



## SVEPM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NO. 26

**Date:** Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2007  
**Time:** 12.00 pm  
**Location:** Dipoli, Espoo, Finland.

### MINUTES

#### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Gina Pinchbeck.

#### 2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting No. 25 held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2006 at Peter Chalk Centre, University of Exeter, Devon, UK.

The minutes of AGM No. 25 were approved as a correct record of the meeting.

#### 3. Matters arising (not otherwise on the agenda)

No other matters were raised.

#### 4. President's report

Ed Peeler thanked the committee, especially Dominic Mellor and Richard Newton for their efforts while he had been away in New Zealand.

Ed Peeler reserved special thanks for Dominic Mellor for his 10 years served on the committee as treasurer, local organiser at two conferences and president and for his efforts in editing the proceedings over the last few years.

Ed Peeler also thanked Louise Matthews, who was also stepping down from the committee, for her work as Treasurer over the last 12 months.

Ed Peeler commented that the focus of the society was to organise a high quality and social meeting and that this year had been exceptionally well organised by Anna-Maija Virtala and Lis Alban. There had been a good deal of positive feedback, especially with respect to the registration process and Ed Peeler thanked the professional conference organisers for their assistance this year.

The President noted that there had been a record number of abstracts submitted this year. This enabled a very strong programme to be put together but also meant that only 1/5<sup>th</sup> of abstracts were accepted. Ed Peeler questioned whether this was a problem and noted that the committee had discussed changing the format of the conference to perhaps include parallel sessions or shorter presentations. The committee favoured maintaining the status quo, but welcomed comments from the members.

A change to the abstract format will be established for submissions for SVEPM 2008. There will be a strict 600 word limit for all submissions and the new criteria will be placed on the website. Ed Peeler commented that it was good to see the poster sessions also on the website.

The President was happy to take questions. None were forthcoming.

## 5. Secretary's report

Nick Honhold commented that there had been very few communications over the past year and that the membership had been very easy to deal with. There had been some issues over forwarding of webmail so a gmail account had now been established.

The Secretary stated that he had been very pre-occupied in Turkey in the last 12 months which had made his role extremely difficult to fulfil. He therefore had decided to resign as secretary of the society and therefore also resigned from the committee.

## 6. Treasurer's report

Louise Matthews presented the current state of the Society finances. There remained a reserve of approximately £40,000. The net income for the current financial year was negative to the tune of approximately £1,300 as some of the staff costs for the Nairn conference had come out of the current year's budget.

There were no questions arising from the Treasurer's report

## 7. Election of officers and committee members

All Officers of the Society with the exceptions of President and Senior Vice President are elected or re-elected annually at the AGM. Nominees for the forthcoming year were elected unopposed as follows:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Holder 2007-2008</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>
Honorary Treasurer	Louise Kelly	Dirk Pfeiffer	Nick Honhold
Honorary Secretary	Tim Parkin	Dominic Mellor	Gina Pinchbeck
Junior Vice President	Lis Alban	Nick Honhold	Dirk Pfeiffer

With Gina Pinchbeck and Louise Matthews completing their 3-year terms as ordinary members, Nick Honhold resigning as secretary and therefore stepping down from the committee and Tim Parkin being nominated as Honorary Secretary, four positions among the five ordinary members were vacant.

Three nominations were received by the deadline of 21 days prior to the AGM. These were:

<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Nominated by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>
Teresa Martinez	Katharina Stärk	Dirk Pfeiffer
Simon More	Fraser Menzies	John Daniel Colins
Kristien Verheyen	Dirk Pfeiffer	James Wood

All three were duly elected unopposed.

There remained one vacancy among the ordinary members of the committee.

Ed Peeler stated that nominations had been received for the following:

<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Nominated by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>
Gina Pinchbeck	Richard Newton	Ed Peeler
Marcus Doherr	Dom Mellor	Louise Matthews
Koen Mintiens	Lis Alban	Jeroen Dewulf

Richard Newton spoke for Gina Pinchbeck in her absence and Marcus Doherr and Koen Mintiens both gave brief presentations to the AGM.

Kenton Morgan asked for verification that, if not elected, Gina Pinchbeck would be co-opted onto the committee as local organiser for SVEPM 2008. This was confirmed by Ed Peeler.

Nick Honhold was elected teller and after a secret ballot of the members, who were asked to select one candidate from the list, Koen Mintiens was duly elected to the committee.

## **8. Election of auditors**

Ed Peeler reported that James Booth had resigned as an auditor for the society and he thanked him for his many years of service to the society. Roger Eddy will continue in his role and Ed Peeler was pleased to announce that Fraser Menzies had agreed to take up the vacant role of auditor. The President asked if there any objections to this appointment. None were forthcoming.

## **9. Proposed venues for 2010 conference**

Ed Peeler stated that the 2008 conference will be held in Liverpool and the 2009 conference will be held in London.

Two venues were proposed for 2010 and representatives from both locations made presentations to the members.

Christine Fourichon presented on behalf of the organising committee for Nantes, France and Hans-Hermann Thulke presented on behalf of the organising committee for Leipzig, Germany. Both locations offered coastal and city options. The members were asked to vote which location (Nantes or Leipzig) was their preferred choice.

James Wood asked if the location that was not selected would be given favoured status when the 2013 conference location was selected. The President agreed that the committee would discuss this at the post-conference meeting.

Stuart Reid noted the increased support from mainland Europe and as 2013 was so far ahead, wondered if the issue over how often SVEPM is held in mainland Europe should be addressed again. He suggested that a move to every other year in mainland Europe would better represent the members. Jeroen Dewulf seconded this proposal.

Dominic Mellor questioned whether there was the need to have a strictly alternating timetable at all.

Nick Honhold suggested that an informed debate with advocates for and against each of the proposals should take place.

The President agreed that this issue would be taken to the committee and that three proposals (maintain the status quo, move to every other year in mainland

Europe, have no strict timetable) would be officially put to the members at the AGM in 2008.

The vote for the location of the 2010 conference was held. With a majority of approximately 2/3<sup>rds</sup> to 1/3<sup>rd</sup>, Nantes, France was selected as the venue for SVEPM 2010.

#### **10. Production and editing of the proceedings**

The President offered an apology over the incorrect binding of some of the proceedings and offered replacements for those affected. Dominic Mellor offered to send out replacement copies.

The President said he was very pleased that the proceedings were again available in time for the conference and that the special edition of Preventive Veterinary Medicine for SVEPM 2006 was also in press before this meeting and due to be published shortly. Ed Peeler thanked Dominic Mellor for his efforts in ensuring that these goals had been achieved.

It was hoped that this would also be the situation for the 2008 conference and was considered, by the committee, to be an important initiative that should be maintained.

#### **11. Production of past proceedings on CD**

It was put to the members that it would be possible to collate all past proceedings onto disc. This would incur some cost and the members were asked if they had thought this would be a useful initiative.

James Wood asked if the past proceedings could also be placed onto the website.

Ed van Klink asked about the potential cost.

Mirjam Nielen asked what the goal of the exercise was, as many of the papers would have been superseded in terms of scientific content. Its main value would be historical interest.

Ed Peeler agreed to get some idea of the cost before proceeding further.

#### **12. Nominations of life members**

Ed Peeler was pleased to announce that Wayne Martin and Fraser Menzies had willingly accepted nominations for life membership of the Society.

No objections were raised.

#### **13. Any other business**

Stuart Reid complemented the society, rejoicing in the informality and ambiance of the annual conference. However, he noted that the AGM is the one formal event for the committee and he felt that it was important that the committee identify standard operating procedures (SOP) for the meeting to avoid potential future criticism.

Ed Peeler agreed that this was an excellent proposal and noted that the committee handbook was very useful, but could be further improved in terms of an AGM SOP.

Nick Honhold suggested that the committee handbook could be placed on the website.

Ed Peeler agreed to discuss this further at the post-conference committee meeting.

Mirjam Nielen asked for clarification of the relationship between SVEPM and other relevant European meetings, such as ECVPH, that could run concurrently or in conjunction with SVEPM.

Ed Peeler agreed that this would also be discussed at the post-conference meeting.

#### **14. Date and venue of next meeting**

The next AGM (no. 27) will be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2008 in Liverpool.

**Tim Parkin**  
**(Honorary Secretary)**