

British Society of Veterinary Pathology
Minutes of 4th Council meeting, 11th December 2006, 9.30 a.m. Harrogate

Present: Kevin Isaacs (KI), Sionagh Smith (SS), Mark Stidworthy (MS), Ken Smith (KS).

1. The minutes of the meeting of 19th August 2006 were agreed to be accurate.
2. Actions arising from previous minutes not elsewhere on agenda: None.
3. Constitution: The current version of the constitution had been agreed at the inaugural meeting at Kegworth, and could therefore be appended to an application to the Charities Commission for charitable status. A number of points arising from the application form were discussed prior to approving an application to be made by the Secretary. Following on from the ESVP meeting, no feedback had been received from the ESVP following the BSVP's stated desire to be affiliated with that organisation. BSVP retains that desire if invited to do so. Action: Completion of Commission application form and submission (MS).
4. Honorary Secretary's Report:
 - a) At the time of the meeting, there were 31 members. A number of pathologists from the Republic of Ireland had joined, and had expressed a desire to be involved in regional activities. The original scheme included Ireland with the Northern region. It was discussed whether this remained the best idea, or whether an Irish region should be established. In view of fairly easy communications between Dublin and the UK, it was decided to try and continue with the original regional basis. Action: SS to discuss with Scottish colleagues a way forward.
 - b) Welcome pack/welcome letter: Questions had been raised as to the existence of a BSVP welcome pack. It is not the intention of the Society at this time to have such a pack, but it was agreed that a welcome letter should be dispatched to all members at joining by the Secretary, along with their payment receipt from the Treasurer. The trainee list operated by Aude Roulois may be a useful conduit to invite more trainees and their supervisors to join.
 - c) In addition to the Charities Commission application, the issue of Data Protection remained to be addressed. The Secretary had spoken to former BSTP secretary to try and clarify the situation, but needed to speak with the BSTP Secretariat. Action: MS.
5. Honorary Treasurer's business:
 - a) A copy of the accounts was provided by email by the Treasurer. Following the transfer of the Kegworth funds (endorsed by attendees at the Kegworth meeting in October 2006), most of the Society's balance was derived from that source. There was thus a need to increase members to boost the money available for meeting organisation. Each meeting aimed to run at a slight surplus, in order to generate investment for the next.

b) The possibility of setting up a savings account paying a higher level of interest, in which to maintain the bulk of the Society's funds was discussed. A suggested distribution was about £5K to this account, with the residue (approx. £1K) in the current account. Action: KS to investigate.

c) Receipts: Email receipts to be sent to all members after their membership contributions received by the Treasurer. Action: MS to provide email addresses, KS to send.

d) Insurance for larger events was discussed. Action: KS to investigate.

6. Education:

a) An Education Subcommittee meeting had taken place on 22nd November 2006. Minutes were being prepared by AP, and would be forwarded in due course. Present were: SS, SD, AP, MD and TS. The meeting had considered the educational philosophy of the BSVP and Council, outlined the Modules and defined their role as trainee modules (i.e. not primarily CPD for mature pathologists). The committee of five would co-opt additional members as necessitated by the location and topic of meetings. Each of the members had taken responsibility for a module (Module 3: TS, Module 4: MD) and modules 4, 5 and 6 had been fleshed out and reordered.

b) A request for collaboration on a lymphoma classification meeting had been received from EV at Cambridge. A preliminary plan had been prepared for a cytology/pathology meeting in autumn 2007, perhaps in Cambridge. Action: SS to discuss further with EV – need more detailed planning, and suggestion to join up in planning with a veterinary anatomic pathologist.

c) Module preparation. A budget of approx £200 per person was suggested for Module 1. Additional organisational issues discussed included advertising, application deadlines and minimum numbers for viability (15 people suggested as minimum target), whether potential sponsors should be invited to attend, the need to ensure that the website (via KI) is kept up to date with all developments. A registration document would be available from January 2007. Action: SS/SD/KI to arrange registration documents.

d) Stationery: SS was writing letters to contributors to modules and felt that a BSVP letterhead would be a helpful addition. Mechanisms for delivering this at low cost were discussed, as was the question of what, if any, the BSVP logo should be. Action: KI to investigate/arrange headed paper based on BSTP experience/local access to printers for his own professional use.

7. Regional issues: See discussion of Irish matters above. Scotland region had an active programme of meetings ongoing. It was hoped that further regional activities could be incorporated soon, perhaps a Northern region meeting in the vicinity of one of the commercial laboratories?

8. AVTRW at Scarborough: The deadline for abstract submission was mid January. KS would liaise with AW and if insufficient abstracts were forthcoming send out a supplementary request via BSVP members and other contacts, with the aim of filling the bulk of the day with a mix of plenary and short communications. In particular, residents should be encouraged to participate, the prize perhaps acting as a greater incentive. The use of audience electronic voting pads was briefly discussed in relation to the latter. Action: KS to lead on this, with further discussion (electronic or possibly face-to-face) once the abstract tally was apparent.

9. Distance learning: The RCVS Trust Digital Slidebox scheme was making a slow start at present, but continued to be an idea that the BSVP would support. Action: Aim to promote with colleagues (all).

10. Website: KI reported that encouraging use was being made of the website. It received 600 to 900 hits/month at present, most on the front page, vet path training, the macro case of the month and job adverts. Of the hits, 30% were from USA, 32% untracked, 22% UK and 7% Sweden.

11. Kegworth meeting and AGM: Planning for this meeting needed to progress. KS would discuss with TS he could continue to help with this, and to find out what were the popular topics arising from the feedback at the last course. TS to be encouraged to recruit a team. A topic and keynote speaker(s) were needed soon. Action: KS to discuss with former Kegworth colleagues.

12. Sponsorship: There has not been much progress with this so far, but more interest would, we hope, develop once the Modules started running. Action: KI to continue to put out feelers.

13: Logo: Urgent consideration was needed on the issue of a logo, to enable the development of the BSVP identity on printed matter, letterheads, web site etc. Action: KI to continue to experiment and send to other members for consideration.

14: Date of next meeting: No date was set.

Minutes prepared by Mark Stidworthy, February 12th 2007.