on the Sunday where many of the delegates enjoyed seeing the inside of the Rovers Return and having their picture taken on Coronation Street. This was followed later by a Lancashire evening at the now familiar Owens Park Halls of Residence. This conference was a good opportunity to discuss the recently published 1988 Adult Dental Health survey, especially the information on Total Tooth Loss. The reception and conference dinner were held at the impressive facilities of ICI Alderley Park, where Occlusin, one of the first tooth-coloured composites, was invented.

Dr John Walter (Guy's Dental Hospital) held the 38th conference at the University of Durham on 24th-26th March 1991 (Figure 7). This year was the first time Quintessence Publishing Co. Ltd. produced the conference program in an A4 format, which had the addition of a welcome message together with a photograph of the President. Sunday morning was occupied with a visit to the Beamish Outdoor Industrial Museum where delegates were most interested in the Victorian dental practice that was featured. The Sunday afternoon included a symposium on Gerodontology and the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Posters were now on the Monday morning. Delegates were able to

attend evensong at the Cathedral on the Monday evening followed by the conference dinner held in Trevelyan College, which included a Colliery band playing, significantly limiting normal conversation. The end of this conference saw the induction of the first lady President of the BSSPD.

Miss Angela M Fletcher (UCH) held the 39th conference at the University of Leicester on 12th-14th April 1992 (Figure 8). As yet another innovation, a golf competition, was held on the preceding Friday, and a postgraduate course 'The Worn Dentition – solutions old and new' on the Saturday. Although, mention of a Heads of Department (Prosthetic Dentistry) meeting occurred in the minute books as early as 1968, it appeared formally on the programme, also on the Saturday, for the first time. This meeting was more administrative/political than academic and became an annual feature of the programme.



Figure 8: Sidney Barrett and Angela Fletcher

Sunday morning was taken with a tour of 'Sights of Leicester and Charnwood Forest' including a trip on the Great Central Railway followed by a symposium in the afternoon on the 'Place of Prosthetics in the VTS (vocational training scheme)'. Lectures on the Monday and Tuesday were in the Gilbert Murray Hall and the conference dinner was in the Beaumont Hall. Also of note was the publication by Miss Fletcher of the first BSSPD Newsletter.

Professor Roger M Watson (KCL) returned to the Monday – Wednesday format for the 40th conference held 5th-7th April 1993 at Kings College Cambridge. The Heads of Department meeting was held on the Monday morning and a symposium on 'Facial Disfigurement – The Art of Disguise' in the afternoon. An Organ recital in Kings College

chapel was held on Monday evening. Professor Ejvind Budtz-Jorgensen from Denmark was an invited speaker on the Tuesday morning. The conference dinner was held in Great Hall Kings College on the Tuesday evening. During the meeting a picture of all the delegates was taken to mark the 40th anniversary (Figure 9). Accompanying persons were offered trips the Duxford Air Museum and Wimpole Hall (National Trust).



Figure 9: 40th Annual Conference 1993

The 41st annual meeting was held on 27th-29th March 1994 under the presidency of Dr John C Davenport (Birmingham) in Aston University, Birmingham. An innovation was a 'Young Members' session, held on the Sunday evening, designed to help introduce them to the rigors of oral presentation and discussion. A symposium on 'Communication and Standards in Dental Prosthetics' was held on the Monday morning with posters being included on the Monday afternoon. There was a civic reception in the City Art Gallery and the Dinner was held in the Banqueting Hall, Council House. As well as the papers on Tuesday, unusually, there was a visit to the Barber Institute and a Wine reception at lunch time. This was the last conference from which Annual Proceedings were published. By this time the papers included were reprints of papers published elsewhere and it was decided that the expense and effort of collecting them was no longer justified.

Professor Bob Yemm (Dundee) chose to hold the 42nd conference on the Thursday, Friday, Saturday 5th-8th April 1995 in the University of Dundee. Highlights were a symposium on 'Saliva and Salivary Glands' on Thursday morning, a visit to Glamis Castle Thursday afternoon and in the evening a presentation on 'Scottish Dialects' followed by a whisky tasting. Following papers and posters at St Andrews on the Friday there was an organ recital in St Salvator's Chapel, a reception in the Upper College Hall followed by a dinner in the Lower College Hall. After more free communications the conference finished before lunch on the Saturday.

Following this Scottish sojourn, the BSSPD moved to Northern Ireland the following year for the 43rd conference under the presidency of Professor Ian C Benington (Belfast). It was held in the Queen's University, Belfast from 31st March – 2nd April, 1996, back to the more traditional Sunday – Tuesday. Following the decision to cease producing Proceedings, the Conference Programme and Abstract Book now included a list of members' publications, and this was to become a regular feature. Sunday was busy with a council meeting; Heads of Department meeting; Annual General Meeting and a Young presenter's session. Monday morning was occupied with Schottlander presentations³, but the afternoon was occupied with an outing to Mount Stewart, followed by a recital by the 'Neuro-Prosthodontists' and the Annual Dinner in the Great Hall. Your correspondent believes the singers included the President, Professor Ronnie Laird, Dr John Besford with a neurologist completing the quartet. Tuesday began with a symposium 'Bridge over Troubled Waters – at what cost?' Of note was the presentations by Professor Per-Olof Glantz from Sweden at both this conference and the previous conference in Dundee. Perhaps to make the trip to Belfast worthwhile for accompanying persons, they too had a full programme including the Ulster Museum; a city bus tour; a trip to the Giant's Causeway and Bushmills Distillery.

Professor W Ronnie E Laird (Birmingham) held the 44th annual conference on 23rd-25th March 1997, for the first time in a Conference Centre; the Ettington Chase Conference Centre, Stratford-upon-Avon. The finances of this innovation proved challenging but in other respects it was ideally suited for its' purpose. The Sunday had the same format as the previous year and on the Monday and Tuesday, as well as the normal papers and posters, there was a symposium 'Prosthetic Dentistry – the way to the Future'. Another innovation was the sponsorship of the reception before the Annual Dinner by the British Dental Association Central Committee for University Teachers and Research Workers (BDAUDT&RW). An advantage of the venue was the opportunities it afforded for accompanying persons to visit Shakespeare's birthplace and the surrounding countryside.

The 45th conference was back into a university setting, Derwent College, University of York, under the presidency of Professor John A Hobkirk (EDH) on 5th-7th April 1998. The Sunday followed the same format but there was no young presenter's session leaving time for a visit to Castle Howard. Monday commenced with Schottlander papers, and the afternoon included a symposium 'Future Challenges' sponsored by the BDAUDT&RW. The evening reception and dinner was held in a very unusual venue for such events, the National Railway Museum, and time was allowed after dinner for the delegates to enjoy the exhibits. Tuesday was papers and posters with the free communications session sponsored by Denplan Ltd. and the conference finished at 15.15.

The search for venues was always an early task for the incoming president, thus for the first time Mr Rob A Howell (Liverpool) chose to hold the 46th conference in the Crown Plaza Hotel, Liverpool on 28th-30th March 1999. The combination of accommodation and conference facilities in one building made for a very social event, even though the costs might have been greater than university facilities. The conference started on the Sunday afternoon with a symposium on 'Rehabilitation of the Oral Cancer patient'

sponsored by General Medical Equipment Ltd. In the early evening there was a Mersey River trip. Monday morning had prize paper presentations and posters while the afternoon was occupied with free communications followed by a visit to the cathedral. The AGM was held in the Town Hall followed by a reception and the Annual Dinner. On Tuesday there was an invited lecture by Professor George Zarb (Canada) and more free communications with the conference finishing at 15.15. Accompanying persons were well catered for over the two days with a trip to Port Sunlight and a guided city tour. It is worth noting that during this presidential year, a new innovation was the formation of The British Prosthodontic Conference (BPC). This was a collaboration between the BSSPD and the British Society for Restorative Dentistry (BSRD) and resulted in a one-day meeting in November for a number of years. This collaboration was to lead in the future to Restorative Pan-Society conferences, the first 'Dilemmas and Decisions in Dentistry', in ICC Birmingham, 15th-17th November 2007.

Professor Per-Olaf Glantz (Malmo, Sweden) has received mention in this history before and he was an early member of BSSPD joining in 1971. He also had a long-term association with the Cardiff Dental School so, while he was the first continental European to be elected as President, it was not surprising that he chose the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff for the 47th conference on 16th-18th April 2000. His international connections allowed him to populate the conference with leading scientists associated with Prosthetic Dentistry. Following the opening of the conference on Sunday afternoon, delegates were treated to presentations from Professor P-I Branemark (Sweden), Mr A Sugar (UK) and Dr J Wolfaardt (Canada), all leading experts in osseointegration. The evening was the traditional spot for the posters and trade exhibition. On Monday, as well as the prize presentations, there were invited lectures from Dr J Besford (UK) and Dr T Berglund (Sweden) and free communications. The reception and annual dinner were also held in the National Museum of Wales. Tuesday saw more free communications and the conference ended at 12.30. It seems probable that the earlier end to the conference, which was to become a normal finish time for a few years, was an indication of less free communications being offered for presentation.

Professor Paul S Wright (Barts and The London, Queen Mary University of London [QMUL]) held the 48th conference on 8th-10th April 2001 in the International Hotel, London Docklands, being the most modern part of the East End of London and close to his Alma Mater. The programme followed the most traditional format with the posters and trade exhibition on the Sunday evening. Monday morning started with a mix of free communications and prize presentations, followed by the AGM at midday. The afternoon was occupied by a symposium on 'The Future for Prosthetic Dentistry' followed by transfer from the conference to the Royal Naval College, Greenwich on the M.V. Royalty down the Thames accompanied by a Jazz Band. The reception and annual dinner were held in the Painted Hall of the Royal Naval College, returning to the hotel by coach just before midnight. Tuesday morning was occupied by free communications with the conference closing at midday.

Dr Rob K F Clark (KCL) chose to run his conference on 23rd-26th March 2002 at his school-day Alma Mater, Millfield School, Somerset. The venue offered Leisure and Sports activities, which were available to the delegates outside of conference sessions.

The conference started on Sunday afternoon with a symposium 'Complete Dentures – Do you remember them?' followed by posters and a trade exhibition in the evening. Monday had a mix of prize presentations and free communications with the AGM late afternoon. A reception was held in the Fine Arts Gallery and Dinner in the Dining Room. Free communications continued on Tuesday morning and conference closed at 12.45. The printing of the programme booklet had for some years been sponsored and printed by Quintessence Publishing Co. Ltd., but this must have stopped this year because, for the next few years, the programme and Annual Proceedings was prepared by the Dental Unit, Media Resources, University of Wales College of Medicine. As with other features of the programmes, sponsorship was sought and examples were sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline and the FDI World Dental Press Ltd.

Another landmark year had been reached and the 50th Conference was held, somewhat appropriately, on the Jubilee Campus, University of Nottingham 13th-15th April 2003 under the presidency of Dr Peter R Likeman (KCL), pictured in Figure 4. The conference was opened on the Sunday afternoon by one of the founder members of the BSSPD, Professor Roy Storer followed by an appropriate symposium 'Whither Prosthetic Dentistry? Training the next generation of Prosthodontists'. In the evening a visit to Nottingham Castle, with a reception in the Long Gallery was organised. Monday was a mixture of prize presentations, free communications and posters followed by a reception in the Great Hall of the University of Nottingham Trent Building and dinner in the Senate Chamber of the same building. Tuesday morning saw a continuation of the free communications with conference closing at 12.30. Of special note was a presentation of the 'History of the BSSPD' by Dr John Walter which provided a background for a planned consultation document on 'The First 50 Years'.

Dr Mike Barsby (QMUL) held the 51st conference on 4th-5th April 2004 in the Latimer House Conference centre, Latimer, Buckinghamshire. The building was a Victorian Manor House, set in 30 acres of beautiful grounds overlooking the Chess Valley, converted to provide modern conference facilities. As promised the First Fifty Years Consultation Document was discussed at the AGM and proposals for encouragement of Professionals Complementary to Dentistry (PCD) within the BSSPD; the support for the teaching of Complete Denture prosthodontics in the undergraduate curriculum; the provision of more Continuing Professional Development by the BSSPD and increased publicity for the Society were all discussed. Worryingly there appeared to be a slow decline in membership which undoubtedly led to changes in the succeeding years. The conference itself included a symposium on Sunday afternoon on 'Hypodontia' including a presentation by Birgitta Bergendal (Sweden) as well as several UK contributors, prize presentations, free communications, and posters on the Monday and Tuesday morning, with a conference dinner on the Monday evening, all in the same venue.

The 52nd conference was held on 20th-22nd March 2005 by the president, Dr Rob Jagger (Cardiff) in the Hilton Hotel, Cardiff. Following the now normal sequence a symposium was held on the Sunday afternoon on 'Controversies in Prosthetic Dentistry' with a contribution from Dr Jan de Boever (Belgium) as well as UK speakers. Unusually, there was a 'Presidents Reception' in the evening and both the symposium and Sunday evening dinner was shared with the 'Society of University Dental Instructors'. Monday

started with the GlaxoSmithKline Lecture delivered by Prof David Whittaker, Emeritus Professor of Forensic Dentistry. This was followed by Prize presentations, posters, a trade exhibition and the AGM with the conference dinner being held in Cardiff City Hall. Tuesday was devoted to free communications with conference closing at 12.20.

Professor Fraser McCord (Edinburgh) held the 53rd conference on 8th-11th April 2006 at the Carlton Hotel, Edinburgh. The conference was opened by Professor Emeritus Roy MacGregor, President of the Society in 1971-1972, who introduced a series of Masterclasses, open to General Practitioners as well as members of the Society, under the general title of Evidence and Excellence in Prosthodontics. An enjoyable and informative day, which gave plenty of opportunity for discussion, was rounded off by a whisky-tasting and ceilidh. Monday morning saw six entrants for the prestigious Schottlander prize, and the afternoon session was allocated for poster presentations and the trade exhibition with the AGM at the end of the day. The conference dinner was held in the superb setting of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh when guests were welcomed through the impressive portal by the sound of a lone piper. After the dinner, Dr Paul Geissler conducted interested parties through the museum. Tuesday morning saw the final session of scientific papers, including a presentation by Professor Loster and colleagues (Poland).

Dr Nick Jepson (Newcastle) hosted the 54th Conference on the 3rd-5th March 2007 in the Hilton Hotel situated on the Gateshead and Newcastle quayside near to the Millennium 'eye' bridge. A short walk along the quayside was the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art and the venue for the conference dinner, its Riverside Restaurant. Following on from last years' successful formula, there was a symposium on the Saturday, presented jointly by the BSSPD, the Postgraduate Institute for Medicine & Dentistry and the School of Dental Sciences, Newcastle University. The symposium addressed the changing demography and management of, in particular, the partially dentate older person. Presentation of scientific papers including those in contention for the Schottlander prize took place on the Sunday morning followed by poster presentations and the AGM in the afternoon. Further scientific presentations on Monday morning preceded the closure of the conference with the installation of the new President, Mr Richard D Welfare. During Dr Jepson's year as President a new format newsletter was initiated. In the Presidential Editorial he reminded readers that *'This Society was established to advance patient care, education and research in prosthodontics, grand ideals that, in truth, the Society has not always effectively addressed. Patterns of dental care and, in particular, specialist prosthodontic provision are rapidly evolving, and the Society needs to adapt its role and image to reflect these changes. This need to change or die was, of course, clearly outlined in the report 'BSSPD – The Next Fifty Years'. I am pleased to report that many of the report's recommendations have been adopted as we seek to attract a broader, younger membership and confirm the Society's role as the source for expert prosthodontic opinion and information'*.

The 55th Annual conference took place in the Thistle Hotel, Exeter under the Presidency of Mr Richard D Welfare (EDH) on the 15th-18th March 2008. The conference asked, 'Does it make a difference?' and started with a study day on partial dentures attended by local practitioners and technicians. Participants enjoyed informal lectures

from Finbar Allen (Cork, Ireland), Nick Jepson (Newcastle), Ken Hemmings and Cameron Malton (both London) followed by a series of workshops considering different aspects of design and provision of partial dentures, including an opportunity for delegates to bring along and discuss more challenging cases. A valuable learning experience was achieved for both delegates and presenters. Professor Liz Kay of the Peninsular Dental School opened the conference on Sunday with a brief update of progress of the new school. Further highlights of the day included a joint presentation by Craig Barclay and Chris Butterworth on the management of prosthodontic rehabilitation of oral cancer patients. The day finished with a civic reception by the Mayor of Exeter. Monday featured presentations for the Schottlander Oral and Poster Prizes and the Presidents Prize for the best case-report. Rob Jagger and Andrew Juszczuk gave an interesting insight into the clinician–technician interface which stimulated much thought, discussion and challenges, especially for those involved in training. The conference dinner concluded the day. On the Tuesday President-elect, Mark Thomason, spoke on 'Implants in use' when he answered the conference question but then asked, 'Do we do enough?'. Finally, Francis Nohl gave a presentation on 'Hypodontia care'. During the conference Mrs Rosina Welfare entertained the accompanying persons with a walking tour of the city and a trip to Killerton House and Gardens.



Figure 10: Professor J Mark Thomason (left), Mr Bob Howell (centre) and Mr MFW-Y Chan (right)

Professor J Mark Thomason (Newcastle) held the 56th annual conference at the Hilton Hotel, York, which is located directly opposite Clifford's Fort, once the central stronghold of York Castle, and York Castle Museum (Figure 10). The format of the meeting changed this year in response to feedback from members and was held on

two days: Monday and Tuesday, 6th-7th April 2009. Monday was a fully structured programme with the main theme of implant-supported prostheses, revisiting the precepts of the Montreal McGill Consensus Conference in 2002. Speakers included Professor Jocelyne Feine (Montreal, Canada), Professor Ignace Naert (Leuven, Belgium), Professor Frauke Müller (Genève, Switzerland), Professor Guido Heydecke (Hamburg, Germany) and Professor Paula Moynihan (Newcastle) together with support from other Society Members. This led to the development of a UK Consensus, later known as the York or BSSPD Consensus. The day was concluded with the Annual Conference Dinner. The Tuesday programme commenced with the AGM followed by the Schottlander Prize presentations. Poster sessions ran in parallel with members presentations. The final session had an education theme and focused on the appropriateness of delivering training in implantology within the undergraduate curriculum. Interestingly this session was linked to a proposal to establish an Education group within the BSSPD which was strongly supported by Council.

Dr Craig Barclay (Manchester) held the annual 57th BSSPD conference on Saturday 27th-Monday 29th March 2010 in Stirling Management Centre, Stirling, Scotland and was officially opened by Margie Taylor, Scotland's Chief Dental Officer. The theme of the conference was 'Managing Dental Implants, how should we maintain them?' The Saturday was a joint symposium with the Association of Dental Implantology, the British Society of Oral Implants and the British Association of Oral Surgery. Unfortunately, Prof T Albrektsson (Goteborg, Sweden), being unwell the night before was unable to travel to Stirling; however, Dr Patrick Palacci (Marseille, France) stepped into the breach and presented for two hours on the various factors that affect implant survival. After lunch Prof Stefan Renvert (Kristianstad, Sweden) comprehensively covered the management of periimplantitis followed by Dr Frank Schwarz (Düsseldorf, Germany), who eloquently presented the peer reviewed published evidence on the management of this problem. The final presentation of the day was given by Dr Stefan Ellner (Kalmar, Sweden) who summarised the various factors clinicians need to consider to ensure success. In the evening, a formal dinner was held at Stirling Castle and the Scottish weather held for a glorious evening, when the delegates were treated to bagpipe music, a tour of the castle, opera singing, fine dining and the evening completed by several hours of ceilidh dancing. The Sunday continued the conference theme with presentations from the UK on the importance of dental implant education; management of dental aesthetics with dental implants; medico-legal problems in the field of dental implantology; and dental implants in the management of cleft lip and palate. This was followed by the Schottlander prize presentations. After a quieter and somewhat more sedate conference dinner on the Sunday evening, the final day of the meeting was opened by a brief presentation by the research award winner, followed by presentations on the role of dental implants in hypodontia and in oral rehabilitation of head and neck cancer patients.

The 58th BSSPD conference was held at Austin Court in Birmingham on 18th and 19th April 2011 under the presidency of Professor Damien Walmsley (Birmingham) entitled 'Jewels of Restorative Dentistry'. Gay Penfold, manager of the Jewellery Industry Innovation Centre gave a fascinating talk on 'Jeweller or Dentist – spot the difference!' Many of the techniques used in the manufacture of Jewellery are similar

to those employed in dentistry. Gay covered many past processes of making such jewellery and gave an insight into the 3D printing techniques for the manufacture of fabulous bespoke designs. Deborah White then presented on the Adult Dental Health Survey 'Old age with teeth? A changing picture of oral health in the UK'. This was followed by Professor Trevor Burke 'Stop the burning – bridges to success' and Professor Philip Lumley 'To the apex and beyond?'. After lunch Professor Iain Chapple gave a thought-provoking talk entitled 'Losing teeth makes you die younger' and David Attrill spoke on 'Lessons of the past, visions of the future'. The last session of the day consisted of free communications and a parallel session of poster presentations. That evening the annual conference dinner was held at the Botanical Gardens. The after-dinner speaker was Don Mclean of Crackerjack fame who gave a hilarious speech which included much audience participation. Tuesday morning featured presentations for the Schottlander Oral Prize, followed by the final keynote lecture by Professor Mike Fenlon 'Rehabilitation of compromised patients using implant supported prostheses'.

Professor Chris Butterworth (Liverpool) hosted the 59th Conference on 2nd-3rd April 2012 in the Liverpool Hilton Hotel, with the theme 'Complex Problems: Innovative Solutions' supported by an excellent line up of Keynote international speakers and workshop presenters. Over the two days they presented on topics across the spectrum of prosthodontics. They included Prof Dale Howes (South Africa); Dr Michael Norton (UK); Dr Norbert Enkling (Germany); Professor Iain Pretty (UK); Prof D Edelhoff (Switzerland); Dr Greg Boyes-Varley (South Africa) and Mr Bernard Guggisberg (Switzerland). Around these presentations, time was found for the Schottlander Oral Prize presentations, which now were based on the presentation of a complex clinical prosthodontic case, posters, a trade show and the Annual General Meeting. A new innovation during the conference allowed delegates to join in with the judging process, voting by text message. A further innovation was the option, at the same time as the prize presentations, of two special interest workshops for delegates to attend. These were at extra cost, with limited attendance (25 places on each workshop), supported by the invited speakers, on Precision Attachments and on Implant supported reconstruction of the Craniofacial skeleton. The conference dinner was held at the Merseyside Maritime Dining Rooms within the Merseyside Maritime Museum, the drinks reception in the Museum itself gave guests a chance to peruse Liverpool's Maritime History at close hand, with its brand-new Titanic exhibition. Following dinner, there was a chance to enjoy one of the foremost Beatles tribute bands, the Cheatles. Unusually, on this occasion the BSSPD adopted a charity, Blind Veterans UK, to support at the Annual Conference and £1000 was raised for this excellent cause.

The Diamond Jubilee Conference Celebrating 60 years of the BSSPD took place under the Presidency of Professor Janice Ellis (Newcastle) on the 25th-26th March 2013 at The Sage, Gateshead. The theme was 'Wear Necessities' and the programme was planned to deliver lectures that were of real interest to primary care practitioners, foundation programme trainees, specialist trainees and specialists. The Monday was devoted to invited lecturers around this theme. Many, but not all, of the speakers/workshop leaders were either currently working in Newcastle or trained in Newcastle. This was very much intentional to showcase, not only what BSSPD can offer but also

what talent was in the North East. In the evening, the conference dinner was held at the Sage Gateshead preceded by a drinks' reception. The Tuesday started with the Annual General Meeting following which the next part of the programme afforded delegates a number of opportunities including the option to view the posters or to attend one of four parallel sessions as follows: Schottlander Oral Prize Presentations by trainees on the treatment of tooth surface loss; Articulating history - the Condylar path; Occlusal vertical dimension workshop; or Case discussion workshop. This was followed by the President's Prize presentations. The conference charity this year was 'MIND'. The conference closed at 13.20, with the handover and inauguration of the new President.

Dr Brendan Scott (Dundee) held the 61st conference in the Apex City Quay Hotel, Dundee on 14th-15th April 2014. Only occupying two days, the theme of the conference was 'Aesthetics in Prosthodontics' and a panel of invited speakers covered the whole range of fixed, removable, implant and maxillofacial prosthodontics in relation to the aesthetic issues that can arise in the provision of restorative care. The rest of the conference was occupied by Schottlander Oral and Poster presentations. In keeping with Dundee's historical traditions of ship building, the conference dinner took place in a unique venue – 'HM Frigate Unicorn'. It was launched in 1824 as a 46-gun frigate for the Royal Navy and is the oldest British built ship that is still afloat. There are two decks, with the upper having space to seat 150 people for dinner. The conference charity this year was 'The Royal Hospital, Chelsea'.

Mr Peter Briggs (KCL) held the 62nd conference in the British Library and the Pullman Hotel, St Pancras, London on Friday 27th and Saturday 28th March 2015. This was the first time that BSSPD has run the conference on a Friday and Saturday, responding to the feedback of many who felt that this format would reduce the impact on time away from their professional commitments and might attract more primary care practitioners. The scientific focus of the conference was on 'Confronting the Grey Areas' of our understanding of clinical Prosthodontics. Presentations explored the topics: occlusion, implant use in the periodontally-susceptible patient, imaging, prosthodontic planning, cracked teeth, the dento-legal challenges of prosthodontics and the restoration strategy for worn teeth. Professor Daniel Edelhoff, from Munich Germany, delivered two lectures on the clinical application of CAD-CAM and 'all-ceramic' technology and there was a debate on the implications of the phasedown of dental amalgam. The venue at the British library allowed for 250 delegates in the main tiered auditorium with two additional break-out rooms (connected with AV to the main lecture theatre) to hold additional delegates allowing for a maximum of 340 delegates. The Postgraduate Dental Dean for London Dental Education Training (HEE) felt that the academic programme for the Friday was particularly relevant to the educational needs of the London Dental Foundation trainees, which meant that the conference needed to use both break-out rooms to accommodate the large number of delegates. The conference dinner was attended by 220 delegates and was held in the ballroom of the Pullman Hotel St Pancras. The pre-dinner drinks reception coincided with the launch of the BSSPD young practitioner group.

Professor Julian Satterthwaite (Manchester) held the 63rd Annual Conference in Manchester on Friday 18th - Saturday 19th March at the iconic Bridgewater Hall. The

theme for the conference was 'Progress & Precision in Prosthodontics', showing how advances in technology and a greater understanding of disease processes mirror a background and history of precision work. The popular choice of Friday/Saturday was continued for this year and was also beneficial as the Friday matched the usual study day for the region's foundation dentists. The venue was booked to capacity with a broad range of delegates ranging from foundation dentists, general dentists, postgraduate and specialty trainees as well as established specialists and consultants. Invited speakers included Dr Chris Orr, 'Aesthetics and function: can we have our cake and eat it?', Dr Rupert Austin, 'Restoration of teeth: digital scanning and milling', Dr Anil Shrestha, 'Removable prosthodontics: an alternative to implants', Dr Nigel Rosenbaum, 'When all is lost, what can we do?', this latter presentation being complemented on the Saturday morning by a live patient demonstration run as a parallel session to the main programme. The conference dinner was held on Friday evening at Manchester Town Hall, just a short stroll from the conference venue. The Town Hall is one of the most iconic landmarks in the city. Situated on Albert Square, the Town Hall was opened in 1877 and radiates the history of the city. Following the pre-drinks reception, the delegates were fascinated by magician Jay Rollins before the traditional President's speech of thanks and toast to Guests. The programme on Saturday also included the Schottlander posters and presentations as well as two workshops, and two further invited lectures, Mr Steve Campbell, 'Implant superstructures: digital scanning and milling'; and Dr Rutger Schepers, (Groningen, The Netherlands) on the reconstruction and rehabilitation of large craniofacial defects utilising composite free flaps and implant supported restorations. All in all, a very full two days. This years' conference charity was 'Help for Heroes'.

Professor Mike Fenlon (KCL) held the 64th conference at Etc. Venues, 155 Bishopsgate in the City of London on Thursday/Friday 6th-7th April 2017. Again, the conference was marked by keeping the best innovation from previous years and introducing new ideas. One such change was the absence of a Conference programme, at the time replaced by a conference app. The Conference was opened by Professor Harold Preiskel (KCL), a member of the Society for over 50 years, reviewing the progress in Prosthodontics over the last half century, setting recent development in the Specialty in its historical context. The conference included invited speakers from the University of Dusseldorf, Germany, Loma Linda University, California, and across the UK covering a wide range of contemporary topics, notably the impact of digital technology. Over lunch and during the coffee breaks the posters of the Schottlander Poster Prize and President's Poster prize competitions were electronically displayed across the main hall of the venue. Electronic poster boards save competitors the cost and difficulty of producing and transporting physical posters. After lunch, the Conference ran parallel sessions with the main programme in the auditorium and the Schottlander Oral Prize presentations in the separate lecture room. After the Annual General Meeting the Annual Conference Dinner was held in the Institution of Engineering and Technology. Friday also involved parallel sessions with the main programme in the auditorium and the Dental Foundation and Early Practitioner groups in the lecture room. The latter sessions

consisted of rapid, fifteen-minute expert presentations covering topics designed to capture the interest of early career dentists.

Dr Phil Smith (Liverpool) welcomed delegates to the 65th Conference held in the magnificent setting of the Grade 1 listed St George's Hall in Liverpool on the Thursday/Friday 15th-16th March 2018. The historic setting of the Concert Room was the venue for a series of presentations by experts in their field, addressing the overall theme of the conference 'Achieving Favourable Outcomes: Contemporary Practice'. The first day considered the contemporary management of cleft lip and palate, while day two addressed periodontics, endodontics, prosthodontics and the ever-changing landscape of tooth wear. Schottlander Oral and Poster Presentations were included within the main programme, and a printed conference programme was available. However, there was another innovation. In a departure from conference tradition, aiming to be more inclusive, attracting a wider range of attendees, perhaps more diverse than would choose a formal occasion, a social mixer and buffet was substituted for the conference dinner.

Professor Phil Taylor (QMUL) held the 66th conference at Royal College of Physicians in Regents Park, London on Friday/Saturday 15th-16th March 2019. 332 delegates were present on the Friday for the meeting focused on 'Managing the Heavily Restored Dentition'. Invited speakers from the USA and across the UK addressed various aspects of this topic and a panel discussion of cases for treatment planning ended the first day. That evening saw a well-attended informal gathering serenaded by a Northumbrian piper. The Saturday included the Schottlander oral presentations and more invited speakers. This conference perhaps, illustrates well the change from a conference where members presented their work, to one where the president invited experienced speakers to address an important theme with an educational aim. However, the posters and Schottlander presentations continues to reflect the objectives of the founders of the BSSPD. At the end of the conference Dr Lorna McCaul was inducted as the next President and gave a short presentation and invitation to the following year's conference which was to be held in Glasgow.

Dr Lorna McCaul (Glasgow) was the 67th President of the BSSPD. The planned Conference for 25th to 27th March 2020 was 'The 1st UK Restorative Dentistry & Prosthodontic Conference, Better Patient Care Through Collaboration' and saw a departure from the usual format as BSSPD was to join forces with RD-UK, SRRDG and BSRD on a trial basis, the aim being to minimise cost and time away from work while improving opportunities to engage industry support and quality speakers. The programme theme was collaborative working to improve the care of patients with Cleft Lip and Palate, Head and Neck Cancer, Hypodontia and Tooth Wear. Regrettably, the planned conference in Glasgow had to be postponed with two weeks to go because of the COVID 19 pandemic and national lockdown. Following this and considering the circumstances, it was agreed by council that Dr McCaul should continue as president until the rescheduled conference date of March 2021. Unfortunately, Lorna subsequently had to step down due to personal circumstances and therefore, the president-elect, Dr Rob McAndrew stood in as per the constitution.

At the postponed 67th Annual General Meeting held online on 29th September 2020 the presidential office transferred to Dr Rob McAndrew (Cardiff) who, as the 68th President, in February 2021 was looking forward to the joint conference in March and being integrally involved in this inaugural event. At that time there were over 250 registrations. Thursday 25th March to Friday 26th March 2021 were the dates planned for what would be the 67th annual conference and the first UK Restorative Dentistry and Prosthodontic Conference. To accommodate the issues with restricted travel, the conference was delivered as a virtual event.

Dr Dean Barker (Aberdeen) held the 68th conference in P&J Live, Aberdeen on the Thursday/Friday 10th-11th March 2022. In his welcome in the conference programme, Dean explained that the motto of Aberdeen is Bon Accord meaning 'good agreement'. The motto forms part of the City's Official Toast, 'Happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet again – Bon Accord!'. This toast seems very well suited to the BSSPD. The theme of the conference was 'Challenging the Dogmas in Prosthodontics'. The invited speakers were chosen not only for their expertise, but also because they were not afraid to challenge. Thus, this conference adopted the now normal format of invited speakers, Schottlander oral and poster presentations. One innovation that we might see again was an interactive plenary session, using smart phone technology to ask, anonymously, 'What do we actually do and use in our own surgeries?' with the responses reviewed by expert panels. On the Friday evening a social evening was held in the Cask and Crema bar, Hilton Hotel, no dress code.

So, in the 70th year of the BSSPD, Dr Suresh Nayar (Alberta, Canada) held the 69th and Platinum Jubilee Year conference "One World, One Prosthodontics" on Friday 24th March - Saturday 25th March 2023 at the Millennium Point, Birmingham (Figure 11). The theme illustrated both the internationally renowned panel of invited speakers and the international background of the president. Having been a member of the BSSPD from his time spent in the UK he had maintained his active contribution to the society since his move to Canada. The traditions of the BSSPD were still represented by the Schottlander oral and poster presentations. Further, for the first time in BSSPD history, there was a preconference workshop on Leadership called "Future Leaders in Prosthodontics". The President also initiated a research foundation which will foster and nurture research endeavours by the BSSPD. For the social programme, delegates were welcomed by a Bhangra dance performance (Bhangra is a Punjabi folk dance with a rhythmic drum beat and lively dance). The cuisine was an Indian buffet, and this was followed by a Bollywood dance performance. In this 70th year the president announced he had initiated the process of building relationships between BSSPD and the world and reached out to many sister organisations worldwide. He was pleased to report that he had had positive responses from eight prosthodontic organisations with whom BSSPD has signed a Memorandum of Understanding. Perhaps because of this, quite a few international delegates attended the conference.

The 70th Anniversary Conference will be held in Cardiff and organised by James Owens. It will be staged at The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama under the theme 'Prosthodontics at the Interface –Art and Science'. The programme will explore the many interfaces of Prosthodontics with other dental specialties and digital



Figure 11: Past, present and future presidents at the 69th Annual Conference, Birmingham

technologies. At the Conference, there will also be a parallel session organised by Dental and Maxillofacial Technologists and a Prosthodontic Technologist group, within BSSPD, will be established. For the first time the Schottlander research prize will be 'prejudged' via a live-streamed webinar prior to the event and the winner presenting at the Conference. The social evening will be an informal drink and buffet food reception with musical entertainment including a Welsh Male Voice Choir.

The afore mentioned illustrates the efforts that all presidents have made to promote the sharing of knowledge. Furthermore, it emphasises the importance of the conference event as an opportunity for all members to meet and strengthen their collegial interests. The future of the BSSPD depends on future presidents, and on the conferences they organise. Innovation will continue but the traditions of the society should be protected by the members. It is hoped that members will continue to support these events and welcome new members and younger colleagues with the enthusiasm that they too, were received.

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- 1 For more information about Professor Liddelow see Watson, R. Kenneth Peters Liddelow. Br Dent J 196, 726 (2004).
 - 2 It is not clear why or when, but the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) changed to the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
 - 3 It is worth noting that Brian Schottlander and Schottlander have been generous supporters of the BSSPD through their sponsorship of the Schottlander prizes since 1996.

3

The Constitution

RD Welfare

A constitution is simply the aims and rules that a group will use. It is a statement of what a group is going to do and how it is going to do it. It is important because:

- Without this written understanding people can easily find themselves at cross purposes and the jobs won't get done.
- It serves as a reference and helps to resolve problems in times of controversy.
- Outsiders will want to see that the group is democratic and accountable. This involves having a clear procedure by which decisions are made.

Constitutions usually cover the following areas.

- Name of the organisation
- Aims
- Members
- Equal Opportunities
- Committee and officers
- AGM and other meetings
- Rules of procedure
- Finances
- Changes to the constitution
- Dissolution

The first constitution of the BSSPD was written in 1953, it was modelled on the constitution of the British Society for the Study of Orthodontics and covered most of these points other than "Equal Opportunities and Dissolution" neither of which were the main points of discussion in those days. Also, it was called, not a Constitution, but the Bye-Laws of the Society. In the United Kingdom, bye-laws are laws of local or limited application made by local councils or other bodies, in specific areas using powers granted by the relevant Acts of Parliament, and so are a form of delegated legislation. Some bye-laws are also made by private companies or charities that exercise public or

semi-public functions. This rather heavy handed almost pseudo legal set of rules lasted until 1965 when it became known as the Constitution.

The rules as they were first written would have been set out reflecting the situation of the day. The NHS had only just started, there was limited travel between other countries, communication was mainly written, and priorities were different to today. The Society had only just been formed so had no accumulated funds or possessions.

It is not surprising therefore, that over time the constitution has been re-written and changed to cover the development of the Society and changes in society and technology. In fact, the first change happened almost before the ink was dry on the first constitution and added at the end of Bye-Law XXVIII was:

“An annual per capita of seven shillings and sixpence per financial member can be made to individual Study Groups upon submission of an authorised statement from the secretary of the Group concerned.”

The main changes in the Constitution, however, took place in 1965, 1986, 1991 & 2012, although there were several smaller revisions during this time.

In 1961 minute 50 of the Council Minutes titled Revision of the constitution:

Council had approved the idea of a suggested simplified constitution and considered that this was more desirable. The Society would continue to run on the existing constitution until such time as a new constitution was adopted. It was resolved that “The Society approves in principle the examination of the suggested simplified form of Constitution”.

This proposed simplification eventually emerged in the 1965 constitution with the main changes being:

1. Remove the need for members to be on a medical or dental register and *“his practice be conducted in accordance with the laws of the country in which he resides and in a manner accordant with the dignity of his profession”*. The 1955 amendment to the 1953 constitution which added to Bye-Laws II – Insert after the first paragraph *“In exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the Council a person holding a qualification in basic science may be admitted to the ordinary or corresponding membership provided always that the Council is unanimous in favour of the admission to membership of the Society was changed to or scientists who profess an interest in prosthetic dentistry.*
2. New members only needed a proposer, seconder and one other to be put forward for election, rather than *“be recommended by three or more Members, by two at least from personal knowledge”*.
3. Remove the clauses on *“Withdrawal and Exclusion of Members”*
4. Formally allow *“A member to introduce not more than two visitors to a meeting of the Society. The same visitor may not be admitted to more than two successive meetings and shall not be permitted to attend the Annual General Meeting.”*

5. Drop the suggestion *“that Members should form Study Groups in the areas in which they practice and each group should endeavour to hold at least four meetings in any one year. Each group should appoint a Chairman and a Secretary who will prepare a Report to be delivered to the Membership of the Society three weeks before the Annual General Meeting.”*

There were other small changes such as changing the name of the Vice President to President Elect. Non-payment of subscriptions moved from expulsion from the Society to *“being dealt with as thought best by Council”* and the Treasurer was no longer bound to get Council's permission if he needed to pay a cheque for greater than five pounds but *“to refer to the Council on any expenditure which may be considered excessive by the ordinary members.”* Finally, the agenda of the Annual General meeting was simplified.

These changes probably reflected a gradual change in society's view on authority, plain English and the improving financial situation of the Society. The minute for the acceptance of the change is graphically written:

“The steeply raked, old world lecture theatre resounded with the clamour of a new constitution being debated and finally approved, though not without a few critical voices. Alan Lawson, youthful then and sharp of mind provided one such voice but he was won over in the general desire to have a simple Constitution based on goodwill rather than a wordy document to govern policy and prevent all abuse.”

The next main change came in 1985 & 1986 which saw the removal of “Corresponding Members” from the membership. Historically, this kind of membership was usual for individuals living far away or outside the country and because these people were unable to attend meetings, from organisational reasons, they had to communicate their scientific contributions by correspondence. With improving long distance travel, it is imagined that this form of membership was no longer needed.

Other changes included the introduction of an Assistant Secretary, and the Immediate Past President added to the Council for the following year. The requirement for ordinary membership application was changed so it was only necessary to have a proposer and seconder and not one other as in the previous constitution.

The need to prepare for Charity Status saw the Constitution change further in 1991 to provide more defined objectives.

1. (i) *The Society shall be called the British Society for the Study of Prosthetic Dentistry. The Society is established to advance (public) education in Prosthetic Dentistry.*
(ii) *In furtherance of the said objects but not further or otherwise the Society may:-*
2. *Promote and carry out or assist in promoting and carrying out research, surveys and investigations and publish the useful results thereof.*
3. *Cause to be written and printed or otherwise reproduced and circulated, gratuitously or otherwise, such papers, books, periodicals, pamphlets or other documents or*

films or recorded tapes (whether audio or visual or both) as shall further the said objects.

4. *Do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the attainment of the said objects.*

Interestingly these objectives reintroduced old-fashioned and legalistic terminology which had, in previous constitutions, been slowly reducing. One can only guess that a form of words was provided by the Charity Commission. Also, the quorums for meetings were clarified and added, was a clause on how the Society should be dissolved if necessary, probably again to fulfil Charity Commission guidance.

In that year (1991), the need for all cheques to have at least two signatures was introduced.

With dentistry changing rapidly, implants becoming more common place and fewer people becoming total edentulous the 2012 Constitution saw the biggest changes in the Society's history.

First the name was changed from the British Society for the Study of Prosthetic Dentistry to the British Society of Prosthodontics, though still maintaining the well-known abbreviation of BSSPD. This change was agreed at the Extraordinary General Meeting held after the Pan-Society meeting held in Liverpool 2012 and further information on the reasons for the name change can be seen in Section 9 (BSSPD Name Change). So sensitive was the name change that a further clause to the constitution "*The name of the Society may be changed by a majority decision at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting, subject to approval by the Charity Commission*" was added.

Further changes were made at the AGM held during the Liverpool annual conference on the 2nd April 2012.

The objectives of the Society were rewritten following suggestions by the Charity Commission to reduce the formal tone, making it easier for the public to understand them.

A new category of membership was agreed. On the recommendation of Council, Affiliate Membership may be conferred on members of other societies who support the objectives of the BSSPD. The terms of Affiliate Membership will be at the discretion of and determined by Council.

Gone was the need for any nomination for membership, now just a simple application form. However, back was the need for applicants to be on a recognised register but "*scientists and other dental care professionals who have an interest in prosthodontics or hold such other qualification as Council approve, be registered as a dental undergraduate, or be members of an affiliated Society*" were also formally accepted.

Over the years there have been other changes introducing unusual aspects such as in 1987 requiring all British Members to pay by direct debit which was then removed in 1991. In 2012 was added "From time to time groups relating to the interests of the BSSPD may be established by its Members. These may be endorsed by Council."

Although there is a reference to Honorary Treasurer in 1953 it is not until 1986 when reference to "Honorary" officers is introduced although it was not consistently

used throughout the document, so that in the paragraph of election of officers the term honorary was used but in the individual sections of duties of officers the honorary was missing. This situation remained until 2012.

Quorums that had been stated for Council in 1953 were not mentioned at all from 1965 until 1991 when quorums were introduced for both Council and Annual Meetings.

Although the Society has embraced women in office, it was not until 2012 when the Constitution finally removed references to He/His and replaced it with He/She & His/Her.

No doubt the Constitution will evolve further over time to keep the Society relevant and to reflect not only the Society's *raison d'être* but also life in general.

4 Structure

RD Welfare

- a. Officers
- b. Honorary Conference Organiser
- c. Web Master
- d. Newsletter Editor
- e. Awards Administrator
- f. Webinar Host
- g. Permanent Administration Secretary

The structure of the BSSPD was first set out in 1953 in the Bye-Laws (Constitution) as

The Officers of the Society shall be elected from the Members, and shall consist of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Curator, who, with six other members shall constitute the Council, and shall have the management of the Society's affairs.

The Officers and Council were prescribed the following responsibilities:

President and Vice-President

The President shall regulate all the Proceedings of the Society and Council, state and put questions, interpret the application of the Bye-Laws, and decide every doubtful question. He shall check irregularities and enforce the observance of the Laws. He shall sign the Minutes of all Meetings of the Society and of the Council; and return the thanks of the Society to those who furnish Contributions or exhibit Specimens.

In the absence of the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer, or some Member chosen by Council shall perform his duties.

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall receive all money due to, and pay all duties owing by, the Society, keeping a particular account of all such receipts and payments.

The Treasurer shall keep a printed Check Receipt Book for Annual Contributions.

No sum of money exceeding five pounds shall be paid by the Treasurer on account of the Society, unless such payment can be previously sanctioned by the Council.

Two Members, chosen by Ballot at the previous Annual General Meeting shall audit the accounts of the Hon. Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Secretary

The Secretary shall conduct all the correspondence of the Society.

He shall attend all meetings of the Society and of the Council and take minutes of the proceedings, which shall be read at the following Meetings.

Curator

The Curators shall keep a register of all specimens, books and papers forwarded to the Society and superintend their exhibition and return, and shall be responsible for the publication of the transactions of the Society.

Council

The Council shall have the management of the affairs of the Society.

It shall meet before each Annual Meeting or more often, should it see reason. Four shall form a quorum.

An Extraordinary Meeting of the Council may be called by the President, or any three of its Members.

It shall determine questions by vote – or by Ballot, if demanded – the President having a double or casting vote.

It shall have the power of filling up any Vacancies which may occur in any of the Offices of the Society between the Annual Meetings.

It shall have the power to re-admit such Members as have resigned, on their application for that purpose, upon such terms as it shall think proper; but all Members so re-admitted shall take position as to seniority in the Society from the date of such re-admittance.

It shall form a Standing Committee to determine upon the publication of the Society's Transactions – the Curator being the Convener of this Committee.

It shall, from time to time, appoint such other committees, make such regulations and issue such orders as shall appear to it conducive to the welfare and good government of the Society and to the proper management of its concerns.

In the latest constitution of 2012, the structure and duties changed very little.

5. OFFICERS

5.1. The Officers of the Society shall be a President, Immediate Past President, President Elect, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Assistant Secretary and Honorary Curator.

5.2. Officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall be eligible for re-election with the exception of the President, the President-Elect and the Immediate Past President.

6. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

6.1. The President shall preside at all meetings and supervise their arrangement, shall be chairman of Council and shall act in the best interests of the Society at all times. The term of office for the President shall be one year, commencing at the conclusion of one Annual Conference and ceasing at the conclusion of the following Annual Conference.

6.2. The President-Elect shall assist the President and preside in his/her absence. The term of office for the President-Elect shall be one year and will precede that of the President they will succeed.

6.3. The Honorary Treasurer shall receive all money due to, and pay all monies owed by the Society, keeping particular account of all such receipts and payments, shall conduct the finances of the Society in close co-operation with the President and Honorary Secretary and shall refer to Council any expenditure which may be considered excessive by Members. An audited report of the finances of the Society shall be given at the Annual General Meeting. All cheques must be signed by not less than two members of the Council. The term of office for the Honorary Treasurer shall be 5 years.

6.4. The Honorary Secretary shall keep minutes of the business of the Society, conduct all correspondence of the Society, work with the President in the organisation of meetings of the Society and shall submit a report on the work of the Society to the Annual General Meeting. The term of office for the Honorary Secretary is linked to that of the Honorary Assistant Secretary, with that person being first elected Honorary Assistant Secretary. In this way, the elected Honorary Assistant Secretary/ Honorary Secretary shall serve for 1 year as Honorary Assistant Secretary before moving into the office of Honorary Secretary on retirement of the incumbent Honorary Secretary. The term of office for the Honorary Secretary shall be 3 years.

6.5. The Honorary Assistant Secretary shall become familiar with the duties of the Honorary Secretary, provide assistance as required and take over the post of Honorary Secretary when the Honorary Secretary retires. The term of office for the Honorary Assistant Secretary (1 year) and its relationship to the office of Honorary Secretary is outlined above. It is implied in this that there will not always be an Honorary Assistant Secretary on Council - rather this post shall be filled so that a person is in post during the final year of office for an existing Honorary Secretary

6.6. The Honorary Curator shall arrange for the publication of the transactions of the Society in the best possible manner, shall keep a register of all material forwarded to the Society and superintend its storage or return, and shall submit a report to the Annual General Meeting. The term of office for the Honorary Curator shall be 5 years.

7. THE COUNCIL

7.1. The authority of the Society will be vested in a Council consisting of the Officers of the Society and six ordinary members. Council shall conduct the affairs of the

Society with equity and arrange for its meetings. Council shall meet prior to the Annual General Meeting and refer to it any matters which may affect the welfare of the Society. The term of office for ordinary Council members will be three years after which such an elected Council member will be ineligible for re-election for a period of one year except under circumstances approved by Members. Not more than two ordinary members shall be elected each year to fill the vacancies occasioned by the retirement of the longest serving ordinary members.

7.2. The Honorary Secretary shall invite nominations from Members for vacant positions on Council. Nominations proposed and seconded by Members shall be sent to the Honorary Secretary at least four weeks before the Annual General Meeting. When necessary, a postal or electronic ballot of all Members that are eligible to vote will be arranged by the Honorary Secretary. The nomination by Council for the President Elect together with the results of any elections shall be announced at the Annual General Meeting for its approval.

7.3. If a vacancy occurs on the Council, Council shall be empowered to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the current year by co-option. The proceedings of the Council shall not be invalidated by any vacancy among their number nor by any failure to appoint or any defect in the appointment or qualification of a Member. The Council shall have the power to co-opt not more than six additional members as required. These co-opted members will not have voting rights.

The Officers have been increased with the addition of the President Elect, Immediate Past President and Honorary Assistant Secretary; terms of duty have been defined for all officers and council; clarification of co-option. Otherwise, it is much the same in 2012 as in 1953. A list of the BSSPD officers is presented in Appendix II BSSPD officers.

In 1953 the Society was small, and communication was mainly by letter writing and landline telephone calls so, the roles of the Officers and Council were relatively contained. In addition, there was much greater acceptance of hospital and university staff carrying out professional duties not related to their paid employment during their work hours.

As the Society grew in size, interacted with more organisations and increased their educational role it became clear that running the Society did involve time and work. Roy Storer noted in 1982 *"I had no personal secretary at that time and so details of conference organisation were to say at least interesting and were, of course, very time consuming"*. Although an assistant secretary was introduced in 1985, in reality, the position only allowed a smooth transfer of office rather than sharing the load.

In 1995 RD Welfare, on retirement from his role of Honorary Secretary, proposed that in future the conference organisation should not be the responsibility of the Honorary Secretary and a conference organiser should be appointed to take on this role. The difficulty of running the Council meeting and AGM during the conference while at the same time ensuring the conference was running smoothly was quite a task. The proposal was accepted by Council and helped to spread the load but was never formalised in the constitution and remains a co-opted position.

As the digital age imposed itself more and more, to keep abreast of the changing times it became clear that the Society would need a web presence so in 2001 Chris

Butterworth produced the first BSSPD website and become the first webmaster. Currently the maintenance of the website is mainly carried out by the administration secretary.

Angela Fletcher produced the first newsletter for the Society, and it continued to be as a joint effort of the President, Honorary Secretary and others. It is not clear exactly when the newsletter was delegated to an individual.

Digital contact with members has now moved into the Social Media arena with the Society having Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts.

Another area of the Society's work is the awards administration. As the number of prizes increased so did the workload of the Honorary Curator and Honorary Secretary. So, in 2002 Nick Jepson was co-opted as the Honorary Awards administrator.

Extending the Society's role in education together with technical advances has seen road shows which could only ever reach a small number of people at any one time being replaced with webinars. This popular and valuable resource now means that many more members can benefit from the learning experience in the comfort of their own home. In addition, the webinars can be used to attract new members and promote the Society. Although you still need the presenters, you also need someone to coordinate and produce the webinar, so further co-options have been necessary.

The continued increase of the workload of "the day jobs" together with a lack of understanding of the benefit to hospital and universities of these relationships made it ever more difficult to fulfil honorary obligations. Fortunately, with the Society still growing and with the sound financial position of the Society it allowed, in 2008, the appointment of a part-time employed permanent secretary. This not only allowed greater assistance for council with such things as; membership management, communications, conference organisation, web management and more, but also has given a permanent contact point for members and the public.

Finally, to assist Council with its ever-widening collaborations and input to various organisations the BSSPD has representatives in a variety of other bodies.

- British Prosthodontic Conference
- British Standards Institute
- Continuing Professional Education
- Association of Consultants & Specialists in Restorative Dentistry
- Data Protection
- EPA Joint National Committee
- Restorative Dentistry Audit Committee
- SAC in Restorative Dentistry
- RD-UK
- Young Practitioner Group Co-Chairs
- International Representative
- Advisory Board in Restorative Dentistry

The list is probably not complete, and some roles have gone, and others will no doubt be added in the future. The BSSPD will though, maintain its presence at the forefront of Prosthodontics with its ability to modernise its structure when necessary.

5 Website

C Butterworth

The BSSPD website (<https://www.bsspd.org>) is now the focal point for the society to communicate with its members and the wider dental community regarding its activities and scope. It provides both outward facing information together with members-only access for issues around membership. Over the years since its inception in the early 2000, it has continued to evolve with ongoing investment by the society into a highly functional membership and event booking platform as well as a multi-media CPD provisioning website.

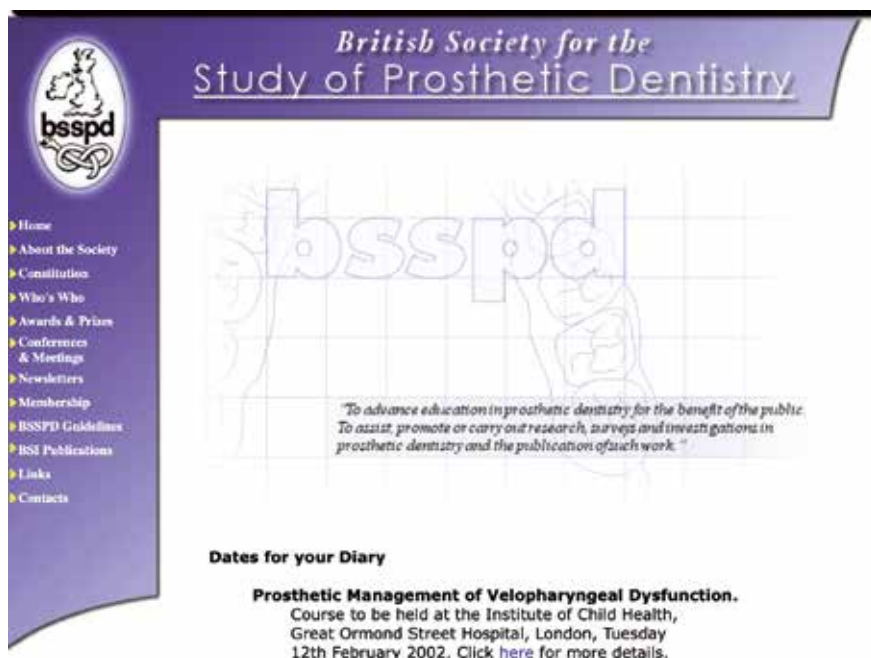


Figure 12: BSSPD early website design and interface.

The earliest webpages archived on web.archive.org are from early 2002 (Figure 12). This initial site was set up by the council of the day in the year 2001 and designed by Miles Internet. It was a database driven site and contained simple information about the society, its officers, mission, awards, and conferences. After this, in 2002, the programming of the website was taken over by myself during my specialist training at Birmingham Dental Hospital as I had an interest in database design and use. At the same time, it was clear that the society membership records were out of date with no clarity about who was a current member and who was not; the membership records being held primarily on a simple spreadsheet. I worked to integrate the membership records with the website to allow the validation of membership records. By 2004, the website facilitated the validation of accurate membership records with up-to-date contact email addresses for all current members being recorded and validated. These were cross referenced with membership payments received and resulted in an accurate membership list of paying members hosted behind the website.

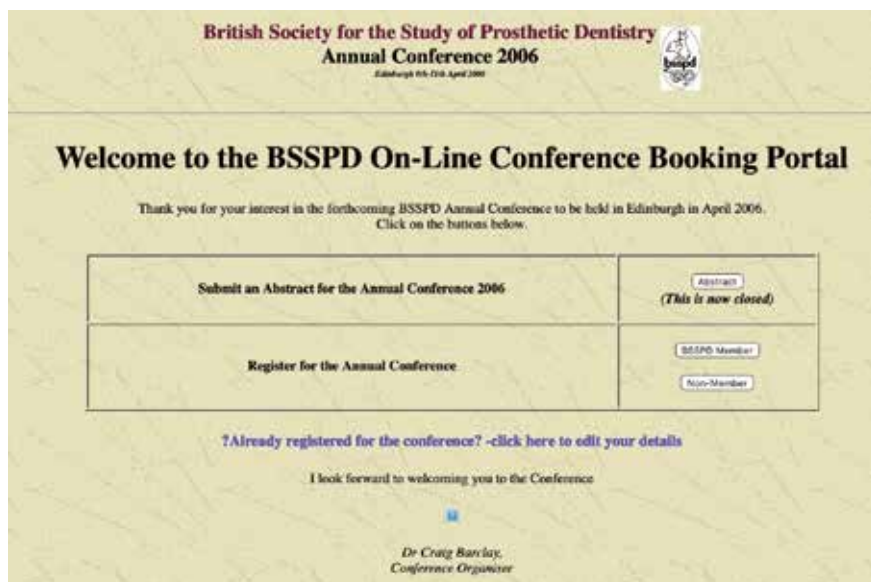


Figure 13: An early screenshot from the website from 2006 after the introduction of online submission of abstracts and conference booking.

By early 2005, an online abstract submission and conference booking process was introduced (Figure 13). For conferences, members could log into the website with their email and password and book into the conference resulting in an email confirmation which they then had to print and send in with their payment by cheque to the conference organiser. By 2006, conference delegates were sent an email link after attending the annual conference which took them to a webpage designed as a CPD certificate which they could then print off themselves as their CPD evidence for their

GDC returns. The BSSPD was the first of the specialist dental societies to implement this type of process which saved the many hours of administration previously required to print out certificates for every delegate which usually occurred on the last day of the conference.



Figure 14: Newly designed layout for the BSSPD website launched in 2009 with screenshot from 2012.

In 2009, the society commissioned a brand-new website to incorporate a new design with increased functionalities such as credit card payments for meetings, a members-only area, and the ability to store BSSPD event CPD certificates for members. The data kept on members was expanded to include job roles, specialist lists as well as the ability to add multiple places of work and to be included in a searchable list of prosthodontists directly available to patients via the website search functionality. Following extensive discussions as to the specification requirements, it went live in October 2009 (Figure 14) with a more modern appearance and for the first-time included pages for patients with information about prosthodontics as well the information about the society in general.

The society has invested consistently over the years to further develop and add additional functionality as outlined in Table 1.

One of the most significant developments of the website over the last 10 years has been the webinar Video CPD functionality, started back in 2012, with recordings of online webinars. The very first webinar was available to watch “on-demand” in the

Date	Modifications to website
May 2010	Ability to add videos to webpages
Jan 2012	Functionality to enable direct debit bank details securely stored in CMS
Dec 2012	Online Video functionality for webinars
July 2015	New design and build of mobile friendly website
March 2018	Amendments to the website to comply with new GDPR regulations
Oct 2021	Functionality added so non-members can purchase on-demand webinars and searchable shop-front webinar page designed
Aug 2022	Modifications and investment in the BSSPD website over the years

Table 1: Modifications and investment in the BSSPD website over the years

members-only part of the website. In 2012 and over the years, the catalogue of CPD material, given initially as live webinars, has been added to the website. The benefit for members is they could not only watch the webinar but also be awarded verifiable CPD certificates for doing so.

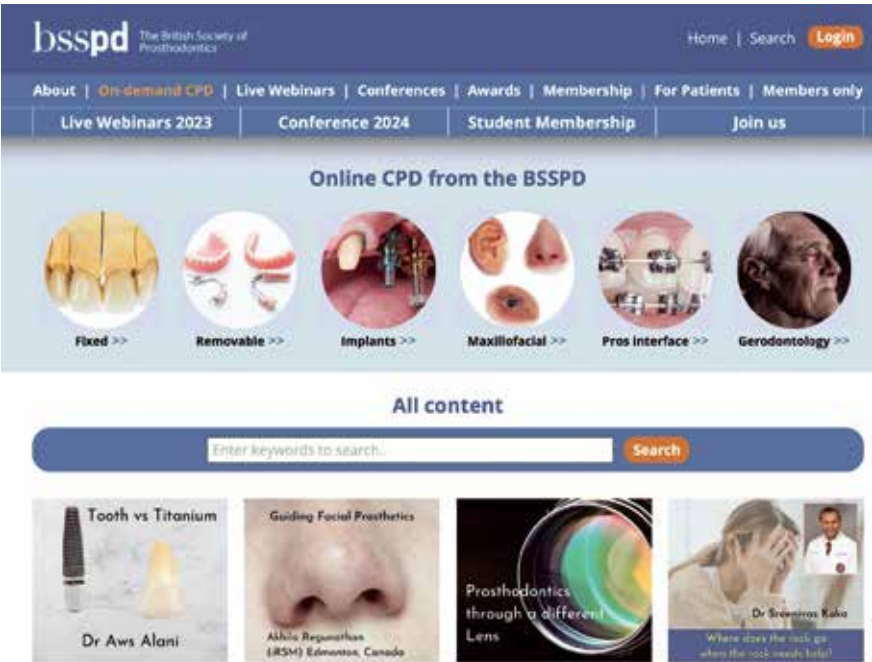


Figure 15: The newly designed online CPD portal (2021) which allows members and non-members to search and watch online webinars.

During 2021, the whole online CPD platform was redesigned (<https://www.bsspd.org/On-demand+CPD.aspx>) (Figure 15) with a new visual “shop-front” approach with the ability to search for topics using keywords and topics, providing an un-rivalled prosthodontics training resource. The society opened up access for on-demand single purchase of webinar content via this shop so that non-members can search and access specific webinars without joining the society. All members have access to the whole catalogue and as such the catalogue has become a key attraction for new members of all types including the new affiliate memberships which have been developed more recently.

The journey of the BSSPD website has been an innovative one and it continues to remain at the forefront of UK prosthodontic educational resources in prosthodontics by the continued investment by the society.

6

Charitable Status and other Monetary Matters (1984 to 1993)

D Walmsley

The charitable status of the society was first mentioned in the Council minutes of 1983. Whilst there was a statement that the society was a charity, the new treasurer, Mr Martin Woodhead from the University of Bristol, wished to establish the facts about our charitable status. In 1984, after lengthy correspondence, the society was granted tax exemption as the bank account resided in Scotland. The tax office in Edinburgh granted this tax exemption in view of its charitable aims. However, the bank asked for this tax exemption to be reviewed on an annual basis which at times lapsed.

During the discussions about charitable status, there was a recurring theme recorded in the minutes about how the BSSPD accounts were conducted. At council and the AGM, members wished to know why large deposits in the bank were being made when we should be seen as a non-profit making society. The members requested clarification. The treasurer, Mr Martin Woodhead, had more pressing matters that required his attention. The membership payment system was in urgent need of modernisation. The system of standing orders was proving to be a cumbersome method of payment and he took on the task of converting members to the Direct Debit system. The advantage of using direct debiting would streamline the payment of membership fees. This initiative encountered resistance as many members did not wish to empower their banks to take money from their accounts by a direct debit system. The conversion process, started in 1984/85, was not fully completed until 1993/94 and even then, there were some people paying twice by standing order and direct debit. The author remembers an amusing incident when one of the more vocal members who complained about the payment system was informed that he was paying both the standing order and the direct debit for several years. Letters informing him of this error had not been answered and he had not realised the error in his bank accounts.

The society had a low membership fee and, as mentioned, the recurring debate at the Annual General Meeting was why the BSSPD should seek large deposits of money by increasing the subscription. Once again, the minutes record several members making strong statements at the AGM that the society should be seen as non-profit making. However, matters came to a head in November 1985. The Society's assets stood at £1,400 with £1,000 tied up in a 2-year deposit account. The 1986 annual conference was being held at the University of Edinburgh. There was a request from the University

for a deposit to retain the halls of residence for the conference. The amount of deposit required was more than the Society's funds in the bank. An overdraft was arranged with the bank to cover the deposit. Therefore, the membership subscription needed to be increased to prevent such embarrassments reoccurring. This moment of financial insecurity passed, as in March 1986, the society was back in credit and since that time, the society has gone forward without further problems and the membership, by and large, realising, even as a non-profit organisation, that the society and conferences it organises, require access to large sums of money.

At the AGM at the Bath meeting in 1987, the treasurer, Martin Woodhead, formally applied for the direct debit system to be ratified by the membership. This required a change in the constitution. Once again there was further debate over the introduction of the direct debit system. The depth of feeling was intense, and the view was expressed that people would resign over not being able to pay by standing order. One opinion aired at the AGM was that there would be a loss of control if a direct debit mandate system was forced upon members. Despite these objections, the motion to change the constitution and introduce the direct debit system was adopted by the AGM.

Charitable status issues were again raised in council in November 1989 when the reserves stood at £9,000. At this time, several changes were introduced. Firstly, all the deposit accounts were moved into a Money Market Account which gave a savings rate at the time of 13% p.a. The bank account was moved from Scotland to Birmingham. This action led to the society clarifying the question of charitable status and their ongoing tax position. When the bank account was held in Scotland, the Inland Revenue regarded the Society as having charitable status without having to apply formally to the Charity commission. The move led to the society having to officially apply for charity status with the Charity Commission.

At the Council meeting at Guy's hospital on 28th November 1990, the treasurer reported that an application to register the society as a charity had been sent to the Charity Commission. The treasurer was waiting for an acknowledgment. At the Council meeting at Durham 23rd March 1991, the treasurer announced that he had received verbal confirmation that the Society's application to register as a charity had been accepted by the Charity Commission. He advised that a note to this effect, together with our registration number would be added to the Society's notepaper. This application for charitable status had been undertaken by the Secretary RA Howell and D Walmsley as Treasurer. Our tax position was now secure. This was a busy time for BSSPD council as Mr DR Williams had also registered the BSSPD with the Data Protection Society.

At the March 1991 meeting the treasurer and secretary reported to the BSSPD AGM that the Society was registered with the Charities commission and the process had gone very smoothly. This so called "smooth process" did not last long. In November 1991, whilst we had been granted informal acceptance, the Charity Commission had requested certain modifications to the Constitution, and these created much debate amongst the membership. The Charity Commission asked the society for a change in the wording which stated that the society undertook public education. This was debated at Council and the term public education would be a change in our original

aims as the emphasis of the society would be incorrect. Therefore, the term public was deleted and changed to advance and promote education in Prosthetic Dentistry.

There were long delays in reply to letters. The Charity Commission was happy with the amendments and the arguments that we put forward. However, if we were to change the constitution then it needed to be ready for the next AGM so that the amendments could be voted upon by the membership. This gave us a chance to review the overall BSSPD constitution as it was apparent that there were other changes required that needed updating. For instance, the constitution was not clear on the process of nominating officers of the society. The constitution was also amended that visitors may not be admitted to more than three successive meetings. The constitution passed with no objection, and we were granted charitable status by the Charity Commission.

The BSSPD accounts were now stable and eventually all members transferred to the Direct Debit system. In 1994 John Collis from the University of Cardiff took over the duties of treasurer.

Reflections

The period from 1984 to 1994 saw several changes take place in how the membership paid their subscriptions to the society. The introduction of a direct debit system did make the treasurer's work easier although there was resistance to the introduction to this method of payment. Moving our bank from Scotland to England prompted the application to the Charity Commission and the granting of Charitable status. The process also allowed the society to revisit the constitution. Looking back through the minutes, I remembered the depth of feeling from several quarters of the BSSPD regarding how the Society managed its funds. Looking back at the discussions that took place, these allowed the society to face future challenges with a strong financial base underpinning our activities.

Acknowledgements

I wish to acknowledge the help of the Wellcome Trust Library and in particular Curstaidh Reid the curator of the BSSPD collection. I also wish to thank Mr Martin Woodhead for his recollection of the events when he was treasurer.

7

Membership Changes

RD Welfare

In the original 1953 Constitution it was stipulated that members had to be on the medical or dental register and that potential members should prove an interest in prosthetic dentistry.

The Society shall consist of Ordinary, Corresponding and Honorary Members. Any person showing proof of interest in the Study of Prosthetic Dentistry shall be eligible for Ordinary Membership, provided that he be registered in either the Dentists or the Medical Register, and his practice be conducted in accordance with the laws of the country in which he resides and in a manner accordant with the dignity of his profession.

A Dental Surgeon or Medical Practitioner showing proof of interest in the Study of Prosthetic Dentistry, and living outside the British Isles, shall be eligible for Corresponding Membership, provided that his practice be conducted according to the laws of the country in which he resides, and in a manner accordant with the dignity of his profession.

Distinguished Foreign and Colonial Practitioners of Dental Surgery in the British Isles, who have retired from practice, distinguished Medical Practitioners and those who have gained distinction in any Department of Science, shall be eligible for Honorary Membership.

There were 24 in attendance at the inaugural meeting with 54 members at the second meeting in 1953. The membership continued to increase and in 1963 it was 100, rising to 183 in 1973 and 269 by 1983 and approaching 350 in 1993. The numbers have continued to increase until our current membership which is 454 members comprises the following categories:

- 36 Honorary
- 273 Ordinary
- 139 Postgrad/trainee
- 6 Undergraduate

Scientists

The 1953 constitution was seen very quickly to be quite limiting and the next year the Constitution was amended to allow scientists to be admitted –

In exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the Council a person holding a qualification in basic science may be admitted to the ordinary or corresponding membership provided always that the Council is unanimous in favour of the admission to membership of the Society.

From that time non doctor and dentists were welcomed. The society has always had a few scientists as members, in particular material scientists and indeed Mike Braden was President in 1982. In 1965 the constitution was amended to simplify the rules for membership -

1965 Membership. The Society shall consist of Ordinary, Corresponding and Honorary Members. Ordinary membership shall be available to those dentists, doctors or scientists who profess an interest in prosthetic dentistry, and shall be by election. Corresponding membership shall be by invitation of the Council. Honorary membership shall be by unanimous election of the Society.

General Practitioners

43 delegates attended the meeting in 1953 and all were from dental hospitals or universities, not surprising since the origin of the Society was started by the teachers of Prosthetic Dentistry. In 1964 there were over 100 members, but Earnest Mathews noted in 1981 *"In spite of all our achievements, much remains to be done. Our failure to attract more general practitioners to our ranks suggests that we may, in part, lack understanding of their special problems"*. He did though continue to point out that the President in 1982 would be Dr Alan Lawrie a general dental practitioner. Exactly how many other general practitioners were members is not stated.

In 1984 Dr R Fereday and Dr J Walter were tasked to produce a document for the way forward for the BSSPD. After a couple of years with various modifications to the first draft a working document "The Functions and Developing Role of the Society" was produced for the membership to consider. One of the recommendations was there should be *"a dental practitioner membership with the organisation of a second Annual Meeting providing essentially a clinical programme which could be a one-day meeting until it is clear that the interest is well established"*.

The proposal for a separate membership category was not accepted but it was agreed to *"initially, (run) a one-day postgraduate course given under the auspices of the BSSPD which could be arranged in the autumn. This should be coupled with some advertisement of the nature and role of the Society. If this venture is successful it should be repeated and as the dental practitioner interest increases and their membership*

enlarges such a clinical course could well develop into a second annual meeting of the Society". This indeed happened and the postgraduate course ran for many years until it was taken over by the webinars, but the second annual meeting of the Society was a step too far.

There is no doubt that there are more general practitioner members now than when the Society started. However, the actual number is not known as it is still not recorded although it is thought to be over 100. A search of the BSSPD website for General Practitioners returns just 18 members. This is because the search field is completed by the member with many working in both practice and hospital and is not compulsory.

Dental Technicians

Although Dental Technicians who had a scientific degree could be members, others could only visit as guests. In 1985 "The Functions and Developing Role of the Society" suggested that Dental Technicians should be admitted as Associate Members. This though, was not supported by Council. It was not until 2012 that the constitution was changed to allow Dental Care Professionals who have an interest in prosthodontics to become members.

Corresponding Members

Historically, Corresponding Membership was usual for individuals living far from an academy or Society and living outside the country where the central body was located. Because such people were unable to attend meetings, from organisational reasons, they had to communicate their scientific contributions by correspondence.

It is not clear if there were any corresponding members in 1953. There were five Corresponding Members⁴ in 1968 which remained until 1975. Whether these were the same people or not, cannot be determined. There are limited recordings of the names of many of these Corresponding Members but in 1972 Mr AJ Lewis and Mr AP Stephens were invited by Council to be Corresponding Members and in 1974 Dr Krystina Rusiniak and Professor JJ Sharry. Then again in 1975 Dr PR L'Estrange and Mr DR MacMillan. In 1978 the number jumps to 11.

As travel became easier the need for Corresponding Membership decreased and in 1982 with only 10 Corresponding Members registered the constitution was amended and Corresponding Membership was removed. Existing Corresponding Members were offered to convert to ordinary membership. It is recorded that Professor Spiechowicz & Dr MacMillan agreed to switch from corresponding members to ordinary membership, but it is not clear what happened to the others.

Women

In the inaugural meeting Miss Sheila M Smith was the only woman present in attendance with 24 others, however it is probable that she did not go on to become a member. It is hard to find evidence of women members until 1964 when three new members Mrs

A Elborn, Mrs A Hawley and Mrs J Schiller were admitted. At this time the membership stood at 125. After that date there were about 20% women applicants each year until the last decade when the numbers are very similar to men.

Although it is not clear, it is probable, it wasn't until 1985 when Angela Fletcher became the first woman council member, followed shortly by Anne Hargreaves in 1986.

The first woman president was Angela Fletcher in 1991 but there have only been two other women Presidents since that time. Just like General Practitioners, the number of female members is not recorded but there are three female Honorary Members. Counting the number of women by their title and looking at their first name it is thought there are now 146 women or 32% of the total membership.

Other dental care professionals and dental undergraduates

The constitution in 2012 welcomed not only dentists, doctors and scientists but also "other dental care professionals who have an interest in prosthodontics. Members must be registered in the Medical or Dental Professions Register or hold such other qualification as Council approve, be registered as a dental undergraduate, or be members of an affiliated Society". The undergraduate membership recognises the role that the society has to promote sharing of knowledge with our future dental colleagues.

Honorary Membership

Honorary Membership now stands at 36 and requires "the recommendation of Council, Honorary Membership may be conferred upon any person of high standing in the profession by unanimous vote at the Annual General Meeting, or Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose". Since 1965 it has not been necessary for Honorary Members to be retired.

Affiliate Membership

On the recommendation of Council, Affiliate Membership may be conferred on members of other societies who support the objects of the BSSPD. The terms of Affiliate Membership will be at the discretion of and determined by Council.

The Friendly Society

When asked for his comments on the BSSPD in the first 25 years Alan Lawrie started his account with the heading "B.S.S.P.D. The Friendly Society". This was endorsed by Alan Mack in his account in 1982, when he said "yet the same camaraderie, friendliness and lack of pompousness persists".

Bill Murphy in his account, comments. "As the membership has increased the informality of the early days has obviously decreased. It was feared at one time that the membership would increase to such an extent that the whole atmosphere of the Society would change, and it was therefore, considered limiting membership". Fortunately,

this did not happen, and there have never been any limitations on membership. The membership goes from strength to strength and has grown over the 70 years and is now more diverse than ever but still the “Friendly Society”.

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4. Dr Włodzimiera Josefowicz, Dr Eugeniusz Spiechowicz and Dr BR Carlson are named and later Dr GA Zarb and Mr JF Walsh.

8

Education

F McCord

According to the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary, Education is concerned with the systematic instruction, schooling or teaching given to the young and, by extension, to adults in preparation for the work of life.

When the first Bye-Laws were written (before the formality of a Constitution) the latter half of this definition must have been in the minds of the founding fathers who themselves, modified their Orthodontic colleagues' Bye-Laws.

One could therefore surmise that education was essentially the bedrock of our Society, as the BSSPD was proposed via the Teachers of Prosthetic Dentistry in 1952. Thus, the Society was '*initiated for the promotion of the Study of Prosthetic Dentistry*'.

The Founder Members were mostly Heads of Departments of Prosthetic Dentistry around the country and conference venues were usually within the Universities or Medical/Dental Schools to which they were affiliated. Similarly, most of the early Presidents are well known names, older members of the society will have met at least some of them, and their names will appear on older publications, including well known textbooks on Prosthetic Dentistry.

Many events and circumstances have had an influence on how the BSSPD has adopted, adapted and, hopefully, improved to meet professional and educational demands. These events and circumstances range from:

- i. NHS matters
- ii. University matters
- iii. Dental training matters
- iv. Charitable status and the obligations thereby
- v. Outside Factors

NHS and University Influences

For convenience, these factors are taken together as expansions in both were roughly parallel.

In 1952/53, the NHS was in its infancy and Consultant grades in Dentistry not in abundance – to say nothing of training grades and career pathways for NHS

and University staff. The majority of the Founders of BSSPD, being typically senior (University) academics who had the prescience to foresee a training need for recently qualified graduates (or also diplomates for those who qualified from the Dental Colleges). There was a notable expansion of posts in the NHS and also Universities in the middle 1950s and the Royal Colleges and Dental Board (later the General Dental Council) sought a means to regulate training.

Training in Dentistry

This item will focus mainly on Hospital-based training and is meant to include University trainees who sought to aspire to Consultant or (later) Specialist training.

After World War II, medicine and surgery were undergoing moves towards more specialisation, including within the Royal Surgical Colleges. Dentistry was no exception as, in 1947, the Royal College of Surgeons of England, which has a long and renowned history, established a Faculty of Dental Surgery (FDS) and associated Fellowship. The other three Royal Colleges followed suit shortly afterwards. The FDS soon attained an important status as recognition of a high level of knowledge and training. It later gained accreditation as evidence of recognised dental specialist training. Over the years, the FDS was replaced by MFDS as a primary entrance to specialisation plus other specialist qualifications taken at the completion of training and granted by the Royal Colleges.

In 1969, the Joint Committee for Higher Training in Dentistry (JCHTD) was established to meet the need to devise schemes of approved higher specialist training (typically, this took place after FDS Part 1 was obtained). The JCHTD published four reports between 1969 and 1986 and this gives an indication of the transformation taking place in postgraduate education. In 1995, the JCHTD was metamorphosed into the Joint Committee for Specialist Training in Dentistry (JCSTD) and was a partnership between the Royal Colleges, the GDC and “various stakeholders”. Thirteen specialist lists were now established, and these were “underpinned by world class arrangements for training”. The JCSTD was a large group which comprised, amongst others, the Chair of each Specialist Advisory Committee. The Restorative SAC comprised representatives from the sub-specialties within Restorative Dentistry and BSSPD had two elected members on the SAC.

The JCSTD evolved, in 2010, into the Joint Committee for Postgraduate Training in Dentistry (JCPTD). The rationale for this was to maximise the best practices of JCSTD to provide a springboard on which to create and promote a seamless provision of postgraduate education which encompassed foundation and specialist training throughout the dental specialties.

BSSPD members have, additionally, served on other national and other (Royal) collegiate committees. Indeed, they continue to do so, and ensure that BSSPD has a contributory effect on the evolution of dental education and dental care.

It is thus self-evident that with an expansion in the role of training, the educative imperative of BSSPD became more obvious, especially as specialties and general dental practitioner-based diplomas have grown apace over the past quarter century.

Charitable Matters

In 1991, BSSPD sought charitable status, and this was granted. In 2012, in complying with Charity Commission rules, the BSSPD altered its mission status to read:

“The Society is established to promote and advance, for the benefit of the public, education in the science and practice of Prosthodontics (including fixed, removable, implant and maxillofacial prosthodontics by supporting and promoting:

- *High quality of prosthodontic care*
- *Prosthodontic Research*
- *Surveys and Investigations*
- *Undergraduate and Postgraduate Education in Prosthodontics*
- *The maintenance and improvement of standards of patient care and*
- *The facilitation of lifelong education in Prosthodontics.”*

Using the 6 highlighted areas as a yardstick, we can see that, the BSSPD is fulfilling its charity mission with the following examples:

- High quality of prosthodontic care: via peer-review of presentation, oral or poster and by case presentation
- Prosthodontic Research and Surveys and Investigations: via Research presentations (Reckitt Prize (1971-1995) and Schottlander Prizes - oral and poster (1996-present) (see Figure 16).
- Undergraduate Education in Prosthodontics via BSSPD undergraduate prizes plus Kulzer and Coltene prizes
- The maintenance and improvement of standards of patient care and the facilitation of lifelong education in Prosthodontics: via online meetings and web seminars plus CPD registration centrally - a factor introduced in the late 1990s and which has assumed a necessary component of clinical lives.

Outside Factors

Educational methods have developed tremendously since the inception of BSSPD with information technology being an essential component of clinical and academic lives. The annual conference has always been a major contributor to education. In contrast, and as a sign of adaptation to modern education, BSSPD has held 52 live webinars since September 2013. This enabled the upgrade to Zoom meetings during lockdown between March 2020 and September 2021.

BSSPD was not found wanting in that hour of need and indeed, it adopted best practice principles, adapted its Bye-Laws/Constitution as well as its *modus operandi*, improved its status in dentistry in general, and thereby improved the value it provides for its members.



Figure 16: Brian Schottlander (right) with reward recipient

It is worth pointing out, in conclusion, that in addition to our annual conferences, the BSSPD organised regional courses before the advent of webinars and prior to the BSSPD obtaining charitable status.

9

BSSPD Name Change

C Barclay

In 1953 the BSSPD was born. The British Society for the Study of Prosthetic Dentistry (BSSPD) was instituted for “the promotion of the Study of Prosthetic Dentistry”. This group of like-minded individuals formed a society that was mainly made up of academics, both teachers and researchers in the field of Prosthetic dentistry. And so, the society remained with this name into the 21st century. Early in the new millennium it became apparent that the previous strength of academia in prosthetic Dentistry was becoming less apparent and that need areas of restorative dentistry were gaining precedence. In the early 2000’s the society started to examine its place in dentistry. The Society was established to advance patient care, education and research in prosthetics. However, patterns of dental care and, in particular, advanced prosthodontic provision were rapidly evolving and the Society needed to adapt its role and image to reflect these changes. This need to change was clearly articulated in the report ‘BSSPD – The Next Fifty Years’. This started the momentum that the society perhaps, needed a new name, as it was felt that people assumed because of the title ‘study of’ that this was a society for academics and did not include all dental professionals who had an interest in fixed and removable prosthodontics. As a previous president, and working closely with the president in 2012, C Butterworth, we explored the options of a name change to reflect the expanding and diverse membership of the society. This clearly had to follow the rules of the constitution, but it was also felt that as the oldest dental society in the United Kingdom we did not wish to lose the history or the origins of this prestigious society.

This was a challenging task as the society had an aging membership, many of whom did not wish to break the traditions that had been upheld for many years. In addition, coming up with a name that did not affect other existing societies with similar abbreviations. The British Society for the Study of Prosthetic Dentistry was always known by its membership as BSSPD for short and therefore several members contemplated whether we could retain the same abbreviation but reword what the initials stood for.

Hence, the name was changed from the British Society for the Study of Prosthetic Dentistry to the British Society of Prosthodontics although still maintaining the well-known abbreviation of BSSPD. This change was agreed at the Extraordinary General

Meeting held after the Pan-Society meeting held in Liverpool 2012. So sensitive was the name change that a further clause to the constitution “*The name of the Society may be changed by a majority decision at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting, subject to approval by the Charity Commission*” was added.

The name change and development of the society’s new logo were made at the AGM held during the Liverpool annual conference on the 2nd April 2012 (see Section 12 The BSSPD Goods and Chattels).

And so BSSPD was reborn as ‘The **BritiSh** Society of **Prosthodontics**’.

This was approved by the membership, and so the journey continued expanding the membership to be inclusive of all those with an interest in fixed and removable prosthodontics in the dental team including nurses, technicians, hygienists and therapists, scientists, dentists, specialists, consultants and academics.

10

Political Influences

R Howell

Introduction

Since its inception in 1953 when it was very much a university-based Society, the BSSPD has developed over 70 years to an all-embracing prosthodontic society to include hospital, specialist and general practitioners and dental technicians. It was established to promote removable prosthetic dentistry and the science of dental materials but again has widened its scope to cover fixed prosthodontics and dental implantology. To some extent this reflects the decreasing need for removable prosthetics over this period.

In this chapter, I try to convey how this progression has been influenced by associations and joint conferences with other societies, the establishment of Consultants in Restorative Dentistry in the NHS and Specialists in Prosthodontics, Periodontics and Endodontics in general/specialist practice and their training and other factors. Most arrangements/associations have worked well.

The BSSPD has endeavoured to educate the wider profession as well as its own members by producing guidelines on various aspects of prosthetic dentistry, a glossary of prosthodontic terms and consensus statements.

Restorative Dentistry and Prosthodontics

One of the major political changes during the last 70 years was the development of the hospital specialty of Restorative Dentistry and introduction of the specialties of Prosthodontics, Periodontics and Endodontics together with the establishment of specialist lists. Training programmes for these were established in dental hospitals and schools with accreditation for completion of training programmes overseen by a national Specialist Advisory Committee in Restorative Dentistry. As the number of specialists increased new associations were formed to protect and further the interests of these specialties like the Consultants in Restorative Dentistry Group and the Specialist Registrars in Restorative Dentistry Group.

Existing consultants and specialists were “grandfathered” on to the Specialist lists and of course, many were members of the BSSPD and so the BSSPD was able to influence these developments either directly or indirectly.

The character of the BSSPD itself changed gradually as Consultants and Specialist Registrars in Restorative Dentistry with training in the wider aspects of restorative dentistry joined, from mainly removable dental prosthetics to include fixed prosthodontics and dental implants. Hence the name change to the British Society of Prosthodontics in 2012. Collaboration with other societies/associations became desirable to share expertise. In recent years several joint meetings with the British Society for Restorative Dentistry (BSRD) and other societies have been held.

Guidance for the Dental Profession

Whilst education in Prosthetic Dentistry for BSSPD members has always been a priority, the Society has considered it important as a leader in the field to play a role in educating the wider profession. To this end, the BSSPD has been involved in many educational activities including the publication of authoritative guidelines on particular topics giving the standards of care expected by the Society and a glossary of prosthodontic terms.

Two sets of guidelines were drawn up by members of the Society for the design and construction of complete dentures and similarly for partial dentures. These were published in the British Dental Journal in 1981 (Brit. Dent.J.150,167-169).

In 1990, Council convened a working party (consisting of RB Winstanley, chairman, MJ Barsby, AR Ogden and RD Welfare) to review and revise these guidelines and the foreword to these stated *“We are pleased to report that very few changes were considered necessary. This is a tribute to the foresight and hard work of the original working party.”* The revised guidelines covering both clinical and technical procedures were accepted by the BSSPD in 1994.

With the rapid development in the use of endosseous dental implants in the UK, the need for guidelines on standards in the treatment of patients utilising them was recognised by the Councils of the BSSPD and BAOMS (British Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons). A joint working party was convened in 1992 to draft guidelines covering assessment of the patient, treatment planning, general principles for surgical and prosthodontic treatment and maintenance. These were approved subsequently by the Councils of both BSSPD and BAOMS. The members of the working party were JI Cawood (chairman), GH Forman, MO Hindle, RA Howell, GD Stafford and RM Watson. The Guidelines were published in 1995 as a supplement to the British Dental Journal (Brit. Dent. J: 178 (6) March 1995).

Terminology can differ between individuals, institutions and countries and the BSSPD decided that a glossary of prosthetic dentistry terms was desirable which was compiled by some learned members and was published as BS4492 in 1983. Later, a glossary of dental prosthetic terms was produced by the Academy of Denture Prosthetics which was published in the Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry in 1987. In 1994 the BSSPD decided to update the original glossary, adding some terms from the 1987 publication and others suggested by colleagues. Robert Nairn and Monty Shapiro

were asked to do this as they were renowned in the Society for their scholarship and knowledge of languages, English in particular.

The revised guidelines, the new guidelines on the treatment of patients using endosseous implants and the revision of the Prosthetic Dentistry glossary were eventually published together in a booklet, edited by the then Honorary BSSPD Curator, Alan Ogden, by the Quintessence Publishing Co. Ltd, in 1996.

York Consensus Statement on Overdentures

At the annual conference of the Society held in York in 2009 under the Presidency of Professor Mark Thomason, a symposium on mandibular overdentures was held with the intention of producing a consensus statement on their use to inform clinicians, health authorities and funding bodies as to their benefits, if any, over conventional mandibular dentures.

The presenters at the symposium offered a synopsis of the research available on the efficacy of mandibular overdentures retained on two endosseous implants in the anterior edentulous mandible. Emphasis was given to both qualitative and quantitative research based on patient-centred outcomes of treatment. A draft consensus was circulated to all the presenters and the BSSPD Council members and the statement was modified in the light of their comments and the audience feedback.

The conclusions were that current evidence suggests that the restoration of the edentulous mandible with a conventional denture is a much poorer alternative than the use of an implant supported prosthesis. There is now a large body of evidence that supports the proposal that a 2-implant overdenture should be the minimum offered to edentulous patients as a first choice of treatment.

The full report is appended (see Appendix III York Consensus).

Relations with other Societies and National Committees

As described in my introduction, interactions with other societies and service providers have increased gradually over the years as treatment modalities became more complex and involved more than one specialty.

The European Prosthodontic Society (EPA)

The concept of a European Prosthodontic Society was promoted by the Council of the BSSPD during the 23rd annual conference in March 1976 at St John's College, Cambridge under the Presidency of Sidney Barrett. The following year the inaugural meeting of the EPA was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the BSSPD, under the presidency of Robert Nairn, held in London. The meeting was attended by 122 delegates. Sidney Barrett became its first President and Roland Fereday its first Secretary.

Since then, the EPA has expanded to include most European countries. Input from the BSSPD and UK has continued ever since. The secretaries of the EPA were all BSSPD members until 2013. The EPA conference has normally been held in the country of the President for that year, usually in conjunction with the annual meeting of the host nation's prosthodontic society. The UK presidents have been:

1977 Sidney Barrett
1986 Rowland Fereday
1996 Bill Murphy
2006 Paul Wright

The British Society for Restorative Dentistry (BSRD)

The BSRD was founded in 1968 and initially the scope of the Society was best described by the British term Conservative Dentistry and included the replacement of missing teeth using fixed restorations. The BSRD has a close association with the British Association of Teachers of Conservative Dentistry (BATCD). With the development of the specialties of Restorative Dentistry and Prosthodontics in the 1980's, the original concepts of fixed and removable prostheses had become blurred. Some members of the BSSPD and the BSRD started to consider closer ties between the Societies, even a possible merger.

To address these issues, the British Prosthodontic Conference (BPC) was set up in 1998 as a consultative umbrella body on professional, academic and political issues shared by the two societies (and including the BATCD). Although some one-day joint meetings were held, the BPC failed to achieve any significant benefits politically, nor to achieve its stated objectives, and at its committee meeting in October 2006 the overwhelming consensus was that the BPC should be dissolved. This was agreed subsequently by both Societies (see Appendix IV The BPC). It was, however, considered appropriate that there should continue to be close liaison between the Societies and that this could more appropriately be achieved by an annual meeting of the Presidents and Secretaries of the Societies.

Pan Society meetings

Another way of achieving closer ties with other Societies was to hold combined meetings. The first of these was held in Birmingham in 2007 when the BSSPD, BSRD, BSP and BES came together for a two-day meeting, the first day for each society to hold its own scientific meeting and the second day for all the delegates to meet together for a programme intended to cross boundaries. This was deemed to have been a successful meeting and a second meeting was held in Liverpool in 2011, organised along similar lines.

The Consultants in Restorative Dentistry Group (CRDG), now RD-UK, and the Specialist Registrars in Restorative Dentistry Group (SRRDG)

These groups represent the NHS consultants and specialist registrars in restorative dentistry, many of whom are BSSPD members. Their role is partly political and partly educative and as they represent all the specialities of restorative dentistry, the BSSPD considered it important to have a representative on the RD-UK committee, especially for its political influence.

The Specialist Advisory Committee in Restorative Dentistry (SAC)

With the establishment of new specialties in dentistry, the UK Royal Colleges of Surgeons established intercollegiate Specialist Advisory Committees to advise on higher specialist training in the dental specialties. The BSSPD has a representative on the SAC to convey the views of Council on training matters and to keep Council informed of SAC views and decisions.

11

BSSPD Social History

S Farrell

The BSSPD in the early 1970s was a relatively small society comprising mainly hospital staff. There were very few practitioners. In those days you had to be nominated to join the society, and had to leave the AGM whilst your nomination was approved.

Many of the papers were on dental materials, which could be considered a rather dry subject yet obviously important topic. Eric Scher who was a wonderful Irishman, would often slip a few slides behind the lecturers' slides so when he asked a question after the lecture he could demonstrate his own observations. It almost became a tradition and amused everyone.

It was a moderately small society so everyone seemed to know each other. In the late 70's and early 80's quite a few of the armed services joined as they were studying for MSC's especially from the Eastman. Quite a lot of drinking was done and songs around a piano. In the 70's it was fashionable for the ladies to wear long dresses, not necessarily evening dresses, to the annual dinner. The men wore suits. There were usually two evenings, one where attendees might be taken to a different venue from the hall of residence and one for the annual dinner, the dressier do. In 1987 Les Manderson as President was brought into the dinner at the Assembly Rooms in Bath in a sedan chair – to great cheers from everyone except possibly the Assembly Rooms staff (see Figure 5). There was always a sweepstake to guess the length of time of the speeches, getting down to seconds.

Several of the people who held chairs in prosthetics became Deans of their dental schools and therefore, at that time, members of the General Dental Council. As an elected member of the General Dental Council for 12 years I got to know them quite well - including Roy Storer, Robin Basker, Ronnie Laird, Ian Benington and Alan Harrison. There seemed to me, to be a good camaraderie among the prosthetists.

In the early days the meetings were always held the weekend before Easter and held in halls of residence. This was to keep the price down for the junior hospital staff. I certainly remember in the late 80's moving from the room I had at St John's Oxford to The Randolph Hotel. There was a spare bed propped up against a wall in St John's, the bathroom was down a staircase, and none too clean. That finished me off. Even the guest American speaker was being walked across the road to The Randolph by Harry Preiskel.

By the fact that so many of the members of the BSSPD were academics one can see why it was called the British Society for the *Study* of Prosthetic Dentistry. Furthermore, it is evident the need to change the name from Prosthetic to Prosthodontic a few years ago, but sorry they dropped the word Study. We still have to keep the BSSPD in our initials, as there are too many BSP's in dentistry with Paedodontics and Periodontics.

I hope the Society continues to go from strength to strength with the camaraderie that we enjoyed in the early days.

12

BSSPD Goods and Chattels

RD Welfare

The BSSPD has never owned any property but it has, over the years, collected some interesting items.

- a. The minute books
- b. The Goblet
- c. The Gavel and Mallet
- d. The President's Badge
- e. The President's Chain
- f. The Logo
- g. The BSSPD Gold Medal
- h. Past Presidents Badges
- i. Ties
- j. Lapel Pins
- k. Road Signs

The minute books

The minute books are perhaps the oldest items. Showing the age of the Society the books are leather bound and much of the content of the first book handwritten. Later entries were typed and then pasted into the minute book. These books are now housed in the Wellcome Collection Museum in London, where they can be viewed.

The Goblet

The Silver Goblet was gifted to the Society by Professor Bjorn Hedegard in 1972 to mark the occasion of him receiving the first BSSPD Gold Medal Award (Figure 17). It is inscribed "Presented to the BSSPD by Professor Bjorn Hedegard. 1st recipient of the Society's Medal 1972". The tradition at the annual dinner was for the guest speaker to propose the health of the Society before the President then proposes the health of the guests. The Goblet was intended to be used by the guest speaker to propose the health of the Society.



Figure 17: Presentation of the first prize award in Glasgow to Professor Bjorn Hedegard (centre) by the BSSPD President Professor Roy MacGregor (left) with Professor Roy Storer, Chairman of the Prize Award Committee (right).

The Gavel and Mallet

The Gavel and Mallet are a bit of a mystery. The Gavel has a small silver plaque simply stating “BSSPD Newcastle 2007”. So far, nothing further has been found but the author believes this may be a replacement for an older gavel which may have been lost. As to its use, it was of course, to bring the Council and Annual Meetings to order. Again, a reminder of times gone by.

The President's Badge

The Presidents Badge was presented to the Society by Dr Eric Scher on the occasion of his Presidency in 1970. The idea of a President's badge had first been proposed by Mr Watt in 1965 but it was not thought necessary at that time. On the back of the Badge is an amusing if not unusual lyric:

*The Rose and the Shamrock,
The Thistle and the Leek
Emblems of Countries,
United to seek,
That those wearing dentures
Shall be healthy to keep
Eric Scher 1970*

The President's Chain

The President's Chains, or more correctly Ribbons, now number two, as the original chain could not hold any more name bars after Chris Butterworth was President in 2012. A new ribbon was started with the continuation of the new Presidential name bars (Figure 18). The original Ribbon and name bars are cared for by the administrative manager.

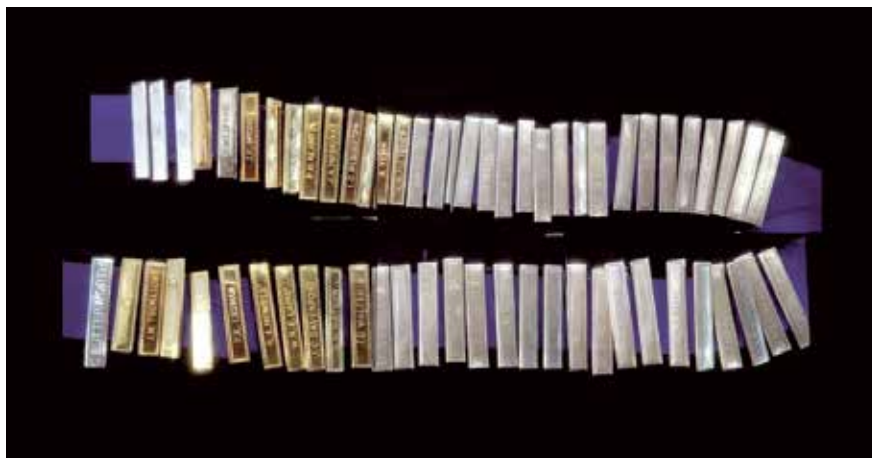


Figure 18: President's Ribbons

The Logo

The Logo was first suggested for use in 1975 when a competition was arranged for members to design a suitable graphic. What is believed to be the first logo is seen below. The second logo was used for the first website (Figure 19).

The BSSPD Gold Medal

The BSSPD Gold Medal. Maurice Faigenblum submitted the winning design for the BSSPD Gold Medal in 1970-71 and Toye, Kenning & Spencer produced the medal and paid half the cost of the die to retain half ownership. It is inscribed on the reverse



Figure 19: The first BSSPD logo is on the left, the second BSSPD logo is on the right

“In recognition of meritorious services to Prosthodontics”. The medal was redesigned following the new logo. The two designs are presented in Figure 20. The award is presented every three years. A list of the winners is presented in Table 2.



Figure 20: The BSSPD Gold medals (L) first design (R) second design.

Past Presidents Badges

Past Presidents Badges. In 1975 it was suggested that there should be a badge for Past Presidents, but this was rejected at this time because of the cost. It was not until 1990 that the Society agreed to produce a past President's badge, and they were first issued at the 40th anniversary in 1993 at Cambridge.

Gold Medal Recipients	
Professor Bjorn Hedegard (1972)	Professor George Zarb (1999)
Professor John Osborne (1975)	Professor Robin Heath (2002)
Professor Ernest Matthews (1978)	Professor John Hobkirk (2005)
Professor Niels Brill (1979)	Professor Fraser McCord (2008)
Professor David Watt (1981)	Professor Paul Wright (2011)
Professor John Bates (1984)	Professor Robert Clark (2014)
Professor Kenneth Liddelow (1987)	Professor Harold Preiskel (2017)
Professor Per-Olof Glantz (1990)	Mr Richard Welfare (2020)
Professor Michael Braden (1993)	Professor Craig Barclay (2023)
Professor Alan Grant (1996)	

Table 2: List of Gold Medal Recipients and year of award

Ties & Scarves

The Society also owns the rights to two tie designs. These resulted from the hard work of Dr Robin Heath. One of the designs can be seen below (see Figure 21). The other design was plain blue, green or red with a central BSSPD logo. It is not clear whether ladies scarves were ever commissioned or not.



Figure 21: BSSPD tie

Lapel Pins

In 2017 Council approved that there should be Lapel pins however at present it is now clear there has not been any progress on this decision.

Road Signs

In the early 1960's to help those members arriving by car the Society used to give a gratuity to the AA for signposting the conference venue. Later the AA started to charge for this service and in 1970 it was minuted to continue using the service despite rising costs. Sometime later it was decided to stop using the AA and their road signs, but the membership complained and so plastic signs were purchased and it became another secretarial job to erect these signs before the conference. Fortunately, with the improvement of computers and sat navs the erection of signs was consigned to history.

13

Current Status and the Future of Prosthodontics

R Austin

In 2005, Professor John Hobkirk, a past BSSPD President, stated that ‘Prosthodontics, perhaps more than any other dental specialty, has shown itself capable of evolution in response to changing needs’⁵. These profound changes in oral health in the United Kingdom, since the British Society for the Study of Prosthetic Dentistry was founded in 1954, are well documented in terms of ubiquitous reductions in edentulism and improvements in oral health. The proportion of edentate adults have decreased over the last two decades, from 20% (95% CI: 19–21%) in 1988 to 12% (11–13%) in 1998 to 6% (5–6%) in 2009. These changes were accompanied by increases in the mean number of teeth among dentate adults, from 24.3 (24.0–24.5) in 1988 to 24.8 (24.6–25.0) in 1998 to 25.5 (25.4–25.7) in 2009, as well as in the proportion of dentate adults with 20+ teeth, from 83% (81–84%) in 1988 to 85% (84–86%) in 1998 to 87% (86–88%) in 2009⁶. However, age and socioeconomic status have a persistent inverse relationship with retention of a healthy dentition, as shown by the most recent UK adult dental health survey revealing that whilst only 2% of managerial and professional occupation classes being edentulous, 10% of routine and manual occupational classes being edentulous. The distribution of edentulism is steadily concentrating in elderly adults.

	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
Edentulism	-	0	0	1	5	15	29	45

Table 3: Oral health indicator of edentulism by age in England (2009 Dental Health Survey)

When these data are considered, the specialty of Prosthodontics has had no other option than to rise to the challenge of evolving to these changes. Correspondingly, in 2011, the British Society of Prosthodontics changed its name from the British Society for the Study of Prosthetic Dentistry to reflect these changes, however the Society continues to use the abbreviation BSSPD. To understand the current status and what the future of Prosthodontics holds, we first need to review the important contributions that the membership of the British Society of Prosthodontics has made over our first seventy years.

The British Society of Prosthodontics remains highly active as the foremost Prosthodontic society in the UK encompassing the full breadth and depth of the discipline including fixed, removable, implant and maxillofacial Prosthodontics. The society was originally established after a series of meetings of dental prosthetics teachers in the 1950s which culminated in the suggestion to form a society to promote the study of prosthetic dentistry. In our first seventy years, our mission remains as strong as ever to promote and advance, for the benefit of the public, education in the science and practice of prosthodontics, including fixed, removable, implant and maxillofacial prosthodontics. In 2006, with great foresight Dr. John Walters arranged for the archiving of BSSPD documents by the Wellcome Trust, a task that was completed in 2023 and is now available online⁷ for all members and the public to review. This archive provides information on the works of the society from 1953-2005. From that time, the Society website has been and continues to be the source of information on the activities of the Society and it is clear to see that the Society continues to actively advance the discipline and support the specialty of Prosthodontics.

The first concern of the Society has always been, and continues to be, better treatment of the partially and fully edentulous patient. Over the years, this led to extensive discussions on articulator theory and the varying philosophies of dental occlusion, first for the edentulous patient and then for the optimal approach to conformative and re-organised oral rehabilitation. This foundation in sound occlusal management has provided the foundation for the bio-engineering and dental technologies which provide dental restorations and replacement with the optimal function, aesthetics and long-term predictability which today can provide profound improvements in Oral Health Related Quality of Life for patients with worn dentitions, missing, carious and hypoplastic teeth.

The full gamut of the discipline of Prosthodontics which is in a continual state of flux and evolution which enhances the speed, safety and predictability to achieve optimal aesthetics and function with a stable and maintainable outcome. Complete denture prosthodontics continues to experience developments in elastomeric impression materials, improve custom tray designs and highly aesthetic resin-based denture teeth. Moreover, digital design and manufacture of complete dentures is fundamentally shifting the approach to conventional, copy and implant supported denture techniques. Fixed prosthodontics has shifted from usage of gold and acrylic when the society was founded to metal-ceramic restorations in the intervening years to developments in bi-layered and now predominantly monolithic ceramic restorations. Adhesive dentistry and direct plastic composite resin materials and techniques is broadening the application of this technology to an increasing number of patients with worn dentitions and developmental defects as well as providing opportunities for elderly patients to have a minimally invasive approach to treatment for improvements in oral health and aesthetics.

The discipline continues to work closely with fellow colleagues in Periodontology and Oral Surgery, amongst others, for example, to provide the best treatment options for replacing missing teeth in the periodontally compromised patient. Osseointegrated dental implant therapy has influenced almost every discussion with patients experiencing edentulism however, whilst the predictability of implant rehabilitation

has increased, so has the complexity of restorations being constructed on dental implants. Experienced Prosthodontists recognise the importance of learning from the difficulties and challenges impacting long term success and survival of implant prostheses, especially given the increasing prevalence of both peri-implantitis and the plethora of implant systems and components which were previously slowly brought to market after lengthy prospective clinical trials but are now increasingly brought into use without extensive long term clinical trials. The membership of the British Society of Prosthodontics will recognize that we are currently going through the most profound shifts and changes in the history of dentistry, driven by the speed of technological transformation impacting all industries which exist at the interface of human biology and physiology, materials science and engineering. Thus, the membership of the Society has been and continues to have a clear vision and determination to promote the prosthodontist planning as being integral to the placement and restoration of dental implants, including having competence and leadership in the surgical phase of the care. Today implant surgery is a core part of the Prosthodontic curriculum and modern Prosthodontics can provide the highest standards of implant care.

Underpinning all these developments has been advances in computer sciences which has created the opportunity for everyone with an interest in Prosthodontics to be at the forefront of digital dentistry and CAD/CAM technologies. Many members of the Society are involved in developing the standard of care for digital dental techniques and have written the textbooks, standards and researched the underpinning science for the teaching of CAD/CAM in curricula, as well as the materials used to create digital restorations. Members of the British Society of Prosthodontics will continue to develop and define best practice in the discipline with an influence across and beyond the profession.

The evidence base for Prosthodontics is continuously developing and being expanded which is a task that is ever more important when faced with new technologies and techniques for Prosthodontic treatment and methods. Every member of the Society has a role to play in advancing the agenda of evidence-based Prosthodontics, be it through generating the primary data, reviewing secondary studies or quality improvement activities of our own personal Prosthodontic practice. Many members dedicate significant time and energy to reviewing the latest science submitted to the Prosthodontic journals and this love of scholarship in Prosthodontics is essential to keep alive and at the forefront of all our activities within the discipline.

The future of Prosthodontics and the British Society of Prosthodontics is bright and the appetite for recently graduated dentists to gain skills and experience in Prosthodontics gets stronger with every year that passes. Prosthodontic programmes in the UK are as healthy and in demand as they have ever been and there is a clear thirst amongst the profession to understand how the latest Prosthodontic techniques and technologies are impacting our understanding of modern dentistry.

The British Society of Prosthodontics should be rightly proud of the stellar achievements towards its stated mission to promote education in the science and practice of Prosthodontics and we look forward to the next 70 years!

- 5 Hobkirk, JA. Prosthodontics: A past with a future. J Can Dental Assoc 2005;71:326 a-e
- 6 Tooth Loss in the United Kingdom – Trends in Social Inequalities: An Age-Period-and-Cohort Analysis PLoS One. 2014; 9(8): e104808. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0104808. Eduardo Bernabé and Aubrey Sheiham
- 7 <https://wellcomecollection.org/works/wexeyfur>

14

BSSPD Archives Project

R Austin, R Howell, RD Welfare & PS Wright

As printed in the BSSPD newsletter (January 2023, Volume 29).

In the 2006 BSSPD Newsletter, the then current President, Nick Jepson, reported that *'sincere thanks must go to John Walters who has arranged for the archiving of BSSPD documents by the Wellcome Trust at minimal cost. The archive should be accessible within the next six months or so.'*

Well, 16 years later, we are pleased to report that the documents are still in safe keeping! A recent visit by Richard Welfare, Robert Howell, Paul Wright and Rupert Austin (Figure 22) to the Wellcome collection in November 2022, allowed us to spend a most enjoyable morning perusing the archive.



Figure 22: From L-R Rupert Austin, Richard Welfare, Paul Wright and Bob Howell

Particular highlights were:

1. Seeing the social and technological changes which have taken place over this time. Original handwritten minutes moving onto hand typed and then eventually onto computer generated with little comments such as “my wife says this is the last time she will retype this document”.
2. Members originally having to be proposed and seconded before being accepted into the society.
3. It was humbling and inspiring to read of the efforts that all the Presidents, who were in office for all occasions, made to ensure the successes of the BSSPD over the number of decades involved.
4. Watching the same issues coming up decade after decade such as how to deal with too many different professional meetings and suggesting joint meetings as a way to alleviate the problem.
5. Seeing dental knowledge and understanding changing over time, for example, a well-respected clinician asking if the periodontists were keeping teeth too long making it more difficult to make dentures.

We had a very productive meeting with the Wellcome's archivists who were extremely complementary on the standard of the record keeping, beautiful minute books and high standards of professionalism of the previous Honorary Secretarial work. We hope to have catalysed the work of the Wellcome collection at cataloging the archives, they report that they are now almost 60% complete towards updating the records which can be found on their website⁸.

8 <https://wellcomecollection.org/works/gmf9xk6z>

15

Appendix I Presidents Memoirs

15.1 (1956) J Lee

Dear Dr.

Thank you for your letters. I am delighted to know Ernest Mathews is producing a history of the Society. I could think of no one better equipped to undertake such a worthwhile task.

When I became President the initial problems of establishing the Society had been overcome. My year of office was really managed by a very efficient Council supervised by an excellent secretary.

An item of interest I could suggest concerned the guest lecture given by David Downton on surgical preparation of the jaws for full dentures. I believe it was an important milestone in our relationship with Oral Surgeons recognizing that prosthetic surgery was an important aspect of their work. Today David's ideas and many of his methods are accepted by most Oral Surgeons as a necessary part of their training, or at least should be.

The quip I received in those days as one who made the jaws fit the dentures rather than the generally accepted view that the dentures were made to fit the jaws I am sure no longer applies. It would be a very unwise dental prosthetist who did not accept the results of excellent modern surgical methods as a foundation for satisfactory dentures.

I hope these few words may be of some help to Earnest,

My best wishes to my old colleagues and yourself

For ever faithfully

John Lee

15.2 (1957) DC Berry

University Of Bristol, Dental School

Dear John,

I think my Presidential Year for the BSSPD was 1968: some earnest soul has not returned my Proceedings for that year, so I am rather hazy about the programme for the annual meeting. However, thinking back to the origin of the Society, growing as it did as a sort of offshoot of the original Teachers of Prosthetic Dentistry annual meeting, there seemed to be far more rather eccentric characters about in those days. And, of course, this was when the great Prosthetic Empires were being built, particularly by Ernest himself with Dennis Smith and Wain on the materials side, John Osborne with Sandy Lammie and John Anderson, and of course Guys with Fenn and Gain & Co (sad to hear of Gain's death recently). As far as the early meetings went, we seemed to spend most of the time talking about "how to take a bite" and "the floating lower". The evening sessions were certainly more riotous: I have memories of pianos being trundled about corridors, and choral practice into the early hours. There is also a dim memory of John Osborne keeping an airgun in his upstairs bedroom for shooting cats which dug holes among his cabbages, and Sandy Lammie and I indulging in very early morning target practice.,

Also a Conference which Chick ran at Bristol when all the London contingent turned up in an early perpendicular Rolls, belonging I think to Rae. (Chorley Wood)

As far as my own annual meeting was concerned, I believe we had a rather profitless joint session with some of the conservation people, who were trying to get the Restorative Society off the ground. We didn't even talk the same language: It was chiefly notable for the lack of heating in Wills Hall, which made it pretty uncomfortable for everyone. Instead of the usual annual dinner, we had, in honour of Nils and Gerd, a Danish buffet, which was so successful that the food all disappeared in ten minutes and latecomers raised loud complaints.

I suppose we have developed, like most Societies, and become rather large and formal. I count myself lucky to have been involved with the Society since the beginning, particularly during the immediate post-war years when Prosthetics was emerging from the blood and vulcanite stage and trying to become more scientific. And, in this connection, some of the outstanding lectures - Ballard at Cambridge, Colonel Brewer and his space-age hardware, Nils on lower denture retention, George Blair and his Belfast accent, and of course the irrepressible Eric Scher. One was a member of a rather exclusive and slightly dotty club, and every meeting was great fun. Perhaps the years are catching up with me, but it seems that as we have grown in size and knowledge, some of this spontaneous enjoyment has gone. It's still a happy club, but there are such a lot of very serious young people:

For me, one of the great advantages of being a member was that this enabled one to visit all the Dental Schools, and some other places, in a fairly short time. One also met the staffs of all the other schools, as well as our g.p. colleagues. As a rather isolated

academic, not only were these outings happy holidays for me, but provided me with a background knowledge of the prosthetic field and who did what in it, which is invaluable.

I've enjoyed scribbling this, so if you decide to throw it all away I shan't mind.

Yours,

D.C. Berry

15.3 (1959) K Liddelow

Dear John

I had hoped to turn up a file on the BSSPD with some information on my year as President but unfortunately it has long since, in spite of a search at Kings, been consigned to the dustbin. So I must rely on my inadequate memory.

The annual meeting of 1959-60 held at Halliday Hall in Clapham which was and is a ladies university hall of residence. Needless to say the ladles were down for thy Easter Vac.

It was a very informal meeting being held in the large common room amply supplied with well upholstered arm chairs. I am sure that many members slept peacefully through much of the proceedings.

A matter of some importance raised at the conference was that of the proceedings of the Society and I think - though I am not sure - Francis Fish was made editor and it was largely due to his efforts that first they were produced in Roneoed form and subsequently an arrangement was made with Wrights of Bristol to publish the more worthy contribution in their journal. They produced the proceedings as bound reprints but it took many years of effort to establish the proceedings as they are today.

I expect Ernest Matthews knows that although the Society was not actually established until 1953 that discussions had taken place concerning the foundation of such a Society for some years previously and a one-off meeting of Prosthetists was held at the instigation of the DEAC in about 1948-9 and I think it was John Lee who was very insistent that as a result of this meeting that a Society should be established and meet annually. Please give my kindest regards to Ernest and tell him I think he is doing a great service to gather together the historical threads of what has become an influential Society.

Kindest regards

Yours

Ken (Liddelow)

15.4 (1962) A Mack

25 June 82

Dear John

At last I have got down to write a few lines about the BSSPD – I hope A) that you can read my writing and B) it's the sort of thing you want.

Without access to written records it is surprising how difficult it is to remember all the interesting things that have happened over the years.

This is why it will be so interesting to read all the contributions and I'm sure it is a worthwhile exercise.

With all good wishes

Yours sincerely

Alan Mack

It seems impossible that the BSSPD is almost 30 years old. The original members are, to put it kindly, getting on a bit now – some regretfully have died – some have retired – some have a few years yet before retirement. Younger members have joined and yet the same camaraderie, friendliness and lack of pompousness persists. This it seems is largely due to the enthusiasm of members and the desire to see prosthetics represented by an active society.

Looking back through our proceedings, one is impressed by the high standard of the papers and the staggering amount of information and knowledge that has emerged.

My "own" year was 1963 at Newcastle and (like my predecessors and successors) no effort was spared to make the meeting a success. My main memory of the occasion – not academic at all – was of our visit to an old music hall – well lubricated by Newcastle Brown Ale! More soberly, the proceedings were also interesting. The then members of the staff read papers – John Farrell had recently been appointed as the first hospital consultant in Prosthetics and Duncan McMillan was investigating desquamative cytology. I remember Arthur Chick presented a thought provoking paper on "Dental Education" and David Watt persisted (!) with gnathosonics. It is perhaps invidious to mention individuals because, in the early days of the society, everyone was beavering away – not so much to achieve higher qualifications but in trying to improve our knowledge and procedures in prosthetics. Perhaps more important, to try and ensure that our specialty occupied its rightful place in dentistry.

The attendance at meetings has of course increased from the original 30 – 40 enthusiasts. Not only that, colleagues and students from practically every country in the world have attended and in addition to the papers, have had the opportunity of comparing our way of life, and ideas with theirs. To my knowledge, they have gone away with a very high impression of the work done here thanks to the efforts of our members throughout the years.

Perhaps regretfully, prosthetics is less glamorous than Oral Surgery or even Orthodontics and the specialty of 'Restorative Dentistry' is too large a subject for anyone to be an expert in all its facets. It is important therefore that our Society continues to maintain its excellent standards and to relate our subject to modern needs and ideas.

Alan Mack 1982

15.5 (1963) H Thompson

BSSPD Memoirs

1964 was the year the Society first ventured from its Presidents home town and university. Cambridge was selected and, thanks to a professional contact at Gonville and Caius, we were housed in the student quarters of this college. The meetings and the lectures were held in the Anatomy department. The steeply raked, old world lecture theatre resounded with the clamour of a new constitution being debated and finally approved, though not without a few critical voices. Alan Lawson, youthful then and sharp of mind provided one such voice but he was won over in the general desire to have a simple Constitution based on goodwill rather than a wordy document to govern policy and prevent all abuse.

With Roy Storer as Secretary a preliminary visit to the College was made during the previous autumn and the walk from the College to the Anatomy Department was timed. This was reckoned to be fifteen minutes for the younger members and gave them the opportunity to see something of the old University town with its quadrangles, lawns and cobbled paths as well as to digest their breakfasts. This was also a departure from previous years where the meeting place was a few paces from the refectory.

Colonel Brewer from the USAF came from Germany to discuss, rationalize and at times to debunk gnathology. This was enlightening and at times hilarious but it was based on his own experience in the use of a gnathological articulator learned under the guidance of P.K. Thomas and Charles Stuart during a previous term of duty in California. George Blair from Belfast introduced his exploded castings and there was merriment as well as interest in this idea.

The President chaired all the meetings as was the custom then but this policy rightly gave way to a sharing of the duty in subsequent years. There was no formal dinner and the playing of poker was already an established custom for the evening's entertainment.

Hamish Thomson
President 1964-5

15.6 (1965) F Fish

4th Sept. 1962.

Dear Dr. Walter,

This is a belated reply to your letter of May 14th. The delay is due to the fact that I have tried valiantly to bestir my memory to find you something of interest for the history of the BSSPD.

I am sorry to say that my only noteworthy report is that I had the sad duty of announcing the death of my great friend Ulf Posselt.

Sorry that I cannot be of more

Yours sincerely,
Francis Fish

15.7 (1962) P Saunbury

June 10th 82

Dear John

I have your letter asking about my memories of my year of office as President of the BSSPD.

I am afraid that I can recall nothing of importance happening in that year at all (except my personal loss of a dear wife)

It may be of interest to note when the practice of speeches at a formal dinner started. Although I arranged a special meal at the Hall of Residence at Queens Belfast in Mar. 67 there were no speeches except me announcing that there would not be any!

During the early days of meetings before the BSSPD, an enthusiastic part was played by Henry Atkinson who left Manchester the same year that I did, 1953, to take the Prosthetic Chair in Melbourne. He would certainly have been President eventually if he stayed in U.K.

If you have any specific queries about activities and dates please ask me any Friday.

Yours sincerely
Philip Saunbury

15.8 (1968) R Storer

I joined the Society in the late fifties when, as a young lecturer at Liverpool, I was very much in awe of three senior founder members, namely Ernest Matthews, John Osbourne and Ken Liddelow. They were always willing to help and gave tremendous encouragement and inspiration to those of my age group. It was John Osbourne who suggested that I should succeed the first long-serving Secretary of the Society in 1960 (I

think) and for the next seven years, apart from the year I was at Northwestern University, I had the unique experience and privilege of serving the Society. There is no doubt that my period of secretaryship helped me in my personal aspirations for I had the opportunity of getting to know many eminent prosthodontists both in the U.K. and overseas and to learn from them. I had no personal secretary at that time and so details of conference organisation were to say at least interesting and were, of course, very time consuming. Of the conferences that I helped organise I remember particularly the two occasions in three years that we met at Gonville and Caius College Cambridge under the Presidencies of Francis Fish and Hamish Thomson. The Anatomy Theatre may not have been the best venue for the academic programmes but Cambridge in the springtime was superb!

The first official Conference Dinner was held in Belfast when Pip Saunbury was President and successive Presidents have continued the tradition. Also we now have the traditional book on the length of the Speeches and who will forget Derrick Neill's euphoric contribution in Canterbury when he spoke at unexpected length and totally confused the punters!

In my year as President I was happy to welcome delegates to Newcastle. The Conference Dinner was followed by an exhibition of sword and clog dancing and I remember the enthusiastic reception given to performers.

The Society has had much support from overseas colleagues and I think particularly of Bjorn Hedegard, Gerd Tryde, Stig Ostlund and, of course, the late Neils Brill. In their own ways they have enriched our meetings.

Roy Storer

15.9 (1962) D Watt

Department Of Restorative Dentistry, Edinburgh
8th June 1982

Dear John

BSSPD Memoirs

I'm afraid I am not very good at reminiscing and the attached is the best I can do. I also enclose a number of early BSED papers which hope you will find of interest.

With kind regards,
Yours sincerely,
David Watt

British Society for the Study of Prosthetic Dentistry

I was Secretary of the BSSPD for the first six years of its life and drew up the original constitution. It was modelled on the constitution of the British Society for the Study of Orthodontics, but has been very much modified since it was first drafted.

The inaugural meeting of the BSSPD was held in London in 1953 and the second meeting was held in the Edinburgh Dental School under the chairmanship of Professor E Matthews. We were accommodated in the Suffolk Road Halls of Residence and had difficulty in arranging bar facilities there, so used a rather gloomy hotel on the main road nearby. Two professors from Ireland enlivened the proceedings in Edinburgh and did a sort of double act in which they constantly teased each other. One of them vowed that he had seen a scantily clothed girl rushing out of the other's room; the latter admitted

that this had been so, but that it had been a perfectly innocent encounter since he had been given a room in a girl's hostel which had not yet been vacated. On another occasion the professor from Dublin said that when he was examining in Cork he passed a student a facebow and asked him what it was. The student from Cork said "I don't know, Sir, but it looks like a fretsaw to me"

I was elected President in 1960 and arranged the meeting in Holland House, the first of the new Pollock Halls of Residence in Edinburgh, and I think we were the first Society to use the Hall. It was interesting that 22 years later the 1982 meeting in Edinburgh was also held in Holland House with the same magnificent view towards Arthur's Seat.

In the early days of the Society our bank balance was under £30 and the production of the Proceedings depleted these tiny reserves to almost vanishing point and throughout the Society's life the production of the Proceedings has always presented a major problem.

It is a great joy to me to see the Society flourishing so well in 1982 twenty nine years after its foundation.

Professor David M Watt

15.10 (1971) AR MacGregor

From Professor A R MacGregor
BSSPD President 1971/72

The presidential badge of office was received from John Bates in Cardiff in April 1971. Council meetings were held in Guy's on 24 November 1971 and in Glasgow on March 1972.

The annual meeting was held on 27 and 28 March 1972 in the Glasgow Dental Hospital and School which had been open for only a couple of years and therefore was something of a showpiece. Space was plentiful and members appreciated a tour of the School during the meeting. A small trade show was mounted in the area adjacent to the lecture theatre and one of the scientific sessions was held jointly with the orthodontic teachers' conference being held in Glasgow at the same time. Baird Hall (a hall of

residence of the University of Strathclyde) was used during the meeting and proved to be very comfortable and convenient for the meeting in the Dental School.

During the Society Dinner the first award of the BSSPD medal was made to Professor Bjorn Hedegard following the citation which was read by Professor Roy Storer.

At the end of the successful meeting, and an enjoyable year of office, Professor Alan Lawson was installed as the President for the year 1972/73

15.11 (1973) DJ Neill

Department Of Prosthetic Dentistry, Guy's Hospital
16th June 1982

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of the 14th May and please accept my apologies for the delay in replying. I am not sure that I can contribute anything useful to the history of the Society which doesn't already figure in the minutes. You will remember that John Sharry was our guest during the year of my presidency and the institution of the Reckitt Prize must have occurred about this time, but I am sure that you have details of this.

With kind regards,
Yours sincerely,
D. J Neill.

15.12 (1975) SG Barrett

University College Hospital Dental Hospital

Dear John

At last I have collected all the relevant information relating to the year 1975-1976 when I was President.

I should perhaps go back to the meeting in March 1975 when at the meeting I was asked if I would be prepared to initiate the possibilities of forming a European Prosthetic Association. Although there was some diffidence about forming an association of this kind at that time I agreed to go ahead. On Sunday, 28th March a sherry reception was held in St John's College, Cambridge in the Wordsworth room for those interested in the idea of a European Prosthodontic Association. Later at a meeting in the School of Pythagoras it was decided to inaugurate the European Prosthodontic Association and among those attending were Professor Bo Berman, Professor Gote Nyquist (Sweden), Professor P.A.E. Sillevius Smitt, Dr. F.J.G. Van der Laan (Netherlands), Professor E. Spichowicz, Professor W. Josefowicz (Poland), Professor J. Brugirard (France), Dr. D.B. Farasyn (Belgium) as well as many British representatives.

The annual meeting had a number of distinguished speakers from overseas including Dr. Kenneth Rudd and Dr. C.L. Bolender from the United States of America and Professor Gumar Carlsson from Sweden. I believe it was the first time a group

photograph of those attending the meeting was taken. It was the meeting where the first student essay prize was awarded at the Annual Dinner held in St. John's College. The prize was won by Miss H.L. Chadwick from the Royal Dental Hospital School of Dental Surgery. At the dinner there was musical entertainment in the form of a selection of classical guitar music. I believe it was a very successful meeting largely due to the support I received from the Honorary Secretary Rowland Fereday.

With kind regards.
Yours sincerely
S.G. Barrett

15.13 (1979) HR Tomlin

The University Of Birmingham. Department Of Dental Prosthetics
1st October, 1982.

My immediate impressions of the B.S.S.P.D. are of its sustained growth, the quality of the contributions at the annual conferences and of the good fellowship of its members. Although membership was small when I joined the Society in 1955 meetings had already established a reputation of being stimulating and lively, admirable features which have been maintained. Attractive and varied lecture programmes (there never appears to be a shortage of contributors) and the pleasure of meeting socially with friends and colleagues are, to me, what conferences should be.

The 1980 Annual Conference was held in Birmingham for the second time. On the first occasion my predecessor and friend Professor John Osborne was President during 1958-59 and it was good to see him back in Birmingham in my Presidential year.

I must say what a great pleasure it was to have the support of and to work with the Secretary, Treasurer, Curator, and Council during my year of office.

Members will recall reports considered at the Annual General Meeting which were produced by a Working Party set up under the Chairmanship of Rowland Fereday. They had the titles "Prosthetics in Dental Practice" and "Guides to Standards in the Construction of Complete and Partial Dentures".

The Conference Dinner was held at a University Hall of Residence and the toast to the Society was proposed by Professor E.A. Marsland, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Vice-Principal (now Vice-Chancellor) of the University of Birmingham. It was a great pleasure on that occasion to have as one of our guests the winner of the student essay prize, Miss J. McCartney of Belfast, and also to welcome Professor Alan Mack and Mr. Colin Woodhead into Honorary Life Membership of the Society. Congratulations were extended to Dr. John Walter on his paper "The design of prostheses used in the treatment of velopharyngeal insufficiency" which won the 1980 Reckitt Prize for research in prosthetic dentistry.

The 1980 Conference closed following the installation of Mr. Gordon Ritchie as President for the Year 1980-81.

H.R. Tomlin.

15.14 (1981) Lawrie

B.S.S.P.D. "The Friendly Society "

My first association with the society was at the annual conference held in Edinburgh in 1961 when I, as a general dental practitioner, felt particularly privileged to be admitted to the membership. It seemed at once friendly and happy and devoted to two days of living and working together under one roof. The friendships have grown and strengthened and the form of our conference has not changed which says a great deal for the wisdom of our founders. The zeal of David Watt and the exuberance of Roy Storer tempered by the patience of John Osborne and gentleness of Ernest Mathews were the catalysts for success. The frankness of John Farrell in Newcastle presenting his report on his first year as the first 'consultant in Dental Prosthetics was memorable. The ebullience of Eric Scher in his presentation of "The Replacement Denture Technique" still used in practice and shortened to R.T. was also a part of the Newcastle conference. So the years rolled on one venue after another invariably held in the city where the President lived and worked. Twenty years on to the Conference of 1981 in Warwick and my own year as President began. Within two weeks of listening to his latest report at Warwick John Farrell was sadly no longer with us. A great loss and a tremendous shock for all of us and a sadness shared with Sheelagh his wife, who had graced the platform in the presentation of the joint paper we had all enjoyed.

On through the year of preparation with our secretary John Walter for the conference of 1982, once again to be held in Edinburgh. My choice, because, The City of Elgin, where I have lived and practiced since 1958 does not have the hotel or residential facilities to accommodate our members, now usually around one hundred and forty attending conference. Our hopes to hold the annual meeting under one roof were dashed by the need to provide a superior lecture theatre with good projection and amplification facilities. The difficulties of working at a distance from the venue affected both the secretary and the President but particularly the former who was able to visit only once during the year whereas the President could visit at least every month to solve problems or confirm details. Until one has been either secretary or President it is impossible to appreciate how much arduous work the secretary does for the Society and I would wish to record the debt of gratitude which the Society owes to the long list of honorary secretaries.

During the year of office there was a council meeting held in November in London, a luncheon during the same month, again in London, was the occasion of the presentation of the Reckitt Prize sponsored by the company of the same name to which the Society remains grateful for their continuing interest in our art and science. The year of 1982 began very sadly with the loss of our dear friend Eric Scher whose stature belied the greatness of his heart and generosity.

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Appendix II

BSSPD Officers

Year	President	Conference Location	Honorary Secretary	Honorary Treasurer	Honorary Curator	Awards Administrator	Conference Organiser	Admin Secretary	Webmaster
2023-24	James Owens	Cardiff	S King	P Yule	C Butterworth	C Butterworth	None	Kirstin Berridge	
2022-23	Suresh Nayar	Birmingham	S King	P Yule	C Butterworth	C Butterworth	None	Kirstin Berridge	
2021-22	Dean Barker	Aberdeen	R Austin	P Yule	C Butterworth	C Butterworth	None	Kirstin Berridge	
2020-21	Rob McAndrew	Virtual due to covid	R Austin	N Poyser	T Preston	T Preston	No conference	Kirstin Berridge	
2019-20	Lorna McCaul	Virtual due to covid	R Austin	N Poyser	T Preston	T Preston	No conference	Kirstin Berridge	
2018-19	Phil Taylor	London	CS Field	N Poyser	T Preston	T Preston	R McAndrew	Kirstin Berridge	
2017-18	Phil Smith	Liverpool	CS Field	N Poyser	PW Smith	PW Smith	R McAndrew	Kirstin Berridge	
2016-17	Mike Fenlon	London	CS Field	N Poyser	PW Smith	PW Smith	R McAndrew	Kirstin Berridge	
2015-16	Julian Satterthwaite	Manchester	S Eliyas	N Poyser	PW Smith	PW Smith	R McAndrew	Kirstin Berridge	
2014-15	Peter Briggs	London	S Eliyas	M Fenlon	PW Smith	PW Smith	R McAndrew	Kirstin Berridge	
2013-14	Brendan Scott	Dundee	S Eliyas	M Fenlon	PW Smith	PW Smith	R McAndrew	Kirstin Berridge	J Field
2012-13	Janice Ellis	Newcastle	S Nayar	M Fenlon	PW Smith	PW Smith	R McAndrew	Kirstin Berridge	J Field
2011-12	Chris Butterworth	Liverpool	S Nayar	C Lynch	PW Smith	D Attrill	M Fenlon	Kirstin Berridge	J Field
2010-11	Professor Damien Walmsley	Birmingham	S Nayar	C Lynch	PW Smith	D Attrill	M Fenlon	Linda Erickson	J Field
2009-10	Dr Craig Barclay	Stirling	J Ellis	C Lynch	PW Smith	D Attrill	M Fenlon	Linda Erickson	C Butterworth
2008-09	Professor J Mark Thomason	York	J Ellis	C Lynch	PW Smith	B Scott	M Fenlon	Linda Erickson	C Butterworth
2007-08	Mr Richard Welfare	Exeter	J Ellis	C Lynch	PW Smith	B Scott	M Fenlon		C Butterworth
2006-07	Dr Nick Jepson	Newcastle	J Ellis	JM Thomason	PW Smith	B Scott	M Fenlon		C Butterworth
2005-06	Professor Fraser McCord	Edinburgh	PF Bardsley	JM Thomason	PW Smith	NA Jepson	C Barclay		C Butterworth
2004-05	Dr Rob Jagger	Cardiff	PF Bardsley	JM Thomason	PW Smith	NA Jepson	C Barclay		C Butterworth
2003-04	Dr Mike Barsby	Latimer House, Bucks	PF Allen	JM Thomason	RG Jagger	NA Jepson	C Barclay		C Butterworth
2002-03	Dr Peter R Likeman	Nottingham	PF Allen	JM Thomason	RG Jagger	NA Jepson	C Barclay		C Butterworth
2001-02	Dr Rob KF Clark	Millfields School, Somerset	PF Allen	JM Thomason	RG Jagger		RD Welfare		C Butterworth

Year	President	Conference Location	Honorary Secretary	Honorary Treasurer	Honorary Curator	Awards Administrator	Conference Organiser	Admin Secretary	Webmaster
2000-01	Professor Paul S Wright	London	MFW-Y Chan	JM Thomason	RG Jagger		RD Welfare		
1999-00	Professor Per-Olaf Glantz	Cardiff	MFW-Y Chan	JM Thomason	RG Jagger		RD Welfare		
1998-99	Mr Rob A Howell	Liverpool	MFW-Y Chan	JJ Collis	RG Jagger		RD Welfare		
1997-98	Professor John A Hobkirk	York	J Howlett	JJ Collis	RG Jagger		RD Welfare		
1996-97	Professor W Ronnie E Laird	Stratford-upon-Avon	J Howlett	JJ Collis	AR Ogden		RD Welfare		
1995-96	Professor Ian C Benington	Belfast	J Howlett	JJ Collis	AR Ogden		RD Welfare		
1994-95	Professor Bob Yemm	Dundee	RD Welfare	JJ Collis	AR Ogden				
1993-94	Dr John C Davenport	Birmingham	RD Welfare	AD Walmsley	AR Ogden				
1992-93	Professor Roger M Watson	Cambridge	RD Welfare	AD Walmsley	AR Ogden				
1991-92	Miss Angela M Fletcher	Leicester	RD Welfare	AD Walmsley	AR Ogden				
1990-91	Dr John Walter	Durham	RA Howell	AD Walmsley	AR Ogden				
1989-90	Professor Alan A Grant	Manchester	RA Howell	AD Walmsley	JR Heath				
1988-89	Professor Robin M Basker	Leeds	RA Howell	AD Walmsley	JR Heath				
1987-88	Dr M Robin Heath	Wye College, Kent	P Wright	AD Walmsley	JC Davenport				
1986-87	Mr Les RD Manderson	Bath	P Wright	CM Woodhaed	JC Davenport				
1985-86	Dr Paul R Geissler	Edinburgh	P Wright	CM Woodhaed	JC Davenport				
1984-85	Mr Rowland C Fereday	Oxford	P Wright	CM Woodhaed	JC Davenport				
1983-84	Dr G Derek Stafford	Cardiff	JD Walter	CM Woodhaed	JC Davenport				
1982-83	Professor Mike Braden	London	JD Walter	CM Woodhaed	JC Davenport				
1981-82	Dr D Alan Lawrie	Edinburgh	JD Walter	PR Likeman	GD Stafford				
1980-81	Mr Gordon M Ritchie	Warwick	RM Basker	PR Likeman	GD Stafford				
1979-80	Professor H Robert Tomlin	Birmingham	RM Basker	PR Likeman	GD Stafford				
1978-79	Mr William M Murphy	Cardiff	RM Basker	PR Likeman	GD Stafford				
1977-78	Mr Wesley Johnson	Manchester	AA Grant	PR Likeman	GD Stafford				
1976-77	Mr Robert I Nairn	London	AA Grant	PR Likeman	GD Stafford				
1975-76	Mr Sidney G Barrett	Cambridge	RC Fereday	RD Manderson	GD Stafford				
1974-75	Mr John H Farrell	Oxford	RC Fereday	RD Manderson	GD Stafford				
1973-74	Professor Derrick J Neil	Canterbury	RC Fereday	RD Manderson	PR Geissler				
1972-73	Professor W Alan Lawson	Manchester	WM Murphy	RD Manderson	PR Geissler				
1971-72	Professor A Roy MacGregor	Glasgow	WM Murphy	RD Manderson	PR Geissler				
1970-71	Professor John F Bates	Cardiff	WM Murphy	RD Manderson	AJ Bowman				
1969-70	Dr Eric A Scher	Brighton	WM Murphy	R D Manderson	AJ Bowman				

Year	President	Conference Location	Honorary Secretary	Honorary Treasurer	Honorary Curator	Awards Administrator	Conference Organiser	Admin Secretary	Webmaster
1968-69	Professor Roy Storer	Newcastle	JF Bates	AR MacGreggor	AJ Bowman				
1967-68	Professor David C Berry	Bristol	JF Bates	AR MacGreggor	AJ Bowman				
1966-67	Mr Philip Saunbury	Belfast	R Storer	AR MacGreggor	W Johnson				
1965-66	Professor S Francis Fish	Cambridge	R Storer	AR MacGreggor	W Johnson				
1964-65	Mr Arthur O Chick	London	R Storer	AR MacGreggor	W Johnson				
1963-64	Mr Hamish Thompson	Cambridge	R Storer	AR MacGreggor	SF Fish				
1962-63	Professor Alan O Mack	Newcastle	R Storer	AR MacGreggor	SF Fish				
1961-62	Mr John N Anderson	St Andrews	R Storer	AR MacGreggor	SF Fish				
1960-61	Dr David M Watt	Edinburgh	R Storer	A Cockburn	SF Fish				
1959-60	Professor Kenneth P Liddel	London	R Storer	A Cockburn	SF Fish				
1958-59	Professor John Osborne	Birmingham	R Storer	A Cockburn	SF Fish				
1957-58	Mr Norman J Ainsworth	Royal Dental London	DM Watt	A Cockburn	KP Liddel				
1956-57	Mr John H Lee	Eastman Deantal London	DM Watt	A Cockburn	KP Liddel				
1955-56	Professor Ernest Matthews	Manchester	DM Watt	A Cockburn	KP Liddel				
1954-55	Professor Ernest Matthews	Eastman Deantal London	DM Watt	JH Lee	KP Liddel				
1953-54	Professor Harold B Fenn	Edinburgh	DM Watt	JH Lee	KP Liddel				
1953	Inaugural Meeting Chairman DMWatt	London House, London	DM Watt						

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Appendix III

York Consensus

The York Consensus Statement on Overdentures

The annual BSSPD Conference, held in York on April 6th and 7th 2009. At the symposium on Mandibular Overdentures presenters offered a synopsis of the research available on the efficacy of implant supported mandibular overdentures in the edentulous mandible. Emphasis was given to both qualitative and quantitative research based on patient-centred outcomes of treatment.

A draft consensus was circulated to all presenters and to the Council members of the BSSPD and the statement was modified in the light of their comments and the audience feedback at the presentations

We hope that this consensus statement (final version) will be a useful guide for patients and clinicians and that it will act to stimulate wider discussion. We also hope that it will prove useful to other patient and professional organisations and will stimulate discussion between them, providers of national health care and independent funders.

Mandibular Two Implant Supported Overdentures as First Choice Standard of Care for Edentulous Patients

In the seven years since the publication of the McGill Consensus Statement in 2002, uptake by dentists of implant technology for denture wearers has been slow. To that end, this statement has been developed after examining the current available data and is released as a support and follow-up to the McGill Consensus Statement. This report was developed by members of the BSSPD Council and the panel of presenters at the BSSPD Conference in York on the 6th and 7th of April 2009.

It is based on the data presented at the conference, the wider available scientific data and the experience of the BSSPD members and participants at the conference.

It represents a wholly independent report and is not a policy statement for any profit-making body or business and, as such, is presented in line with the mission of the BSSPD to advance patient care, education and research in fixed and removable Prosthodontics.

It is fully recognized that the rate of tooth loss in most industrialized countries has declined rapidly over the last 2 decades. Nevertheless, as a result of the rapid increase in the mean age of industrialized societies, and because the overall prevalence of tooth loss increases with age, the prevalence of edentulism in these societies will remain significant. Edentulous patients have traditionally been provided with conventional maxillary and mandibular dentures that rest on the edentulous ridges and are not intimately connected to them. By default, this has been the traditional standard of care for edentulous patients for more than a century since there have been no other realistic alternatives. For many patients, these conventional complete dentures have allowed them to eat, to speak and to function in the wider society more easily than they could without any prostheses. Despite this, it is well recognised that many struggle, particularly with the lower dentures, because of mobility and discomfort.

Clinical studies over the last 2 decades have been undertaken to determine the benefits to patients from the use of mandibular implants to support the lower denture. This formed the basis of the McGill Consensus statement of 2002, and the current statement addresses these questions in light of contemporary research. The objective is to see if the benefits of this treatment modality should be regarded as large enough for this group to propose it, rather than the conventional approach, as the first treatment option of choice for edentulous patients.

There has been a very large body of work published that has established that the survival of titanium dental implants is very high, especially in the anterior mandible. Until the last decade, there was much less data available on the benefits of using these implants to support mandibular prostheses, particularly basing the decision-making process on patient-centred data.

Patient-Centred Outcomes

Conventional complete dentures are supported by the edentulous ridges and the mucosa that overlies them. There is intimate contact, but no direct attachment between the prosthesis and the ridges, and the prostheses are constructed to maximize potential retentive forces whilst attempting to minimize those that displace them. In such an active, muscularly controlled environment this is difficult, and many patients have difficulties adapting to their dentures, particularly the lower denture. There is also a positive relationship between poor dietary intake and edentulism. Many patients report that they have to modify their food choices, especially when eating in a social environment, because of the limitations of their dentures. There is also evidence that if patients are challenged to eat a different range of foods, their current satisfaction with their conventional dentures is reduced.

A substantial body of evidence is now available, indicating that patients' satisfaction with implant supported mandibular dentures is significantly greater than for conventional dentures. Much of this data comes from high quality randomized controlled trials. Patients report greater satisfaction with the stability and retention of their prostheses which, in turn, appears to contribute to greater satisfaction with

comfort and ability to chew different foods. There is accumulating evidence that these advantages can be carried into old age.

There is also evidence that patients with mandibular implant supported overdentures are more likely to positively modify their diet than patients with conventional dentures particularly following dietary interventions. In contrast to conventional denture wearers, when encouraged to modify their diet, the satisfaction with their prosthesis of those wearing implant overdentures appears to increase.

Cost

This remains a very real perceived barrier to the delivery of implant supported prostheses. Whilst these are certainly more expensive than conventional dentures, the use of just 2 implants can keep the initial cost to a minimum. Furthermore, deferring the whole cost over the expected life span of the patient shows that the annual difference in costs between the 2 modalities is relatively small especially compared with the initial first year costs.

Conclusions

With the advent of dental implants there is now more than one available treatment for edentulous patients. Current evidence suggests that the restoration of the edentulous mandible with a conventional denture is a much poorer alternative than the use of an implant supported prosthesis. There is now a large body of evidence that supports the proposal that a 2-implant overdenture should be the minimum offered to edentulous patients as a first choice of treatment.

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Appendix IV The BPC

S Barclay

The Future of the British Prosthodontic Conference

The BPC was formed as an over arching body of the BSSPD, BSRD & BATCD in 2000.

Its future was addressed by the BPC Committee on October 11th 2006. Opinions were expressed by those members present and in addition to other members not attending the meeting, but whose views had been canvassed in order to come to a consensus.

It was noted that:

- It had not, in the majority of respects, achieved its stated objectives.
- It was doubted that any significant benefits to the societies had been achieved by the current arrangement.
- The areas of clinical practice (of the member societies) were too disparate
- each constituent Society fulfilled its own agenda, with the BPC not acting as a body capable of providing an overall view on various consultation documents in the recent past.

There was a suggestion that the political influence of the constituent societies was in fact diluted by attempting to represent three specialist groups by one body.

The BATCD representative felt that their members did not necessarily consciously consider themselves to be members of BPC. It was felt that if BPC disbanded it would make little difference to BATCD members.

It was, however, recognized that there had been a number of useful November meetings since the inception of the Conference.

Further discussion revealed that there was a feeling that the BPC could not fulfil its political role, and had not regularly done so, as it was often overlooked when documents were circulated for consultation (it was not in 'the Loop'). In addition the thought was expressed that although not deliberate, harm had been done to the individual societies.

As a result, the overwhelming consensus was that, following discussion within constituent Councils/Committees, a recommendation should be made to Societies' AGMs that the BPC should be dissolved (Constitution — 7 May 2000). It has been

agreed by Councils of both BSSPD and BSRD which have subsequently met that this should be the case.

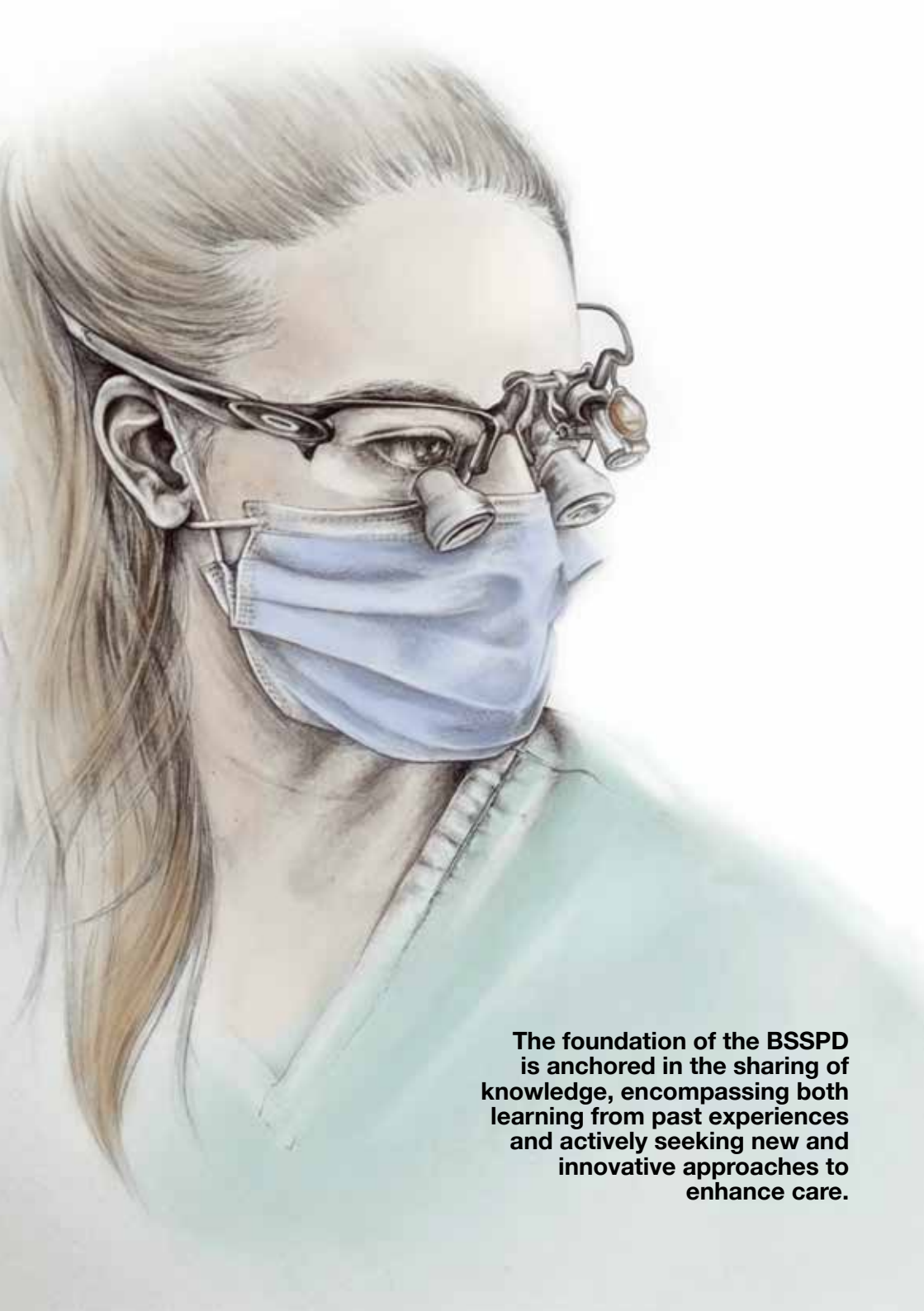
This matter is therefore being brought to the attention of the present membership and will be raised as an agenda item at the society's AGM in Newcastle in March 2007.

It was, however, considered appropriate that there should continue to be close liaison between the Societies but that this could, more appropriately, be achieved by an annual meeting of the Presidents/Chairperson & Secretaries of the Societies. This could be undertaken by a convenor, in rotation between the Societies, fulfilling the role for 2 years.

Front and rear cover images:

Vision for Precision

This artwork, created by Rachel Jackson, represents the growth of technical skills in dentistry, of mentorship and learning from each other.



**The foundation of the BSSPD
is anchored in the sharing of
knowledge, encompassing both
learning from past experiences
and actively seeking new and
innovative approaches to
enhance care.**