In an amusing presentation, the Papworth group will show that while the surgeon is an independent determinant of mortality, the anaesthetist is not!!

Surgeons from the Czech Republic will this afternoon report on their experience of endoscopic vein harvesting, in patients at high risk of leg-wound complications.

On Sunday, guest speaker Terry Hubble gave a most intriguing account of his experiences as a mountain instructor. He used this as an analogy to illustrate the teaching of complex skills in a high risk environment.

An animal study from Duke University in the USA will tomorrow give an account of protein changes in the right ventricle of a large animal model with hypertrophy and failure.

Surgeons from Mashhad, Iran, compare their knowledge and observations in trans-thoracic and trans-hiatal oesophagectomy.

Surgeons from Middlesbrough this morning presented a study that demonstrates how poor control of diabetes prior to cardiac surgery - as evidenced by elevated HbA1c - leads to increased renal complications (and resource utilisation) after surgery.

Early and long-term survival is better after sleeve lobectomy, when compared to patients with comparative stage of lung cancer who underwent pneumonectomy. Cardiothoracic surgeons from Dublin examined the finding this morning.

In a thought-provoking study from Glasgow Royal Infirmary, Murday, et al, performed a randomised controlled trial to examine the effects of audiotaped recordings of out-patient consultations. The team assessed the patients’ level of knowledge and anxiety immediately prior to CABG. They found providing the audiotape of the consultation dramatically improved the patients’ knowledge, reduced anxiety and consequently increased patient independence.

The group from University Hospitals Birmingham will today report on the pattern of thoracic injuries sustained by military personnel. These patients were transferred to hospitals in Birmingham from Iraq or Afghanistan over a four-month period in 2006.

The President’s Dinner was at Castle Quay last night, and everyone had a most enjoyable evening.

Mr Samer Nashef from Papworth today described the setting up of a Surgical Council. This is a consultant body designed to manage very high risk cardiac surgical patients. He spoke of early results from this unique and innovative work model. This is an attempt to avoid the potential emergence of ‘risk averse behaviour’ following reporting of surgeon specific results.

The content of Wednesday’s Business Meeting will be amended to continue further discussion of performance monitoring and public presentation of data.

A study from Wythenshawe Hospital in Manchester will show a significant number of patients, newly diagnosed with lung cancer, are breaching current waiting time targets before commencement of treatment.

This year sees a record number of exhibitors. The Society would like to take the opportunity to thank the commercial sponsors, who bring innovative ideas and products, adding an important dimension to the meeting.