



“It is the first trade union committed to surgeons”

and their teams in the workplace, our ultimate aim is to improve the care of all patients requiring surgical care.

The creation and recognition of the CBS has been a long time in gestation – the idea was first mooted more than 10 years ago. There has always been agreement that surgeons were poorly represented by existing trade unions, but considerable debate as to the best way forward. We did enter into discussions with both the BMA and HCSA in an attempt to establish some recognition of the particular needs of surgeons and we did conduct extensive survey work before embarking on the road to recognition for a trade union specifically for surgeons.

The process of recognition has necessitated extensive correspondence and frequent meetings with the Certification Office, which has been most helpful. We had to produce a ‘rule book’ and a ‘strategy’ document, which are available to download from rebrand.ly/CBS-RuleBook and rebrand.ly/CBS-Strategy respectively.

The CBS intends to continue to work closely with the Federation of Surgical Specialty Associations, which has been instrumental in achieving this development.

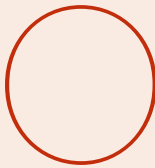
In 2018 we will:

- establish an administrative office
- establish an executive and appoint officers
- seek to inform all surgeons
- inform parliamentarians
- inform all hospitals where surgical procedures are undertaken
- inform all Colleges and Specialty Associations.

To achieve our objectives will take time, perseverance and resources, and, most importantly, your support. Please register your interest at CBSGB.co.uk.

STATE OF THE UNION

The birth of the Confederation of British Surgery and the plan of action for the trade union in 2018

 On 8 November 2017, the Certification Office approved the application to add the Confederation of British Surgery (CBS) to the UK’s list of recognised trade unions. For the first time, there will be an organisation, a trade union, recognised in UK law that is committed exclusively to surgeons and their related teams and families.

The declared aim of the CBS is to look after the professional and employment interests of surgeons and their teams irrespective of Surgical Royal College or Surgical Specialty Association affiliation. As such, the CBS would be able to involve itself in matters relating to terms and conditions of service, contracts of employment, litigation, insurance and other matters from which the Surgical Royal

Colleges and the numerous Surgical Specialty Associations are excluded on the basis of their charitable status and the ‘public benefit’ concept that this entails.

The CBS is emphatically and specifically not in competition with the Surgical Royal Colleges or Surgical Specialty Associations, as these have remits relating to clinical standards, education and membership activities, and are not permitted to act, in any way, as a trade union.

It is our hope and intention that members of the CBS will have access to appropriate cover and advice relevant to working in the unique and often stressful surgical environment. We aim to provide exclusive benefits to surgeons, extended members of the surgical team and their families. In protecting and supporting surgeons

By John MacFie, Nigel Mercer and Tony Narula