

# One Voice



International  
Stuttering  
Association

Issue 16 - July 2003

Incorporating *The Voice of ELSA*, the newsletter of the  
European League of Stuttering Associations

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## World Congress 2004

# The Perth-ect place

Turn to page 3 for previews

*‘A world that understands stuttering’*

# ISA Board chair's report

## International Year of the Child Who Stutters

2004 has been assigned by the ISA as the International Year of the Child Who Stutters (IYCWS). Michael Sugarman from San Francisco is leading this initiative, having been appointed to this ISA role in 2001. Michael is a very experienced and highly respected advocate for people who stutter. The ISA Board is extremely appreciative of his willingness to take on this volunteer role. Heartening news is that ELSA (European League of Stuttering Associations) is keen to promote the IYCWS as well.

## CD ROM project

One of the key elements of the IYCWS will be the release of a CD Rom for distribution in schools, with stuttering information for children who stutter, their fluent classmates, their parents and their teachers. At this stage a draft copy has been produced. A launch date for version 1 has been set for August at the International Fluency Conference in Montreal, Canada. The CD will then be circulated to member associations for language translation where necessary and to allow distribution plans to be made for circulation during 2004. The ISA is very grateful to TTM-Espana for offering to provide a Spanish translation for all Hispanic member associations.

Why a CD Rom and not simply a website? It has been decided that not everyone has internet access, particularly in a classroom situation, and it is important that this information be circulated as widely as possible. Also it is felt that teachers are often time-poor and need information to be instantly accessible. It is intended the CD will provide links to a website which will give updated information over the forthcoming years.

## Board changes and elections

The 2004 world congress in Perth will be the venue of the ISA conference during which board elections will be held. All member associations are entitled to send one representatives to vote at the ISA conference (anyone is



entitled to participate). Board members are elected for a three-year term and a member can serve a maximum of three consecutive terms. There will be at least two vacancies in Perth. ISA member associations are encouraged to nominate representatives to the ISA conference who might also consider standing for election to the ISA Board. The meeting will be held on Saturday 2 - 5pm, and Sunday from 10 to 5pm. Submissions for 2007 Conference will be considered. Spain is interested in 2010 but may do 2007. Is CAPS or NSA or anyone else interested in 2007?

## World congress

I am delighted to report that fellow Australian Peter Dhu is doing an exceptionally thorough job in his role as convenor of the 2004 world congress. The event is being planned professionally and undoubtedly will provide an outstanding opportunity for delegates to holiday as well as to reaffirm or reassess attitudes and strategies. As chair of the programme committee I am grateful for the support of John Steggles, Geoff Johnston, Peggy Wahlhaus, Jim Thornton, Annie Bradberry and Anita Blom. I can assure everyone of a diverse range of speakers and an atmosphere of acceptance of all. More information is on the web site. Please come along, everyone is welcome! Best wishes to all.

Mark Irwin

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# 2004 World Congress for People who stutter

*Fluency and beyond: A holistic look at stuttering*

**Sunday 15th - Friday 20th February 2004 Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle  
Western Australia**

## Invitation

On behalf of the International Stuttering Association, the Australian Speak Easy Association and World Congress Planning Committee, I would like to formally invite you to attend the seventh triennial World Congress for People who Stutter. Make this a conference to remember. Come and enjoy, share, learn and participate in the World Congress as people who stutter and those with an interest in stuttering treatment and research from across the globe come together to share their common bond. If you are a person who stutters and have never been to a conference for people who stutter before, you don't know what you are missing. Here will be a group of people who, in one sense, already know and understand you. As a result new and close friendships are always formed quickly. While you are meeting old and new friends from all backgrounds and countries in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere, you will be able to share stories and experiences in the company of many of the world's most knowledgeable people in the various areas of stuttering. If you are a speech pathologist, parent or just someone wanting to know and understand more about stuttering you will never get a greater opportunity. Who knows, you may come away with a whole new outlook on life. If you don't find that this is one of the best social and learning gatherings you've been to... well we just won't believe you!

**Peter Dhu**  
Congress Convenor

## Registration Fee (Australian dollars (\$AUD))

### Full conference

Early Bird:	Payment by 30 Nov 2003	350
Late Payment:	Payment by 5 Feb 2004	450
Accompanying person (partner, son, daughter)	Payment by 30 Nov 2003	290
Day Registration (one full day)		120

### Accommodation in Fremantle

all prices are per room per night in Australian dollars

<b>The Esplanade Hotel</b> 4.5 Star	<b>single,</b>	<b>double</b>	<b>triple share</b>
Conference Venue, 46 Marine Terrace	170	85	70
<b>Quest Harbour Village Apartments</b> 4.5 Star, 43 Mews Road	158	94	~ 65
<b>Norfolk Hotel - 3 Star</b> 47 South Terrace	45	33 and 43 (shared facilities)	
<b>Rosie O'Grady's - 3.5 Star</b> 23 William Street	55 shared facilities and 90 for ensuite		
<b>Sundancer Backpackers Resort</b>	8 bed shared dormitory - 20		



### Visas for International Delegates

A Business Visa (Short Stay) is needed for all International Delegates (except for New Zealand passport holders). Information can be found at [www.2004worldcongressspeakeasy.org.au/visainfo.pdf](http://www.2004worldcongressspeakeasy.org.au/visainfo.pdf). It is recommended that you commence visa applications by **October** as it may take up to three months for processing.

*see page 5 for keynote speakers*

# Make a Trip to Perth reality!

By Stefan Hoffmann

Chair of the ISA Outreach Working Group

Outreach is an ever-continuing process, and ISA of course is focused now in 2003 on the upcoming World Congress in Perth, where it hopes to see a lot of the new member and contact countries represented.

A Focus of ISA Outreach has been on Latin America, Africa and Eastern Europe. Promising news come from there:

The Stuttering Association of Burkina Faso, represented by its chairman Dr Moussa Dao, was invited to France to present its work at a conference about fluency disorders in Lyon. This will enlarge the knowledge abroad about the situation in Africa concerning stuttering and also helps our friends in Africa getting access to new information and valuable contacts.

1. In Latin America we have fresh news from Brazil, where the core stuttering group in Sao Paulo is active and successful in disseminating information to other parts of the country.

2. We have good news from Russia, where a group was established recently with active participation of Elena D'yakova, who attended the Ghent Congress with an ISA Scholarship.

Since joining the ISA Outreach Group in early 1998, it was a dream for me to see one day a World Congress of People who Stutter with all member and contact countries represented. I admit that this is a huge challenge and will be difficult to achieve at any given time and place of a World Congress. So why is Perth 2004 so crucial in having a broad representation?

1) The location: For a lot of us, that city is a world away from the places we usually live or go to. But when you look at it from a different geographical angle, you

will notice that from countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Thailand, Perth is not so far away, and suddenly for people from that countries, a "World Congress for People Who Stutter" becomes not a distant illusion, but a real chance. ISA's contacts in those countries are few at this moment, but the congress in Perth holds the opportunity to develop representatives of our mission in those

places, when they can attend.

2) The Outreach People: As you might know, a lot of

Outreach work is done by email. Most of the new associations established in the last 5 years were email contacts first, which then were turned into lasting and fruitful relationships. The World Congress is a rare chance to give ISA "a real face" in the eyes of our new members. And by welcoming them, the bond between all is strengthened and usually a boost is given to people and groups who attend and then spread the news in their home countries.

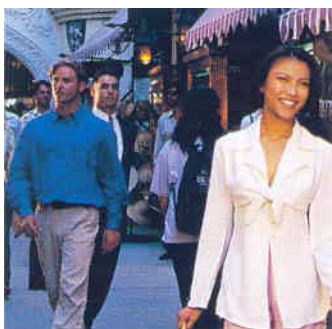
3) The organisers: They invest a lot of time and money into the world congress. They aim to provide an unforgettable stay for the visitors and hope to get out for themselves new skills and experiences in organising an international congress, and both goals can best be achieved when the people attending are from as many different places as possible. With a moderate congress fee and some fee waivers they have done a good job already. (For details see the official congress site [www.2004worldcongress.speakeasy.org.au](http://www.2004worldcongress.speakeasy.org.au).)

With so much experience in self-help, it is hoped that most people who want to go to Perth 2004 find ways themselves to finance their trip and stay there. But as experience tells us, there will always be hardships involved for some countries and people.

ISA plans, like in Ghent 2001, to have a scholarship fund available, and this article means to appeal to all associations, groups and individuals to contribute to it. Any amount is welcome, and if desired by the donor, it can be designed and used for a specific country, or person, so avoiding the "big black hole" fear a lot of donors have. Please contact ISA Treasurer Hermann Christmann ([hc@has.dk](mailto:hc@has.dk)) for details and formalities.

I want to appeal to the member associations with a traditionally stronger financial background for considering being a sponsor for 1 or 2 not so well off fellow associations. Please discuss inside your organisation to do an extra fundraising activity in 2003 with the goal of raising an amount sufficient to support one person from places like Latin America, Africa or Eastern Europe (appr. US\$ 1.000) on their trip to Perth.

Everyone who witnessed the last 2 congresses in Johannesburg and Ghent could see the power such meetings give to people who were on the 'outside' before. Let us all together experience that power again in Perth next February. Thanks a lot!!!





**Dr David Shapiro** - Professor of Communication Disorders at Western Carolina University, USA. In his third decade of providing clinical services for people who stutter and their families, Dr Shapiro has held workshops around the world on his fluency intervention techniques.



**Professor Mark Onslow** - Director of the Australian Stuttering Research Centre at The University of Sydney. Professor Onslow has led a research team that is developing the Lidcombe Program of Early Stuttering Intervention, which is recognised as one of the leading treatment methods for children.



**Gerald A Maguire MD** - Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of California. He is investigating the neurologic basis of the disorder and is researching various pharmacologic treatments to work as adjuncts to speech therapy.



**Charles Maskell-Knight** - Charles is a person who stutters and has learned to control the condition quite well. Charles describes himself as fortunate in this regard as he knows that stuttering does have a big impact on many people's lives. What gives Charles the confidence to speak and succeed despite his stutter?



**John C Harrison** - John's involvement in a broad variety of personal growth programs over three decades have given him a unique insight into the nature and dynamics of the stuttering person. He has done extensive graduate work in Language Arts at San Francisco State University and he is currently the editor of the NSA's monthly newsletter Letting GO.



**Dr Bob Bodenhammer** is the author and co-author of eight books on Neuro Linguistic Programming. With his special interest in the area of stuttering and more specifically blocking, he has recently published the book: Games for Mastering Blocking and Stuttering - a Guide to Gaining Fluency.



**Marilyn Langevin** - Clinical Director at the Institute for Stuttering Treatment and Research at the University of Alberta. Marilyn has developed a highly effective clinician training program and has developed and researched the effectiveness of a school program designed to educate students about stuttering and changing attitudes towards teasing and bullying.



**Professor Ashley Craig** is the Assistant Dean at UTS, Sydney. Professor Craig has been involved in the clinical treatment of and research into adult and child stuttering for over 20 years. Professor Craig will be talking on the topic: The influence of Stuttering on Mood, Anxiety and Emotions across the Lifespan; how to Manage Anxiety related to Stuttering".



**Dave McGuire** is the founder of The McGuire Programme, an international training and coaching programme designed to help people to recover from stuttering. The McGuire Programme has helped thousands of people throughout the world to recover from stuttering. Treating recovery from stuttering as "The Sport of Speaking" has made the process fun and more manageable.



**Dr Peggy Marks Wahlhaus** is an Honorary Research Associate of the Australian Stuttering Research Centre and is particularly interested in the integration of therapy approaches. She has been involved in the area of stuttering for more than forty years. She has lectured in South African universities, and has taught and conducted workshops in Australia, Europe, Israel and the United States.



**Dr Michelle Byrnes** is a Western Australian Research Fellow. Her research interests include brain reorganisation in language and motor networks as a consequence of brain injury, disease and disorders of verbal communication including stuttering. Dr Byrnes has had a central role in research projects using functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) in normal individuals, neurosurgical and stroke patients and individuals who stutter.

## Full funding for ELSA youth meetings to develop new talent

In the last editorial I wrote that ELSA had made two funding applications, for a youth meeting in the Netherlands and a seminar in Strasbourg. I am pleased to write that both applications were successful. This success gives us all at ELSA the impetus to continue with our work.

The youth meeting was held from 13-19 July. Funding was obtained from the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe. The meeting was aimed at young people who stutter who are thinking about volunteering to work for, or thinking or being a Board member of their national stuttering association. At the meeting the young people will be able to network with other European PWS, learn about the work of the national associations, share fears, frustrations and triumphs, practice their speech techniques in a secure environment and engage in speaking experiences that they would otherwise shy away from. It is hoped that the meeting will inspire the delegates to participate in the work of their own association and importantly provide for personal development. Because of the funding the meeting costs are very cheap. 100 Euro full board for the week and 50% refund of travel costs. All of us at ELSA are really looking forward to meeting delegates from all over Europe.

The second success was in the framework of the European Year of People with Disabilities (EYPD). ELSA has received European funding to, amongst other activities, disseminate the Year to all it's publics', i.e. the national stuttering associations, board members, staff, volunteers, PWS, and other people and professions interested in stuttering. The funding was all the more pleasing because only five European disability organisations were chosen - representing the deaf, blind, autism, stuttering and intellectual disability. This is the fifteenth project grant received from the Commission over the last 15 years and it is a testament to the dedication of all my colleagues, past and present, working with ELSA who have given their time to deliver quality projects to pws and their support organisations.

With the EYPD funding ELSA is able to organise a Stuttering and Disability Awareness seminar in Strasbourg France. This will take place over the weekend of 17-19 October 2003 just prior to the International Stuttering Awareness Day (ISAD).

During this Year ELSA has produced and disseminated an electronic newsletter, more details on this and how to subscribe and the above two meetings are given later in the newsletter.

Raising awareness of stuttering is one of the core objectives of all stuttering associations, from international organisations through to grass root local groups. I believe we should all strive to make some contribution; all contributions however small are welcome. Being part of

awareness raising activities, in my experience, sooner or later always presents the big opportunities. For example, I have recently been invited to Athens to present stuttering and show a video on stuttering. The event is a "Disability and Media" conference funded by the European Commission. Participating in this event are the media (TV, radio, newspapers) from all over Europe. As you can imagine, as soon as I pressed the send button on my computer accepting the invitation those well known fears started rumbling. Why did I agree to that, will I stutter, will I be fluent, should I stutter, they are still there as I write this message. Whatever the outcome the people in the audience should know what the subject matter is.

I am sure you will all wish me good luck with my presentation.

Enjoy your summer.

Edwin J. Farr

Chair of the European League of Stuttering Associations

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## What does it mean to be open?

By Barry Yeoman

Passing Twice, an organisation of gay and lesbian stutterers and their allies, has taken on an international flair in the past year. Recent workshops have been scheduled or held in Germany, Canada and the United States, and there will be another workshop at the ISA convention in Perth, Australia next February.

In each country, the goal is the same: to help people who stutter-no matter what their sexual orientation-learn from the coming out and community-building experiences of the gay community. At many self-help conventions, Passing Twice also sponsors a "Queer Night Out," which includes dinner and nightlife for gay, lesbian, heterosexual, bisexual and transgendered people who stutter, along with non-stuttering friends-in short, everybody who wants to have a good time.

Local chapters also have gatherings. This spring, Passing Twice members and their loved ones had a Sunday brunch at the Viceroy, a festive diner in New York's Chelsea neighbourhood. New York will also be the site of an informal gathering during the August FRIENDS convention. These get-togethers allow gay and lesbians who stutter to maintain face-to-face support in between annual convention workshops, and to help break down social isolation.

Passing Twice has just relaunched its website at [www.passingtwice.com](http://www.passingtwice.com). The new site includes newsletter articles, photographs, and profiles of famous gay stutterers in history and fiction.

## 25th anniversary of VERSTA in Switzerland

By Beat Meichtry

We are happy! This year we will celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our association VERSTA!

For that occasion we will celebrate on September 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in Seengen, near the Lake of Hallwil. There will be time to exchange remembrances about the last 25 years. But we will also have sport and music activities.

### History

A study about stammer from Krause, Prof and Dr. at the university of Zurich CH, gave the impulse to found an association for stammers. 14 interested, afflicted persons did the significant path and founded VERSTA on September 7 1978.

**VERSTA** means: **VER**einigung (association) für **ST**otternde (stammers) und **Ang**ehörige (relations).

The new founded association started with 14 persons and could increase continuously till today. Since 1996 we also have an office.

Additional to our celebration VERSTA will make publicity. We will inform in public to give the chance to afflicted persons and their relations to know about our association. We will spur them to change something on their fate. We would be glad about your visit in Switzerland on September 6/7<sup>th</sup>!



The very nice place above the lake of Hallwil, where we will celebrate!

For more informations and the announcement please contact the VERSTA-office:

VERSTA-Geschäftsstelle

Äussere Bleikenstr. 1

CH-3775 Lenk

Tel. 033 733 03 31

Or:

Info@versta.ch

You can also visit our homepage: [www.versta.ch](http://www.versta.ch)

## Message from the low lands behind the dunes

By John Kagie

So what did the Netherlands association Demosthenes do in 2002? We had a successful association weekend with some 30 participants. The slogan of the weekend was "Feel free". For one of the workshops we hired a director and theatre instructor who worked with us on expression by movement. He made us realise how much of our behaviour, walking, looking, is socially focussed. Another workshop was given by a Didgeridoo player who told us that the breathing technique needed to play this instrument helped him to achieve a higher level of fluency in speaking.

Further we organised five what we call regional events. For one of them we got the co-operation of one of the founders of the Netherlands Association of Stutter Centres. He believes that your own attitude towards stuttering determines how you experience your 'handicap'. Keeping an open mind and trying to see behind your own horizon helps a lot to deal with stuttering. Do not let your happiness depend on your speech. Once you just accept that you stutter, you will say goodbye to a lot of tension and fluency will increase as a bonus.

In October 2002 we had a social for parents of children who stutter, which is a new activity for our association. I will quote some reactions from the participants. "When your child begins to stutter, you get a real shock. You see his of her future falling apart before your eyes. From one moment

to the other you are filled with questions and fears. And what can you do with them. Few parents in your direct environment have experience with it and so there is nobody to turn to. "The meeting was appreciated as very useful by the participants and will certainly be repeated in the future.

Another new activity is the organisation of social events. On a sunny Ascension Day we made a 20-km walking tour through one of our scenic areas called the Posbank. In Dutch catalogues the Posbank is described as forested and hilly terrain. Foreigners should however be aware that the Netherlands is indeed what the name suggests, a flat country, so for us a height of five meters is a hill, not to be confused with mountains which are above ten meters.

On a cold day between Christmas and New Year we had another walking tour along the beach. Critics will ask if this is specific activity for a stammering association. Well, um, yeah, coz, during the walk we speak and when we speak we also speak about stammering and even when we do not speak about stammering we stammer while we speak. And furthermore, our nomenclator, Demosthenes, also made long walks along the beach, with pebbles in his mouth to improve his articulation, leaden plates on chest and back to improve his breathing and shouting over the roar of the sea to improve his volume. So in fact we do little different than re-installing an ancient tradition.

## Schools campaign for Germany

### Bus tour

The fourth information bus tour on the subject of *Stuttering and School* has just come to an end. In May our red London bus traveled for a week through Germany, visiting schools in Hannover, Magdeburg, Wittenberg, Leipzig and Erfurt. The campaign was held this year as part of the European Year of People with Disabilities 2003. The lessons

on the subject of stuttering again went down very well with pupils and teachers alike. Numerous guests from government and from the education authorities attended the lessons, e.g. members of the Land parliaments and representatives of the ministries of education in the Laender. We shall cultivate

these contacts, since one of the goals of our *Stuttering and School* campaign is to include the subject of stuttering in teachers' training. Another of our goals is to ensure that, under the school legislation of all German Laender, stuttering pupils have the right to favorable treatment to offset their handicap. This means that their stuttering must be given consideration in assessments of oral performance and in oral examinations. Reports and pictures from this year's information bus tour can be found at [www.stottern-und-schule.de](http://www.stottern-und-schule.de).

### Annual congress

The Bundesvereinigung is holding its 30th Annual Congress from 2nd to 5th October 2003 – another anniversary that's a welcome opportunity for celebration. The congress is taking place this time in Wuerzburg, about 100 km east of Frankfurt am Main and in the heart of the delightful wine-producing region of Main-Franconia. Along with numerous workshops, there will be a special youth program and a discussion circle for parents of stuttering children. Participants from outside Germany are welcome to attend. Information at [www.buko.stottern.info](http://www.buko.stottern.info).

The Bundesvereinigung is contributing to the training of therapists specializing in stuttering with its new German-language video on the direct treatment of stuttering



**'One of the goals of our Stuttering and School campaign is to include the subject of stuttering in teachers' training'**



children. With reference to real case studies, the film shows step by step how children from two years of age can be treated directly and with the focus on symptoms. An accompanying book provides supplementary information on diagnosis and on dealing with risk factors.

# Spanish Stuttering Foundation “T’M-España”

By Claudia Groesman – Secretary

On June 26 we celebrated the first anniversary of the creation of The Spanish Stuttering Foundation. We are happy to write this second article for One Voice about the five self-help groups that are already meeting in Spain. It is not an easy job; some members are reluctant to take this great step to talk about their feelings kept for

a long time only for themselves. For most members it is the first time they have talked about stuttering and to meet others with same or similar experiences and feelings.

The group coordinator’s and/or their members share their feelings, below..



Barcelona self-help Group. From left, Claudia, Josep, Toni, Paco and María

## Barcelona Self-help Group

By Josep Gibert Miralpeix

The Barcelona self-help group began in April, 2003. We have exchanged books and information about stuttering to read and discuss at meetings.

We have debated the topics of acceptance and recognising our own stutter, as a first step before therapy in an adult, as well as the degree of acceptance and recognition of the stutter in our environment, both personal and social. We also spoke about the anxiety and anticipation, and the need to obtain, in agreement with Van Riper, a softer

stammering and reducing the things we have learned to hide the blocks.

An outstanding meeting was when the psychologist and speech therapist Anna Bagó spoke to us about breathing, speed and the pressure of time. In this session she attended to all our questions and spoke of the four basic rules for a well run self-help group: punctuality, respect, regular meetings, and confidentiality of all we talk to in the group.

Sometimes members of other self-help groups in Spain visit us and we have a great time knowing him/her and we exchange experiences that other groups are doing.

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We are members of the internet forum of the foundation too, where we learn about the rest of our friends all over Spain.

Now we are working on activities for the ISAD 2003. It is our wish that new members join us in our meeting.

### **Thursdays Madrid Group**

**Coordinator: Ms. Milagros Alcojor**

As coordinator of the Madrid self-help group, I want to express my happiness and my opinion on these groups, from the moment in which you first meet people, up to our weekly meetings.

We all know that people affected by stuttering have rarely, if ever, spoken about it. For me, meeting another person with the same problem makes us express and be open immediately, feeling calm and understood.

I think our weekly meetings are a major help with stuttering, Week after week, members change and after a few months, the group creates an environment, where differences do not exist and no-one has doubts about what another will think of them, or that, their feelings will not be understood. As coordinator and member of the group, I feel very satisfied to belong to it.

Opinions of some members of the group:

[Francisco Serna, 29, lawyer:](#)

The most important thing, beside knowing the members of the group, is that you learn to listen.



**Southeast group: From left: Oscar, José, Ángel, Jesús, Lau**



**Madrid group.  
From left: Juan  
Carlos, David  
Gabi, Maria  
Patricia,  
Cristóbal Miguel,  
Ángel Ricardo,  
Mila Fran, Lolo,  
Ignacio, Felix  
Javier**



ra, Juan Francisco y Alejandro

I leave my ego in the door before entering the meetings. You are glad about the achievements of others, equally or more than of your own.

**Manuel Gomez, 28, cook:**

I believe meetings have taught us to lose some of the fear of speaking about our stutter. We are able to tell our experiences to other persons that share our sufferings, and can find help, thanks to persons who already have been in similar situations. The meetings are an outlet for our stutter, and every Thursday meeting we recharged the batteries to confront the week.

**Gabriel Martín, 26, biologist:**

I discovered with the self-help groups, the power of the union can change many things. Now I know that there exist persons who have suffered as I have, who feel the same as I feel and who have the same desires to overcome forever fears that live with us. I am not alone now, we are great, and fight to be understood and valued, against the society who often ignores us and hobbles (bonds) that we often impose ourselves.

**Félix Romo Sánchez-Seco, 31, informático:**

It is not easy to find a place to meet people with a different way of stuttering and a different way of facing it, and a very personal attitude about owns stuttering.

I believe that is a very good place, not to treat stuttering, but improving it. After all this time, we can realise that we are not alone.

**Fernando García Ibarrola, 23, clinic's auxiliar:**

On Wednesday, May 14th I visited one of the two groups in Madrid. I remain fascinated. All the members are very brave at the moment they have to speak. I was very quiet because I did not know anybody. An hour before the group began I met with Mila (the coordinator). She is a charming girl. The rest of the group gave me a very good impression and I am fascinated with the people. During a few days I thought a lot about everything. I have to learn much of the people. They are lucky because they speak without complexes.

I have many complexes. Because of it I am alone. The great challenge of my life is to have a girlfriend.

## Southeast Self-help Group

**Ángel Mondéjar Marín**

**Representative-Coordinator**

The Southeast Self-help Group in Murcia is composed of enthusiastic people, who think and dream of the correction of their stuttering. We put in practice a good strategy, effort and perseverance, to pursue our dream that everyone in the group can overcome their stuttering. We meet on Thursdays and Saturdays. Most meetings last four hours, where we practice deep breathing, respiration, slow speech with rhythm, promote positive thoughts, acceptance of stuttering, voluntary stuttering, and freedom from feeling a victim – very common among persons who stutter. We are all a 'fan' of exercises that help us fight stuttering in all its fronts. All these techniques are from books on stuttering and the personal experience of the representative and coordinator of the Murcia group. He has put his house, library and time at disposal of the Spanish Stuttering Foundation, where group member's feel almost as their own house.

We accept both the persons whose aim is improvement, and also members who just want to be among people who stutter. They come to the group to stutter in a calm way with us, an activity they would not have if we did not exist.

## Asturian Stutterers Self-help Group

**Fernando Cuesta, GATA Coordinator**

The Asturian Stutterers Self-help Group (GATA) has its own personality and objectives, to search for social respect for people who stutter, trying to dignify the word 'tartamudo' (stutterer, in Spanish) in our environment. We usually meet in bars or restaurants, where we talk for about two hours and then have dinner. We decided to

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meet this way since we believe stuttering has to be seen as something normal. We think that by showing ourselves the way we are, without hiding, we can overcome the shame or fear.

The group has eight regular members and five others who come sporadically. The topics we often discuss are the cause and treatment of stuttering.

We are a multidisciplinary team, with a speech pathologist, two psychologists and a doctor. Different points of view from different professionals light the fire of the discussion and enriches the knowledge of all. From Dieffenbach to Sommer, going through Pigeon, Johnson, and Van Riper, we hit all the roads and turns that the stuttering trip offers to us, trying to figure out its/our mystery.



**Asturian group. From left: Pablo, Luis, Luis, Fernando, Marta.**



**Galicia self-help Group. From left: Antonio, Joaquín, Fernando and Aureliano**

We are convinced that self-help groups have a magic effect. They are not therapeutic groups, but they have a therapeutic effect. We first created the group's internet, so members can know each other. Then we contacted each member and proposed a self-help group in his city.

Now we can see that members who were helped at the beginning are now helping a new person who joins the group. It is chain of love and feeling of freedom of talking about stuttering. Some people need more time, and we can wait for them, till they are ready, we are not hurry. The Foundation is already working, but it's only the beginning..... Claudia

# Activities and projects in Argentina

Argentine Stuttering Association  
Press and diffusion committee

There have been some changes in the Argentine Stuttering Association (AAT), referring to the staff during this year. We have the same objectives and we want to achieve the next challenges with new strength.

We are always trying to summon up people who stutter and we want them to build with us an Association that helps to solve the real problems and that goes on working to make the people in our country know about this difficulty. We know this is going to take a long time but we think it is possible. The continuous work of the other associations in the world is a very important guide for us and it encourages people, related directly or indirectly to stuttering, to participate.

We are working on a video about publicising the prevention of stuttering in small children.

We go on with the research work in order to know more about the development of language and its relation with stuttering in children and adults. We believe the conclusions of this research are going to help us improve the tests and therapies we use to meet the needs of the people of this country.

We aim to form groups of people that stutter in public hospitals as they are of free access. Nowadays we have to take into account the economic situation to let people receive help and treatment no matter their social condition.

Many people get in contact with the AAT very frequently looking for information because of living far away from Buenos Aires. In this specific situation we try to give some advice to the therapists in that town encouraging them to get training in this matter and to form groups of self-assistance.

We believe the best way of working is in a group with the community, and that the AAT will become a more important place of reference, information and diffusion about stuttering with our effort.

Our efforts to work together with parents, psychologists, people who stammer, speech therapists and every person interested in this subject and capable of helping us to continue our progresses, for the achievement of our objectives and to let the AAT existing as the years pass with the same compromise that the ones that were before us dreamed it. Main activities are:

- Clinical supervision for professionals.
- Clinical advice for speech therapists in hospitals.
- Free consultation to give information and guidance to the public every week.
- Postgraduate on stammering in children and adults by Lic. Beatriz Biain de Touzet.
- Workshops on music, corporal and different kind of achievements during the year.
- Weekly workshops for persons who stutter coordinated by our president, Miriam Lobato.
- Frequent organisation of courses for speech pathologists specialising in stuttering to help them to solve problems that might appear during the therapy.
- The AAT will participate in the IFAs 4<sup>th</sup> Congress in Montreal, Canada, sending a poster with a research made on four year-old children and the results of a questionnaire about specialisation of speech pathologists across the world in the treatment of stammering made by Dr Shapiro.
- Presentation of the project to give a postgraduate in stuttering in the University del Salvador.
- The directors of the Speech Therapist Career in the Buenos Aires University have promised to include the education in stuttering in the career.
- The students of speech therapy will participate in different AAT activities during 2003 such as workshops and professional advice.
- We have inaugurated a new place to carry out our activities and workshops.
- In April the AAT has presented its offers of activities that will be developed during this year in a free meeting among professionals, people who stutter and public. A workshop was organised and it has been a beautiful experience.

## Applauded for what I had feared - my first participation at an international stuttering meeting

By Dr Moussa DAO

From March 21st to 22nd 2003, I was invited to attend the stuttering colloquium in Lyon, France. It was my first time to fly out of west Africa. This colloquium was organised by one of France's stuttering associations, Association parole Bgaïement (APB). This association includes both stutterers and speech language therapists.

There were several hundred people. The lecturers came from different countries: Australia, Belgium, Burkina Faso, France, Germany, Slovakia, and the USA. Their themes was about self-help, research results, therapeutic methods and testimonies. It was an important event for me. In fact, to deliver a speech in front of people and particularly foreign people, is not easy for everyone, but more difficult for people who stutter. To give a lecture, for my first time to foreign people was an audacious enterprise. The risk of doing badly increased my fears.

Almost a year ago, I remembered when I proposed my text for colloquium. My stuttering was very severe. Some questions came to my mind. Is it necessary to go to this colloquium? Will I be able to speak? But my wish to dare

and mainly to present the stuttering situation in Africa convinced me to participate at this colloquium.

I always think about this expression which has become mine: 'for a person, the important thing is not to never fall down but to arise each times a person fall'.

The first day of the colloquium, my fears began to disappear little by little. People's enthusiasm and their kindness helped me to fight my fears. This allowed me to lecture fluently and at ease. My theme was: Stuttering in Africa: the case of Burkina Faso, present situation and future. It was an unforgettable experience. It is very important for my process of self therapy.

For the first time in my life, I was applauded for several minutes by foreign people, for something (talking in front of foreign people) which formerly gave me fears.

Moreover, this meeting allowed me to set up the first step for partnership between our association and APB France. Next year, some members of APB will come to Burkina Faso. I also have the opportunity to exchange with different specialists from different countries.

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## Teachers shown how to help pupils in Cameroon, Africa

By Joe Lukong, SCAC coordinator

Since last year the activities of the Speak Clear Association of Cameroon (SCAC) have witnessed a remarkable change. Several persons in and out of Cameroon have become interested and supportive of our work. We have had a remarkable increase in our membership with many chapters set up in Cameroon. While struggling to help our adult PWS, we focused particular attention to children and female PWS in Cameroon.

In October 2002, we had a visit of a speech therapist from the Fluency Trust in the UK who specialises in working with children who stutter. Clare McNeil who visited us did a training course for 24 teachers and parents of stammering pupils and other interested members of SCAC. After this training our members were often asked by officials of the Ministry of National Education to give a series of talks and lectures during the teachers' educational seminars that were held in many different localities of Cameroon on how teachers and other school officials can help PWS.

We distributed photocopies of leaflets from the British Stammering Association, the National Stuttering Association, the Stuttering Foundation of America, ISTAR in Canada, and Speak Easy and CAPS of Canada. All these leaflets contained useful guides that can help teachers and parents of PWS. The feedback from these handouts has been very favorable. Some teachers and parents of PWS who had not got these leaflets and had learned of them contacted us to ask for their own copies.

Another great project we launched here geared at helping stammering children was the 'Teasing and bullying tab: unacceptable behaviour project'. With the help of the material we got from ISTAR in Canada we used their TAB publication and the 'Stuttering hurts ...we can help posters' to organise seminars for teachers of PWS and other school officials in different localities in Cameroon. Many of the participants at these seminars learned a lot of things on how to handle teasing which is common with PWS in their schools. The feedback from

*continued page 15*

# International Stuttering Awareness is really everyday... We just celebrate it on October 22nd

While the spoken word is taken for granted by most, the use of spoken language is challenging for millions of people living with stuttering around the world. It is estimated that approximately 1% or 60 million people with whom we share our world...stutter. For many of us daily communication is a struggle and our speech does not open doors but closes them for interpersonal, academic, professional development and personal fulfillment.

This year's sixth annual International Stuttering Awareness Day (ISAD '03), International Stuttering Awareness is really everyday...We justcelebrate it on October 22nd is an opportunity for people living with stuttering to meet others who stutter and to share our common bond in a safe and supportive environment. ISAD '03 encourages the "stutteringcommunity" to create activities in their communities, countries and via

internet to enable people living with stuttering to come together.

Check out our ISAD '03 brochure under announcements by going to: [www.stutteringhomepage.com](http://www.stutteringhomepage.com)

Please forward to your mailing list...

Warmly,  
Michael & Amy  
[isad22Oct.@aol.com](mailto:isad22Oct.@aol.com)

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*continued from page 14*

this has also been very favorable and we shared out more than 150 posters and leaflets on how to deal with teasing and bullying.

We also concentrated on girls and women who stutter here in Cameroon who are often in the minority as compared to their men folk colleagues. As they are often in the minority they feel ashamed of joining our self-help movement. Learning from the experience of famous women PWS who had set up an international support group called 'Girls and women living with stuttering', a similar group was set up within SCAC co-chaired by Nicole Tatah and Bronhilda Lukong. They got some articles written by famous women PWS published in several magazines and put them at the disposal of other female PWS here: The first meeting of the Cameroon group of girls and women living with stuttering in April 2003 and was heavily attended by women PWS.

In order to enable many PWS to be computer literate and have access to the valuable information on stuttering often available on the internet, we organised a series of computer learning classes for our members. This was made possible with the help of the laptop computer that our friends from the Netherlands had given us. Many of

our members are able to do some elementary work on the computer and have been able to be in touch with many other PWS over the world. Through email, many of them are members of the e-friend list of the BSA and are able to share experiences with many other PWS. Thanks to this, 121 members of SCAC have email addresses and are able to receive and send out information.

The research project we had with the National Institutes of the Health in Washington DC spearheaded by Dr. Denis Drayna with the support of Jane Fraser of the SFA aimed at investigating the genetic causes of stuttering continued last year. Dr Drayna visited us twice here in Cameroon and studied about 60 members of SCAC. The research project will continue this year. Also, many members of SCAC will take part in a research project conducted by Anne Foundas, of Tulane Universityin Louisiana on brain research. The SFA has sent out many copies of the survey for a study of us here in Cameroon. Hopefully this year, we shall have some data collected from Cameroon on the framework of the international project on attitudes towards stuttering.

[lujotar@yahoo.com](mailto:lujotar@yahoo.com)

[www.stutterisa.org/cameroon](http://www.stutterisa.org/cameroon)

## CAPS: moving forward with confidence

**By David Block**  
**CAPS Coordinator**

CAPS is hosting its 7th bi-annual national conference in Toronto Ontario from August 6 to 10. The theme is 'Moving Forward with Confidence'. There will be three inspiring keynote speakers, stimulating and innovative workshops, a parents' and children's program, and a special performance by the renowned Our Time Theatre Company. We invite you to join us, share your experiences, learn from each other, and make friends that will last for a lifetime. For more information about this conference, check out the web site: [www.stutter.ca/caps2003](http://www.stutter.ca/caps2003).

After attending the CAPS conference, you can take a quick five hour drive (or one hour flight) to attend the International Fluency Association (IFA) conference in Montreal from August 11 to 15. This congress brings together consumers, speech language professionals and researchers in an open and inviting atmosphere. For more information about this congress, check out their web site at: [www.ifacongress2003.com](http://www.ifacongress2003.com).

The CAPS web site and email address have changed to: [www.stutter.ca](http://www.stutter.ca) and [caps@stutter.ca](mailto:caps@stutter.ca), both much easier to remember. We are also developing a new and exciting website that will be more up to date, easier to navigate and search for resources. We hope to get this site up within the new year.

During 2002, Les Anderson from British Columbia resigned from the CAPS board. Les contributed in numerous ways while he served from the province of British Colombia and helped lead the way in many areas. He has done a tremendous job with the BCAPS organisation and setting up the camp for children who stutter. He will be missed within the CAPS board and we wish him all the best in his personal journey.

This year, Mary Wood has also resigned after many years on the board. Mary has been instrumental in giving direction, helping out whenever we needed it and organising all of our ISAD workshops and various conferences. She has always brought such great insight, knowledge and fun to all of our meetings and workshops. We wish her well as she continues on her journey to become a minister.

## Speak Easy gets government grant for CD-Rom

**By Mike Hughes**  
**Executive director**

As Canada's national organisation for people who stutter, Speak Easy Inc. has been selected by the government of Canada to undertake a \$240,000 CD one-year project designed to build greater capacity required to serve the needs of Canada's stuttering community. This new project builds upon Speak Easy's successful completion of several earlier, smaller projects previously co-sponsored by the federal government. Staff, office space, and equipment are in place and the project is well underway. Early results look promising. One of these earlier projects was the Speak Easy Pamphlet Project. Our existing pamphlet series was reviewed, revised, and updated as deemed necessary. Four additional titles were added to the series, bringing the total to ten: "Introduction to Speak Easy Inc.," "Advice for Partners/Spouses," "Suggestions for Parents of Stuttering Children," " 'Relative' Support for Stutterers," "How the Teacher Can Help the Stuttering Child," "Using the Telephone," "Notes to Listeners," "Guidelines for Greater Fluency," "Potential Stuttering Solutions," and "Start a Speak Easy Chapter." Speak Easy's pamphlet series has been mailed to more than 10,000 families. One segment of our new project will to translate and distribute this pamphlet series in both English and French.

The past twelve months have been another successful and busy year for Speak Easy. Our continuing public information campaigns were again well-supported by all forms of the media and resulted in many requests for our free information kits. "Speaking Out," our monthly magazine, continued presenting interesting and informative articles about stuttering to the periodical's many readers. Our free electronic services, including monthly digests of "Speaking Out" and reprints of past articles, have continued to grow and are reaching subscribers around the world. Subscribing is simple...go to our website at [speakeasycanada.com](http://speakeasycanada.com) and enter your email address in the subscription box. As described earlier, our fundraising programs and grant-writing proposals were successful in acquiring sufficient funding to meet our growing requirements. A lot has been accomplished, much more remains to be done.

# The European League of Stuttering Associations

By Konrad Schaefers & Edwin J. Farr

2003 is a busy year for the European League of Stuttering Associations. ELSA is organising two international events. The date of the **4<sup>th</sup> ELSA Youth Meeting** is approaching fast. From 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> July 35 young people who stutter from all over Europe will gather at Nijmegen in the Netherlands. The week-long meeting will be filled with lectures and workshops on the work of the national associations and their web-sites. The title of the Meeting is Extending Communication – Extending Borders. It won't be all work as there are plenty of social activities and sightseeing tours planned.

ELSA is contributing to the **European Year of People with Disabilities 2003** (EYPD). Highlighting the issue of disability the European Year is seen as an opportunity to change the future for disabled people. ELSA was awarded a grant by the European Commission to run an action programme in 2003 in the framework of the European Year.

Part of this programme is the **Seminar on Stuttering Awareness** in Strasbourg/France from 17 - 19 October. The ELSA board is extremely pleased that with this event the successful series of European seminars can be continued.

Another part of ELSA's action programme on the occasion of the EYPD is the ELSA electronic newsletter which informs on stuttering self-help, national stuttering association activities and European disability issues related to stuttering. Editions of the newsletter are sent to subscribers by e-mail every two-three months. In the newsletter there is the EYPD Prize Competition. *The 1st prize is a free trip to Strasbourg, France on the occasion of the next ELSA Conference in October 2003 (including travel and accommodation).* If you are interested in receiving future copies of the newsletter send an email to: [elsa.europe@telia.com](mailto:elsa.europe@telia.com) with the text "subscribe EYPD". Previous issues can be viewed and downloaded at the ELSA web-site [www.elsa.info](http://www.elsa.info).

As a member of the the **European Disability Forum** ELSA is actively involved in European disability politics. Board members Edwin Farr and Anita Blom together

with Konrad Schaefers attended the EDF Annual General Assembly in Athens in May. Main items on the agenda of particular interest to pws and their support organisations were the implementation of the EU Directive establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment, a Specific Disability Directive proposed by the EDF and the new European Convention. Directives are the most powerful tool the EU have forcing all member states to transfer EU regulations into national law. This is why the member states are not too keen on having new Directives, and in Athens chances for a disability specific directive and shaping the text of the European Convention were discussed. The EDF reported

that it is getting increasing difficult to influence policy, nevertheless, the Assembly unanimously agreed to continue lobbying for the best possible outcomes for people with disabilities. Information on the disability specific directive can be viewed on the ELSA web-site.



When attending European events ELSA representatives always try to combine their trips with meetings with representatives of the respective National Stuttering Association. At last year's EDF Assembly in Madrid there was a meeting with some of our colleagues of TTM-Espana. In Athens this year, Edwin Farr, Anita Blom and Konrad Schaefers had the good fortune to be invited to speak at a seminar for Greek speech and language therapists organised by Sally Haworth at that very weekend. Sally is a British SLP who has been living and working in Greece for many years now. She attended the World Congress 1995 in Sweden and has tried hard to set up self-help groups in Hellas ever since then. The Greek therapists were most interested in what they heard about self-help in stuttering and international cooperation between stuttering associations. Following the meeting, representatives of the SLP's association have been invited to the ELSA meeting on Stuttering Awareness in Strasbourg.

For further information on ELSA and most of the items mentioned in this brief report please consult: [www.elsa.info](http://www.elsa.info)

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## Database of job experiences on the internet in Japan

**By Hiroyuki KOYAMA**  
(All Japan GeNyukai Association)

PWS do not need to hesitate in choosing jobs. We can do almost every kind of works, and actually PWS are working in many fields. But job huntings are something that is annoying\* for many of us, especially young PWS, who try their first job huntings.

So we worked on "job database" and published on our website in January of this year (Sorry, it is only in Japanese). This database is not intended to introduce jobs to PWS, but to accumulate experiences in job hunting and

experiences in places of work after getting jobs. PWS who are in their jobs write their stories from computers, and PWS who are doing job huntings can read them on the website and learn from experiences of preceders.

This database is pretty new, but up to now over 50 people contributed their experiences. Jobs cover medical doctors, university professors, public servants, farmers, house keepers, students(they contributed their stories in part time jobs) and so forth. We maintain this database and want to let more PWS write, read and learn from each other.

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## More children helped with summer camps

**By Shinji Ito,**  
Executive Director, Japan Stuttering Project

The Japan Stuttering Project is a network of people who stutter and who explore the meaning and purpose of life by learning ways to live with stuttering; parents of children who stutter, speech therapists who work in school systems and hospitals, clinicians, and researchers. My definition of people who stutter is "people who work on various levels related to the theme of stuttering: speech, interpersonal relationships, communication and the exploration of a meaningful life." By the same token, the JSP is working on three major projects, which focus on: 1) understanding the causes of stuttering, and the effectiveness and limitations of therapy; 2) improving comprehensive communicative skills including speaking, reading, listening and writing; and 3) learning different approaches, such as transactional analysis, rational-emotive therapy, and assertiveness training, in order to increase awareness of ourselves as well as of others, to build better interpersonal relationships and achieve personal growth.

The JSP also works with children who stutter and their parents by organising summer camps. For the past 13 years, about 150 people including school teachers and speech therapists participated each year. Children experience the rehearsing and performing of a drama with the help of the staff, peer discussions and writing essays during the camp, which offers them opportunities to express themselves, and as a result gives them self-confidence and even an insight to their stuttering. Many of them used to think that their stuttering was responsible for their being inactive or the target of teasing but realized that their attitude toward stuttering was responsible.

In addition to publishing a monthly newsletter, the JSP has published three books on stuttering, while a new book on frequently asked questions about stuttering will be published next fall to increase public awareness.

## New Zealand groups successful

**By Warren Brown**

With so much turmoil in the world, it was kind of soothing to attend the New Zealand Speak Easy Conference in Dunedin in early May.

With the larger branches functioning reasonably well, the annual general meeting was mainly a congratulatory event. Life memberships were conferred on James Fox, national secretary for the last 10 years, and Warren Brown, editor of Air Flow for the last seven years. Certificates of appreciation were given to John McMorran, president of the Otago/Southland branch for seven years, and Mark Richardson, who has been active in the Auckland branch for about 20 years. As well, a get-well card and flowers were sent to Dorothy Downing, national treasurer for two years, who has been in hospital after suffering heart problems then a stroke. Ngaire Renton became the new national treasurer and James Lai was elected publicity officer. Returned to office on the national executive were president Lester Loomes, vice president Dean Cook and secretary James Fox.

Approval was given to print a new Speak Easy pamphlet. Continuing support was offered to the Wellington group.

The feeling from the conference was overwhelmingly positive. This augers well for the next 12 months.

# Reaching out to people who need us most

By Anita S. Blom

The Swedish Stuttering Association, SSR, has a really exciting year ahead. Beside our highly successful youth camp and children with parents weekend in August, which I wrote about in earlier editions of One Voice, we have other projects going on.

The Stockholm chapter, together with the SSR, is working on a two-year's project to reach immigrant people who stutter. Stuttering in other cultures is not as accepted as in ours, although people have been living in Sweden for years. The need of information material in different languages is therefore huge and we hope to have our main booklet translated into even more languages as we already have. Many contacts have been made with different immigrant clubs, speech therapists, schools etc to bring together and educate immigrants who stutter, their parents and people surrounding them.

They also just received funding for a new stuttering video for schools. It will be a movie about young people in school, how their days look like, and what can be done to make school a better place to be for pupils who stutter.

The third project ahead of us is a project covering the International Year of the Child Who Stutters (IYCWS). Much emphasis will be put on reaching out. This project will hopefully make a start during this autumn. More about this program in the next issue of One Voice.

For some years now the SSR has been giving information about stuttering at Speech therapists and Speech pathologists congresses, which finally reached our goal: last year's theme was the stuttering child! Seminars about stuttering, the SSR being present with an information table and their whole magazine with articles about stuttering led to the SSR now being a well received

guest at these conferences. (And the presentation time for the audience of max 3 minutes does not include us anymore...)

The SSR has organized a meeting for all the local chapters to educate them about the rights and responsibilities for people on the local chapter board. This has been wanted for a long time and will be continued this autumn. It also give the chapter leaders a chance to meet and discuss different issues together.



**Children camp chapter: 'Kim Anders': The leaders break the ice with funny games. Children Camp chapter: 'Hövagn': And of course lots of outdoor activities.**

Just by coincidence the SSR found out that a booklet was under production for teenagers who are about to make their church confirmation, and their teachers. A large article of 7 pages (!) was sent in and printed with facts about stuttering and with a personal letter from a person who stutters who worries about the confirmation and life itself and what could help to make things easier.

One man has reported a TV program to the Disability Ombudsman, because of them making jokes about people who stutter. We'll inform you about the results. Important to know is that you CAN make a difference if you raise your voice!

Until we meet.

## BSA – 25 years of making life better

By Andrew Harding

In 25 years, the British Stammering Association has become an internationally recognised model, and the UK's first point of call for information and support for stammering and speech therapy. Our 25th anniversary conference from **September 12-14** promises to be something special.

Three innovative, practical **CDROM's** with best practice guidelines for speech and language therapists and teachers will be released in England on October 22, International Stammering Awareness Day. A part of what makes this project unique among such resources is that young people who stammer speak confidently to camera about the best ways for teachers and support staff to support them both in and out of the classroom.

The CDs have been designed to help speech language therapists and teachers develop strategies that best help the young person to communicate with confidence. Every National Health Trust will receive a copy of the disk to help pupils preparing for GCSE English oral work. It will demonstrate the requirements of the oral work and how best to achieve the grades of which they are capable. The other two CDs will be sent out to schools to help teachers and support staff in primary and secondary to support students to GCSE level.

### Inside the experience of Stammering

A special collection of poems, writings and drawings of the experiences of people who stammer will soon be published. The anthology will be accessible to people of all ages, with short, clear pieces. It was inspired by a poem by a teenager, Ruth Schofield. Many people ring our helpline and say how alone in the world they feel, because they stammer. A book of poems and drawings will assure people that there are others who know how they feel. It will be launched at our anniversary conference in September.

**A pre-school dysfluency project** to develop and distribute existing models of good practice in the National Health Service has been launched. Previous campaign results have shown a significant increase in pre-school



**Weeks of planning and rehearsals came together for hundreds of children at BSA's joint Christmas Cracker concert with local radio in Kilmarnock, Scotland, last December.**

dysfluency referrals to participating SLT departments. As a result, many more children will receive timely intervention. This new three-year project aims to reduce the wide variation in levels of service that were discovered during the previous project. Two part-time project workers and specialist therapist will analyse the models of excellent practice in under-5's speech therapy and produce guidelines on implementing them in other Trusts.

A new **employment based project** to provide information and training to careers and youth advisors is being planned. A likely project outcome will be an information and training resource for careers advisors which would include information on: i) how to give informed and empathetic advice ii) stammering and employment, iii) removing barriers to fully using available careers advice, iv) review assessment and testing procedures for some clients who stammer.

### Campaign for more speech therapy

BSA is involved with the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists in work to increase the therapy available for stammering on the National Health Service. We have been providing information and examples of areas where speech therapy for stammering is very limited or unavailable, particularly for teens and adults.

This is being used to develop a business case with proposals for increasing the amount of specialist therapy available. The next stage will be to develop a framework for further discussion at the next meeting in April 2004.