

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**  
**held at Charing Cross Hospital, London**  
**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 1997**

1 The Minutes of the AGM held on 29 November 1996 were agreed.

2 **Secretary's Report**

The Meetings Secretary's role had been taken over by Nick Francis while Nick Rooney continues as General Secretary running the office of the British Division along with Carol Harris.

Dr P Furness has taken over the role of Divisional Editor from Mike Wells. He has also established the new Web Site for the Division.

Currently Council has representation from Ireland, Belgium and The Netherlands as well as the UK. The Constitution may need to be amended to ensure wide representation continues in the future.

This year our meetings have again attracted a high level of support. The Annual meeting was on Intestinal Disease, a programme devised by Dr Neil Shepherd. This meeting was attended by over 200 participants. The Saturday slide seminars also attracted keen interest with sessions on Breast Pathology (Drs Wells and Shousha), Renal Pathology (Dr Furness) and Testicular Pathology (Drs Ansell and McIver). The success of these sessions has unfortunately led to the introduction of tickets to limit attendance to those who have registered. Although we have been able to accommodate 'last minute' attendance in the past, in these days of CME, booking is now essential. We are grateful to Professor Henry and Dr Francis for the use of the facilities at Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School.

In April Professor Mary Leader organised an excellent programme on Soft Tissue Lesions in Dublin. The scientific content was extremely good and well received by all. Over 100 participants travelled to Dublin and enjoyed excellent Irish hospitality at the meeting.

The University of Bath hosted the September meeting on Head and Neck Pathology. The scientific programme was organised by Dr Roddy Simpson and again over 100 attended despite the competition from UK and European meetings. Again both the scientific and social aspects were well received.

We are indebted to the speakers who give their time and supply blocks for the slide seminars. Also to the members of the host departments who put considerable effort into making our meetings a success.

Our links with other divisions continue. Professor Tony Freemont and Dr Robin Reid ran a slide seminar on Bone and Joint Disease for the Polish Division in Warsaw.

Dr David Ansell attended the Arab Division meeting in Beirut and ran a slide seminar on Urological Pathology. Both these sessions were well received and the British Division is amongst the best in the world in its liaisons with new Divisions.

Last year two African Pathologists spent short study visits in the British Division after the International Congress in Budapest. Council has agreed to offer a limited number of bursaries to young pathologists from developing countries to attend meetings or Departments in the British Division. An advertisement will be carried in International Pathology and application forms will be available from the office.

Distinguished Pathologists in the British Division are frequently invited to talk or run slide seminars at the International Congress. Unlike most meetings, speakers at the International Congress are self financing and even have to pay the registration fee. Council has agreed that a limited number of bursaries will now be available to support the expenses of invited speakers. The British Division will continue to meet the expenses for speakers at the Divisional meetings.

Finally the Secretary acknowledged the fine secretarial assistance and organisational ability of Carol Harris. All British Division activity from membership to meetings is organised by Carol from her attic!

The Secretary thanked the retiring Councillors Drs Simpson and McMahon for their contribution over the last few years. He also thanked Professor Mike Wells for the six years he spent as Secretary and four years as Divisional Editor.

### **3 Meetings Secretary**

Nick Francis gave an account of forthcoming meetings, which continue to be advertised in Histopathology. Some problems had been experienced in the distribution of programmes and booking forms. This is under review and it is hoped will become more reliable in the future.

### **4 Treasurer's Report**

The accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting showing that the Division is in a healthy position with the general fund increasing by £40,000 from 1996. Income dropped due to the cost of setting up the new Editorial Office for Histopathology in Sheffield. Speakers at British Division meetings are now paid their expenses and therefore a loss is usual on the meetings.

In the past those invited to speak at the International Congress or meetings of other Divisions were expected to fund themselves, so bursaries have been set up to help with expenses. These will be approximately £500.00 per person.

It was suggested that the Belgian and Dutch bank accounts be closed. The Charities Commission is getting tighter and we need to have a tight reign on our accounts. Payments can be received either with a credit card or by Eurocheque. A letter will be sent out to everyone asking them to change their method of payment for the future.

Subscriptions will remain at £65.00 for Histopathology/£125.00 for Histopathology and either Modern Pathology or Laboratory Investigation and £185.00 for all three publications.

## 5. **Editors Report - Histopathology**

Submissions The number of submissions (all contributions) received during the first nine months of 1997 was 379, corresponding to a rate of 505 manuscripts per annum and a significant increase on the number reported for 1996. The vast majority of submissions come from outside the UK (particularly from Japan and the Asia-Pacific region); this accords with the experience of other British biomedical journals. The rejection rate is approximately 50%. A significant number of full case reports are now accepted only as correspondence.

Refereeing Process We now have a substantial database of active and potential referees linked to areas of expertise. The Editor takes this opportunity to thank members of the British Division of the IAP for their help with refereeing.

Format and Content The alterations to the format of the journal have been implemented. "From this month's Histopathology" has been particularly well received. We have a sufficient number of reviews commissioned to ensure that each issue contains one.

## 6 **Council Elections**

The announcement of the new Councillors was made and they are:

Dr E W Benbow  
Professor B Corrin  
Dr I O Ellis  
Dr N A Shepherd

## 7 **Any Other Business**

None

The meeting was closed.