

Gavin Drummond of the Scottish Seating and Wheelchair Group (SSWG)

Gavin had two fulfilling careers, starting his working life with lighting and sound equipment in the theatre, so he had no problems dealing with audio visual (AV) equipment at SSWG conferences! He then trained as an occupational therapist, and joined the SSWG committee at the AGM of 1998.

He was soon hard at work producing a report of the April 1999 meeting, and he began the process of setting up a web page for SSWG. He helped to organise the SSWG Spring 2000 meeting on Transport and was involved in the early discussions regarding closer collaboration with PMG, later acting as the liaison person for SSWG at a PMG executive committee meeting in 2002.

He assisted with AV at the November 2001 meeting, also setting up a temporary stair lift at that meeting. In December 2001 he expressed a willingness to be vice chairman of SSWG and was formally appointed in February 2002. The meeting he helped to organise on standards in 2002 was unfortunately cancelled due to lack of support. Around this time he was also collecting information from wheelchair centres and SSWG members to establish a register of research projects in wheelchairs and seating. He suggested that there should be a regular feature on research and audit in the SSWG newsletter.

In 2002 the chairman of SSWG resigned due to a change of employment which required moving to England and, after a spell as acting chairman, Gavin became chairman of SSWG at the AGM of 2002. He wrote guidance points for seminar organisers, helped revise the SSWG Strategic and Operational Objectives in February 2003, and organised the meeting of Autumn 2003. He produced an educational requirements questionnaire to be sent to members, produced a paper about the objectives of SSWG in December 2003 and, in February 2004, wrote on behalf of SSWG regarding joint futures.

After another meeting in Spring 2004 was cancelled due to insufficient numbers, SSWG was thinking seriously about its future. Unfortunately, due to an employment move away from wheelchairs and seating, Gavin tendered his resignation as chairman. At his final address at the AGM of 2004 he set out the options for the future of SSWG and, with that framework, SSWG evolved into the Scottish Posture and Mobility Network (SPMN) in 2005.

He remained a member of SPMN until his failing health forced him to take early retirement.

Despite increasingly severe health problems Gavin enjoyed as active a retirement as possible, driving a sports car, tending his low maintenance garden and being a very hospitable and entertaining host. Sadly, in spite of all the advances in medical technology, his failing heart caused his premature death in August 2015.

Small of stature, but so full of life - Gavin you will be greatly missed.

Pam Harper

I would like to invite others to add their memories of Gavin