

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at The Royal College of Surgeons, London

Friday, 26 November 2006

1. The Minutes of the last AGM held at The Hilton Paddington Hotel, London on 25 November 2005 were agreed.

2. **Election of Officers and Councillors**

Professor Christopher Elston was thanked for his contribution to the BDIAP during the last two years as President. Professor Claude Cuvelier from Belgium succeeds him and it was announced that Professor Geraint Williams would be the new President Elect. Dr Alec Howat is retiring having served for twelve years as Treasurer. He was thanked for the work that he had done on behalf of the BDIAP during the ten years of his term of office. Dr Ray McMahon replaces him. There had been six nominations for the four vacant Councillors and the result of the ballot was announced. The new Councillors are Professor Sarah Pinder, Dr Ian Roberts, Dr Mark Smith and Professor Andrew Nicholson. The two new Junior Councillors were announced as Dr Lisa Browning and Dr Katherine Robertson.

3. **General Secretary's Report**

The BDIAP has had another highly successful year of pathological education and advancement. Our financial reserves remain very strong and this has enabled us to progress our initiatives for pathology education in our member countries and elsewhere. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Dr Alec Howat, who is retiring as our Treasurer at the end of 2006. He has made an enormous contribution to the success of the Division and this has been acknowledged this year by the awarding of a Cunningham medal to him. We have also awarded this year's President's Medal to Professor Bryan Corrin, also a long term strong supporter of the BDIAP and its ideals.

We have continued our strong support for initiatives abroad, including the development of training fellowships in Africa and the Arab British School of Pathology. Following the continued success of the latter, we have established a Sri Lankan British School of Pathology. This is currently being organised with the first meeting scheduled for September 2007. We have continued our support for undergraduate training in pathology through our various grants and scholarships. We have developed other educational initiatives in Southern Asia, especially India, and have also organised pathology education meetings in Bosnia and elsewhere.

Our collaboration with the Pathological Society remains strong and, in July 2005, we had an excellent joint meeting in Newcastle. We acknowledge the organisational skills of our two Meetings secretaries, Bryan Warren and Massimo Pignatelli, and of the local organiser, Alastair Burt, himself a recent Councillor of the BDIAP. Our autumn meeting featured Lower GI pathology. The programme was organised by our General Secretary but seemed to be very well received by more than 250 delegates. Another highly successful meeting was held in Utrecht in May 2006: the subject matter was Soft Tissue Tumours and Bone Tumours. It was superbly organised by our former President, Jan van den Tweel. Its professional and social aspects were greatly appreciated by all who attended.

Professor Christopher Elston nears the end of his Presidency. This has been very successful, culminating in the organisation of an 'Awayday' in April 2006 in which the BDIAP was set on its way for the next 10 years. We have revised the Constitution (see below) and have agreed new initiatives in many areas of our fields of interest. This year there have been no changes to Council membership.

As part of our responsibilities for the Charity Commission, this report requires to demonstrate the following information:

List of Trustees: Professor C W Elston, Chairman & President; Professor C Cuvelier, President-Elect; Professor J van den Tweel, Past President; Professor K Henry, European Vice President; Professor N A Shepherd, General Secretary; Dr A J Howat, Treasurer; Dr B F Warren, Meetings Secretary; Professor P N Furness, Divisional Editor; Professor M Wells, Editor, Histopathology; Professor P A Hall, Councillor; Professor M Leader, Councillor; Professor W G McCluggage, Councillor; Dr R F T McMahon, Councillor; Dr S Manek, Councillor; Dr S Wells, Councillor; Professor G T Williams, Councillor

Policy on Risk Management: The Charity Trustees have given due consideration to the risks to which the Charity is exposed and systems designed to mitigate those risks. The major risk is the issue of Open Access related to articles in the Charity's journal 'Histopathology'. Should Open Access be implemented in its entirety, the Charity would potentially lose its entire income from the Journal that amounts to over 50% of the annual income. The Trustees are monitoring the situation closely. In the interim, the amount spent on charitable deeds has inevitably to be titrated against realistic sustainable income from members' dues and meetings' profits.

Policy on Reserves: The reserves have continued to increase year-on-year, being £1,329,044 on 30.6.05. This is despite significant increases in charitable expenditure, especially on the development of Pathology in the developing world. The reserves are needed to counteract the potential of Open Access (see under Policy on Risk Management) that could have a significant impact on the Charity.

Finally I would like to sincerely acknowledge all my colleagues on Council of the BDIAP. Mrs Carol Harris, our Administrative Secretary, is pivotal to the continuing success of the BDIAP and works tirelessly. She has, this year, increased her hours, given the burden of work that Council and the BDIAP place upon her. Dr Alec Howat has been a marvellous Treasurer in his 12 years of stewardship and we look forward to Dr Ray McMahon taking the pecuniary reins in the autumn. Our Divisional Editor, Professor Peter Furness, has completely redeveloped our website and this now includes on-line booking of our meetings. Increasingly, the website, with electronic communication, is becoming the key interface with our members and Peter is central to the continuing success of the Division. Dr Bryan Warren is well established, as our Meetings Secretary and the success of our meetings are a testament to his endeavours and organisational skills. Professor Christopher Elston has been an excellent President: he has introduced many new initiatives and was the prime mover and shaker for the AwayDay, which has resulted in many new developments for the Society. It remains a great pleasure for me to be associated with these friends and colleagues.

Council and I hope that many of you will be present at the Breast Pathology Meeting in London at the end of November, not least to attend our AGM. Following, on the next page, is the proposed new Constitution for the Division. The old Constitution is out of date (having been written in 1961 with minor alterations since, most recently in 1997) and many of the articles require updating and offices and practices require revision. Please read the proposed new Constitution carefully. If you suggest modifications, please send suggestions to me at neil.shepherd@glos.nhs.uk prior to the AGM or discuss them at the AGM.

List of Trustees –

Professor C W Elston, Chairman and President of the BDIAP
Professor C Cuvelier, President Elect
Professor J van den Tweel, Past President
Professor K Henry, European Vice President
Professor N A Shepherd, General Secretary
Dr A J Howat, Treasurer & Membership Secretary
Dr B Warren, Meetings Secretary
Professor P N Furness, Divisional Editor
Professor M Wells, Editor, Histopathology
Professor M Leader, Continental Councillor
Professor P A Hall, Councillor
Dr S Manek, Councillor
Dr W G McCluggage, Councillor
Dr R F T McMahon, Councillor
Dr S Wells, Councillor
Professor G T Williams, Councillor

4. Meeting Secretary's Report

The task of Meetings Secretary to the BDIAP is remarkably straight forward compared to being Meetings Secretary for almost any other organisation I have been involved with. The IAP has a tradition of excellent and popular one-day educational meetings, which have run successfully for many years and it would seem a shame to change that. However, I have tried to "fiddle round the edges" to try to make things more convivial. We have maintained a repertoire of star speakers at these one-day educational meetings and to focus them on diagnostic issues in Histopathology.

The venue for the winter meeting has always been in London and there is no apparent opportunity to change this. This means that the cost of venues is really very high. I have circumvented this slightly by using my contacts at the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the College has provided us, with what I hope you will agree, are excellent meeting facilities, very generous lunches and minor details of house-keeping to cut down on potentially irritating factors such as long lunch queues etc. These aspects at other venues can be really quite poor in my experience. The lecture facilities are very good in the College, with excellent audio-visual support; so the speakers feel they are being looked after rather more than when they arrive at a hotel, not knowing what they are supposed to be doing next. We have had a very successful Gastrointestinal One Day Meeting, which I reported on in the last newsletter. I have tried to slightly put my 'stamp' on the meetings by including speakers who will give us a good indication of the bits of pathology which are clinically relevant and those which are not. We look forward to an excellent Breast Pathology Meeting in London in 2006 and I am very grateful to the specialty organisers for putting these programmes together and in the case of the Breast Meeting this has been done entirely by Dr Sarah Pinder and I am delighted to inform you that this is a meeting which has been designed to celebrate the work of Professor Chris Elston, our President. The meeting is dedicated to Professor Elston and I am equally delighted to tell you that Professor Sir James Underwood has accepted my invitation to say a few words about Professor Elston and his work after the dinner.

By the time this newsletter is printed several of you and several of us will have attended the International Congress of the IAP in Montreal. The congress runs from the 16-21 September 2006 and the Breast Pathology Meeting is 24-25 November 2006.

The specialty organisers really do make these meetings work and I am very grateful to Professor Jan van den Tweel for the excellent Bone and Soft Tissue Pathology Meeting in Utrecht.

The date for the joint meeting in Glasgow i.e. Glasgow Pathology 2007 is 2-6 July 2007.

In 2007 we will also look forward to a Urological Pathology Meeting on 23-24 November, which has been put together by Dr David Griffith. The next International Congress will be in Athens in 2008. Also in 2008 will be a meeting on Gynaecological Pathology in Dublin and in 2009 we will have Cardiff Pathology 2009 as our joint meeting.

Attendance at meetings continues to be excellent and I think compared to other societies and organisations they represent excellent value for money in every way. I have been asked repeatedly to provide flashy advertising material for the meetings on the website and in the journal and by other means and I shall increase the amount of advertising material available but it seems that at the moment not necessary as the meetings are always over-subscribed. If you have any suggestions for meeting venues or meeting topics I would be very glad to hear from you.

On the wider front following the success of the Arab-British School Pathology under the organisation of Professor C Henry we have been working on both the Sri Lankan British School of Pathology where Professor N Shepherd has been taking the lead with some of my old friends in Sri Lanka and Professors Williams, Shepherd and myself will travel to Sri Lanka to deliver a week of education in GI Pathology in 2007. I have also been making early moves with the backing of Council and with the individual help of Professor Henry to establish a Bosnian British School of Pathology; an idea suggested by Acorn Aid, a charity that helps the people of Bosnia in very practical ways. The first British Bosnian Teaching week will also be in 2007. The links with Bosnia have meant that we have been able to see Dr Semir Vranic gain a BDIAP bursary to visit the International Congress of the IAP in Montreal and Dr Nuriya Bilalovic was in London recently where she was also able to meet members of Acorn Aid and myself. Mrs Sue Cotton has very kindly agreed to both donate many of Professor Roger Cotton's pathology books to the University in Sarajevo. I am also working with Professor Michael Wells to see if we can gain electronic access to Histopathology for the pathologists in Bosnia.

I hope this has given you an indication of the health of the one-day educational meetings, which we have in this country, and a snapshot of some of the work that goes into supporting training in pathology outside the United Kingdom.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Chairman expressed his thanks to Dr Howat for his contribution to the BDIAP and for leaving the finances in a very healthy state. Financial details can be found on the Audited Accounts circulated with the Annual Newsletter in October.

The Society continues to flourish with a net increase of £273,906 for 05/06. This reflects the continuing financial success of Histopathology (£195,452) and the improving stock market. Artemis (previously ABN AMRO) and COIF investments reflected the increase in stock market value. Direct charitable expenditure was £255,377 compared with £201,413 for 04/05 reflecting the increasing activities of the Division. Management and Administration costs (now called Governance costs) were almost identical to 04/05.

The Society's total assets at 30th June 2006 were valued at £1,602,950 compared with £1,329,044 at 30th June 2005.

Many 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 to £85 for 2007 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 remain at £65 per journal. Please inform the Administrative Secretary before the end of 2006 if you wish to subscribe to either or both of these journals in 2007.

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 last printed in 2000. Any changes in title, address, phone number, fax number and email address should be sent to the Administrative Secretary, Carol Harris. We are keen to obtain email addresses, as this is a convenient mode for communicating BDIAP business; please send your email addresses to Carol Harris before the end of 2006 (if not already done so) preferably via the web site (www.bdiap.org).

Membership

Total membership is 1401 of which 26 are Senior members and 9 Honorary members. There are 1022 members from the UK, 115 from the Netherlands, 97 from Belgium, 54 from Eire with 78 from other countries.

This is my last annual report after 10 years as Treasurer and Membership Secretary, and 20 years of hugely enjoyable continuous service on the Council of the BDIAP. I wish Ray McMahon, my successor, every happiness and success in the role.

6. **Editor's Report – Histopathology**

The Editor reported that 2005 had been a most successful year. At the International Congress in Montreal, as part of the Centenary year of the IAP, Histopathology and its three living Editors (MacSween, Underwood and Wells) had been awarded Gold Medals for "outstanding contributions to international pathology education and research". He reported that there had been a 35% increase in articles submitted to the journal; two new Associate Editors had been appointed in the previous year: Professor Neil Shepherd and Professor Sarah Pinder. He said that Council had approved the appointment of a further two new Associate Editors - Dr Nick Rooney for Lymphomas and Professor Andrew Nicholson for Lung. He gave thanks to Dr S Wharton for his work as Review Editor and announced that Dr Tim Stephenson was the newly appointed Review Editor. There had been a slight decrease in the Impact Factor - in 2004 it was 2.955 and in 2005 it was 2.608. The topic for the Annual Review issue had been Soft Tissue Tumours in 2006 (Guest Editor - Chris Fletcher) and in 2007 it would be Gastrointestinal Pathology (Guest Editor - Jeremy Jass) and in 2008 it would be Breast Pathology. Professor Sir James Underwood would succeed Professor Sir Roddy MacSween as the Chairman of the judges' panel for the Roger Cotton Histopathology prize in 2007. Roddy MacSween was thanked for his contribution for the previous three years.

7. **Awards and Prizes**

The Roger Cotton Prize was awarded to Dr Peters.

The Cunningham Medal was awarded to Dr Alec Howat for his important contribution to the BDIAP during his time in office.

The President's Medal was awarded to Dr Bryan Corrin for his particular contribution to pathology education over the years.

To celebrate the Centenary of the society ten Gold Medals of the IAP were presented and the work of our Division has been recognised by the award of two of these medals: one to the Arab British School of Pathology and to the journal Histopathology.

8. Any Other Business

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.