

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**KATE SHEEHY MLACP CHAIR**

Good morning everyone, it’s great to see so many of you here today, we’ve got a packed programme for you, so I will keep my report brief and to the point but before I say anything else, a big thank you to all of the committee for their hard work over the past twelve months, significantly above and beyond the call of duty.

Once again we have found it difficult to get through the packed agendas that greet us when we meet during the year.

1. Judith Bentley our honorary secretary has been serving on the committee longer than any of us can remember, probably since day one; she is unfailingly efficient, supportive, knowledgeable, diplomatic, courteous, and she has the patience of a saint. I managed somehow to twist her arm and get her to stay on to help me during my term, thank heavens she did. Thank you so much Judith, from me and from all of us.
2. Our remit is to promote and support physiotherapists in their expert work and we have achieved that throughout the year.

THE NEW MEMBERS PACK has been finalised, this year; and

THE NEW WEBSITE is about to launch; we have more than fulfilled our EDUCATIONAL role with two introductory courses plus the advanced seminar for experts at Grays Inn.

I'm keen on transparency and a healthy mix of contributors taking part in our study days, so we have worked in association with a variety of law firms, in different locations, up and down the country. We have introduced new MLACP speakers and we have paid our ‘outside' speakers a fair rate.

1. Today’s conference aims to inform and support Chartered Physiotherapists in the wider profession. This is part of our Association's remit and personally, I much prefer to get the message out there, so that physiotherapists can avoid liability issues.

Fore warned is fore armed

As many of you will know, 2015 is the year that physiotherapists working in professional football, at the highest level, found out that they are no longer covered by the CSP’s insurance scheme.

Concussion has been a hot topic all year and to me, of particular concern in youngsters, participating in sports such as rugby and football. A clinical update is always helpful and we are fortunate to have Dr. Kipps here this morning from the Institute of Sport Exercise and Health.

Later we will hear about the pitfalls from physiotherapists who have experienced them in, and indeed on, the field.

We have a barrister, an insurance expert and a CSP professional adviser to show us where we might be liable, despite our best intentions and, hopefully, to help us stay both safe and effective.

1. MedCo has been and continues to be, big news this year, essentially it has evolved to improve the way small value RTA related whiplash claims are dealt with, in England Wales and that can only be good. The procedures involved are almost finalised and as soon as we can, we will publish guidance on the website and notify you via Twitter.

As you know Chris Worsfold has championed the role of chartered physiotherapists in the assessment of whiplash, so he deserves our thanks and praise for his efforts and now Brian Simpson, who is about to become your MLACP Chair, also wears another hat, in his role representing the CSP on the Board of MedCo.

1. Those of you who work in CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE, may well be aware that the government is considering fixed costs for clinical negligence cases. Consultation is taking place now, and the Chartered Society has requested comments from MLACP which we will of course provide.

**LEGAL ADVICE**

1. One concern I have, going forward, is that in these litigious times, MLACP is viewed increasingly by the wider profession as an authority in legal matters, but we are physiotherapists, not lawyers.

We get a number of enquiries through the year, which we are not best equipped to deal with. Something needs to change and perhaps MLACP should consult with the Society about this situation in the coming year.

**ANNUAL LEGAL UPDATES**

1. This year for the first time we are providing a new service to the membership. Following the AGM we have a round-up of changes in the law, relevant to our expert work, from a lawyer, who can distil and interpret those changes appropriately.

So each year, if you come to the AGM you will guarantee your CPD with regard to expert work.

This report and those of my fellow committee members will be posted on the website for your reference and please find me during the breaks if you have any particular concerns or comments.

I hope you will agree that the committee has performed really well on your behalf, the cost of membership continues to be exceptionally good value.

I'm stepping down as from today and so I'd like to say thank you again to the committee and wish Brian all the best in his new role as Chairman.

**KATE SHEEHY November 2015**