The 21st annual Leg Club conference review: do we have time to care?

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Accepted for publication: 17 October 2024

The 2024 Leg Club Conference took place for the second year running at its new home, Worcester County Cricket Club, on 18 and 19 September 2024. This conference is dedicated to improving healthcare issues in today's climate and, as in the previous years, it brought together a full range of healthcare professionals to discuss best practices, innovative treatments and holistic approaches to person-centred care, with speakers and delegates attending from as far overseas as Australia.

The conference was titled '*Do we have time to care?*' and its objective for this year was to enhance care delivery outcomes by discussing best practices and prioritising care in today's fast-paced and time-constrained healthcare environment. The participants experienced a diverse range of presentations, workshops and discussions focused on topics devoted to making time a priority. Speakers included Professor Keith Harding CBE, Professor Steve Jeffery, long time trustee, friend and patron, Trudie Young (who also presented the prestigious Leg Club volunteer award at the dinner) and Matt Hazeldene, CEO of Lymphoedema United. Gary Bain, patron and Principal at The Wound Guy, Australia, gave a fascinating talk on the effectiveness of using analogies to explain the state of a wound and the surrounding environment. Other speakers included Clare Mechen, Alison Schofield and Barbara Harpham, Chair of the Medical Technology Group.

The plenary sessions on the second day of the conference were expertly chaired by Rebecca Elwell, Macmillan Lymphoedema Advanced Nurse Practitioner at the University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust. Over the years, the annual Leg Club conference has become a key event for healthcare professionals specialising in lower limb and foot health. The close-knit and welcoming environment gave delegates the chance to network, share best practices and engage in critical conversations aimed at improving access to care for all.

Film expert Graham Hobbs has created an exciting 'Insights' series that serves as a compass for Leg Club social media listeners and beyond. The panel of experts interviewed by external project consultant Frazer Brown comprised clinical specialists in the field of lymphology, wound care, medical technology, the Department of Health and publishing. This will soon be available to view through the Leg Club Foundation website.

This year the conference had a particularly eclectic mix and the gala dinner was highly entertaining. Master of ceremonies Anthony Kerr (*Figure 1*) had a busy evening ensuring the smooth flow and coordination of the event, while keeping the audience engaged and making sure that everything was kept to time. Trudie Clark (*Figure 2*) gave an emotional speech regarding the outstanding work undertaken by the Best Foot Forward volunteers. Jacqui Fletcher (OBE)

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Figure 1. Anthony Kerr ensuring the smooth flow of the event

Figure 2. Trudie Clark thanking the Best Foot Forward volunteers for their amazing work

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Figure 3. Jacqui Fletcher presenting the Leg Club Industry Partners scholarship to Jo Hans

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Figure 4. Professor Keith Harding presenting the fundraiser of the year to Clare Mechen and team

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Figure 5. Graham Hobbs receiving the Leg Club Industry Partners award for his volunteer work

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Figure 6. Roland Renyi introducing the Leg Club Industry Partners awards

presented the Leg Club Industry Partners (LCIP) European Wound Management Association (EWMA) scholarship to Jo Hans, Leg Club team lead for Weatherby Leg Club (*Figure 3*). This year the LCIP awards were expanded to incorporate the best Leg Club fundraising team (*Figure 4*) and dedicated volunteer of the year. A special thank you to all the speakers, workshop presenters, industry partners and to Frazer Brown, Graham Hobbs (*Figure 5)*, Chris Hall and Roland Renyi *(Figure 6)* for their support. Lynn Bullock deserves a special mention for her unwavering dedication in ensuring every aspect of the conference is meticulously handled. Her commitment to providing each delegate with the best possible experience is truly invaluable.

'Let's not forget with all the challenges that we face that we are here to care and let's ensure that we make the time for that. We've got to make the time to care for our patients. It's something we all want desperately, of course, but it can be a challenge, so sometimes it really helps when we can all get together to share the ways that we can do it.'

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