

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at the Commonwealth Institute, London

Friday, 28 November 2003

1. The Minutes of the last AGM held at RAI Conference Centre, Amsterdam were on 8 October 2002 were agreed.

2. **Secretary's Report**

Another busy year of pathology education has passed. It has been, once again, a successful year with the highlight undoubtedly being our hosting of the XXIV International Congress of the IAP, in Amsterdam in October 2002. This was a hugely successful meeting with more delegates than expected, excellent scientific sessions and marvellous social events. To cap it all, the meeting made a reasonable profit. Very grateful thanks are due to our President and the Chairman of the Organising Committee, Professor Jan van den Tweel, whose enormous energy, wise counsel and bonhomie were the main reasons behind the success of the meeting. Grateful thanks are also due to Organising Committee, Professor Sibrand Poppema, Dr Nick Francis and Dr Alec Howat, for their organisational skills and to the Conference Organisers, EuroCongress.

The second joint meeting of the Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland and the BDIAP was held in Bristol in July 2003. This was, also, a most successful meeting: there were more than 400 delegates and there was strong praise for the quality of the scientific sessions and the social events. Thanks are due to Professor Massimo Pignatelli, the local organiser, and the Organising Committee for an excellent joint meeting. Things bode well for the next joint meeting in Newcastle in July 2005. Council has discussed ways of ensuring that the BDIAP's profile remains equally high for these joint meetings and that the research-directed sessions of the Pathological Society are equally balanced by educational sessions, in the BDIAP mould, attracting a broad range of pathologists from our constituent countries, the UK, Ireland and the Low Countries, and elsewhere.

Because of these two important meetings, it was an unusual year for the BDIAP with none of the more traditional symposia. This next year fits more into the traditional BDIAP programme with a Symposium on Lymphoreticular Disease in London on 28-29 November 2003, organised by my predecessor (BDIAP General Secretary) Nick Rooney and a Symposium on Non Neoplastic Dermatopathology in Brussels, 7-8 May 2004, organised by Professor Eric von Marck. We are then back in London for a Symposium on Pulmonary Pathology 26-27 November 2004.

Over the past year, Council has sustained its co-operation with 'developing' countries. The advancement of the Arab School of Pathology has continued. These meetings are strongly appreciated by our colleagues in the Arab world and the energy and enthusiasm of our IAP Vice President, Professor Kristin Henry, is largely responsible for their success. We hope the same will be said for our advancements of Pathology in Africa. Funding is established for our two traineeships in Pathology for training pathologists from disadvantaged Anglophone African countries. We hope to be undertaking the first interviews for these posts in the near future. In October 2002, Professor Peter Furness became our first 'goodwill ambassador' to the APECSA (Association of Pathology of East, Central and South Africa) meeting in Mombasa, Kenya and Professor Alistair Burt represented us at the ADIAP Annual Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa, in June 2003. Council has agreed to continue to support ambassadors and lecturers attending these annual and biennial meetings.

There have been changes to Council membership this year. Professor James Underwood finished his term as our President in October 2002 and became President of the Royal College of Pathologists. We all offer our most grateful thanks to him for his excellent stewardship over the two years. The 'Underwood Initiative', the BDIAP's support for pathology undergraduate education, is now enshrined into BDIAP practice and will no doubt benefit many, including present and future members of the Division. Professor Jan Van den Tweel, fresh from the huge success of the Amsterdam International Congress, replaces him. More recently Dr Nick Francis has tendered his resignation from the role of Meetings Secretary, a position that he has held, with great dynamism, intuition and good grace, for 6 years. Grateful thanks are due to Nick. Council has accepted the nomination of Dr Bryan Warren to succeed him. Dr Warren has a hard act to follow! The October 2003 Council meeting was also the last for five Councillors. Professor Eric von Marck has finished his term as Continental Councillor and is replaced by Professor Mary Leader from Dublin. Furthermore three Councillors (apart from Bryan Warren who retains his place as new Meetings Secretary) are leaving after three years' service – grateful thanks are due to Professor Alistair Burt, Dr John Coyne and Dr Nassif Ibrahim.

I would like to add my grateful thanks to all my colleagues in the BDIAP. Mrs Carol Harris, our Administrative Secretary, works selflessly for the BDIAP and is central to its continuing success. Dr Alec Howat is unsurpassed as Treasurer and is also an important councillor for his sensible advice and rich

experience. Council is delighted that Professor Peter Furness has agreed to continue as our Divisional Editor: his development of the website and of our international relations is also increasingly important for the continuing success of the Division.

3. Treasurer and Membership Secretary's Report

Financial details are on the attached Audited Accounts.

Despite a difficult year for financial markets, the Society continues to flourish with a net increase of £15,268 for 2002/03. This reflects the continuing financial success of Histopathology (£142,428) and a successful International Congress. Unsurprisingly, ABN AMRO and COIF investments made a paper loss of £133,184. Direct charitable expenditure was £154,864 compared with £124,100 for 2001/02 reflecting the continued duties of Council members and Officers and the extra work involved with staging the International Congress in Amsterdam. Management and Administration costs were almost identical to 2001/02.

The Society's total assets at 30 June 2003 were valued at £957,082 compared with £941,814 at 30 June 2002.

A number of applicants have taken up Junior membership for the annual fee of just £10. Evidence of Trainee status is required when applying for Junior membership of the BDIAP.

Council recommends the cost of Histopathology and membership of the Society to rise by £5 per year to £75 for 2004 comparing most favourably with similar Societies in the UK. The cost of Modern Pathology and Laboratory Investigation to members of the British Division of the IAP will rise to £65 per journal. Please inform the Administrative Secretary before the end of 2003 if you wish to subscribe to either or both of these journals in 2004.

The Treasurer once again warmly thanks Carol Harris, Administrative Secretary, for all her invaluable help during the year. He also thanks the Auditor, Mr Raj Visana of Visana Chartered Accountants, for help in preparing the accounts for the membership, and the Charity Commission annual report.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Handbook

This was reprinted in 2000. Any further changes in title, address, phone number, fax number and email address should be sent to the Administrative Secretary, Carol Harris.

Membership

Total membership is 1208, of which 25 are Senior members and 13 Honorary members. There are 885 members from the UK, 97 from the Netherlands, 94 from Belgium, 36 from Eire with 96 from other countries.

4. Editor's Report – Histopathology

The Editor said that he was into his 11th month on the journal. He reported on the on-going success of Histopathology and the increase in impact factor. There was also an increase in on-line activity. The Editor sought approval of the membership to implement a prize. He said that it would not only raise the status of the journal but also the subscriptions. The prize would be based on the best paper in the year agreed by the Editorial Board and the Council. Blackwells had agreed to fund 50% of the prize which would be \$10,000 or Euros. The first prize would be awarded in the first six months of 2004 on submissions to the journal in 2003. Professor Roddy MacSween had been appointed to Chair the panel. All members present were in favour of this and it was passed.

5. Any Other Business

- i Professor Henry presented the President, Professor Jan van den Tweel, with a plaque which had been given by the Arab Division of the IAP to the British Division in appreciation of our on going support for education in their division.
- ii The President announced the results of the ballot to select four new Council members to replace those who were retiring at this AGM. The newly appointed Councillors were Professor G Williams, Dr R McMahon, Dr S Manek and Dr G McCluggage. They will all serve a term of three years.
- iii The President announced that it was six years since the last George Cunningham medal had been awarded. The Division had therefore been taken to award this medal to Professor Rudi Heimann from Brussels for his contribution to the Division over many years.

There was no further business and the meeting was concluded.