



SOCIETY FOR VETERINARY EPIDEMIOLOGY AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

SVEPM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NO. 36

AGENDA

Date: Thursday 30th March 2017
Time: 11:35h
Location: Eden Court, Inverness, Scotland

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies have been received from: Jane Murray, Gina Pinchbeck, Robert Christley, Dr. Luis Pablo Hervé Claude, James Booth, Koen Mintiens, Jeroen Dewulf, and Tim Parkin.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting No. 35 held on Thursday 17th March 2016 at Konventum, Elsingore, Denmark

No comments/amendments were received from the membership. The minutes of 2016 AGM were agreed, proposed by Liz Alban, seconded by Keith Howe.

3. Matters arising (not otherwise on the agenda)

None reported.

4. President's report

The President reported on the Society's affairs during the past year.

The date and location of the 2018 conference is: 21-23 March 2017 in Tallinn, Estonia.

The President noted thanks to: the plenary speakers, workshop organisers, the local organisers, the sponsors including Visit Scotland, Highland Council, SRUC, RVC and Avia-GIS, the conference delegates and the Executive Committee members.

The President commented on the size of the conference (225 delegates), the scientific programme (81 abstracts), the poster prize (sponsored by Avia-GIS), the SRUC prize (offered by SRUC), and the 85 posters with 25 poster pitches.

President commented on the number of bursary applications: 11 applications, three of which were awarded to Cristina Rojo-Gimeno (from Spain, based in Belgium); Ricardo Lopes (Portugal), Aine Collins (Ireland). All are presenting posters.

The President informed the members that as a part of increasing communication about the Society on the webpage, the Committee decided to develop the Society's objectives, as stated in the constitution, into a Mission Statement. The Statement reads as follows: "Our mission is to enable professionals to meet and share knowledge to improve the health of animals, humans and the environment", and can be found in the "Join us" section of the SVEPM webpage.

Finally, the President reserved special thanks for the outgoing committee members for long service on the committee (HHT), also to BvdB who's current job does not allow him to attend SVEPM and GG who is stepping aside as co-opted committee member. (Note: DB whose current term is ending, but who is taking up the Treasurer role, so there is no need for his position renewal).

Acceptance of President's report was proposed by Gerdien van Schaik and seconded Christine Fourichon.

5. Secretary's report

The Secretary reported regular correspondence about SVEPM membership, and the conference. They have received occasional requests for promotion of job announcements. Members who do not

want to receive such announcements are welcome to contact the Honorary Secretary and will then be excluded from such emails.

The SVEPM LinkedIn group has:

- 3502 members (3225 in the previous year)

The Secretary invited everyone to join and submit announcements and other information via the LinkedIn group.

There are still missing email addresses including a limited but consistent number bouncing. The Secretary invited the membership to log into the new Society webpages where they can check and update information about themselves, including contact information. If this does not work, members should contact the Honorary Treasurer with any updates.

SVEPM has secured for SVEPM members a 25% discount from Wiley across their entire book range.

Acceptance of the Secretary's report was proposed by Francisco Calvo-Artavia and seconded by Inge Santman-Berends.

N=55 SVEPM members were in attendance at the AGM meaning that voting could take place.

6. Treasurer's report

Accounts from the year 2015-2016:

Financial year ending 16th November 2016:

Expenditure = £15,338.04

Income = £7,378.57

Net loss = £7,959.47

The net result is primarily due to Inverness conference deposits (£8,600); accounting for this, a small profit has been made this year.

Thanks to Liza, Tariq and the rest of the Elsinore team for the conference profit of £1,184.03.

We have kept committee expenses and credit card processing fees to a minimum this year. There is now a Eurozone account to reduce transaction costs for Eurozone members and to reduce transfer costs for paying back committee expenses.

A slide was displayed outlining the net result from the past 12 years showing that there has been a trend of increasing losses which needs to be considered. A range of options from increasing the membership fee to £30 or £40, to making the proceedings electronic or printing them more cheaply, or attempting to make more profit from the conference each year, were discussed. It was suggested that the proceedings would be discussed in further detail later in the AGM.

The Treasurer reported that the number of members, as of 15/03/17 is 255 from a variety of countries, predominantly the UK and Ireland.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's report was proposed by Liz Alban and seconded Simon More.

A raised-hand vote was undertaken to decide upon the membership fee staying at £20.00. The majority of members voted that this was appropriate.

Those returning UK members were urged to set up standing orders, and it was said that Eurozone members would have access to the new Eurozone account prior to fees being due on the 1st May.

Members commented on the financial status of the society showing a downward trend and asked what the Executive Committee were suggesting is done to rectify this situation. Some of the Society expenses were as a result of the website being rebuilt and improved. The President discussed measures which could be implemented. They suggested that in the future, the membership fee should be increased, and could be increased to £25.00 without problem.

Members suggested that the society needed to be aware of 'Olympic Games' syndrome; we should make sure the conferences should be appropriate and follow the core purpose of the society, to disseminate and network within the profession. It was confirmed that the entertainments at this year's

conference had been provided by the sponsors rather than the costs being provided from within the conference registration costs.

It was also mentioned that slightly less than half of the delegates are not members of the Society, and we therefore need to concentrate on promoting membership. The Treasurer said that joining the membership may be influenced by some academic organisations not being willing to pay for membership even when it made the conference registration cheaper. The President said that the members would ideally 'sell' the benefit of membership to non-members.

7. Election of officers and committee members

Automatic changes to the executive committee membership were:

- Ann Lindberg to Senior Vice-President
- Liza Rosenbaum Nielsen to President

The committee proposed the following people:

- Marnie Brennan was proposed as Junior Vice-President (seconded by Christine Fourichon)
- Rob Christley was proposed as Honorary Secretary (seconded by Dominic Mellor)
- David Brodbent was proposed as Honorary Treasurer (seconded by Maarten Weber)

It was noted that one ordinary member's position had become vacant, due to Bart van den Borne leaving the committee. The committee agreed to not replace Hans-Hermann Thulke in order to reduce the number of committee members by one, and reduce the costs of the committee.

One nomination was received from:

- Philip Robinson, proposed by Marnie Brennan, seconded by Fraser Menzies.

Philip was accepted as an Ordinary Committee member, proposed by Arjen Brouwer and seconded by Ed van Klink.

8. Election of auditors

An election was taken for two auditors and:

- Keith Howe was proposed by Stuart Reid and seconded by Inge Santman-Berends.
- Fraser Menzies was proposed by Christine Fourichon and seconded by Inge Santman-Berends.

9. Proceedings

The President commented on the timeliness of the production and editing of proceedings, and thanked the Junior and Senior Vice-Presidents. She thanked the current keeper of antiquities (Tim Parkin) for help with printing, archiving and distribution of proceedings.

She commented on the progress toward publication of the Preventive Veterinary Medicine (PVM) special issue from last year: the papers for the special issue have all been accepted and the printed version is now under production; 6 papers are in press.

For this years' 2017 PVM special issue, 11 papers are currently under review.

The President thanked the authors, reviewers and editors especially Bart van den Borne as guest editor.

The President suggested that there was a proposal to review production of "the Orange Book" and role of print and electronic proceedings. She described issues with continued production of print proceedings including: the costs of printing and posting; and the time taken in managing back issues and posting proceedings to non-attending members.

The Members asked if the proceedings were available as an electronic format on the website, and liked the idea that they were available to those members who didn't want a print version. They asked if it was necessary to print the entire paper within the proceedings; could an abridged format be used instead? The President commented that this was part of the heart and traditional of the Society and for the special issue of PVM the articles must be significantly different to the official conference

proceedings. Members asked if it might be possible to include an abstract from the poster in the proceedings.

It was suggested that at some point in the future, the Society membership would be asked to vote on the options for the printing of the Orange Book, in order to decide how to proceed.

10. Information on future conference venues

The president commented on planning progress for future conferences and indicated that next year's conference organiser will present details of the next conference at the end of the current meeting.

The next conference will take place in Tallinn, Estonia; the local organiser is Arvo Viltrop. The conference will take place on 21-23 March 2018.

The committee has selected Utrecht, the Netherlands as the venue for 2019 (27th to 29th of March); Gerdien van Schaik will be the local organiser.

The President suggested that proposals are needed for the 2020 conference. She invited the membership to submit applications for 2020 before 31st August to the Secretary. The conference dates for 2020 will be 27 to 29 of March.

11. Nomination of life members

Stuart Reid gave a short speech having proposed Dominic Mellor for life membership. Dominic thanked the Society for the award.

Stuart also commented that it would be nice to see some more diversity in the Life Membership as all members are currently white males. The President said that certainly on the Committee, this situation is changing.

The President reminded members that they are invited to suggest nominations for Life Membership to the Secretary.

12. Trial of 25 minute presentations

Feedback indicated that members were happy with the 25 minute presentation length.

13. Any other business

No other issues were raised.

14. Date and venue of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 22nd March 2018, Tallinn, Estonia.