

## **Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> AGM of the British Society of Veterinary Pathology, held at Moredun Research Institute, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Members were formally welcomed by the Honorary President

1. The minutes of the 3rd Annual General Meeting of the Society held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at The School of Veterinary Medicine and Science, The University of Nottingham, which had been circulated by email during September 2010, were approved without amendment.

### **2. Honorary Secretary's report**

Current membership was 87 out of a total of approximately 130 past and present members. A significant number failed to renew this year, possibly due partly to the recent increase in subscription rates, and partly to changes in work, maternity leave etc. It was noted that many people joined immediately prior to Modules to take advantage of reduced Module registration rates. This was welcomed, but the value of regular renewals in securing the ongoing funding for the operations of the Society was also stressed. Within the current membership, most were anatomic pathologists, and there remained a good spread across the various sectors (academic, government-related, commercial, industry). About 40% of the current membership were formal trainees for either FRCPath, DipECVP, DipACVP or PhD.

Agreement in principle had been given at the 2009 AGM to investigate the possibility of BSVP becoming a Specialist Division of BVA, which would require a change to the BSVP Constitution. However, over the course of the last year, BVA had altered its Council structure, and divided the current Specialist Divisions into a subgroup that would be represented on Council, and a further subset that would be consulted but not on the Council. Without further investigation, it was therefore unclear whether the advantages of Specialist Division status would be preserved. Therefore no further proposals would be brought until the situation had been clarified.

The aspiration of a regular email or web-based newsletter had yet to be achieved. During the last year, the BSVP had been represented at the RCPATH SAC on Veterinary Pathology by the Honorary Secretary (once successfully, and once unsuccessfully) by teleconference, and once by the Honorary President acting as a formal deputy. As the Honorary Treasurer was also a current member of the SAC, the interests of the Society were well represented in this forum. A newsgroup for BSVP members had been set up, and would be addressed later by the Education Coordinator. Finally, the website (still maintained by Kevin Isaacs) received a stable level of approximately 1600 hits per month, but the amount of new material was very limited, and Kevin had made a plea for additional material, particularly macro cases.

### **3. Honorary Treasurer's report**

The Treasurer presented a brief summary of the 2009/2010 accounts, which showed a surplus of £1245. The current account on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2010 held £11844.65 (much of which was about to be paid out as expenses for the liver Module). In the savings account on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2010 there was £12795.77. This had accrued minimal interest over the last year due to currently low savings rates. In response to a query, the Treasurer indicated that investigations into alternative accounts had yielded no

better options, due to the need for the account to be classified as a small business rather than personal account. This would be kept under review.

The Company tax status of the BSVP had been clarified with HMRC over the course of the 2009/2010 year. Tax returns had been submitted for the three years of operation to date, and HMRC had confirmed that no tax was liable, and that no penalties were due. In future, a return would be made each year, and it was anticipated that the not-for-profit status of the Society would be retained and no tax liability would accrue. In discussion, some concern was expressed over the cost of the accountant (£650 for the year), and also that the need for an HMRC tax return had only recently been flagged up by the accountant despite the fact that the same company had prepared the accounts since inception. The Treasurer agreed to keep the arrangements with the current accountants under review, and to investigate whether the charges were in line with those of other accountancy firms.

Because the accounts showed a small surplus, and the Secretariat costs had also been fixed at the 2009/2010 level for the year ahead, Council had agreed that membership subscriptions and Module fees would remain unchanged in 2010/2011.

The Treasurer closed by indicating that the Accounts for the year 2009/2010 had been signed off as accurate by the Treasurer and President, and were available at the meeting for inspection, or at any time, to any interested parties.

#### **4. Education Coordinator's report**

The Education Coordinator began by thanking Jackie Casey for the very helpful survey she had undertaken on behalf of the Society, which had asked Members to provide feedback on the nature, location and cost of our ongoing educational activities. A response of 20 returns had been received from a membership of about 80, which had at least provided a baseline upon which a number of decisions had been made. These included that the programme of Modules would continue systematically after the first round had completed, and that there was a desire to see some rotation of Module venues to include Southern Britain and accessible airports, with Nottingham less favoured due to problems of accessibility from some areas of the UK. The latter policy was being implemented with the next Modules at Cambridge and Bristol.

During the last year, a successful case-based pathology day had taken place at York in collaboration with the AVTRW conference, as well as the Module on alimentary pathology and the current Module on liver and pancreas. Plans were in place for Modules on cardiovascular pathology in Cambridge in spring 2011, and urinary pathology in Bristol in autumn 2011. Initial feedback had suggested that whilst there was a small core group of about 14 people interested in a symposium on a QA scheme for veterinary histopathology, there was probably insufficient interest to allow the organisation of a full day symposium in collaboration with either the Royal College of Pathologists or RCVS. Interest in this area would therefore be developed through increased discussions on the BSVP newsgroup.

A BSVP newsgroup had been set up earlier in the summer, but traffic had remained rather low and this was suspected to a combination of incomplete uptake and seasonal factors. The newsgroup was a potentially useful forum to enable members to discuss any issues of concern and to inform the deliberations of Council and of educational

activity planning. The Education Coordinator would therefore try to reinvigorate the newsgroup over the autumn, by inviting/re-inviting members. All members were invited to apply if interested.

The Education Coordinator ended by thanking all those who had helped with the organisation and development of the educational programme.

#### **5. Election of Officers for 2010/2011**

The posts of Honorary President, Honorary Secretary and Education Coordinator were not due for re-election at this meeting, and all were confirmed in position without opposition. Nick Woodger had been nominated for the position of Honorary Secretary, to replace Mark Stidworthy, who had come to the end of a four-year term of office. Nick had agreed to accept the nomination, on the provision that he could review his position after one year. On this basis, he was duly elected to the position of Honorary Secretary for 2010/2011.

#### **6. Any other business**

Adrian Philbey thanked the BSVP for its support/collaboration on the 2010 pathology day at AVTRW conference, and drew attention to the 2011 AVTRW conference, which was taking place in collaboration with the British Society of Animal Science, BBSRC Animal Science Forum and World Poultry Science Association (UK branch). It would be held at the University of Nottingham on April 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> 2011. It was hoped that a pathology day would again be included, and the support of BSVP was invited.

The President formally thanked Mark Stidworthy for his work for the Society and a small presentation was made. The outgoing Honorary Secretary thanked members for their support and contributions to the Society over the last four years, and the meeting closed.

Minutes prepared by Mark Stidworthy, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2010