a result of some ambiguous wording on my part, Members who shared the same name also got to share a bedroom in a hall of residence at a Society meeting. Luckily no Member has the surname ‘Leggett’, but there were some people who were, quite rightly, distinctly unimpressed. And there have been a few of you over the years who have shouted at me for not knowing your requirements for dinners or rooms stated on registration forms you or your secretaries forgot to send. Or who were just bored and cross and wanted someone to have a go at. But these minor irritations are a small price to pay for a fun and rewarding job.

The Society has developed considerably in the last 5 years, and it’s been interesting to be part of that change. The governance structure, membership application procedures, the organisation of Meetings and the grant schemes have all been overhauled. Personally I think the Society is at the beginning of a long process of complete transformation, which might be driven both by changes in the way scientific research is published and the demands of government. I imagine in the future there will be one administration running a number of individual societies. As a Member this might be indistinguishable to you from the current system, although it could reduce some flexibility. However, it should be far more streamlined and less expensive. Of course, I could be influenced by my secondment to the Biosciences Federation, but there is undoubtedly duplication between offices of all the various societies and an ever increasing need to reduce administration costs.

I am joining the BBSRC as ‘Head of Public Engagement’ – involving the public in how they allocate money to particular research areas. I shall, of course, need to retain close links with the academic community, and hope that I come into contact with many of you again. If anyone would like to get in touch I am sure the London office will forward emails to me. Those with whom I have worked closely are really too numerous to name, although I would like to mention a few who not only have been really supportive of me but also have given up their time to the Society for little or no reward. Rob Clarke, Prem Kumar, Chris Fry, Jeremy Ward, Dafydd Walters, Bridget Lumb, Malcolm Hunter, Stan White and Graham McGeown all come under this category, although there are many more who deserve gratitude. Good luck to you all; I shall watch the progress of the Society with interest.

Maggie Leggett

Publications Office

Jill Berriman, Managing Editor on the Society’s journals, left the Publications Office at the end of June, after 13 years with the Society, to join her husband, John, who is now working in New York. In her various roles with the Society – Copy Editor, Senior, and then Chief, Production Editor and, since 2001, Managing Editor – Jill was involved in format and content changes to both The Journal of Physiology and Experimental Physiology, the introduction of in-house DTP and electronic submission of manuscripts and, at the end of 2003, a move to Blackwell Publishing after almost 125 years with Cambridge University Press. Our very best wishes for a bright new future go with Jill and John.

James Ryder

1974-2004

It is with great sadness we report that James Ryder, a promising and enthusiastic young physiologist, passed away peacefully in his sleep in May 2004.

James had recently taken up a lecturership in the Department of Sports Science at the University of Hull and was becoming established as a lively member of Lars McNaughton’s team in the department. Although only in Hull for a short period, he had established excellent teaching and research relationships with his students, colleagues in the Department and across the University.

James had completed his University of Liverpool PhD at University College Chester, supervised by David Cotterrell, on a multidisciplinary investigation into markers of physical fitness of elite young soccer players. He had presented his work on the physiological aspects of fitness in his young soccer players to the Society on a number of occasions. He had also done a year as a post doctoral research co-ordinator working on the physiological responses to exercise in post-myocardial infarct patients before moving to Hull.

James graduated with a BSc in Sports and Exercise Science from South Bank University as a student of Susan Ward’s. He then read for an MSc in Sport and Exercise Science at University College Chester completing his dissertation on the effects of hydroxy-methyl butyrate supplementation on muscle damage following eccentric exercise, work which he had presented to the European College of Sports Science.

As a young academic embarking on a teaching and research career in exercise physiology he will be much missed by family, friends and colleagues in Chester and Hull. Our heartfelt condolences go to his parents, Ken and Sue Ryder.

David Cotterrell1
Lars McNaughton2

1University College Chester
2University of Hull

The Society also reports, with regret, the death of Oliver Holmes and G Eric Lamming, OBE since the last issue of the magazine.