



SVEPM, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING No. 24

Date: Thursday 31st March 2005
Time: 12.00 p.m.
Location: Newton Hotel, Nairn, Scotland.

MINUTES

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from the following members: Keith Howe, James Booth, Laura Green, Gareth Davies and Roger Eddy.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting No. 23 held on Wednesday 24th March 2004 at Hotel du Parc, Martigny, Switzerland

Minutes had been circulated to the membership prior to the meeting. No comments were received and the minutes were approved as a correct record.

3. Matters arising

None were raised.

4. Election of Officers and Committee Member

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:

Position	Holder 2005-2006	Proposer	Seconder
President	Dominic Mellor	James Wood	Laura Green
Junior Vice President	Edmund Peeler	Laura Green	Nick Honhold
Honorary Treasurer	Louise Kelly	James Wood	Dominic Mellor
Honorary Secretary	Richard Newton	Laura Green	Ed van Klink

Among the officers James Wood completed his term as Senior Vice President and left the Committee and Edmund Peeler was nominated as Junior Vice President.

Katharina Staerk completed her term as an ordinary member and left the Committee. With Edmund Peeler being nominated for Junior Vice President, this left two vacancies to be filled among the 5 ordinary members.

Four nominations were received in writing before the AGM (as below), thereby necessitating a formal ballot among the membership for election of 2 ordinary committee members:

Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Lis Alban	Katharina Staerk	James Wood
Jeroen Dewulf	Koen Mintiens	Klaas Frankena
Dirk Pfeiffer	Katharina Staerk	Ed van Klink
Maarten Weber	Ed van Klink	Julie Fitzpatrick

Ed van Klink directed the membership through the election process during which Lis Alban and Dirk Pfeiffer were duly elected to the committee.

5. The President's report

Ed van Klink said there was a growing attendance at the SVEPM conference and this years was the largest to date with approximately 220 delegates and welcomed any comments that delegates had on the format of the conference and how it may be improved in the future. He highlighted that a large part of the increasing attendance this year was due to both a pre- and post-conference course that had been organised through the local organiser, George Gunn

and not the committee. The need for a ballot for election of new committee members demonstrated the growing interest in the Society's affairs and this was an encouraging sign. The President closed by highlighting a few functions that he had attended in his official role including chairing an animal movement workshop and attending a President's day at the Animal Health Trust in Newmarket, UK.

6. The Secretary's report

Richard Newton thanked the Committee members for all their support in the past 12 months and particularly thanked Dominic Mellor and more latterly Louise Kelly as Honorary Treasurers for their contribution in maintaining the membership database. He mentioned some further small problems regarding electronic mailings to the membership and urged members to notify the committee of any changes in their e-mail addresses so that they would continue to receive mailings.

7. The Treasurer's report

Louise Kelly tabled information on the membership prior to the registrations for membership that were received this year. The accounts for 2003/4 were presented and discussed. They showed a healthy bank balance of approximately £36,000, with income from the Martigny conference being approximately £5,000. It was highlighted that much of the sponsorship for the conference did not actually appear on the accounts and that the expenses incurred for the last two October committee meetings had been higher than in previous years due to new venues. The purchase of the SVEPM banner for the ISVEE conference was also highlighted. The Treasurer closed by thanking Dominic Mellor for all his assistance in handing over the accounts in such a healthy state.

8. Election of Auditors

James Booth and Roger Eddy were approved as auditors for the Society after being proposed by Dominic Mellor and seconded by James Wood.

9. Proposed venues for forthcoming conferences

The 2006 Conference, to be organised by Edmund Peeler, would be held in Exeter, England. Further details of the venue and its facilities would be provided in a short presentation at the end of the Nairn conference.

The 2007 Conference would be held in Helsinki, Finland and more information would be provided in due course. Anna-Maija Virtala was co-opted to the committee as the local conference organiser with the assistance of the committee and Lis Alban in particular.

10. Production and editing of the proceedings

Ed van Klink said that this was an important and onerous job that until last year had been undertaken by Fraser Menzies and Stuart Reid. He thanked them both on behalf of the Society for all their hard work. The editing of this years proceedings had been done by Dominic Mellor with assistance from Alex Russell and James Wood and there would probably be a need to approach others for assistance in future years. It was proposed that grammatical and science editing should wherever possible stay in-house but the technical formatting should be outsourced outside the Society. It was felt that although this would cost money it was the most onerous aspect of the editing and would therefore be money well spent. This was not opposed and agreed in principle.

The problems relating to earlier Special Editions of Preventive Veterinary Medicine (PVM) were highlighted. Ed van Klink apologised to those authors that had been affected by this and said that the Committee had decided that for the time being future PVM Special Editions would be suspended. The edition containing papers from the 2003 conference was now the only outstanding PVM issue. All the papers had been peer reviewed and the comments were available for the authors at the conference from Stuart Reid. A deadline of the end of April was agreed for receipt of amended manuscripts for inclusion in a July issue of PVM. It was stated

that Elsevier remained pleased with the quality of the papers but although they were happy to continue with the arrangement, this would have to be reviewed by the committee in the future.

11. Website

Edmund Peeler briefly updated the meeting on the recent updates to the SVEPM website and outlined the new online booking form and other features. He thanked people for their comments and apologised for some teething problems and said that he was happy to continue to receive feedback on the website.

12. Any other business

Dominic Mellor returned to the issue of proceedings publication and said that he had been approached by an external publisher to take this on. This would be considered further by the committee in light of the earlier discussions regarding external outsourcing of formatting.

Ed van Klink thanked both Katharina Staerk and James Wood for their contributions to the committee, highlighting that they had both been active members of the society and had both organised previous successful conferences.

13. Date and venue of next meeting

The next AGM will be on Thursday 30th March 2006 in Exeter, England.

Richard Newton
(Honorary Secretary)