

Points Turning

Steeper Newsletter Issue 09 2018



CEO message

Paul Steeper

Welcome to our latest issue of Turning Points. We are delighted to announce that on the 1st March 2018 the new S-Charge System was launched to the global prosthetics market. For almost 100 years, Steeper has been providing innovative and revolutionary devices with a distinct focus on upper limb prosthetics. This new development sees the 'first of its kind' battery system being worn by users across the world. Both myself and the company as a whole are immensely proud of the S-Charge System and the research that has gone into making this a product that patients will want to wear. For more information on the S-Charge System and to read the story of one of the first UK users, please turn to page 4.

We hope you enjoy this next issue, and please do share any feedback to marketingteam@steepergroup.com.

Best wishes,



In this issue...

- Bringing Innovation to Elsie 2
- RICS Award Shortlist 3
- Steeper Exhibits at BAPO 3
- Seacroft: A Fully-Managed Steeper Centre 3
- S-Charge System 4
- Richard Pollard: First UK user of the S-Charge System 5
- First UK Click Medical Training Day 6
- New Therapeutic Shoe Range 6
- Stuart Meikle Case Study 7

We would love to hear from you!
Please send your feedback to:

marketingteam@steepergroup.com

Steeper HQ shortlisted for RICS Award

The RICS awards are regarded as the premier property and construction awards in the country, celebrating the most innovative projects in the region and their impact on local communities.



We are delighted that our manufacturing facility and headquarters has been shortlisted for the RICS Awards 2018 in the Commercial category. On 13th March we welcomed the judges and talked them through the design and logistical challenges, how we overcame problems and the impact that the new facility has had on not only our employees, but our customers and the wider community too.

We look forward to the winners being announced on the 11th May!

Seacroft: A fully-managed Steeper clinic

Steeper provides prosthetic and orthotic clinical services in partnership with the NHS, taking pride in delivering progressive, evidence-based and cost-effective services from professional staff to patients throughout the UK.



Seacroft Hospital, part of the Leeds Teaching Hospitals is one of the most unique clinics in the country as the centre is fully-managed by Steeper. Delivering everything from patient care, products, admin and transport, the team at Seacroft provide outstanding levels of care to a vast number of patients across Yorkshire. The level of care that patients experience means that over the years, Seacroft Hospital has seen an increase in the number of military personnel attending the clinic. Despite not being military funded, the locality to Catterick barracks and the standard of care experienced means that patients are electing to be treated at Seacroft Hospital.

Whilst having the same MDT approach as other hospitals, being fully-managed means that clinicians are able to refer patients between orthotics and prosthetics quickly and easily, vastly reducing standard waiting times. With the addition of administration staff too, the centre is exceptionally cost-effective and efficiently managed.

For details on all Steeper clinics, please visit www.steepergroup.com

Bringing innovation to Elsie



In instances where products are not meeting the needs of the user, clinicians will often 'think outside the box' to provide a solution that enables the individual to enjoy a certain or specific activity. In the case of Elsie, her Criterium hand was giving her immense difficulty. Usually suited for the vast majority of cyclists, Elsie found that the device was restricting her around sharp corners and bends, and the application of the device to the bars was difficult for her to manage.

As a keen cyclist, Elsie wanted to be able to control her bike like any other child, so the clinical team at Seacroft set about creating a custom device that would mimic the natural movement of a wrist.

After a process of development and risk assessment, the final version was a combination of upper limb components, assembled in such a way that would allow Elsie to adjust to any angle and also provided 360-degree rotation perfect for the tight bends and jumps at the Urban Bike Park in Leeds.

"The arm is a massive improvement giving her a much larger range of movement, especially for hills and bumps." Emma Hughes (Elsie's Mum)

The Build

Key elements of the build (pictured below) include: multi wrist axial housing, a free flexion ball, hand attachment plate, a wrist unit, metal cable tie and screws. For more information on upper limb components, and those used to make the arm, please refer to the Steeper Upper Limb Catalogue.



Steeper exhibits at BAPO 2018

Last month, Steeper exhibited at the annual BAPO Conference at Lancashire County Cricket Club. Attended by prosthetists, orthotists and students, the event consisted of educational lectures, graduate stories and guest speaker, Alex Brooker.

The Steeper stand showcased the latest innovations in both upper and lower limb prosthetics, with the new S-Charge System making its UK exhibition debut. Also pictured on the stand was paratriathlete, Stuart Meikle who uses the Kinegen Stream Knee, Accent IP Foot and RevoFit Lanyard, turn to page 7 to read Stuart's full story!

As part of the national campaign to raise awareness, Friday's programme was centred on sepsis - namely what it is, how to spot the signs of infection and steps to take to ensure successful treatment. To understand more about sepsis, please visit www.steepergroup.com and read Charlotte Hannibal's story on how she overcame the infection and is now 'rebuilding her image' thanks to the Steeper Silicone Clinic.

The weekend event also saw many presentations and posters submitted by Steeper employees encompassing all aspects of the prosthetic and orthotic spectrum. From the new developmental project of the child's play attachment to the latest developments within the treatment of pectus carinatum (pigeon chest) and a two-hour workshop by Steeper prosthetist, Lynzy Holding, on Silicone Bikini Socket Manufacture.

For more information on these projects please contact marketingteam@steepergroup.com.



Charlotte Hannibal - Custom Silicone Client

S-Charge System

Developed to employ the latest advances in battery technology.



awareness and control to the prosthetic user. Central to the system is the S-Cell batteries. Employing the latest advances in battery technology, these batteries have been designed specifically for the S-Charge System. The S-Cell batteries are flat and discreet, ensuring a neat containment within the forearm whilst using minimal space. With the option of accommodating two, three or four batteries, the system is suitable for a range of users with different activity levels.

Carl Chatfield, Product Sales Director at Steeper said: "We are delighted to bring the S-Charge System to the global upper limb prosthetics product market. Previously, gauging the amount of charge left to power the terminal device was via a somewhat vague method for the user - but now, users can simply check with the press of a button, and be confident that they won't be caught short on power".

Clinical Perspective

With a full system weighing only 150g, the S-Charge System is a welcome change to previous battery systems. Deborah Haworth, a prosthetist who trialled the unit said: "For many years, the battery systems we have used for upper limb myoelectric hands have been quite heavy and bulky - and fitting the full system into the forearm can be challenging. In comparison, the S-Charge System is a lightweight solution with the flexible, low profile S-Cell batteries neatly and evenly contained within the forearm, with convenient charge level display and a secure charging attachment."

Further Information

For further information on the S-Charge System, please contact Steeper Group on customerservices@steepergroup.com or call +44 (0)113 270 4841.



Patient Perspective

Richard Pollard



The story

Newly accustomed to his myoelectric hand, Richard was looking for a charging solution that would improve his awareness and provide a more cosmetic appearance. Whilst functional, the standard Lithium Polymer battery was cumbersome and sat on top of his socket, meaning he often knocked the casing, resulting in the battery falling out. Recalling one rather unfortunate event, Richard remembers singing and dancing at a gig when he looked down at his arm and saw an empty space where his battery was meant to sit. Concerned, he started looking around on the floor, but the battery was long gone never to be seen again.

The solution

Designed and manufactured by Steeper technicians, the S-Charge System is primarily an internal battery system featuring three unique components: the S-Cell batteries, Hub and Display. All three work seamlessly together to provide a flexible, discreet charging solution for myoelectric prosthesis users like Richard. The S-Charge System offers a revolutionary new alternative to prosthetic battery technology, the thin and flexible multi-configurable S-Cell batteries along with the OLED display and magnetic charger make this system not only user-friendly but also simple to install for the prosthetist and technicians.

The turning point

Hidden out of sight, Richard's S-Cell batteries are safely secured inside his socket. For Richard, this means no more batteries lost at gigs, but instead a system in which he feels confident in. Understanding more about his new myoelectric hand and its charging requirements have given Richard greater insight into his prosthesis for the first time. Being able to easily activate, deactivate and charge his prosthesis whilst monitoring the power status during use has enabled him to remain in control.

To find out more about Richard visit www.steepergroup.com

Thursday 1st March saw the launch of the new Steeper S-Charge System. After a long period of development, research and testing the new system was launched to the global prosthetics market.

With a heritage that goes back almost 100 years ago, Steeper has a strong record of continuous development and progress, particularly in the area of upper limb development. A pioneer in new technology, the S-Charge System is the latest in

a long list of prosthetic products and devices. The S-Charge System employs the very latest advances in battery technology and is a revolutionary new way of charging myoelectric prosthetic hands.

What is the S-Charge System?

The S-Charge System is a user-friendly flexible battery system with a digital display and a magnetic charger, which is fitted into a prosthetic forearm to allow the user to easily activate, deactivate and charge their prosthesis.

The system is designed to provide an improved way of working for clinicians, and an increased element of

The first UK Click Medical Training Day

Built on Boa technology, Click Medical's range of orthotic, prosthetic and casting products are revolutionising the way in which medical devices are built. With the technology available, clinicians and technicians are able to implement the Boa dials to provide unprecedented fit, function & comfort.

The first UK training day took place at Steeper HQ on the 14th and 15th February and we were pleased to welcome Leo Hessels (pictured below), experienced CPO in the Click Medical range along with our very own Clinical Support Specialist, Tim Verrall. The two training days provided clinicians and technicians in the fields of orthotics and prosthetics with a comprehensive understanding of the products available, along with their clinical and technical applications.



"The day was a great success, the orthotists, prosthetists and technicians that attended were very keen. The day proved especially useful in understanding more about the clinical applications and further guidance on common manufacturing issues, which were all resolved on the day." Dawn Henderson

"The day was very beneficial. It is always nice to know how something works and how it is supposed to be manufactured before being asked to put it together."

"Thank you, I really enjoyed the day. I am looking forward to using the RevoFit on a bikini style socket in a bid to improve the cosmesis!" Sarah Kirkwood

"I will take the information I learnt and present back to the orthotic and prosthetic teams at Leicester."

For more information on our range of Click Medical products and further training courses please visit, www.steepergroup.com

New therapeutic shoe range



At Steeper, we inherently understand the challenges and pressures that clinicians face, which is why we constantly look at new products that will help create turning points and transform lives. By partnering with world-renowned manufacturers of lower limb orthoses, we have the ability to offer clinical independence to clinicians and customers.

The Streifeneder therapeutic shoe range covers a variety of applications, helping to ensure a suitable orthosis for each and every patient. Designed to accommodate sometimes large bandages or wound dressings; the Streifeneder therapeutic shoe range also protects the injured feet and offloads the forefoot, midfoot or hindfoot dependent on the model type. All Streifeneder therapeutic shoes offer a variety of features and benefits that help improve healing, reduce infection and aid patient recovery.

To view the full range please visit www.steepergroup.com. For training, demonstrations and support please contact Richard Thomas by e-mail at, richard.thomas@steepergroup.com.

12:08

Tuesday 23rd January

was the moment when **Stuart** became part of the British Talent Squad. A keen mountain biker, Stuart revelled in the adrenaline rushes that came with the races. However, as family life took over, Stuart found that he was spending more time at the running track watching his children than on his bike racing through the countryside. Taking inspiration from his children, Stuart decided to join them on the track and add running to his repertoire, now 6 months later, Stuart is a full-time paratriathlete and looking forward to competing at the Paralympics!



Case Study Stuart Meikle



“Without the whole team at Steeper, from the socket technicians to my prosthetist Asad, and the support of the trust itself I would never have been able to have achieved what I have in 6 months. For all of this I am truly thankful and look forward to competing!”
Stuart Meikle

The story

Leaving his prosthetic care to the experts at Leeds Seacroft Hospital meant that Stuart was able to focus on his family and his business. Leading a busy life, cycling had always been a passion of Stuart's and a way for him to keep fit and healthy whilst enjoying the countryside on his doorstep. As a keen cyclist, Stuart had long been provided with a prosthesis that enabled him to enjoy the adrenaline rushes from a cross-country bike trail. With the development of the Kinegen Stream Knee and its tailored free swing mode, Asad, Stuart's prosthetist recommended that he trialled the knee to provide him with an even more comfortable ride.

The solution

Naturally gifted at cycling, Stuart was quick to notice the immediate benefits from the Kinegen Stream Knee. Not only was it smoother, more dynamic and easier to use than anything he had tried before, but it also looked exceptional. The simple switch from cycling mode to walking mode meant Stuart was able to control the resistance easily and comfortably himself, with no fiddly or lengthy modifications. With his new Kinegen Stream Knee, Stuart was

cycling more than ever. However, his increasing amount of exercise and frequent movement affected the suction strength of his socket, making it difficult to keep going during his rides. Stuart took the problem to his Steeper prosthetist, Asad at Seacroft Hospital in Leeds, who made him a carbon fibre socket fitted with the RevoFit Lanyard from Click Medical. This enabled Stuart to easily maintain the fit of his socket by tightening the dial a click or two, providing him with the “best cycling limb” he has ever had.

The turning point

For Stuart, life really has begun at 40. Having always had a passion for cycling and inspired by his children to take up running, he was soon securing personal bests that were of Paralympic triathlon standard! A natural athlete and motivated by his Steeper prosthetist Asad, Stuart recently secured funding to become a full-time paratriathlete and now firmly has his sights set on an Paralympic podium position.

To find out more about Stuart visit www.steepergroup.com