

British Society of Veterinary Pathology

Minutes of 6th Council Meeting 7th August 2007 9.30 a.m. Harrogate

Present: Kevin Isaacs, Sionagh Smith, Mark Stidworthy, Ken Smith

1. The minutes of the meeting of 11th May 2007 were approved as a true record.
2. There were no actions arising from those minutes not elsewhere on the agenda.

3. Honorary Secretary's report:

Membership had now reached 53 people. The application to the Charity Commission had been submitted but a problem had arisen and only part had arrived. Resubmission was necessary, and the Declaration of Trustees was signed again by those present. The issue of an AVTRW/BSVP representative on the Vet Path SAC was discussed. ACTION: MS to resubmit Charities Commission application. KS to look for possible rep.

4. Honorary Treasurer's report:

Finances for the Edinburgh meeting were settled apart from 2 recently received invoices. Initial impressions suggested a slight surplus. The current reserve in NSVP account is equivalent to the cost of writing off two meetings, and this should aim to increase in order to allow a greater degree of security. The bank account was now accessible by internet to KS, but it was unclear at what stage the application for other Council members to become co-signatories had reached, or whether they would also have internet access. The financial year ended on June 30th, and accounts up to that date needed to be prepared for the AGM. Balance of accounts at 24th July: current £6362.07, savings £4012.06. ACTION: KS to investigate co-signatories and internet accessibility of accounts, and to prepare year-end accounts.

5. Education:

Module 1: Feedback from the first module had been circulated and was discussed. A minor change to the wording of the feedback form was necessary as a number of participants were unclear as to the meaning of the phrase "change my clinical behaviour". This will be changed to "influence my professional activity". More practicals were requested, but currently the need for laboratory space, microscopes, AV equipment and time made this impractical. A separate "practical day" could perhaps be considered. A social event was requested, and it was decided to appoint a social secretary for each module from the participants. Saturday was not a favoured day and Thurs/Friday seemed to be the least unpopular. Module 3 would switch to Thurs/Friday format. There was a concern about cost escalation.

Module 2: Currently low numbers (below the cut off of 12) were registered, although the deadline was only a few days away. Exact costs had yet to be supplied by Glasgow vet school (the venue) and cost estimates were being based on Module 1 costs. All the speakers had been confirmed. SS reported that coordinating meetings at multiple different venues was proving difficult and time-consuming, and a single central venue (perhaps Nottingham) might be better in the long term if possible. The venue does not need to be a vet school if the lecture format continues, simply need an adequate lecture theatre. ACTION: SS continuing to work hard with assistance of AP.

Module 3: This was currently scheduled for June 2008 at RVC. KS was to have a meeting about this on 8th August. Basic publicity needed to be ready for Circulation at Module 2. ACTION: KS to liaise with SS and TS.

Modules 4 and 5: In order to address some of the cost, flight, accommodation issues, and to reduce organisational duplication, it had been suggested that these modules, and subsequent ones, might be scheduled in pairs. However, on reflection with prospective organisers, this idea had been rejected as too intensive for a solely lecture based course, and because people were unable/unwilling to commit for four day periods. Programme was neuropathology and likely to be at Moredun if possible in September 2008. The spacing of Modules now meant that a three year cycle was unrealistic, and adjustment to a new 4, 5 or 6 year cycle needed to be considered, perhaps including a compression/reduction in the total number of modules. There was an URGENT NEED to recruit more people to organise modules. This might be a good job for younger colleagues (with guidance) providing good opportunities for networking and their own personal professional development, and help to bridge the "demographic divide". Volunteers would receive lots of support. ACTION: SS to discuss with the Education subcommittee on a new approach, and suggest draft proposals before the AGM. All to try and identify module organisers, and try to get volunteers at AGM.

General: There was a need to rationalise the modules. Single venue, single administrator. Could this be done by appointing some professional secretarial assistance? ACTION: KI to investigate likely availability and cost of an experienced administrator who already did work for BSTP. Alternatives might include paying for secretarial time in a University Veterinary Pathology department.

6. Regional issues:

TW had given a generally positive response to the idea of a South-West meeting, but currently personal issues meant that it was not feasible for him to organise one. KI and MS thought that a North-West meeting should be feasible. The lack of regional activity was an area of relative weakness at present in the Society's activities, but did require local volunteers to be mobilised. ACTION: KI to liaise with commercial labs in Leeds/Harrogate area.

7. BSVP at AVTRW Scarborough April 2008:

Little further development had taken place, other than SS had identified an expert on public speaking who was being sounded out as a participant. ACTION: KS/KI/SS to try and discuss with AVTRW leadership at Module 2 in Glasgow.

8. Distance learning:

KS outlined the progress of the WikiPath scheme, with students having accumulated material and construction of the site underway. It was agreed that this was a venture that was strongly in line with the BSVP aims of promoting veterinary pathology, and should be promoted (e.g. at the AGM). ACTION: KS to maintain communications.

9. Website:

The site was receiving still increasing levels of hits. There was a need for more material to put onto the site. ACTION: KI to continue active website development.

10. Kegworth meeting:

Possible topics were discussed including forensics, renal and dental/oral disease. The date was set for 13th October. The possibility of having all or part of the meeting at the new Nottingham Vet School, just a few miles from the old Kegworth venue, was discussed. The meeting might include a Wiki session on Friday, and finish with tea and a Nottingham tour? The BSVP AGM also needed to be incorporated in such a way that participants could not readily avoid it. In order to satisfy the requirements for an AGM, one month's notice to members was required. The accounts would be presented, and each member of Council would present on their own area. ACTION: KS to talk to proposed speakers and liaise with TS and others as necessary to try and get a programme out as soon as possible.

11. Sponsorship:

KI was waiting to hear from a commercial laboratory, and would approach others depending on the outcome. ACTION: KI to continue networking.

12. Logo:

KI had brought a selection of possibilities, and one was selected for adoption. ACTION: KI to start preparing stationery/supply logo to others in user-friendly format,

13. Any other business:

The recent ABPI meeting on the subject of veterinary pathology was discussed.

14. Date of next meeting:

To be agreed by email at a later date.

Minutes prepared by Mark Stidworthy, 21st July 2007