Who can forget the London Olympics? Whether it was Super Saturday with Mo Farah, Greg Rutherford and Jennifer Ennis’ golden smiles, the human metronome Bradley Wiggins, or perhaps the velodrome hero Sir Chris Hoy, powering out of that final bend... Followed by an equally impressive Paralympics with David Weir, Sarah Storey and Ellie Simmonds becoming household names, and they, and their fellow athletes all capturing our hearts and minds, with their resolve, perseverance and dedication. Whatever your favourite moment, the words “London” and “2012” have been immortalised by the great sporting achievements of the Team GB Olympic and Paralympic athletes.

At the very centre of what maintains these elite athletes at the pinnacle of their professional careers, is the rapid and progressive development in the field of sports medicine and arthroscopic surgery. It is fitting, and by no mere coincidence therefore, that no sooner had these elite athletes departed London – and specifically the ExCeL Exhibition and Convention Centre – than the venue began preparation for ArthroLondon 2012.

ArthroEvents represent the largest scale series of corporate sponsored educational events in orthopaedic history. The sole sponsor of the ArthroEvents is Arthrex, the world leader in arthroscopy, a unique privately held company with an unrivalled focus on professional education and one goal summarised in their Mission statement: Helping Surgeons Treat Their Patients Better.

Over Friday 28th and Saturday 29th September, close to 1,400 surgeons representing 58 countries descended on the UK capital to witness 80 presentations, 24 live surgical demonstrations, hot topic panel discussions and the latest research findings in less invasive techniques for knee, hip, shoulder and distal extremity surgery.

A stellar faculty of more than 70 surgeons from 18 countries participated in the unique event, where the exchange of knowledge and ideas was actively encouraged throughout. Meet the Experts sessions provided attendees with the opportunity to speak directly with orthopaedic luminaries who had flown in from all over the world, to participate in this educational symposium.

Scientific Chairman Duncan Tennent (London) provided a warm welcome address to all attendees, and later chaired a series of talks on the subject of AC joint instability, a surgical area Mr Tennent has personally advanced as the pioneer of the AC TightRope®.

The Friday Sports Medicine session focussed on the knee. James Lubowitz (Taos, USA) gave a live surgical demonstration of the latest GraftLink™ techniques for anatomical ACL reconstruction utilising a minimally invasive all-inside approach, requiring only one hamstring graft. Adrian Wilson (Basingstoke) demonstrated a novel all-inside anatomical ACL reconstruction TriGraftLink technique. This technique offers the potential for an anatomical double bundle (DB) femoral footprint, with a faster, safer and more re-
Tony Romeo (USA) delivering one of the 80 presentations.

One of the 24 live cadaveric surgical demonstrations.

Before the crowds arrived…a huge production effort.

A second theatre suite, featured Distal Extremity cadaveric demonstrations.

producible technique than traditional DB. Both surgical techniques utilised FlipCutter™ II and ACL TightRope® technology.

After approximately twenty presentations and nine hours later, Friday’s session ended with Mr Neil Thomas (Basingstoke, UK) summarising the day’s sessions, and paying a touching tribute to the Founder and President of Arthrex, Reinhold Schmeiding, whom he has known for over 25 years. Mr Thomas referenced the innovation and support of surgical education that continued to define Reinhold Schmeiding and the company that he singlehandedly has shaped into a well-respected, quickly growing global brand. A unique visionary behind a unique event, a man who remains at the heartbeat of the advancement of sports medicine, some 30 years after designing his first Arthroscopic Excision instruments - Helping Surgeons Treat Their Patients Better.

The Saturday Sports Medicine session opened with a shoulder Arthroplasty masterclass, led by Anthony Romeo (Chicago, USA) and Peter Habermeyer (Germany). Dr Romeo demonstrated a MIS rotator cuff sparing approach to total shoulder arthroplasty, through the rotator interval. Peter Habermeyer then provided a live surgical demonstration of a new reverse prosthesis with a simplified technique, developed in conjunction with Arthrex and Dr Romeo.

Peter Millet’s (Vail, USA) live surgical masterclass of transossseous equivalent rotator cuff repair was followed by Hans Kaspar Schwyzers (CH) demonstration of a novel all-Arthroscopic technique for proximal biceps tenodesis, using the proximal biceps Forked SwiveLock®.

The distal extremity sessions were buzzing with the latest SLAM Scapholunate reconstruction techniques demonstrated by Jeffrey Yao (Palo Alto, USA) and the plantar plate repair technique demonstrated by Michael Coughlin (Boise, USA). The final distal extremity session saw Gordon MacKay (Glasgow) provide a live demonstration of an Internal Brace for ankle instability. The surgeon used two SwiveLock® anchors and a FiberTape® to form a bridge from 1cm proximal on the fibula tip to the anterior talofibular ligament.
anatomic attachment on the Talus. The cadaveric surgical demonstration of the improvement in stabilisation left even the most critical viewer impressed with this truly novel procedure. During the panel discussion, amongst early adaptors it is being reported that this simple, safe and reproducible technique can augment the standard lateral ankle ligament repair procedure, potentially allowing early mobilisation, faster rehabilitation and a quicker return to sports activities.

As during the Olympics and Paralympics, the ExCeL was bustling with activity and relationships were both rekindled and new ones formed—all in the spirit of learning, sharing and debating best practices. The feedback was extremely positive, and the experience summarised by several attendees as being “like the spirit of the ArthroEvents, and of Arthrex itself—’Helping Surgeons Treat Their Patients Better’.

Visit www.ArthroLondon.com for more information and to view post event videos of presentations and live surgical demonstrations. The next ArthroEvent will be ArthroParis 2014. Please contact your local Arthrex representative for more information.

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Distal Orthopaedics and Medical Trauma