



"converting patients into people"



Providing a coordinated multi-disciplinary service to individuals who have sustained limb loss & serious limb injury

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First New Rheo Knee Fitted in UK



(Image © Össur)

PACE is delighted to complete the first fitting of the new Rheo Knee to a UK user. The simple to use Rheo Knee uses sophisticated artificial intelligence to continuously learn and adapt to an amputee's walking style and environment, without need for complex setting up procedures and future readjustments.

Through the use of proven bionic technology, the new Rheo Knee is able to recognise and respond immediately to even the most subtle changes in velocity, load and terrain. This gives the opportunity to restore the user's ability to walk naturally and safely at any speed.

PACE Prosthetist Toby Carlsson said *"Thanks to the improved user friendliness of this latest generation Rheo knee, we are able to make this exciting technology accessible to a larger group of patients"*

Extreme Sports Amputee SPEADS In



The University of Strathclyde held their inaugural SPEAD (Sporting Prosthetics for Everyday and Elite Athletes with a Disability) Scientific Conference in Glasgow, Scotland recently.

PACE Rehabilitation's Jamie Gillespie presented an overview of his Master's Degree research into sports prosthetics. Also presenting was professional downhill mounting bike racer Brian Bartlett from Seattle, America. Brian was presenting his new prosthetic knee that enables him to compete in extreme mountain biking events, where he can stand and sprint out of the saddle. Until now, this has movement has been unheard of at this level of amputation.

SPEAD event organiser, Sarah Deans said *"We were delighted to have had Brian as a speaker and hope that prosthetic users in the UK can benefit from his incredible design in the future"*



British mountain biking enthusiast [Glenn Johnstone](#) (pictured L-R Brian, Glenn) was riding high when he met Brian at the event. An emotional Glenn said *“Brian is one of my heroes, I felt like a kid at Christmas. It was fantastic to meet and chat with him. I’m so grateful that the team at Pace made this happen. As an above knee amputee myself, it is so inspirational what he (Brian) can achieve on a bike. His knee device is awesome!”*

Glenn hopes to be the first amputee in the UK to receive this innovative design. We hope to bring you more news on this exciting development in the future.

For full article, click [HERE](#).



Skin Camouflage for Rehabilitation



In traumatic accidents, a patient can often sustain visible scarring and/or skin damage. Therefore PACE was very keen to learn more about the art of ‘skin camouflage’ from cosmetician Val Ross ([valross.com](#)) at a recent staff team day.

Val explained *“Through the skilled application of specialised products, designed to minimise, neutralise and mask scars, defects, skin graft tissue, burns and discoloration of the skin at surface level, a totally natural finish can be achieved”*.



Val continued *“It can assist in the speeding up rehabilitation where negative self-image from disfigurement has aggravated psychological damage. The results can be invaluable, providing many people with improved confidence and self-esteem”*.

MP Visits PACE Cheadle



Mark Hunter MP visited PACE Cheadle in his constituency recently, to tour the facility and meet patients and staff.

As a supporter of the APLLG (All Parliamentary Limb Loss Group) Mr Hunter was keen to learn about NHS v independent prosthetic provision and to relay his findings to parliament.

During his visit Mr Hunter also met and chatted with PACE patients, one of whom was a former soldier blown up in Iraq whilst acting as a security guard. The patient was receiving his new Rhexo knee (see previous article) and was able to share his experiences of both NHS and PACE.

Amputees Taken To New Heights



A group of amputees took to the skies overhead in Nottinghamshire in September, in a charity tandem sky dive.

The idea was conceived when a PACE patient casually mentioned wanting to do a parachute jump, but felt that they wouldn't be able to now as an amputee. Little did the patient realise that the prosthetist, Jamie Gillespie (himself an amputee), was a paratrooper in the Army prior to his amputation and saw no reason why a jump wasn't possible.

Jamie explained *"We actively encourage our patients here at PACE Rehabilitation to return to active lifestyles, but I admit that this is a bit extreme! It is terrific that we have seven of our amputee patients jumping and shows real courage by them!"*



Thanks to the excellent cooperation and understanding of the British Parachute School at Langar airfield, the courageous amputees were able to board the light aircraft to make their +13,000 feet jumps. The majority elected to jump wearing their prosthesis, making spectators unaware of their physical conditions.

One of the intrepid amputee sky divers was Natalie Harris-Gregory, from Birmingham, who lost her right leg below the knee in a motorcycle accident in 2005. *"Today has been fantastic!"* she said excitedly after completing her amazing jump. *"PACE has been looking after my prosthetic requirement, which has been excellent. But this takes their patient rehabilitation to a whole different level, quite literally!"*

Natalie is due to take delivery of her high definition silicone prosthesis later this month from PACE. *"I can't wait to get my realistic prosthesis, but I'm not sure if I'll be leaping out of a plane with it. It will be too precious to do that!"*



Jamie explained *"Today has been fantastic. The camaraderie between everyone has been brilliant."* He continued *"It provided a real confidence boost for everyone. After leaping out of a plane, they've proved to themselves that they can do almost anything. I think this might become an annual event!"*

With the participants coming from across England, a national charity was selected - The **UK Children's Hospices**. Monies are still being collected, however it is expected that in excess of £3,000 has been raised by the daring, if somewhat unorthodox, group of jumpers!

Our thanks to Irwin Mitchell (Birmingham) and New Law LLP (Cardiff) for their generous donations.

For full article, click [HERE](#).

Patient Information & NHS Referrals Sections Added To Website



Two new sections have been added to the PACE website, each aimed to provide useful information to amputees, their families and referrers.

The [Patient Information Section](#) includes topics such as Being An Amputee, Life After Amputation Surgery, Psychological Support, Using Your Prosthesis, Sport & Vigorous Activity and Water Activity Limbs. Patients and referrers are encouraged to view them to inform and advise on appropriate care and support.

The second addition to the website is a guide to applying for NHS funding for independent provision. Known as 'Exceptional Treatment' patient application is made through their GP. PACE has seen an increase in referrals through this process over recent months. For guide details, click [HERE](#).



BACPAR

PACE will be presenting and exhibiting at the BACPAR (British Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Amputee Rehabilitation) AGM & Conference in November.

PACE physiotherapist Carolyn Hiron, a Specialist in Amputee/Prosthetic Rehabilitation, explained *“BACPAR members value their annual study days to exchange information and learn new knowledge. This year I am involved in the demonstration of how the Nintendo Wii Fit can be used in rehabilitation programmes for prosthetic limb wearers, and in the development of guidelines for physiotherapist’s in its use, with the help of Ossur UK.”*

Carolyn regularly attends the BACPAR events to meet with her UK colleagues in this specialist field. She will also be presenting with her colleague Jane McLaughlin (Occupational Therapist) at the UK Chartered Society of Physiotherapy Congress in October, comparing multidisciplinary rehabilitation programmes within both the private and NHS sector.”



PACE Presents

Several Law practices and other organisations have been benefitting from an informative and educational presentation by PACE, titled 'Effective Rehabilitation', on their own doorstep.

The presentation details PACE's services and explains how they are applied to patients to provide the best chance of re-claiming their lives, following life changing events.

Feedback has been excellent both on the content but also because PACE come to them, therefore minimising staff/office disruption whilst receiving a valuable and interesting learning opportunity.

Solicitor Andrew Campbell (www.bikelawyer.co.uk) commented *"The presentation was excellent, demonstrating the skill and empathy of those working at PACE and the real desire to do all they can to return seriously injured accident victims to a full and fruitful life, often far surpassing the injured person's expectations and improving their quality of life"*.

If you and your colleagues are interested in receiving the presentation too, please contact Scott Richardson for more details (0845 450 7357 or srichardson@pacerehab.com).

Back on the Road



Colin Parrock, from St Blazey in Cornwall, has not only recently taken delivery of a C-Leg prosthesis from PACE (Chesham), but also a new set of wheels! He and his wife Ann can be seen proudly cruising around the West Country aboard their new Rewaco 1600 family trike.

Colin explained *"The more I get used to my new prosthesis, the better it gets. It's spurred us into buying the trike and to start living again after several years of frustrations and difficulties with my previous limb"*. A delighted Colin continued *"We're using the trike for a biker friend's wedding and our grandson's May Ball."*

Everyone at PACE are delighted that Colin and Ann are back on the road and wish them well for the future.

Investing in Apprentices



Apprentice Trainee Technicians have been employed in the manufacturing workshops of both PACE clinics.

At the PACE Cheshire (Cheshire) clinic, Mike Merrington (pictured) recently successfully completed his level 2 NVQ in Assembly & Manufacture.

Head Prosthetic Technician Nigel Firth explained *"It has been great to see Mike learn and develop since joining us. This qualification is a great achievement for him and everyone here at PACE congratulates him"*.

Karl Scott has recently embarked upon his similar NVQ course at the PACE Chesham (Bucks) clinic, demonstrating PACE's commitment to investing in its staff.

British Sitting Volleyball



Selection has been made for the Great Britain Squad for the 2009 European Championships and includes PACE patient Andy Skinner (37), who has his eyes firmly focused on the 2012 Paralympic games in London.

In 1991 Andy suffered serious injuries in a road traffic accident, which eventually resulted in an elective amputation above the knee of his left leg three years ago. Since then, he hasn't looked back, grasping any sporting opportunities that came his way.



"I attended a British Paralympic Association cluster camp and got interested in sitting volleyball a couple of years ago. Since then I've represented my country far and wide, having just returned from Zagreb".

To keep in shape Andy attends the gym daily, using a PACE provided running prosthesis. Andy continued, *"The standard is very high in Europe, but the GB team is getting stronger and I can't wait for 2012!"*



Hamper Winner

Congratulations to Linda Smith of Irwin Mitchell LLP (Leeds) who's completed [Your PACE](#) feedback card was drawn from the hat to win a food hamper from PACE Rehabilitation.

A thrilled Linda said *"I was delighted to receive the call on my lucky win, it has really brightened up my day! Thank you. I will certainly think of PACE when enjoying the hamper contents!"*

For more details, please visit www.pacerehab.com

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