

# THE ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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Dear Colleague,

Annual Scientific Meeting

Many of you will have attended the recent ASM at Savill Court and judging by the feedback forms and general comments this meeting was most successful and enjoyable. Your Committee is aware that not all members were satisfied and that there are some important issues to review. As with any new venue there are bound to be some aspects where arrangements and standards were not acceptable and these are being addressed.

One of your main comments related to costs for the ASM; there were even suggestions from some members that the Association was 'allowing the hotel and conference organisers to overcharge the Association.' I am therefore taking this opportunity to emphasise that this is not the case; on further analysis of the costs involved we are benefiting from an exceptionally good financial arrangement with our conference organisers. 3D Performance spends 7 to 8 months of the year preparing for the conference and three full days working during the conference. Their charges for this time amount to £30 per delegate and a further £20 per delegate during the conference. This compares with normal industry charges of £65 and £35 respectively. It should also be pointed out that this is NOT 3D's profit but represents their COSTS which obviously includes an element of profit.

Your committee therefore recommend that the Association continue to use 3D performance as our conference organisers. They now have several years experience running our conference, they enjoy working with us and they make exceptional efforts over and above their normal service to ensure that the meeting is a success. It is not an option for the Association to organise the ASM from within its own resources. Whilst this was possible several years ago the complexity of the ASM now requires considerable time and resources and there is no way that the present committee could possibly replace a professional conference organiser.

We will be returning to Savill Court for our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference which will take place during the weekend of March 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>. With Easter dates and other bookings it is not possible to use this venue during April 2010. Following negotiation it is intended to REDUCE the delegate rate to £249.50 which is a considerable reduction on 2009 costs. We look forward to your continued support but if you still have any concerns about this subject then please let me know.

Kind regards

Dr Martin Hudson