



INTERPLAST (UK)
ANNUAL MEETING OF TRUSTEES
FRIDAY 7 DECEMBER 2012

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I am happy to report on another successful year when we received invitations to take teams to Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Uganda. However, as the hospital in Nepal does not have an anaesthetic machine, I am trying to purchase one and as soon as I have this I can take a team.

I was able to arrange two missions. In May a team of 10 including 3 Surgeons - Dr Thomas (German), Dr Rodrigo (Nicaraguan) and myself – went to Mirpur in Kashmir to work in a charity hospital. For Dr Rodrigo and Dr Shaima, Anaesthetist, it was their first trip with us. 900+ patients had registered and on our arrival the number of patients waiting to be seen appeared overwhelming. It was an extremely poor area and some patients had travelled long distances. We spent the second week working in Benazir Bhutto Hospital, Rawalpindi, and attended the official handover of the ambulance from the French government to Acid Survivors Foundation. Professor Hassan had prepared well for us in Kashmir and Islamabad, screening and selecting patients. We treated yet more acid victims alongside some of our known patients. Obviously, we were unable to treat all the patients in Kashmir and as they are keen for us to go back I hope to take another team next year. Kashmir International Relief Fund (KIRF) held a fundraising event in London which I attended and they raised sufficient funds to cover hospital costs etc for the next mission.

In October I took a team of 10 to work in Kumi Hospital, Uganda, this being our third visit. Again, two new team members joined us (Gemma, Theatre Nurse, and Kariem, Anaesthetist). Following her heart attack earlier this year, Elspeth Robinson shortened her annual visit to a month but was still able to identify patients in preparation for our surgical camp. Although there were two Surgeons, Dr Rodrigo and myself, the problems with the anaesthetic machine restricted the number of patients we could treat. However, 95 out patients were seen and 70 patients had surgery. Many patients presented with keloid scars and burn contractures.

In August Helen and John Jefferson used their birthday celebration as a means of fundraising for Interplast (UK) and Kumi Hospital. I record our grateful thanks for their hard work and generosity. We have already received £2,100 with matchfunding of £750 expected from Barclays Bank. It was a splendid effort. Helen has been to Kumi with us on the last two occasions working with Elspeth in the community.

In looking ahead to 2013 there are invitations to Kashmir, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh and Uganda so there is much to be done. I am hoping to get our own website set up this year including a monthly newsletter to help promote the charity and improve communications.

My thanks go to all our Trustees for your support and interest. I would also like to record my thanks to Mrs Mollie Scott who has served as a Trustee for many years and although she has resigned this year, continues to support us. I welcome our new Trustee, Mrs Christine Brewer whose help as a Ward Nurse on many missions has been invaluable. I suggested at our last AGM that we consider nominating some younger people as Trustees and I propose Mrs Ivy Boardman, David Viva and Ghalib Mukadam, all of whom have been on mission teams. We are also very grateful to Javed Majid for his kind hospitality and for the many other ways in which he facilitates our missions.

Best Wishes
Charles