When Glasgow won the Commonwealth Games 2014 bid all of Scotland celebrated... the world of sport and tourism is set for a massive boost.

But perhaps NHS health professionals have more reasons than many to celebrate the win. Thousands of NHSGGC staff will become involved over the next seven years in the planning and preparation for the Games. Battalions of paramedics will be needed in the host city. Capacity in health centres and hospitals will be gearing up to cope with the influx of athletes and visitors from all over the world.

Our staff will swell the ranks of volunteers who will help make the Games a huge success for the city and all who take part.

But perhaps the biggest winner of all will be the whole population – and the overall health of that population for generations to come.

The jubilation that swept the city – and erupted in the Old Fruit Market in Glasgow's Candleriggs (as our picture shows) on 9 November – presents to us all an opportunity to seize an enthusiasm for lifestyle change.

The winner is... Health

Our staff were amongst the winners yet again in the national NHS Awards this year. They collected an impressive tally of honours - testament to the quality and dedication of a patient focussed workforce.

Pictured here is one of the teams who represent NHSGGC in such a positive way. The Glasgow Royal Infirmary based clinicians won Scotland's NHS "Team of the Year".

Inside this issue you can share in the celebrations of our superb staff ambassadors and their successes in the national awards and other specialist awards in a three page tribute to success and recognition starting on page 6.

Be a winner with Hilton Hotels which is offering you the opportunity to win two nights' bed and breakfast in its recently refurbished Edinburgh Grosvenor Hotel beside Haymarket Station.

Hilton Hotels is also offering some amazing discounts on dining and short stays especially for our staff in conjunction with Staff Newsletter and Staff Benefits. For full details, see inside page 5 or visit StaffNet.
Health is the winner
(continued from page 1)

The announcement that the city had won through came just days after Director of Public Health Linda de Caestecker launched her powerful Report: A Call to Debate: A Call to Action.

The report builds on the growing con- vention that is dominating public life throughout the West of Scotland - the most important conversation any of us will probably ever get involved in - to make life healthier and happier, longer and more rewarding.

Dr de Caestecker said: "The wealth of sporting talent descending on Glasgow in seven years time should be an inspiration to sporting stars of the future, but the bene-

fits to their health and well-being and quality of life is the ultimate finish- ing line for everyone."

The games also present a huge opportu- nity to make massive environmental changes to the city including public transport improvement and reduced car usage which will impact on health and personal lifestyles.

Well done Glasgow but let's not miss this opportunity to make this more than a one-off sporting event.

If you haven't yet read the Report or input to the online forum visit www.nhsggc.org.uk and take part in the big conversation.

Topping up ceremonoes

Staff were amongst the guests at recent ceremonies to mark the completion of the structure of the new Stobhill and Victoria Hospitals.

The special ceremonies saw the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, Nicola Sturgeon, "trowel off" the final area of con- crete on the hospitals.

And in keeping with tradition, the con- struction workforce was treated with a nogggin of ale for a job well done.

The ceremonies coincided with the release of new research which shows that significantly more patients will be able to attend the hospitals’ Minor Injuries Units than had been envisaged.

In 2000, when plans for Glasgow's hos- pital modernisation programme were drawn up, it was estimated that around one third of current A&E attenders would be able to use the nurse-led emergency units.

A major audit has now confirmed that more than 50% of patients who currently attend Stobhill Casualty and the Victoria A&E Department present with conditions that can be treated in the Minor Injuries Unit.

At the ceremony, Professor Sir John Arthroff explained the findings from the audit. He said: “In 2000, the concept of the nurse-led Minor Injuries Unit was relatively new. Since then, we have worked closely with Glasgow Caledonian University and medical colleagues to develop an education programme and protocols for the treatment of minor injuries. We now have highly experienced nurses trained to diagnose and treat a wide range of conditions and it is expected this will increase as further protocols are developed.”

Heard Food

Around 25 staff and patients attended a cookery demonstration at the RAH, hoping to pick up tips on how to cook and eat healthily to prevent coronary heart disease.

The demonstration proved very popular with everyone and a similar event is planned for the end of January featuring winter warmers.

For more information, contact dietician Lindsay Bremer, tel: 0141 314 6808.

Managing exposure to bloodborne viruses

The Public Health Protection Unit (PHPU) has launched new guidance on the Management of Exposure to Bloodborne Viruses. This replaces existing guidance for the management of needlestick and similar injuries.

The principal aims of the new guidelines are:

• to update and combine existing guid- ance into one single document
• to add guidance for the management of sexual exposures to bloodborne viruses.

The guidelines can be viewed at: www.nhsggc.org.uk/phpu

Good nutrition is a MUST

A new nutritional screening tool is being introduced throughout NHSGGC to assess and monitor nutritional care within our hospitals.

The Malnutrition Universal Screening Tool (MUST), led by Nutrition Project Nurse Elaine Gordon and Specialist Dietician Leigh Hamilton, will be piloted and implemented over the coming year.

MUST is an easy-to-use five-step nutrition screening tool. It identifies adults who are underweight and at risk of malnutrition as well as those who are obese. Most importantly it allows clear guidelines to be implemented and appropriate nutritional advice to be given.

The new screening tool will be piloted in 30 clinical areas over the next three months. Patients in these areas will be screened within 24 hours of admission and re- screened on a weekly basis. Multidisciplinary care plans will be developed for each indi- vidual patient. Routine nutritional screening is already carried out in some wards however the introduction of a single tool across the organisation will eliminate local variations and result in a more consistent approach to care.

Elaine explained: “I’ve been raising awareness of nutritional care by creating a food, fluid and nutrition page and a newsletter which can be accessed on StaffNet (Acute-Division Wide Functions, Fluid and Nutrition). These pages are continually being updated and will provide information to everyone about the current priorities which can be accessed on StaffNet (Acute-Division Wide Functions, Fluid and Nutrition). These pages are continually being updated and will provide information to everyone about the current priorities which can be accessed on StaffNet (Acute-Division Wide Functions, Fluid and Nutrition). These pages are continually being updated and will provide information to everyone about the current priorities which can be accessed on StaffNet (Acute-Division Wide Functions, Fluid and Nutrition).

Way Forward’ and topics covered included the role of the Clinical Support Worker, clinical risk and delivering the acute services strategy in Glasgow.

Leigh Hamilton (sitting) and Elaine Gordon working on the launch copy of the Nutrition Newsletter.

Nursing Auxiliary Conference

More than 100 staff from across NHSGGC attended the the 7th annual Nursing Auxiliary Conference which was held at the Southern General Hospital.

The theme of the conference was ‘The future: Where are we heading?’ and topics covered included the role of the Clinical Support Worker, clinical risk and delivering the acute services strategy in Glasgow.

Leigh said: “The module is designed to be informative and fun to use, with interactivi- ties and quizzes. This module is aimed at both clinical and non-clinical areas that need attention: referrals, day sur- gery, admissions, discharge and length of stay and follow-up. In each one of those areas we’ve already made good headway.”

For instance, a comprehensive Directory of Services has now been developed to improve information available between pri- mary and secondary care and facilitate the process of referrals to a service rather than to individual colleagues. “We’re also carrying out an audit of the reasons why patients do not attend and we’ve got a series of interventions for how we might tackle this problem, such as testing patients on the day of their appointment. And in a first step in the drive to admit

Smoothing out the patient pathway

A Government-backed initia- tive is underway which will take the bumps and bottlenecks out of the patient pathway and improve the way we provide planned care.

The aim of the scheme is to support the NHS to roll out and introduce good practice that exists in planned care and make the experience offered to some patients, avail- able to everyone.

This ambition - where planned and emer- gency care is separated and day surgery rather than inpatient care is normal - will require major service redesign.

A small team, headed by Marion Hodge, has been seconded full-time to the programme and is working with clinical colleagues to deliver this patient focussed agenda.

As Marion explains, the changes are likely to affect almost all parts of NHSGGC. She said: “Through the programme, we are sys- tematically mapping out all parts of the patient journey from referral and diag- nose through to discharge and follow-up to identify and remove inefficiencies. Given the number of specialties within NHSGGC that provide care on a planned basis, and the fact that this spans both acute and primary care services, this has the poten- tial to change the ways in which the vast majority of us work.”

The scale of this challenge may be daunting but good progress is already being made.

Marion explained: “There are five key areas that need attention: referrals, day sur- gery, admissions, discharge and length of stay and follow-up. In each one of those areas we’ve already made good headway.”

However, Marion does expect all improve- ments to be system-wide. Like the Plastic Surgery Unit at CRI, who are redesigning their day-surgery service and converting a five-day unit into a day unit, many of the improvements will be local and specific to one area.

Marion is keen to hear from departments that have an idea about how they might streamline their service. She said: “If you provide planned care and you’ve got a idea about how you might iron out inefficiencies, we’d like to hear from you.”

“A Government grant has been provided to support the initiative and colleagues are welcome to bid for funds from this grant to support their scheme.”

To contact Marion, email: marion.hodge@northglasgow.scot.nhs.uk.
Effective communications between users and our patients is vital. That's why we have developed a new Communication Support and Language Plan to look at how we're getting things right and where things need to be improved.

A draft plan has been pulled together by a range of health professionals in partnership with colleagues from local authorities and other organisations. It is out for consultation and we are asking for your views on the Plan and for any ideas you might have to develop it. Jac Ross from the Corporate Inequalities Team said: "We have a duty of care to everyone who requires our services. Central to this is ensuring effective communication: "The most common form of communication used by our staff is English in its spoken and written form. However, quite a sizeable proportion of the people we serve do not communicate in this way." There are many reasons why someone might have issues communicating within our services, including:

- First language is not English…42% of the Scottish Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) population live in the Greater Glasgow and Clyde area and the Glasgow Translation and Interpreting Service supplies interpreting services for more than 70 languages.
- have a visual impairment, are deaf or hard of hearing…it's estimated there are around 65,000 people in Glasgow who need some support in terms of literacy.
- have literacy problems… it is estimated that there are around 65,000 people in Glasgow who need some support in terms of literacy.
- have a condition that makes communication difficult (eg they've had a stroke, a brain injury or they have learning disabilities).

Language first: it's good to talk...

Effective communications between users and our patients is vital. That's why we have developed a new Communication Support and Language Plan to look at how we're getting things right and where things need to be improved. Our services need to be improved. We have plans to improve our communications with our patients. Dramatic events may not influence our daily work, but the daily work of the professionals who communicate with our patients is crucial. We have plans to improve our communications with our patients. Dramatic events may not influence our daily work, but the daily work of the professionals who communicate with our patients is crucial.

We're winter ready

Winter is upon us once more and months of planning for winter are now being put into action.

There's no doubt that this year is going to be challenging for us all. Last year, the number of NHSSG's hospitals rose by 30% over winter. We've already had a taste of this earlier this year when a number of wards in a neighbouring health board were closed temporarily due to a D&V outbreak and emergencies flowed into Glasgow hospitals.

Colleagues should be assured, however, that NHSSG is well prepared and will do our very best to manage the winter period effectively and to deal with these challenges.

To address the additional pressures experienced in winter, £1 million has been set aside to open up extra beds and recruit more nurses and support staff.

We will also be looking to carry out an assessment of the needs of patients with communication issues who are admitted to our hospitals.

For more information on the Communication Support and Language Plan, visit: www.nhssgc.org.uk/languageplan

Hilton rewards

Hilton Hotels has come up with a range of fabulous offers for staff.

Dine for less at the Hilton

Hilton Hotels is offering NHSSG staff the chance to dine in any of its restaurants across Scotland for 25% less.

Enjoy the very best in Scottish cuisine with a very special twist and then get 25% taken off your final bill. Improve your NHSSGCC ID badge is required at the restaurant to get the discount.

Discounted leisure breaks

Feeling in need of a pre/post Christmas break or looking forward to a few days to yourself in the New Year, then take advantage of Hilton Hotels’ offer of 10% dis-
count off any leisure break. Visit the dedicated web pages at www.hilton.co.uk/nhs or www.hilton.co.uk/scotlandshopping to see the deals.

Sit back and relax in the luxury and comfort of any of its Scottish Hotels

Live well at LivingWell

Staff interested in joining the LivingWell Health Club can enjoy a one-day free trial at the Hilton Edinburgh Grosvenor or the Hilton St Andrew's Strathclyde at Bellshill. All NHSSGC employees can also take advantage of an exclusive saving on membership of LivingWell health clubs, tel: 0141 204 5512 (Hilton Glasgow) or 01698 395566 (Hilton Strathclyde).

Whatever you are looking to achieve, you can help improve your lifestyle and work-life balance at LivingWell.

Competition

One lucky reader can also win two nights bed & breakfast with dinner on the first night at the 4* Hilton Edinburgh Grosvenor.

Situated in the heart of Edinburgh’s West End, this elegant Victorian hotel is situated near Haymarket railway station, with easy access to and from Glasgow Airport.

The hotel has just recently completed a £2m refurbishment, which has seen the transformation of all public areas, bar and restaurant as well as the wonderfully luxu-
rious bedrooms.

The restaurant offers a wide range of Scottish and international cuisine, whilst the bar serves a huge selection of cocktails and snacks. Tasty bar

snacks are also available.

To enter the competition, just tell us what is the nearest train station to this hotel. Send your answer and contact details to staffnewsletter@nhssgc.scot.nhs.uk by 31 January 2008. Only one entry per person. You can also post your entry to Hilton Hotels, Staff Newsletter, Corporate Communications, Dalian House, 350 St Vincent St, Glasgow G3 8YX.

All offers are subject to availability, terms and conditions. Winners’ details will be published in the next issue.
Amongst the first of our winners at the Scottish Health Awards was Gartnavel General clinical liaison officer Alison Smith, who collected the Cancer Care Team Award for her dedication to helping cancer patients and their families understand and cope with illness.

Alison received the award after five grateful families nominated her for her kindness, compassion and professionalism. The Cancer Care Team at Gartnavel General Hospital provides invaluable comfort and understanding and assists families in dealing with life threatening illness. Alison and the team were awarded the Cancer Care Team Award in recognition of the dedication and high standard of care given to cancer sufferers and their families.

Physiotherapy Award
Physiotherapist Mhairi Brandon from Glasgow Royal Infirmary also collected an accolade for going the ‘extra mile’ to help patients recover from surgery and cope with everyday tasks. Mhairi Brandon was awarded the Therapists’ Award at the Scottish Health Awards after a patient nominated her for the continuous care, support and treatment provided for inflammatory polyarthritis.

Mhairi’s patient was 23-years-old when she was diagnosed with the condition though was determined that this would not interfere with her teaching career. She describes how Mhairi has proved to be an invaluable support, arranging to give her acupuncture sessions at 7.30am before work. Mhairi and her team have continuously monitored the patient’s arthritis and have also helped with her tendonitis by providing splints, help with her depression and diabetes and the quick actions of the team saved her life during a bad diabetic fit. She says that the team are always on hand to provide advice, encouragement and a hug when needed.

The patient describes the nurses as ‘the best team in the world,’ who create a caring and warm atmosphere for patients. In recognition of their hard work, dedication and kindness the nursing team have been rewarded with the Top Team Award.

Healthy Lifestyle Award
This year, the NHS Healthy Lifestyle Award was collected by June Waugh from the Pharmacy Starting Fresh Team. June has been developing and organising the pharmacy smoking cessation service, Starting Fresh, since 2003. It has expanded to become the largest pharmacy smoking cessation service, Starting Fresh Team.

Addicted to winning
Staff from the Glasgow Addiction Service Pharmacy Team have won the Innovation in Service Delivery Category at the Scottish Pharmacy Awards.

Carole Hunter, Jennifer Kelly and Duncan Hill received the award for the improvements the team had made to pharmacy services across the city.

Neil Hunter, General Manager of the Glasgow Addictions Partnership, said: “This is a great achievement for the Pharmacy Team. The award was given for work that the team have developed in relation to improvements in service delivery, the contribution of pharmacists in integrated care teams, the development of links to community pharmacy, contributions to service improvement and strategic development - in essence the totality of the work that our Pharmacy Team does on our behalf within Glasgow Addiction Services. I am sure everyone within Glasgow Addiction Services would like to extend their thanks to the whole Pharmacy Team and support staff for their extremely hard work over the last couple of years. It is a great achievement and we are all very proud of this award.”

Looking after local carers
The Queen’s Nursing Institute has awarded £2000 to Inverclyde’s Community Nursing Team for their work to improve the health of local carers and develop good working relationships with other local agencies.

The team plan to use the money to buy diagnostic kits which they will use to carry out health checks on local carers. Anne MacDougall, Lead Nurse at Inverclyde Community Health Partnership, said: “There is evidence that carers often neglect their own health because they are caught up looking after a partner or relative. “Our aim is to pick up on any health problems early on so carers can get treatment before their condition worsens. This equipment will help local carers monitor their health and ensure they are looking after themselves as well as their patient.”
Scottish physio of the year

Chartered physiotherapist Sue Gray has received the Scottish Physio of the Year award from the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP). Sue works in the Interdisciplinary Response and Intervention Service at Glasgow Royal Infirmary and was recognised for her dedication to the profession, her role in innovation and her commitment to improving patient care. Her colleague Marie Brennan, who nominated her for the award, said: Sue has helped build a successful service using her vast expertise, knowledge and enthusiasm. Although she is modest about her output, she has been invaluable in promoting essential information to help prevent accidents at home. Her specialised care is regarded with respect from all.

The Physio of the Year awards, held by the CSP for the first time this year, are designed to celebrate the achievement of chartered physiotherapists who are delivering excellent services to patients, pushing the boundaries of practice, or engaging in research to the benefit of the profession. The awards were presented at a special ceremony in London.

It's been said that laughter is the best medicine, and one of our mental health professionals is proving exactly that.

Sandra Johnston is a cognitive behavioural therapist with the Primary Care Mental Health Team in South-East Glasgow based at Govanhill Workspace, and is also well-known on the Scottish comedy stand-up circuit.

A past winner of the Williamson's Sword Cutting Edge of Comedy prize at the Edinburgh Festival, she has performed all over Scotland.

Sandra began her own stand-up career five years ago. I've been to the 'Stand' comedy club and I thought I'd really like to do this.

Sharing Skills in Bangladesh

All four flew out in November and spent a week teaching staff at the hospital various procedures followed by a couple of days dedicated to providing patient treatment. They then travelled to an orphanage a few miles away where they carried out as many cleft lip and palate procedures as possible.

Barbara Anne explained: The hospital in Dhaka is very basic so any supplies we take out and all procedures taught to staff make a huge difference.

None of the work done in Bangladesh could have happened without Barbara Anne's dedication to fundraising. She has spent the year busily hunting hundreds of letters to companies asking for donations and prizes to be raffled. Amongst the big-hearted donations she received was one from BSkyB which handed over a generous cheque for £1500.

All of Barbara Anne's hard work paid off as she raised a total of £5000 - every penny

in their own time...

Sandra proves she's game for a laugh!

I've gone to one of the comedians and he recommended classes and I had to prepare five minutes of material as homework and then found it was something I really enjoyed and I started playing gigs around Scotland, including appearing twice at the Edinburgh Festival.

She's careful not to use material based on her daytime job, it's based mainly on relationships, dieting and slaggling off men!

Introducing humour into her job has been beneficial to patients. It's a complete myth that coming to therapy is all doom and gloom. It's more about a person making a change in their life, and I find using humour in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy gets the point across a little bit quicker. In fact I encourage patients to use humour.

As part of Scotland's first Scottish Mental Health and Arts Festival, Sandra took to the stage with other leading stand-ups such as Raymond Meams, the Reverend Obadiah Steppenwolf III, David Kay and Gary Little, at a special gig at The Loft, Ashton Lane, Glasgow.

"It's for people who have suffered from stress and they can watch former clients of the service talking about how it affected them and how they dealt with it.

The DVD was produced by "Blindside Productions" and will shortly be widely distributed.

Jim White, Consultant Clinical Psychologist with the South East Glasgow Primary Care Mental Health Team, said: "At any one time, one in five of us has a problem with our mental health - usually a mix of anxiety and depression. The DVD aims to show how common these problems are, how they affect us and, more importantly, what you can do to get back on top."

For further information on the DVD contact Jim White on tel: 0141 433 4934.

Recognition for specialist children's nurse

A child's nurse who specialises in the treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) has been singled out for the excellence of her work by leading patients' charity, The National Association for Colitis and Crohn's Disease (NACC).

Vikki Gassert, who works at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, was one of three

More success for Be Books

B e Books, an innovative project to encourage young people to delay having sex until they are ready, has scooped three new awards.

The Scottish Advertising Awards for 2007 recognised Be Books for best copy writing and best illustration. The book's lead artist partnership which developed the books also won the client of the year award.

Awarded 13 to 15 year olds, the Be Books are backed up by a website that provides further information and support to young people.

The books, which were developed in partnership with NHS Ayrshire and Arran and NHS Lanarkshire, have now won a total of 17 prestigious awards.

Independent evaluation has shown that young people have found the books extremely useful and they have also proved popular with staff.
All emails move to @ggc

Email accounts on the new system there is a need to improve the quality and accuracy of personal contact details listed for each user. This will make it easier to send emails to the right people and avoid the frustration of not being able to tell the difference between staff with the same names. All staff will therefore be asked to populate and update their own details: this work will be managed by the Directory Data Gathering Project.

Project Manager Jason Drummond said: “While we aim to keep any disruption to individual email users to the absolute minimum, we have been pleasantly surprised by the level of buy-in and support from all staff which has been excellent. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone with their patience and support.”

Further information is available at: http://staffnet/corporate+services/health+information+technology/projects/email+and+directory/project/default.htm

If you have any queries on the Project, email: EmailMigration@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

Looking to the future

A groundbreaking collaboration will see the University of Strathclyde and NHSGGC join forces in a concerted drive to develop new medical devices and technologies.

The aim of the joint venture is to identify gaps in technology which could see new medical devices designed which potentially could improve the health outcomes for a large number of patients.

Professor Alex Elliot from the Department of Clinical Physics & Bioengineering explained that many of the innovations being looked at tended to be in the more ‘unglamorous areas of medicine’ such as improving diagnosis and monitoring of health status or the delivery of health care required in chronic conditions.

“Many of the areas we are looking at include chronic illnesses and treatment can lead to a poor quality of life. Even at this stage of discussions several areas of interest have emerged that could have high implications for NHSGGC such as compliance with drug therapy, diabetic monitoring and compliance, obesity, wound treatments and monitoring.

“By working together with the Strathclyde Institute of Medical Devices we would hope to attract worldwide manufacturers and commercial funding to the research programmes.”

A training programme unique to NHSGGC has recruited more than 250 people into health service posts, and has been hailed as an excellent recruitment tool by one hospital manager.

“Training for Health (Whi) targets people who are out of work and interested in working for the NHS.

The programme has recruited people into a wide range of jobs including nursing assistants, phlebotomists, domestic and catering staff, porters, admin and clerical assistants and assistant technical officers. Robert MacGregor, the Training and Recruitment Manager at Glasgow Royal Infirmary, commends the scheme because of the quality and commitment of staff it has produced. He added: “I would definitely recommend this scheme to other managers.”

“With a solid way of getting training prior to coming into the NHS because it gives people a starting block of knowledge about the organisation, plus they are committed and want to do the job.

“They have some idea of what is going to be involved, whereas other applicants may think that being a domestic in a hospital is simply another form of housework. But people who have been through this course have a far better idea of what is involved.”

Robert added: “We have three porters who have been through Whi and they have turned out to be excellent workers, very committed, and have very good attendance records.

“Domestics who have joined us from WHI have also settled in very well and become part of the team.”

Whi is innovative because it is geared to improve health and general wellbeing through employment.

The core programme lasts for six weeks and consists of four main components – an NHS induction including moving and handling, infection control, hand hygiene and Health Safety (certificated); building confidence and self-esteem; job seeking and interview skills and a two week work placement.

Everyone who completes the programme is guaranteed a job interview. A key feature is that each participant receives individual support from the beginning of the scheme through integration into the NHS workforce.

Support is also offered to departments hosting the two-week work placements and managers are also given training to help.

Further details about the programme can be obtained by visiting the Working for Health webpage on the Resourcing, Recruitment & Workforce Planning section of the intranet.

Alternatively contact Laura McKe, Working for Health NHS Manager, tel: 0141 201 (6)4785.

Balanced reporting of bowel and breast cancer figures

Colleagues from communications and clinicians from the West of Scotland Cancer Network (WoSCAN) worked together to achieve balanced coverage of a cancer story in a national newspaper.

The Herald had asked – under Freedom of Information legislation – for information on breast and bowel cancer referrals, both urgent and non-urgent. Normal practice is to send this information in writing, supported by a letter explaining any relevant context.

This time, however, a decision was taken to bring the journalist in to meet Dr Bob MacBerton (Lead Clinician with WoSCAN). Dr MacBerton explained the background and was able to give the journalist a much fuller picture than the figures alone could have done. This resulted in a fair and balanced report.

The majority of patients began receiving chemotherapy or surgery within weeks of their GP referring them to hospital – even if their doctor had not marked their case as urgent.

External review of IRH Breast Cancer Service

The external review of the IRH breast cancer service which judged that more stringent testing could have led to earlier diagnosis for two patients was widely covered in local and national media.

The Report from the External Review of the Inverclyde Royal Hospital Breast Service was published in full. By highlighting the positive, as well as critical, aspects of the report in our press release, we helped ensure that coverage was limited and balanced.

Cancer was also taken to ensure that staff and others concerned were fully informed of the outcome of the review prior to the release going out to the media.

SGH orthopaedic electives suspended

The temporary suspension of elective orthopaedic surgery at the Southern General was widely covered in a variety of print and broadcast media.

A series of extremely thorough and transparent bulletins were issued to the media, beginning on the very day that orthopaedic surgeons and the infection control team took the decision to suspend planned operations.

Providing comprehensive information to the public, via the media, allowed NHSGGC to make clear that the issue was not an outbreak but rather an increased incidence of post-op infections. It also helped to explain to the public that emergency surgery at the hospital was unaffected.

National news affects Victoria C Diff coverage

In October, media were informed that six patients were being treated for C Diff in a temporary cohort isolation facility at the Victoria.

HAs are naturally concerning to the public, and informing the media is one important way of making sure the public knows as much about them as possible. It is also important to provide information that is as clear as possible about the real risks of HAs and what can be done to prevent their spread.

Fortunately, none of the patients gave any cause for concern because of the infection. Coverage was affected, however, by a report published that same week on a fatal outbreak of C Diff in England between 2004 and 2006: the simple fact of the timing of the illness at the Victoria meant that coverage of this was much more widespread than usual.

NHSGGC In The Headlines

[Image of a report on the topic with a headline saying “Balanced reporting of bowel and breast cancer figures”]
Playing a round
Health Improvement Practitioner John Thomson won the NHSGGC Board Golf Trophy after a scorching performance at Milngavie Golf Club.
Board Secretary John Hamilton, also event organiser and Past Captain of Milngavie Golf Club is pictured (above) presenting the trophy.

Staff shape up!
Shape Up – the successful healthy eating and fitness programme available to patients – is being launched for staff as part of our Healthy Working Lives initiative.
The staff programme will initially be piloted within Glasgow Royal Infirm and the Vale of Leven Hospital from January. It's a 10-week programme and costs £3.50 per week for one hour.

If you want to sign up for the programme at GRI or VOL contact Lesley Graham at GRI tel: 0141 211 (2)4075 and Sue Johnston at VOL, tel: 01389 817 533.
We’ll have more information about the programme in the next issue as well as updates in Core Brief and on StaffNet.

Football Crazy
Congratulations to Suzanne Bell, the winner of our Scotland v Italy tickets, who attended the big match at Hampden with her husband and some of their friends who were fortunate enough to have tickets.

Five hours of torrential rain couldn’t dampen the enthusiasm of cyclist Paul Adams as he took part in the annual Pedal for Scotland cycle run from Glasgow to Edinburgh. Paul, Rehabilitation & Enablement Manager for East Glasgow CHCP, has taken part in this event for the last four years. This event, however, was definitely the wettest ever “The rain never stopped at any time over the five hour trip”, he said.
The event started in Glasgow Green and ended 51 miles later in Victoria Park, Edinburgh.
Paul has praised the efforts of all his colleagues in East Glasgow CHCP who supported him for this event and also for the Glasgow to Loch Lomond cycle during the summer in aid of the Anthony Nolan Trust.
So far this year, Paul and his brothers have raised in excess of £1100 for leukaemia charities.

Paul would also like to remind everyone that anyone feeling up to “getting on their bike” can benefit from the NHSGGC cycle scheme which provides you with a new bike which can be paid for via deductions from your monthly salary. The associated tax relief means that considerable savings can be made.
For more information, visit: www.cyclescheme.co.uk

On your bike!

Staff nurse Suzanne who works night shift at ward 4A at the RHSC was very pleased to win especially as she had missed out on the Scotland / Ukraine match.
“We were heading off on holiday when the Scotland / Ukraine match was on so I had to stay at home and pack while my husband went with a friend but I was not missing out this time!”

We were delighted to receive so many entries (just short of a thousand) to this competition but there could only be one winner so congratulations again to Suzanne and to Scotland who played so well despite losing out in the final minutes.

Take part in this issue’s competition to win a short break at Hilton Hotels and a host of other offers, see page 5.