

# NORFOLK LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

By definition an annual report is a report on a particular year - in this instance 1st April 2002 to 31st March 2003. Its contents are therefore, also by definition, a retrospective look at the work of the Committee during that year. Because so much of what has happened since 1st April 2002 has been overtaken by events it has been decided to restrict the format this year to brief reports from the Chairman, the Medical Secretary and the Treasurer, factual details of Committee Membership and Attendance, and the published accounts. The LMC office hopes that its monthly flyers, regular correspondence from the Chairman and Medical Secretary and now its website demonstrate the work the Committee has undertaken on behalf of its constituents. If, however, anyone wishes further clarification please contact the LMC office.

## LMC ANNUAL REPORT



1st April 2002 - 31st March 2003

### Chairman's Report

The memorable event of this year was the negotiation of the New GP Contract. Not only did it consume vast amounts of time for the negotiators but also for all LMCs who tried to keep abreast of events in order to be well informed and offer up to date news to our constituents. In retrospect we could have shut up shop for six months and would have been just as well informed! Indeed my lasting recollection of the year will be the "Special" LMC Conference to launch the new contract which never materialised and the ensuing months of uncertainty.

I suspect that this delay will have driven some of you to despair and it has certainly been frustrating not being able to plan for the future. It has also made it very difficult to negotiate with PCTs on your behalf, because for almost every important issue there has been the uncertainty of funding and the promise of change to the new contract.

We now have a new GMS contract which we will embrace, and I have no doubt that Norfolk practices will deliver on the quality agenda. The frustration will still be from the slow response from the DoH and the ability of PCTs to deliver. The LMC will do all it can to facilitate the introduction of the new deal but I fear there may still be frustrating times ahead.

We must be prepared to say "no" to unreasonable demands and must also be realistic about the resources that have been passed down to PCTs. They will have to make difficult decisions and are unlikely to be able to give the go ahead to all our aspirations. However, we must not lose sight of the essence of general practice to provide a personalised service to our patients.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Committee, may I assure you all, whatever path you choose, whether it be PMS, GMS2, or one of the salaried options under both contracts, that the LMC will continue to support you and the best interests of your practices at all times.

Ian Hume



### Medical Secretary's Report

Although relating to the financial year April 2002 to March 2003, the Secretary's Report was drafted during the relatively quiet month of August ready for publication upon receipt of the accounts from Lovewell Blake - and when he couldn't put it off any longer.

However, this year is a bit different for August proved anything but quiet and, more importantly, the whole GP universe was

shaken up irrevocably in June. It was felt, therefore, that a report which related the activities of the LMC up to and including March 2003 was already passé and would be even more so by the time it came to publication.

The 2002/3 Annual Report is also somewhat brief for we have been heavily involved in three major on-going projects, namely,

**The LMC website** ([www.norfolkmc.org.uk](http://www.norfolkmc.org.uk)), which was launched at the beginning of September, and which we hope will more than make up for the slimmer than usual written report on the Committee's activities

**Monthly flyers** giving the latest news on the new contract, or "GMS2"

**Collaborative work** with all six of Norfolk's PCTs to try to ensure that the full advantages of the new contract can be enjoyed by all Norfolk's GPs as soon as practicable.



Reference to the day to day work of the Committee is available, for the curious, in its monthly minutes and in its regular Flyers



**The New Committee** March 2003 saw the end of the three year term of the incumbent LMC and the re-election of a new Committee along different constituency lines, coterminous with Primary Care Trust. It was decided to limit the overall size of the Committee by slightly reducing the representative ratio. This resulted in elections in two constituencies, which demonstrated to the wider health community the LMC's true democratic credentials.

The LMC lost some very eminent members following their decisions not to stand again, and I particularly wish to mention and thank Dr David Pickersgill and Dr Charles Oxley for not only their fantastic contributions to the Committee and Norfolk general practice over many, many years but also for the help they gave to me as a new Secretary. I'd also like to thank all the other members of that last Committee who did not stand again or were unsuccessful in the elections.

On the other hand, you are represented by a vibrant, varied and active new Committee which is certainly not backwards in coming forwards and has already presided over some excellent debates, giving helpful "steers" to the officers. I look forward to working with/for them in the coming term.

On a personal note, my career as an elected member of the Non Principal Constituency of the new Committee lasted about three weeks when, changes in my contractual status, meant that I had to stand down, confident that there was no shortage of candidates to replace me. One speculates about the validity of the term “non-principal” since the term “principal” will effectively expire next April, but that is only one of the big uncertainties over what the new contract will bring.



**The New GMS Contract** So, let’s look forward to April 04, when the New Contract is introduced, with parallel changes for PMS GPs across the board. The LMC has no illusions about the journey being comfortable and straightforward, there are already arguments about monies set aside for Enhanced Services, whether PCTs will be able to run an Out of Hours Service without bankrupting themselves, whether and when practices will get their IT investment reimbursed and what’s happening to the Quality Preparation Payments.

Why is the Carr-Hill formula still be shrouded in mystery, how will protected time and seniority be funded fairly for all GPs, what will happen about home visits and Saturday surgeries, are just examples of important questions which your LMC will insist are answered and clarified before the curtain goes up next April.

So, it’s time to draw a line and look forward to the future with optimism but also with caution. On behalf of the other officers, Susan and Ian, may I say how much I appreciate your support in terms of letters, calls and the odd supportive comment here and there, and in return I commit the “team” to working hard for Norfolk’s GPs to ensure better times ahead for both you and your patients (fingers crossed)

Peter Harvey



**LMC Membership and Attendance  
1st April 2002 - 31st March 2003**

Dr M Ahmed	8/11	Dr A Allan	8/11
Dr H Barclay	10/11	Dr P Barnard	3/11
Dr M Belsham	8/11	Dr S Brown	10/11
Dr C Burks	3/3	Dr R Colebrook	9/11
Dr B Duncan	8/11	Dr S Fiske	4/11
Dr C Francis	10/11	Dr M Gaskin	9/11
Dr D Goldser	7/11	Dr K Green	8/11
Dr S Hambling	2/4*	Dr D Hopkin	10/11
Dr I Hotchin	10/11	Dr I Hume	11/11
Dr K Husk	6/11	Dr M Joshi	4/11
Dr B Kelly	9/11	Dr J Luck	7/11
Dr I Mitchell	8/11	Dr N Morton	9/11
Dr C Oxley	10/11	Dr H Patel	9/11
Dr A Penn	6/11	Dr D Pickersgill	3/11*
Dr G Rattner	8/11	Dr Robinson	10/11
Dr P Roebuck	2/6	Dr S Sambandan	6/11
Dr J Schram	2/5*	Dr M Skinner	6/11
Dr K Thomas	2/4	Dr I Tolley	10/11
Dr L Vaughan-Williams	9/11	Dr F Whitfield	10/11
Dr P Harvey	11/11	Dr Rudy Mercer	11/11
		* Resigned	



**LMC Committee - 2003/2006**

**Chairman** Dr Ian Hume  
**Medical Sec** Dr Peter Harvey  
**PEO** Mrs Susan Payne, LMC Office

**W Norfolk (6)**  
Dr M Ahmed, Fairstead, KL  
Dr B Duncan, Terrington St C  
Dr D Hopkin, North Wootton  
Dr I Hotchin, Southgates, KL  
Dr M Skinner, Swaffham  
Dr L Vaughan-Williams, Gayton Rd

**Gt Ymth (3)**  
1 vacancy  
**Norwich PCT (5)**  
Dr A Allan, Gt Yarmouth  
Dr A Penn, Bradwell  
Dr C Francis, Bacon Road  
Dr N Morton, Trinity Street  
Dr H Patel, Tuckswood  
Dr C Robinson, Oak Street  
Dr S Sambandan, Thorpe Rd

**Southern PCT (7)**  
(1 vacancy)  
Dr M Belsham, Thetford  
Dr S Brown, Wymondham  
(Dr I Hume, Diss)  
Dr R Lindner, Attleborough  
Dr S Rowe, Cringleford  
Dr M Schede, Diss

**Broadland PCT (4)**  
Dr M Gaskin, Blofield  
Dr B Kelly, Reepham  
Dr G Rattner, Thorpe HC  
Dr I Tolley, Hellesdon

**North Nfk PCT (4)**  
Dr A Dhesi, Stalham  
Dr J J Harris-Hall, Mundesley  
Dr I Mitchell, Cromer  
Dr S Morris, Ludham

**Practitioners on the Sup List(4)**  
Dr J Agnew, Oulton  
Dr K Green, Wymondham  
Dr Andrew Latten  
Dr J Martin, Stanfield

**Commissioning GPC GP Tutors Course Organisers GP Registrars**  
Dr R Colebrook, NNPCT  
Dr R Mercer C/o Suffolk LMC  
Dr F Whitfield, North Walsham  
Dr A Lister (receives papers)  
Dr Raija Keil, Norwich VTS  
2 Vacancies (JPH & QEH)  
**GOS** Dr C Malpas



**Annual Accounts**

Unfortunately the accounts are still with the accountants. We did not feel that we could hold up this publication any longer. Once the certified accounts are to hand details will be published.

