

Website subcommittee report to CMGS March 2009

- Online survey
 - We were very pleased with the response from members to our online website survey. David Gokhale and Vicky Stinton kindly set this up, analysed the responses and published findings in the CMGS Newsletter. Thanks to all who took part, as it is essential that we know your needs so that we can make the most effective use of our time (and CMGS funds) where we make changes. [Generally, a very low level of feedback is received via the website general feedback forms]
- Priority for development
 - One of the most radical proposals for development, and addressed in the survey above, is to adopt a 'content management system' for the website. This received general support, and would enable a number of benefits to be developed including easier and better controlled editing; member-specific accounts for security; enhanced navigation. There are certain implications including cost, and co-ordinated approach with other BSHG constituent bodies.
- Website host
 - The website committee is very pleased with the experience of the service offered by Zen – this has been trouble-free to our knowledge over the past 12 months
- Web committee members
 - I would like to express my personal thanks to all website committee members for generously providing their time and skills over the past 12 months
 - I am also very thankful for Nicola Wolstenholme for agreeing to edit and maintain the 'training' pages, since this area requires frequent attention to ensure it is up-to-date. The training pages have their own feedback facility which forwards responses directly to the national / regional trainers.
- Members' area
 - Since the report of 12 months ago, a password-protected area has been used on the website. A universal username and password is required to access pages here. Members should contact their local training officer for these. Occasional requests are received via the feedback mechanism.
- BP guidelines
 - Continued progress has been made in co-operation with Simon Ramsden with regard to access to CMGS best-practice guidelines and associated documents – we hope that members find these documents are readily accessed, and we encourage members to provide feedback to Simon on draft guidelines where requested
- Lab directory
 - Thanks to efforts by all, the directory is now both comprehensive and has a universal appearance. The website committee keeps in contact with the Executive committee with regard to how information is displayed, and appreciates that labs also display similar information on a variety of other websites.
- General appearance
 - We intend to use images and photographs to enhance the website appearance. We would be most grateful for any contributions.

Report prepared: Monday, 23rd March 2009
David Cockburn
Chair, CMGS website subcommittee