



optometryscotland

newsletter

September 2012



Debbie McGill, Operations Manager

Welcome to Optometry Scotland's autumn 2012 newsletter, I hope everyone had a good summer.

The main focus of our newsletter is to keep our members as up to date as we can on OS activity.

OS are starting surgeries to give all members throughout Scotland the opportunity to meet with members of the executive committee to influence current work streams about the projects that are ongoing at the moment or put forward any ideas. Any member of OS has the opportunity to shape the future of Optometry in Scotland and we positively encourage your input. You will read more about this in the Newsflash section.

OS members will shortly receive login details for the members only section of the OS website.

This will have a consultation page where OS will ask for your views on current topics, a Blog and a page where I will post up to date reports from all OS meetings.

Paul Griffin, our IT consultant has been working hard behind the scenes to have this finalised and live by the end of September 2012.

I'd like to thank all Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians that support OS, we have achieved a lot and your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Unfortunately there are still many Optometry practices not contributing to the OS levy (£67 per practice per month). OS need this levy fee in place in order to continue to represent the Optometric profession. The support of every practice is important and the key to driving projects forward. If we don't have the funds then this is reflected in our ability to raise the profile of Optometry within the Scottish Government and ensuring everyone is aware of the full capabilities of Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians in the community.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter. If you would like to speak to me regarding any points please feel free to contact me.

Best wishes,

Debbie McGill

Operations Manager

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NEW CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF OPTOMETRY SCOTLAND

At the OS Annual General Meeting in May we welcomed our new Chair Sam Watson and Vice-Chair David Bonellie. Sam, an Optometrist and Regional Manager for Boots has held the position of Vice-Chair for the past two years supporting Peter Carson during his term. David Bonellie, an Independent Optometrist based in Irvine, has stepped into the position of Vice-Chair to assist Sam in her new role.

Sam Watson said, in her initial address, "I'd like to give a huge thank you to Peter for the great work he has done as Chairman in the last two years. I know that going forward and working with new Vice-Chair David Bonellie, Optometry Scotland will be able to build on all Peter's work and achieve a lot together as a team.

Optometry in Scotland is recognised as a vital part of the NHS. A key area for OS going forward is to continue to ensure the importance of eye health is recognised at every life stage.

We have a lot of changes to look forward to as a profession; The IT link for referrals and payments is on its way and we are developing the optometry impact on public health.

I am delighted to be the new Chair of Optometry Scotland and taking the profession to the next level with the team at Optometry Scotland."

David Bonellie, new Vice-Chair said, "I am flattered to be in this position. It allows me to be able to put something back into a profession that has been very successful. I am looking forward to assisting Sam and taking Optometry in Scotland forward over the next two years."



David Bonellie and Sam Watson

Sam Watson welcomed the three new Council members who were successful in the recent election for the multiple and independent seats.: Richard Spruce (Independent Optometrist from Forth Valley); Richard Smart (Boots Opticians) and Morven Campbell (Black & Lizards). Dave Quigley will remain the Specsavers representative on Council, David Bonellie holds his Independent seat and Alison McClune replaces Johnathan Waugh as the AOP representative on Council.

Two seats for Independent practitioners were not filled on the OS Council during the May election. These seats are only open to those Independent practitioners who are already members of OS.

All Independent members will have received a nomination form to apply for one of these seats. If we receive more than two nominations for these seats then we will take it to a vote for all Independent members. The successful candidates will have seats on the OS Council from October 2012 until October 2014. If you haven't received a nomination form please contact me at the OS office as soon as possible.

OS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS MAY 2012 – MAY 2014

Sam Watson – Chairman

David Bonellie – Vice Chair

Peter Carson – Past Chairman

Gale Leslie – Treasurer

Debbie McGill – Operations Manager

Frank Munro – Executive Advisor

Hal Rollason – FODO Rep

Barry Duncan – ABDO rep

Malcolm McPherson – College of
Optometrist Rep

Alison McClune – AOP Rep

Gill Syme – Acuity rep

NEWSFLASH



discuss any thoughts/ ideas you may have. OS represents you, so please make the effort to come along and see us. We're looking forward to meeting with you. During the surgeries our agenda will cover the following topics:

OS Surgeries across Scotland: We will be holding open surgeries across specific areas of Scotland for all OS members to attend over the coming months (Aberdeen, Inverness, Ayr, Edinburgh and Glasgow). The surgeries are being put in place in order to give all OS members the opportunity to come along and have their say. This will be a chance for you as a member to meet with OS officials and

- GOS Present and Future
- The Eyecare IT project in your area
- Independent prescribing
- Training requirements

We really hope you can make it along to your local OS surgery. Schedule and dates will be available to view on our website very soon along with a booking form for you to secure an appointment.

LOBBYING UPDATE

Debbie will be visiting MSPs during the month of September/October to update them on current eye health care projects in Scotland and to introduce Sam as our new Chair. We have also organised another parliamentary dinner which will take place in November this year. Mr Duncan McNeil MSP, Convener of the Health and Sports committee has kindly agreed to sponsor this for us.

ABDO UPDATE



Barry Duncan

The Association of British Dispensing Opticians (ABDO) in discussion with Optometry Scotland has produced a guide for referees, coaches and

parents entitled Children's eye protection in football. The guide has been distributed by the Scottish Football Association to their referees as well as the Schools FA, the Youth FA and Scottish Women's Football.

Commenting on the publication Barry Duncan said "As I'm actively involved in football and also have a child that plays the game, I am acutely aware of the need for officials and parents to have easily accessible information relating to eye protection for children who need to wear spectacles. With this in mind we produced a simple and succinct guide. We have had enthusiastic response from the Scottish FA and we are extremely grateful for their assistance in distributing the guide.

"I am now looking to liaise with the other football associations in the UK to promote the important message of appropriate eye protection for children.

The document can be downloaded from the ABDO website www.abdo.org.uk

NES OPTICAL TRAINING DAYS

ABDO are pleased to confirm that the training days being run in conjunction with NES will take place on the following dates;

Edinburgh - Sunday 7 October 2012, Edinburgh Conference Centre, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh

Glasgow – Monday 8 October 2012, Beardmore Hotel and Conference Centre, Clydebank

There will be a mixture of lectures and workshops along with two poster quizzes giving a total of 10 CET points for those attending. The course is available to all dispensing opticians, optometrists and optical staff.

For more information or to book a place please contact ABDO members services on 01227 733912

Children's eye protection in football
A guide for referees, coaches and parents

abdo

Association of British Dispensing Opticians

OS AND SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT HEALTH DEPARTMENT (SGHD) MEETING – JUNE 2012

Sam Watson, Peter Carson, Frank Munro and Debbie McGill met with Frank Strang (Director of SGHD), Stewart Wilson (Optometric Advisor to SGHD), Pat McKerrow (SGHD) and Lynne Morrison (SGHD).

We received an update on the following:

1. GOS Regulations and Domicillary changes – These have been looked at by the SGHD lawyers and will be put before parliament in October. In the interim Frank Strang will be writing to the Health Boards to inform them of the imminent changes.
2. Independent Prescribing – The SGHD are in the process of finalising the protocols Optometrists should follow to apply for prescription pads. These will be sent to Health Boards and allow Optometrists to start ordering prescription pads. It will be the Optometrists' main (host) Health Board that you are registered with that will provide you with your prescription pads.

3. Cycloplegic Refraction/HES Vouchers – Unfortunately we have no update at the moment – SGHD apologised for this and confirmed to look at investigate protocols here ASAP.
4. Tri-Lateral Meeting – The SGHD are arranging a meeting for OS to meet with Health Board representatives and Optometric Advisors to discuss passporting, listing and interpretations of GOS regs/advice notes etc.. – This meeting will probably be sometime in September.

Last but not least we presented the SGHD with the OS evidence paper re GOS and how it is working well re providing efficiencies. This was welcomed by Frank Strang (Director of SGHD) who commended the profession on achieving the title of leaders in providing a world class eyecare system.

Please see Executive summary of GOS – It's Working on the next page



optometry**scotland**

GOS (SCOTLAND) – LEADING THE WORLD IN COMMUNITY EYECARE

The revised GOS eye examination introduced in 2006 has brought considerable benefit to the Public and the NHS. This has involved the introduction of new and innovative work practices for optometrists and changed the landscape of community eyecare.

Optometry the FIRST PORT OF CALL FOR EYE PROBLEMS

- Ensuring that Scotland leads the World in the challenge to meet “Vision 2020” – a global initiative to eliminate avoidable blindness by the year 2020.
- “SHIFTING THE BALANCE OF CARE” for eyecare
- Overall 4.5% reduction in referrals – cf with a rise of 23% in England over the same period.
- An exemplar model of early intervention, detection and prevention of eye disease.
- Over 1 million eye disorder cases being managed in the community each year – freeing up considerable capacity in secondary care.

Efficient and Effective Service

- Since its introduction in 2006, the annual cost of delivering GOS has been consistently less than the original budget projections.
- True incremental cost is in the order of £22.3 million due to the universal availability of the service; this includes the people who were managed privately before 2006. (1)
- Regulation changes introduced by Optometry Scotland in 2010 led to a real saving of £2.16M (3%) in that year alone despite increasing numbers accessing the service (2)
- Optometrists managed 1.8 million patients in the community last year – 20,000 more than the previous year and reduced overall costs by £800k (2010/11).
- Estimate of more than £56 million of direct savings to secondary care, GPs, nurses, pharmacy and others in primary care. (3)
- Indirect health and care savings of £440million last year (10)

Flexible, Adaptable and Fit For The Future

- Ticks all the boxes for the “QUALITY IN PRIMARY CARE” agenda
 - Community optometry has the capacity and skills to meet changing circumstances and the new challenges of demographic change and an increasing older population.
 - IT Integration & GOS will result in further efficiency and effectiveness for community eyecare services.
 - Potential for GOS to serve as a principal driver for the new proposals around ophthalmic public health
- ‘SHIFTING THE BALANCE OF CARE’ for eyecare has shown what can be achieved when the patient is put at the heart of service delivery but there is still more that can be done to manage chronic eye disease safely in the community. In addition the uptake of GOS is less in Scotland than all other parts of the UK. Studies indicate that more needs to be done to raise awareness of eye health within our vulnerable communities. Community optometry has demonstrated a willingness to work collaboratively with government and the NHS over the past 6 years. The service is efficient, highly skilled and adaptable and a true example of ‘spending to save’. It is the solution to further increasing capacity in secondary care.

Executive Summary

TEAM THAT GATHERED EVIDENCE FOR “GOS ITS WORKING PAPER”



OS ACTIVITY AND REPORTS TO MEMBERS

Once the members only section of the OS website is active OS will upload reports from all our internal and external meetings to this section where all OS members can be kept as up to date as possible. This will also provide us with an easier way to consult with our members on topics too.

The table below shows a list of the external meetings that OS officers attend regularly

MEETINGS	OS REPS
Scottish Government Health Department (SGHD)	CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIR, PAST CHAIR, OPERATIONS MANAGER AND EXECUTIVE ADVISOR
National Health Education Scotland (NES)	CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIR, FRANK MUNRO (Chair of NES Advisory Group) + 1 OTHER TBC & OPERATIONS MANAGER
IT PROJECT	CHAIRMAN, HAL ROLLASON AND STEPHEN MCPHERSON & OPERATIONS MANAGER
EYECARE SCOTLAND + SCOTTISH EYECARE GROUP	CHAIRMAN OR VICE-CHAIR, OPERATIONS MANAGER AND GILL SYME
RNIB, SCOTTISH VISION STRATEGY AND CROSS PARTY GROUP MEETINGS	CHAIRMAN OR VICE-CHAIR OR OPERATIONS MANAGER OR EXECUTIVE ADVISOR WHERE NECESSARY. 2 REPS MAXIMUM WHEN REQUIRED
COMMUNITY PHARMACY	EXECUTIVE ADVISOR AND OPERATIONS MANAGER
MSP MEETINGS	OPERATIONS MANAGER AND WHERE NECESSARY CHAIRMAN/OPTOM/DO REPRESENTATIVE
PSD MEETINGS	OPERATIONS MANAGER AND CHAIRMAN OR VICE-CHAR OR EXECUTIVE ADVISOR. 2 REPS MAXIMUM WHEN REQUIRED