**AFMS Meeting: Chamonix January 2016**

It’s possible to have a reasonable command of a language and still to make schoolboy errors. So when the author was asked “Vous êtes doux?” by a very French lady on a chairlift in Les Houches, and gave the reply “Oui, je l’ai entendu.” It took a moment or two of mutual bewilderment before he realised that the question was in fact “Vous êtes d’ou?” Homophones have a lot to answer for.

It was one of many lighter moments during this year’s winter meeting in Chamonix. Once again, the “accueil chaleureux” at the Hotel Aiguille du Midi was second to none. We enjoyed wonderful accommodation, superb dining, and, of course, first class company provided by fellow members of the AFMS. It was great to meet old friends, and also to meet new members, who were venturing into our regular base in Les Bossons for the first time.

The academic component of the meeting was – as usual – highly interactive, with a lot of group discussion, surrounding the three talks which embraced imaging of the lumbar spine, the problem of minor head injuries in rugby players, and a very stimulating comparison of the UK health system with those of other European nations. All good and relevant subjects for continuing professional development.

The skiing was fine too. We seemed to benefit from a break in the weather between a paucity of snow before Christmas, and torrential rain showers, which appeared after we left. A couple of days were really splendid, with a large group of members enjoying skiing ‘en masse’ at Brévent-Flégère. Pity however that nobody wanted to chance their arm (literally) on the long black run back to Chamonix town centre because of “enneigement faible”. But so be it, the ride down in the télécabine was a safer option.

Lunchtime raclettes, vins chauds, and of course, numerous Leffe beers in the Agile Rabbit added to the sense of occasion. It’s already in the diary for next year. If you haven’t been before, then do come and join us!