

**National Association of Cytologists
Annual Conference 2007**

Friday 6 July 2007 to Sunday 8 July

Evaluation Report

National Association of Cytologists

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Summary

The NAC conference was held at Keele University on Friday 6 July to Sunday 8 July 2007. Over 260 delegates, speakers and exhibitors attended the conference.

The change of venue from York to Keele University proved to be a popular move. Several delegates responded to the new venue as 'lovely' in an 'excellent location'. The change of date for the conference was received with mixed views; the majority of delegates responded well to the change, finding July more suitable for funding as it was in the new financial year. Some delegates however stated that July was more problematic in arranging time off due to covering other colleague's holiday time.

Keele University provided ideal facilities for a well laid-out exhibition and easily accommodated the various activities that took place over the three days.

With several booking options available to delegates prior to the conference, all information was sent out in plenty of time and allowed for a relaxed atmosphere for the start of the conference. Information was clearly communicated to delegates prior and during the conference resulting in a smooth running order as clearly identified in the conference guide.

The exhibition hall was of good size and easy to navigate with stands considered to be of high quality and providing relevant information. Refreshments were served within the exhibition hall during breaks from the plenary room, this allowed for plenty of time for delegates to view and enjoy the exhibition.

Lunch and evening meals were served in the University restaurant, with exception of the Saturday Gala dinner which was held at Keele Hall. Catering was commented as 'excellent'. The only criticism for the catering being a request for more vegetarian options in the future.

The evening entertainment for both the 'school days' and Gala dinner nights were highly praised with one delegate stating the 'disco had a very good balance of 60's, 80's and present day music, with plenty of dance music, the dance floor was always full'. The Gala dinner was commended for producing a good atmosphere to create a special night.

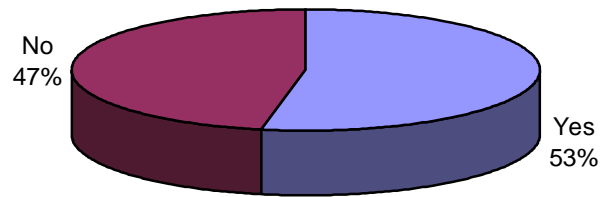
All of the speakers proved to be popular and interesting, with particular praise for Dr Tanya Levine, Robin Moseley and Professor David Purdie. Several delegates commented on an interest to have the presentations 'linked to the NAC website to compliment their notes' and that they 'wished the talks had gone on longer'. All speakers were well received and covered relevant topics of interest to the delegates.

The feedback for the conference was excellent with the majority of delegates finding it 'enjoyable, interesting and educational'. Although some delegates did disagree over the location and the month of choice for the conference, one delegate summed it up by saying 'you can't please every one'. The main criticisms for the conference were that the air conditioning was a little too cold within the lecture theatre and some would have liked a longer time slot for each of the speakers.

Several attendees commented that the conference was good value for money and they were looking forward to next year.

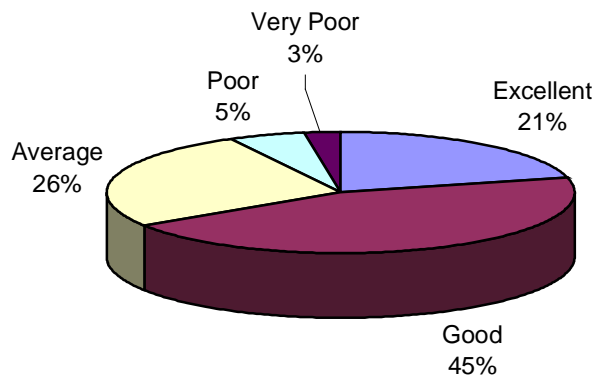
The following evaluation report is based on comments received from 89 delegates representing 34% of the conference audience.

Did you visit the NAC website prior to booking?

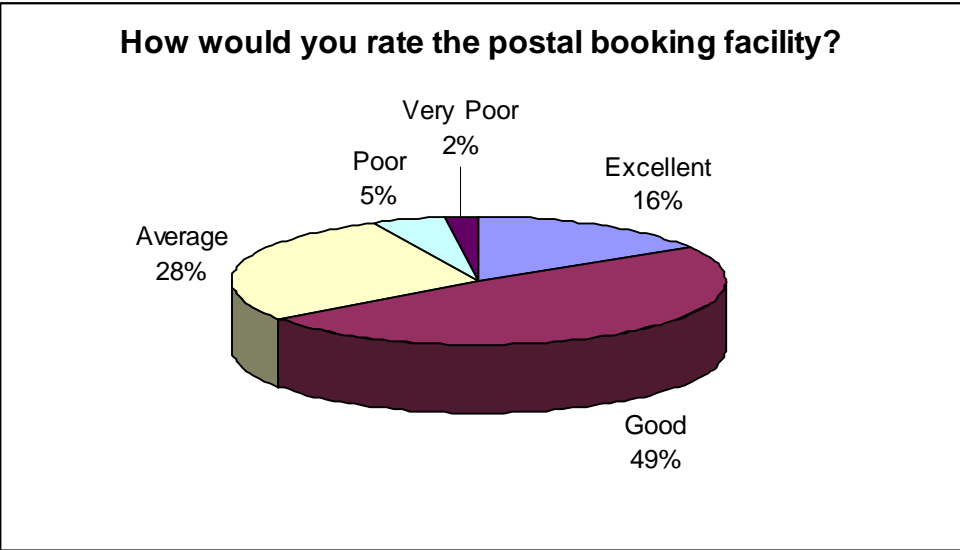


The majority of the respondents had visited the website prior to booking.

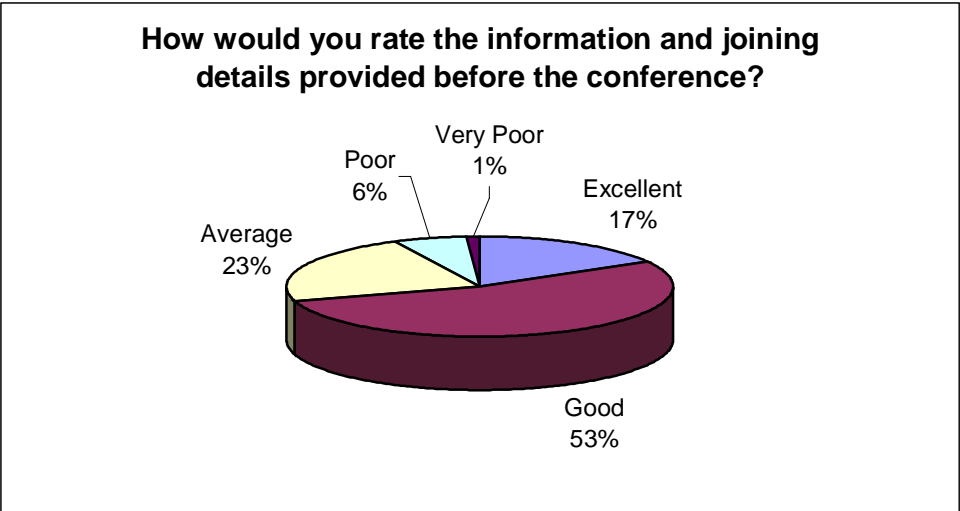
How would you rate the online booking facility?



38 delegates responded to the question regarding the online booking facility. Over 66% of those 38 respondents found the online booking facility good, including 21% who considered it excellent.

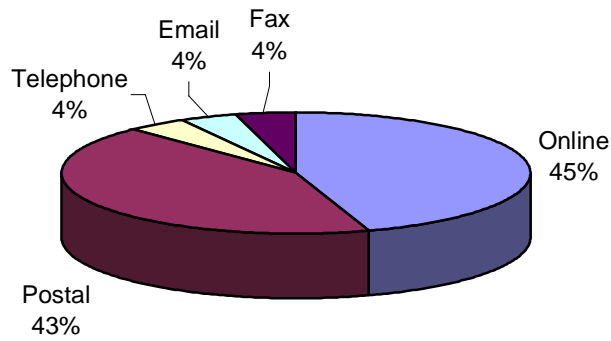


43 delegates responded to the question regarding the postal booking facility. The postal booking facility was popular with over 65% of those 43 respondents finding it good including 16% who found it excellent.



Over 93% of respondents found the information provided before the conference to be average, good or excellent.

Which was the most popular booking option?

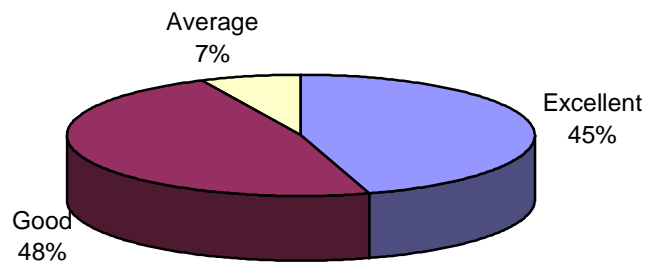


The online and postal booking facilities were the most popular booking methods.

Further comments:

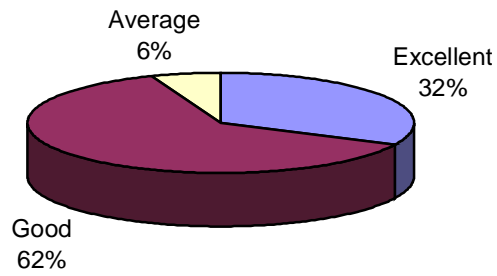
- Online booking very useful for "last minute" registration.
- Excellent - used telephone and fax methods.
- Postal- Best because of work invoicing etc.

How would you rate the registration desk staff?



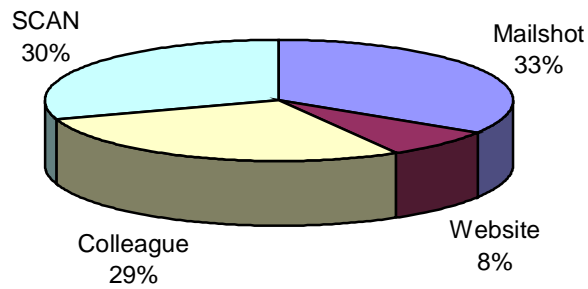
93% of respondents found the registration desk staff good including 45% who found them excellent.

How did you rate the information provided in the delegate's bag you received?



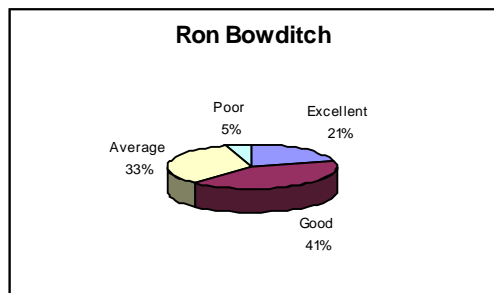
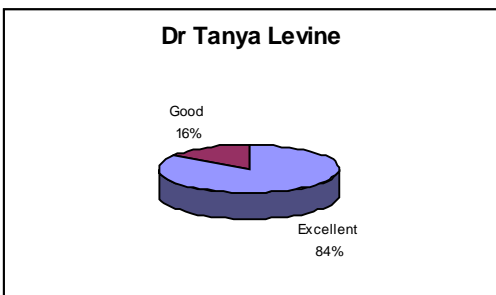
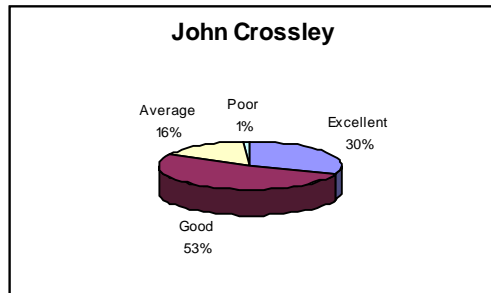
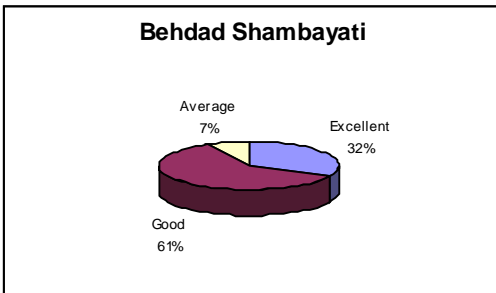
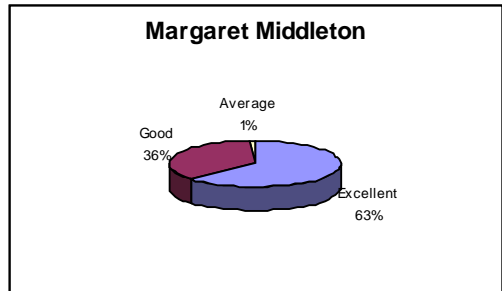
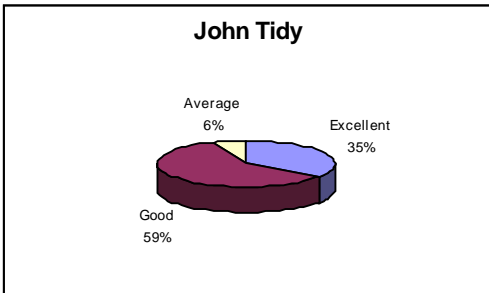
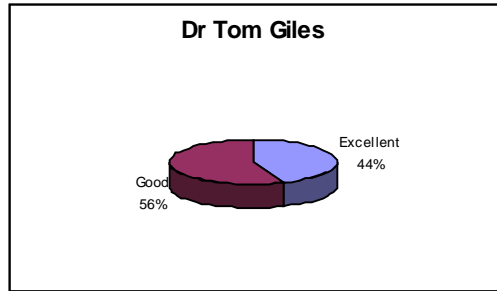
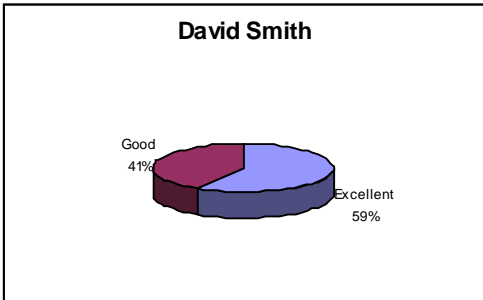
Information provided in the delegate bags was well received with 94% of respondents finding it excellent or good.

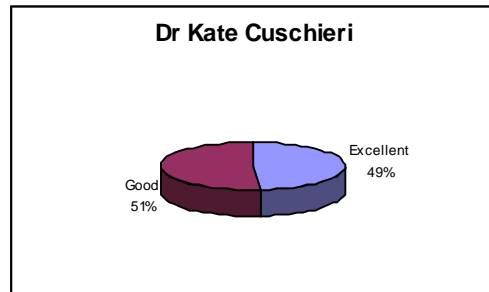
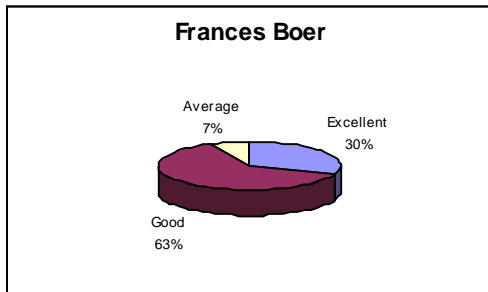
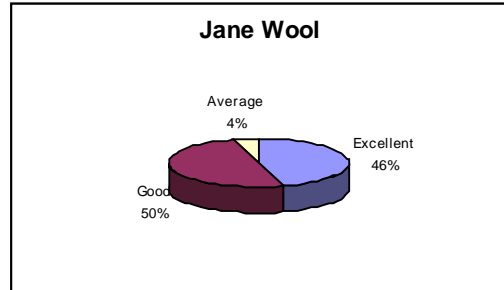
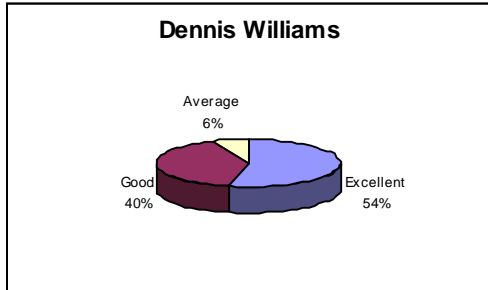
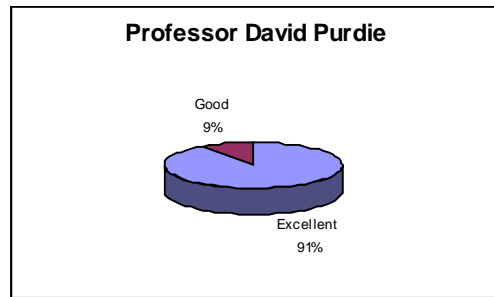
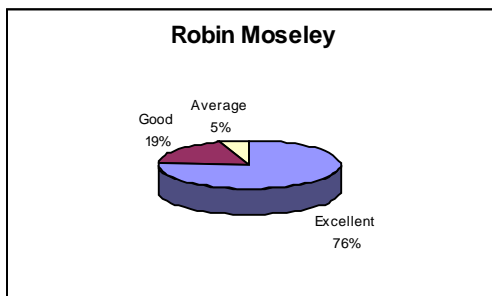
Where did you first hear about this conference?



Awareness of this conference was best communicated through the use of mailshot, scan and word of mouth.

How did you rate the quality of the speakers during the conference?

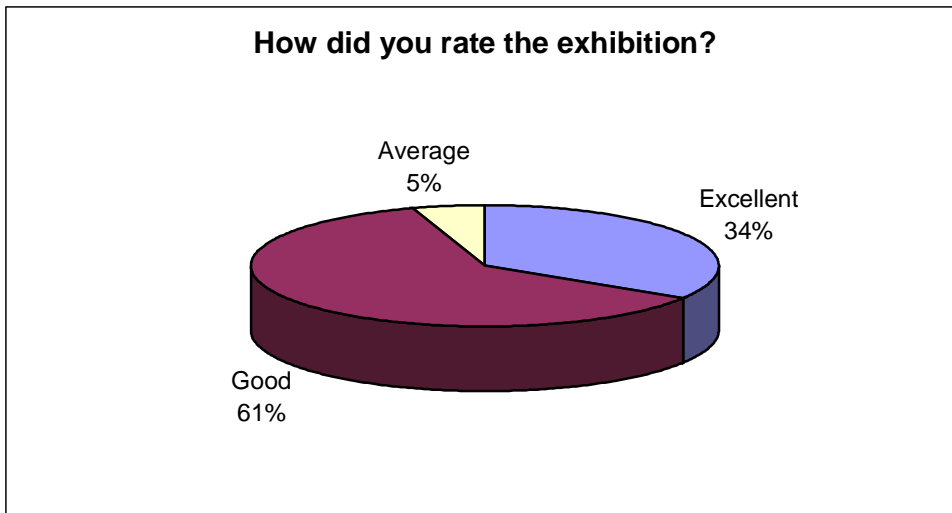




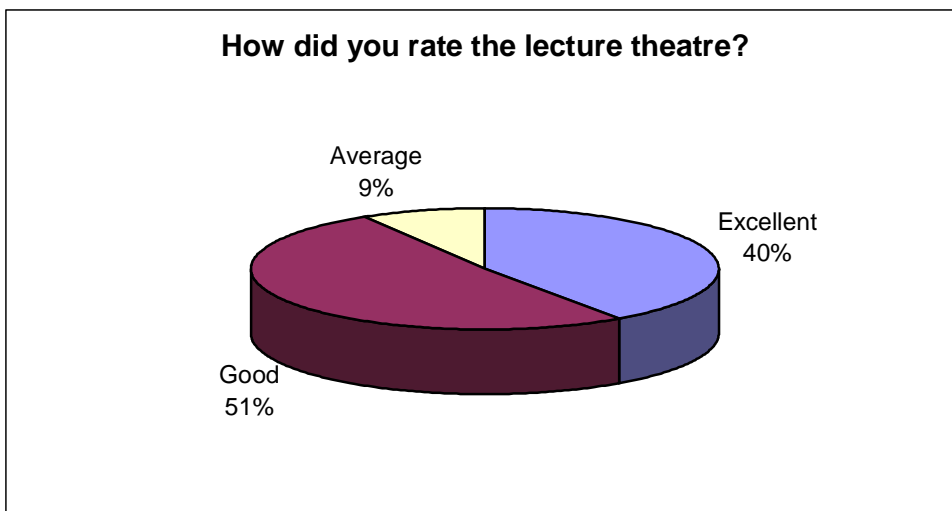
All speakers were well received particularly Dr Tanya Levine, Robin Moseley and Professor David Purdie.

Further comments:

- Enjoyed Professor Purdie's talk, wish it could have lasted longer.
- Ron Bowditch was very good but was hard to follow as too much was on each slide.
- The extra speaker Andrew Ash was good especially as a last minute substitute.



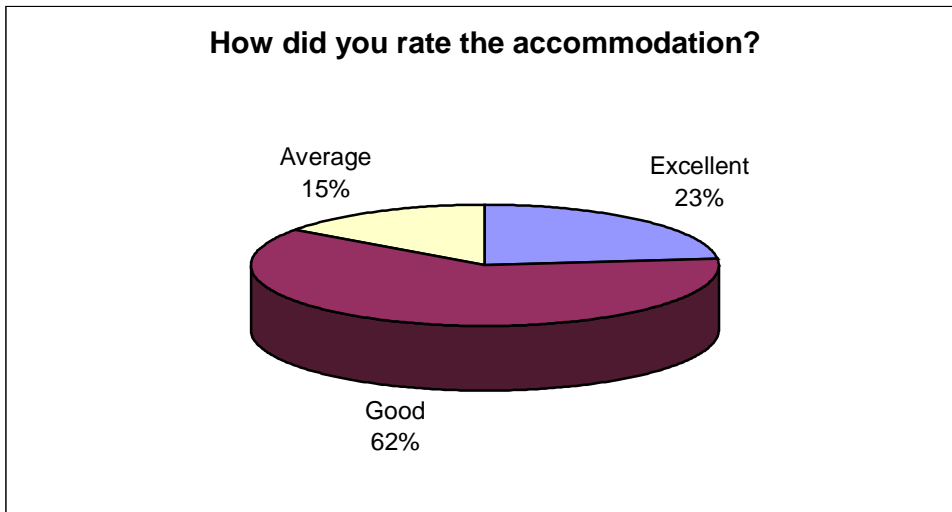
With over 95% of respondents in agreement the exhibition was considered good or excellent.



The lecture theatre was well received with over 91% of respondents agreeing it was good or excellent.

Further comments:

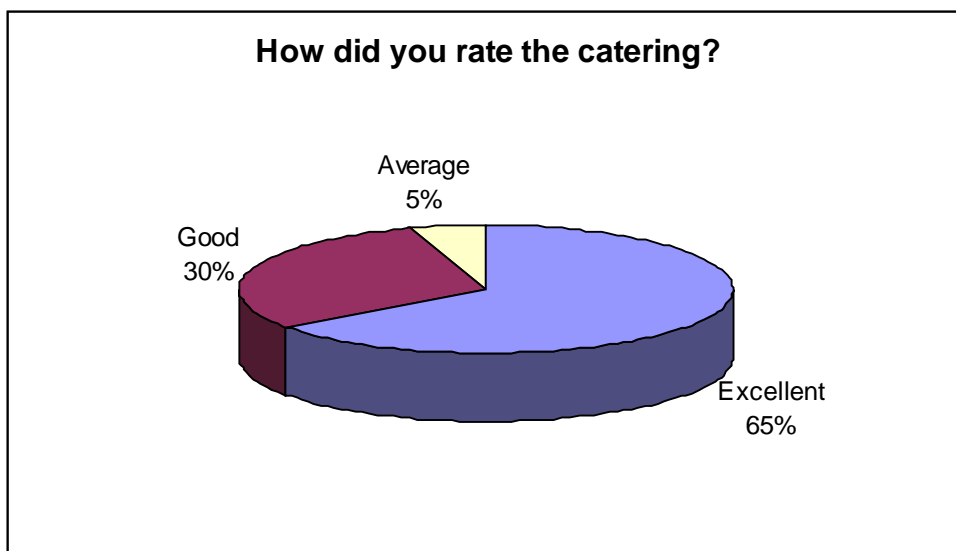
- The air conditioning was set too cold for comfort in the lecture theatre.



The accommodation was popular among the respondents with 85% finding it good or excellent.

Further comments:

- The room and bathroom were clean and of good size.
- The accommodation was a bit noisy and the outside lights shone in, but other than that a lovely and very comfortable room.
- Accommodation was better than previous locations.
- Created a 'friendly feel' having all delegates together.

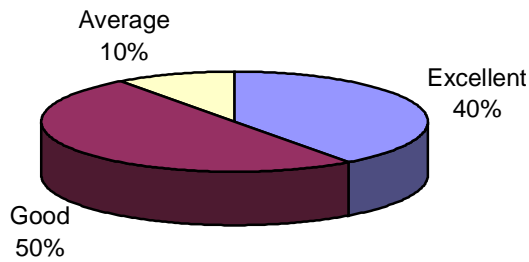


95% of respondents considered the catering to be good, including 65% who found it excellent.

Further comments:

- All food absolutely excellent.
- The catering was the best ever at an NAC conference.
- The food was splendid and very tasty, very efficient waiters.
- More vegetarian options would have been well received.

How did you rate the School Days themed evening/disco on Friday 6 July 2007?

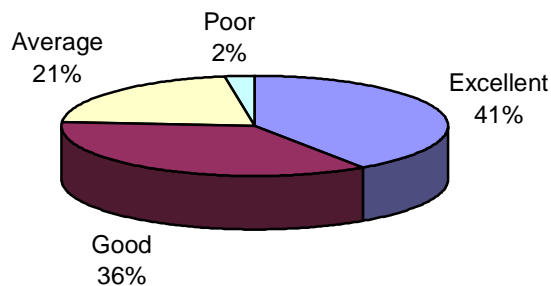


90% of respondents found the Friday School Days themed evening good, including 40% who found it excellent.

Further comments:

- The dance floor was always full.

How did you rate the conference gala dinner on Saturday 7 July 2007?

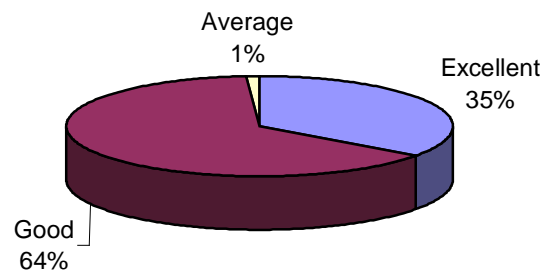


77% of respondents found the gala dinner to be good, including 41% who thought it was excellent.

Further comments:

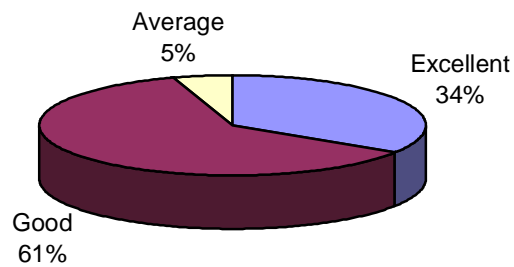
- A thoroughly enjoyable conference, Keele Hall was a superb venue for the gala dinner, the venue had a more intimate feel to it.
- If the gala is held at Keele next year could the mini bus run a trip at 10.30 and 11.30 as well?
- Very good atmosphere, it felt very special.

Overall how did you rate the scientific content of this conference?



99% of respondents found the scientific content good.

Overall how did you rate the educational value of this conference?



95% of respondents found the educational value of the conference to be good, with 34% finding it excellent.

Further comments:

- The conference was educational and very rewarding.
- The committee has obviously worked very hard to give us an exciting and educational programme. It paid off, well done the executives – worth every penny.

Comments regarding the location and ease of accessibility for Keele University:

- Tricky to get to from Inverness but reasonably cheap with flight to Liverpool.
- Good signs to University from M6
- Not an easy drive on a Friday night.
- Well sign posted and easy to get to.
- Travelled by train – easily accessible.

Comments regarding the conference being held in July:

- Good for travelling before schools break-up and doesn't clash with other conferences.
- July is fine, but try to avoid the Wimbledon finals weekend.
- July is good as payment is in the new financial year, which is beneficial for most trusts.

General Comments:

- Having the AGM on the day when most members are present such as Saturday would be better.
- My first conference and it was most enjoyable, will definitely be returning – funds permitting.
- Excellent catering and organisation.
- The conference was educational and very rewarding.
- Thank you for all your hard work, I had an enjoyable time, much appreciated.
- Keele conference staff provided an excellent service.

Suggestions for future conference topics or speakers:

- More non-cytologists topics – thoroughly enjoyed the osteoporosis talk.
- Difficulty in the interpretation of dyskaryosis in the immature and matured metaplastic cells on LBC slides.
- Topic on the merging of cytology laboratories and its effects on staff.
- Histology for cytology was excellent, but cut short, the full talk would have been good to hear.
- Experience of labs using LBC methods benefits and glitches of each system.
- Some developing world cytologists EG: Jacqui Doran's trip to Guiana (R.IE).
- Some speakers were cut short on Friday afternoon whose talks were very interesting.
- Maybe bring back Dr Moseley and Professor Purdie.
- Forensics - any topic- always entertaining.
- At the European congress in Venice 2006, I met a group of people working for an organisation called 'Pathologi'. They provided pathology equipment for laboratories in, usually war torn areas of the world e.g. Palestine, former Yugoslavia etc. They are also interested in re-cycling disused second hand equipment. All labs have storerooms with old centrifuges, cytopins, straining machines and even 'cervi kits'. It would be nice to get them along to give a brief 30 minute talk and perhaps get some of us involved in emptying our cupboards, after all we need the space with LBC.
- I've heard of a consultant from the University of Manchester/ MRI who can tell what's wrong with a patient by examining their synovial fluid. He has got this down to a fine art and is an interesting speaker. This might be good for your non-gynal slot.