

# British Society of Veterinary Pathology



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**Minutes of the 5th Annual General Meeting  
held on 23rd of September 2011  
at the Holiday Inn Bristol Airport  
A38 Bridgewater Road  
Cowslip Green  
Wrighton  
Bristol BS40 5RB**

1. The minutes of the fourth annual general meeting held on 16th October 2010 were approved.

**2. Honorary President's Statement**

Prof. Rod Else recently announced that due to other commitments he was going to have to resign as president of the Society. He was also unable to attend the meeting having two other engagements to attend. In his statement he said he was honoured to have been president of the society and gave best wishes to all for the future. He stated that the society should strive to ensure the continuing support for and improvement of Veterinary Pathology for the future and announced two important issues for discussion and for the membership to vote on which should help to ensure that the society could continue with this aim;

- i.) Whether to affiliate with a similar organization (most likely to be the BSTP).
- ii.) To use the surplus to provide bursaries for deserving trainees.

**3. Honorary Treasurer's Report**

Copies of the complete accounts were provided and the treasurer provided an up to date summary of the funds in the society including money paid for module 10. The treasurer reported that the society's total fund stood at £22,508 as of June 30th 2011 (the end of the financial year) with a surplus of £2810 from 2010. The current account held £9,709 at the end of June which was reduced to £8268.64 in August due to funds being paid out for module 9. In August the savings account held £12800.51. The modules have proved to be very variable with regards to profits or losses. Membership fees have remained the same but income will be lower due to declining membership numbers. Accountants have not been changed. Fees seem very similar. We were asked whether we wanted to pay an annual fee to the accountants for them to support us in the event of an HMRC investigation. This was declined because we are a small society with simple accounts which are kept in good order by Sue Lyons.

It was proposed that module and membership fees remain the same for 2012 and the proposal to use surplus fees to provide bursaries was outlined to the meeting.

**4. Honorary Secretary's Report**

Current membership was 75 out of a total of approximately 140 past and present members. This represented a reduction from 87 members in 2009/10. Reasons for non-renewals were similar to those reported in 2010 allied to budgetary restraints to members attending modules partly due to funding and partly due to available CPD time for work. Once again renewals were allied to modules and for members unable to attend modules some were considering what the cost of membership gave them. The need for the society to change in response to these issues to allow it to provide more for all members whether or not they could attend modules was discussed and a vote called on the two recommendations from attendees at the meeting and the wider membership. Both recommendations were carried at the meeting and the provision of bursaries from trainees while profits allow was also supported by the wider membership.

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The BSVP operates on a not-for-profit basis

**President: Tony Patterson BVM&S MRCVS CertSHP; Hon. Treasurer: Jane Miller BVetMed FRCPath MRCVS; Hon. Secretary: Nick Woodger BSc BVetMed FRCPath MRCVS; Educational Coordinator: Alex Schock MRCVS, PhD, FRCPath**

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During the wider vote on affiliation with another society, however it became clear from one member that an affiliation with the most likely organisation (BSTP) 'would not be a simple undertaking and there are several issues that would need to be resolved, not least obtaining the agreement of the BSTP membership and the alteration of their constitution. As the BSTP have a limited number of meeting 'slots' each year (and a similarly limited will to do more), how would they cater for a widening range of educational, training and scientific needs? I have not gained the impression that either the BSTP or BSVP have really regarded themselves as "sisters". What would the BSTP stand to gain; how would the likely minority of career veterinary pathologists make their voice heard? Council agreed with these views and thus alternative measures needed to be addressed to broaden the appeal of membership.

The previously discussed idea to seek specialist Division status from the BVA had been made no longer possible by the decision of the BVA to limit the number of specialist divisions.

Volunteers are still needed to develop initiatives such as the website and the newsgroup forum which have the potential to provide useable material for all members to benefit from thus giving tangible appeal for BSVP membership.

## 5. **Education Coordinators Report**

The Education Coordinator began by reviewing the liver and cardiovascular modules from last year and also the success of the current module. The success of the Edinburgh area regional meeting was highlighted and discussed with a view to encouraging further regional meetings as a means to broadening the reach of CPD meetings to more members. An additional benefit had been gained for the Edinburgh meeting by getting approval for CPD credits from the RCPATH. These meetings are promoted by the BSVP although the organization of them is independent of the society and as they are voluntary and do not involve conference fees they also provide the same benefits to non members, however so while they are to be encouraged they are not a benefit specific to BSVP members and their organization does not depend on the BSVP. The success of these meetings depends on individuals, BSVP members or otherwise organizing the meetings on a regular basis and providing the venue and possibly speakers, depending on the format, on a voluntary basis. The idea of regional meetings was met with enthusiasm at the meeting and consequently members in the South West region decided to set up their own meetings. Some meetings had been held in the East Anglia region and it was hoped that these could be restarted again soon. The continued success of such meetings is more likely to be assured if there are several parties willing to share in the organization of regular meetings for their region.

A call for volunteers to help run the newsgroup was gained with two members agreeing to try and get something moving this year.

The advent of a new cycle of modules was discussed and the need to adapt as although such meetings remain important to trainees far more experienced pathologists have made use of the modules than was anticipated for the first round of modules. Neuropathology was planned for June 2012 and an Autumn one day meeting Saturday meeting would be re-introduced in 2012 to make attendance possible for more members and to build on the success of previous Saturday "Kegworth" meetings at central UK location.

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Finally further ideas for the future were invited from the meeting and membership and all those who had helped with the organisation and development of the educational programme were thanked.

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

The posts of Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary and Education Coordinator were not due for re-election at this meeting and all were confirmed in position without opposition. Tony Patterson was nominated to replace Prof. Rod Else, a position which he accepted at the meeting stating that he had found the many BSVP meetings which he had been able to attend to date very useful and wanted to ensure that this situation continued for as many as possible in the future.

## 7. **Any Other Business**

A proposal by the education coordinator to use facebook as a vehicle to broaden the appeal to members of a discussion facility was discussed. It is a useful established and successful discussion facility and could be set up for BSVP membership to discuss cases, but would have to adhere to set rules. A major concern however was raised when issues such as the ownership of all material posted on facebook was discussed and this forum was decided as unsuitable for this purpose.

The meeting was concluded with thanks to council members, our secretariat, Sue who carries out the bulk of the day to day work of the society and all those who have helped contribute to the meeting as well as all the current members, without who the Society could not exist.

Minutes prepared by Nick Woodger, Honorary Secretary, January 2012.

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