

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at The Park Conference Centre, London

Friday, 23 November 2001

1. The Minutes of the last AGM held on 25 November 2000 were agreed.

2. **Secretary's Report**

A year has elapsed since I took over from Dr Nick Rooney as General Secretary of BDIAP and this is my first opportunity to fully acknowledge the enormous contribution that Nick has made to the British Division in the last six years. He made an excellent General Secretary and, initially, Meetings Secretary, and the success of the Division over the past decade is largely down to him and to Alec Howat and Nick Francis. The membership should be most grateful to him.

This year has seen highly successful BDIAP meetings and much planning for what we hope will be similarly successful meetings in the future. Planning for the International IAP Conference, hosted by the British Division, in Amsterdam in October 2002, is now well advanced and Council is most grateful to Professor Jan van den Tweel, the Organising Committee Chairman, and to his colleagues Professor Sibbrand Poppema, Dr Hans van der Linden, Dr Nick Francis and Dr Alec Howat for all their endeavours. This last year saw the inaugural joint meeting of the BDIAP and the Pathological Society in Liverpool in July. This was a successful venture and one that would be enthusiastically repeated. Although many reported that the ambience of the meeting was rather dominated by Pathological Society ethos, many have also reported the beneficial inclusion of BDIAP-type educational sessions in the meeting.

Our Autumn meeting last year was once again held at the Hammersmith Hospital, London and yours truly organised a symposium on Upper Gastrointestinal Pathology. It is a great pleasure to report excellent contributions from acknowledged international experts such as Mike Dixon, Geraint Williams and Ashley Price with further contributions by mere mortals. There were 256 participants and the Saturday morning sessions on Cardiovascular pathology (Dr Patrick Gallagher) and Salivary gland pathology (Dr Roddy Simpson and Dr Silvana Di Palma), were complimented by a lecture series on the Molecular pathology of the Gastrointestinal tract organised by Professor Nick Wright, in what was a new departure for IAP Saturday morning sessions. Whilst there were some concerns about ease of access to the Hammersmith Hospital and the catering, in general the feedback on the meeting was excellent. It was also the first meeting where abstracts for all the talks and full summaries of the slide seminar were available on our web site.

Over the past year, Council has been looking at the future direction of the BDIAP and has particularly sought to co-operate with developing countries. The advancement of the Arab School of Pathology has continued, largely through the exhaustive work of Professor Kristin Henry, although the recent political difficulties have meant that the September Arab Division Meeting was poorly attended by Western pathologists. Council has been looking at support for Pathology education in African countries and this work is continuing.

Council wishes to congratulate Professor Kristin Henry on her appointment to the Chair of the Education Committee of the IAP and also on her unanimous vote for a second term of Vice President of the European IAP. Professor James Underwood has continued as President of the BDIAP for the last year and Council has agreed that Professor Jan van den Tweel will replace him in a year's time. There have been further changes to Council with Professor Alastair Burt, Dr Bryan Warren, Dr John Coyne and Dr Nassif Ibrahim all becoming Councillors.

Having completed a year as General Secretary, I can see how successful the Division is. It is an especial pleasure to become Secretary to such an august Institution and Society, one with such wide appreciation and reputation. I would like to warmly thank Mrs Carol Harris, our Administrative Secretary, for her masterful management, Dr Alec Howat for his wise stewardship and Dr Nick Francis for his enthusiastic organisation of our meetings. The Division is in very good hands and we will continue to invest wisely, both financially and otherwise, to honour the Constitution of the Division and to support the education of our members.

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 £61,208 for 00/01. This reflects the continuing success of Histopathology (£113,260) compared with 99/00 (£109,222. Unsurprisingly, ABN AMRO and COIF investments made a loss of £34,317. Direct charitable expenditure was £117,729 compared with £137,638 for 99/00 reflecting the continued duties of Council members and Officers. Management and Administration costs were similar to 99/00.

The Society's total assets at 30th June 2001 were valued at £908,368 compared with £847,160 at 30th June 2000.

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 remain at £70 for 2002 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 £60 per journal. Please inform the Administrative Secretary before the end of 2001 if you wish to subscribe to either or both of these journals in 2002.

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 1150, 24 of which are Senior members and 14 Honorary members. There are 854 members from the UK, 99 from the Netherlands, 96 from Belgium, 38 from Eire with 63 from other countries.

4. Editor's Report – Histopathology

The Editor indicated that the Journal continues to maintain its relevance to its primary readership. The acceptance rate was 34%. There are increasing numbers of good quality submissions from Europe with a steady increase in submissions from North America. There were large numbers of submissions from Japan. The production problems that had bedevilled the journal were not resolved. There was an excellent service, in terms of production, from SBS who are based in India. The Editor was pleased to note that the Impact Factor had risen to 2.554 from 1.900 and this probably put Histopathology in the top 10 Pathology journals. There were plans for the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the journal. There were changes in the Editorial Board, Professor P J Berry had resigned and Professor C W Elston who had been a board member throughout the time of the journal would resign from 2002. The Editor was planning new members of the Board and further indicated that his report was merely the journal itself. His further comments indicated that there had been a one-month delay in the production of the journal – apologies had been received from Blackwells. He noted that there were review articles in every edition and that correspondence was increasing. Website reviews had been well received. Next year 'lessen the month' usually a diagnostic pitfall, will be introduced. There had been a slight increase in subscriptions.

5. Any Other Business

There was not further business and the meeting was concluded.