

MANCHESTER MEDICAL SOCIETY

Section of Surgery

The Section of Surgery, of the Manchester Medical Society, held its Presidential Address on **Tuesday 9th October 2007** at **8.00 pm** in Chancellors Conference Centre, University of Manchester.

The meeting began with the Annual General Meeting of the Section.

Mr M Mughal (outgoing President) was unable to attend this meeting and Mr J Winstanley therefore introduced **Mr John Hobbiss** (Consultant Colorectal & General Surgeon, Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust) who gave the following Presidential Address:-

“Making a contribution”

The President began by describing his first invitation to the Society as a newly appointed Registrar. This was from his Senior Registrar, Mr. Ostick and although appearing to be more of an order was in fact intended as a friendly welcome to what had proved an important aspect of his surgical life in Manchester.

He went on to describe his experiences of travel to America as a Senior Registrar and how that visit stimulated ideas for research which he was carrying out following his appointment to what was Bolton Royal Infirmary or, as it is now known following merger The Royal Bolton Hospital. This research focused around predictive pathological factors for survival in colon cancer. He paid tribute to his pathology colleagues at Bolton who had done much to aid this. Further studies on colon cancer looked at the association with social deprivation, of which there is no shortage in Bolton.

More recently research activities have taken on a more domestic feel being stimulated by a breakfast time conversation with his Gynaecologist wife Maggie; these focused on the incidence of incontinence following delivery. Needless to say the figures in Bolton are much more satisfactory than elsewhere! Most recently his activities have focused on techniques for hernia repair. He concluded by pointing out that life in Bolton had not all been research because he had also found time to get involved with the medical school at Gonda both examining, teaching and also producing some case reports which enabled some of the graduates from there to present at the AVP meeting.

Mr Hobbiss gave an excellent lecture to approximately sixty members and guests.

Before the address, forty-two members and guests enjoyed the Presidential Dinner in Chancellors Restaurant which commenced at 6.30 pm.