



SOCIETY FOR VETERINARY EPIDEMIOLOGY AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

SVEPM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NO. 44 MINUTES

Date: Thursday 21 March 2025
Time: 11:35 – 13:00 (GMT)
Location: Berlin

69 members attend the AGM

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received by the Honorary Secretary: Marnie Brennan, Philip Robinson, Koen Mintiens

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting No. 42 held in Toulouse on Thursday 23 March 2023

No amendments proposed. Acceptance proposed by Lis Alban and seconded by Marcus Doherr and it was accepted by the assembly.

3. Matters arising (not otherwise on the agenda)

None.

4. President's report

The President reported that we have a Society which is in very good health, with good attendance at our conference last year in Uppsala of 203 attendees, and this year, with 224 delegates here in Berlin.

Size of conference: 208 paying attendants, 224 registrations total. Online option was not offered.

226 countries represented from 7 continents: UK (46), Germany (29), France (24), Denmark (21), Netherlands (20), Ireland (16). Of note, we have representative(s) from Ecuador, Uganda, Japan, Malawi, Canada, United States, South Korea, Israel.

85 abstracts submitted for 21 presentations plus the two invited speakers. 98 posters, including 25 poster pitches.

The president explained how the abstracts and workshops are scored for the benefit of the new members.

The president thanked the plenary speakers, Timm Harder and Katharina Stärk; the organizers of the 6 workshops; the local organizers, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, and the PCO (Conventus); the sponsors, delegates and committee members.

The posters will also be made available on the website. Prizes for posters were supported by the Society as well as the Best Junior Oral Presentation prize (sponsored by SRUC) – we thank these sponsors for their support.

Bursaries covering registration fees for the conference this year: two traditional awards (Teresa Imperial and Jose Rodriguez Torres). Both presented a poster and a poster pitch.

We also awarded the bursary in memory of the late George Gettinby, targeted at young scientists from LMIC. This year it was awarded to Christopher Kolla, from Malawi, who also presented a poster and poster pitch.

Members are encouraged to keep their information updated via the website and check their payment status.

Proceedings – suggestion in the previous year to make them open after 2.5 years i.e. Autumn 2027 for this year's conference.

The SVEPM Handbook has been updated so the document is more fit for purpose. The scoring grid is being updated and the call for abstracts will include the new scoring grid.

The president's report acceptance was proposed by Gerdien van Schaik and seconded by Fraser Menzies, and then approved by the assembly.

5. Secretary's report

The Honorary Secretary reported the regular tasks of regular correspondence with the membership, circulating announcements of conferences, 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.

SVEPM LinkedIn group: 3,139 members @06/03/2025

Twitter account will be closed.

A limited number of bouncing email addresses – members are invited to log into the Society webpage where you can check and update information about yourself, including contact information. If this does not work, members should contact the Honorary Treasurer Egil Fischer or the Secretary with any updates.

AP1: Put on the website a link to the SVEPM LinkedIn account

The Honorary Secretary's report acceptance was proposed by Carola Sauter-Louis and seconded by Inge Santman-Berends.

6. Treasurer's report

The Honorary Treasurer reported on the number of members – 359 (191 fully paid, 168 not yet paid). He also presented a report of the accounts, which had been circulated to the membership prior to the meeting.

SOCIETY FOR VETERINARY EPIDEMIOLOGY AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE
Final Income and Expenditure Statement from 17 November 2023 to 16 November 2024

INCOME	2023/2024			2022/2023			EXPENDITURE	2023/2024			2022/2023		
	GBP	EURO	Sub-totals	GBP	EURO	Sub-totals		GBP	EURO	Sub-totals	GBP	EURO	Sub-totals
Membership subscriptions		£5,762.71		£4,327.00			Committee	£480.24			£279.78		
Membership subscriptions (EU) *	£1 = € 1.1983	€593.06	€1,189.94	€2,468.06	€2,820.00	€6,795.06	Committee (EU) *	€1,012.90	€1,213.71	€1,493.14	€1,153.09	€1,317.52	€1,432.87
Proceedings sales (EU) *	£1 = € 1.1983	€85.88	€102.90	€85.88	€41.41	€47.31	Bank charges	£179.22	€78.32	€244.58	€118.30	€44.00	€156.81
Gettymby scholarship		£1,200.00		£1,200.00			Bank charges (EU) *	€65.36			€44.53		
Uppsala 2024 Conference balance		£1,794.70					Credit card charges	€63.50			€44.53		
Belfast 2022 Conference balance				£262.56			Website (EU) *	€1,633.21	€1,957.00		€18,429.07	€9,631.06	
Belfast 2022 Conference deposit return				£17,131.80			London 2026 conference deposit	£7,978.50					
Exchange rate fluctuation KBC		£1,013.34		£13.63			Conference prizes and bursaries (GBP)	€500.00					
(change in value of €24930.25 at start (£1 = €1.1426)** to end (£1 = €1.1983)* exchange rate)							Conference prizes and bursaries (EUR)*	€789.84	€946.43	€1,289.84			
Santander Bus Reward Saver interest		£93.19		£11.29			Other (GBP)	€0.00			€300.00		
Nationwide Bus Saver interest		£461.81		£217.16			Other (EUR)*	€0.00	€0.00		€2,228.30	€2,546.06	€2,528.30
Other		£185.20					Correction error Santander account				£348.57		
TOTAL INCOME		£9,563.21		£25,147.78			TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£12,702.78			£12,940.16		
Bank balance 17/11/23 KBC Business Pro **	£1 = € 1.1426	€21,818.88	€24,930.25	£31,144.76	€35,601.58		NET SURPLUS FOR YEAR	£13,139.57			£12,207.62		
Bank balance 17/11/23 Clydesdale Cash flow		£37,226.20		£15,572.57									
Bank balance 17/11/23 Santander Bus Reward Saver		£10,252.71		£10,589.99									
Bank balance 17/11/23 Nationwide Business Saver		£13,160.13		£12,942.97									
TOTAL		£82,457.92		£70,250.29									
BALANCE SHEET		£82,457.92		£70,250.29			SIGNED						
Opening balance		£82,457.92		£70,250.29			E.A.J. Fischer (Honorary Treasurer)		6-3-2025				
Surplus for year		£3,139.57		£12,207.62			K.Verheyen (Honorary Auditor)		3/3/2025				
Closing balance		£79,318.35		£82,457.92			F.D. Menzies (Honorary Auditor)		06/03/2025				
BANK BALANCE		£79,318.35		£82,457.92									
Bank balance 16/11/24 KBC Business Pro *	£1 = € 1.1983	€18,383.16	€22,027.63	£21,818.88	€24,930.25								
Bank balance 16/11/24 Clydesdale Cash flow		£37,226.20		£37,226.20									
Bank balance 16/11/24 Santander Bus Reward Saver		£0.00		£10,252.71									
Bank balance 16/11/24 Nationwide Business Saver		£13,160.13		£13,160.13									
TOTAL		£79,318.35		£82,457.92									
							* Using ECB exchange rate on 16 November 2024	£1		€ 1.1983			
							** Using ECB exchange rate on 17 November 2023	£1		€ 1.1426			

Income:

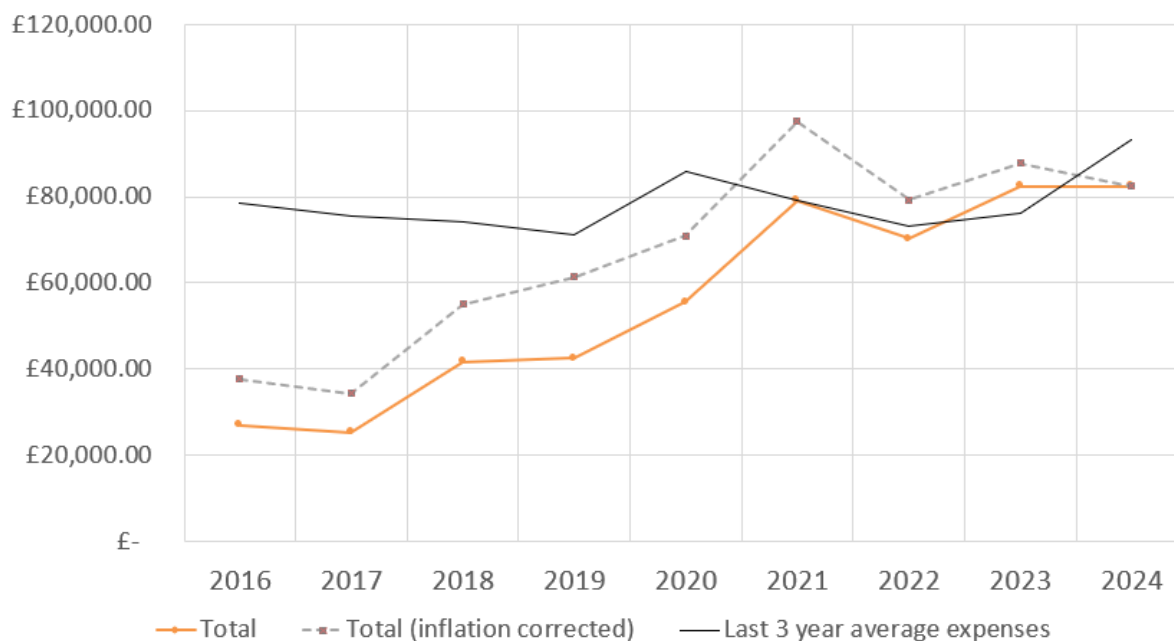
- Membership income stable: £6,755.77
- Small profit on Uppsala conference: £1,794.70

Expenses

- Down payment of London conference venue causes overall loss: £7,178.50
- Website adjustments: £1,633.21
- Bank and credit card charges are rising

Savings accounts closed

Charges	2022-2023	2023-2024
Bank	£156.81	£244.58
Credit card	£63.50	£44.53



The society is in good financial status and the money balance has stabilised in the last years. The society needs to keep reserves in case something goes wrong so it can cover the expenses of a conference that can be cancelled.

It was proposed by the committee to maintain the membership fees and the assembly agree to keep the membership fees.

The Honorary Treasurer thanked the auditors, Fraser Menzies and Kristien Verheyen.

Question from the floor:

- Would a conference insurance cover for cancelling costs in case the conference is cancelled at the last minute?

These insurances are very expensive and don't cover all expenses. Keeping this amount of capital is our insurance policy.

The report acceptance was proposed by Marie McIntyre and seconded by Christoph Staubach.

7. Election of auditors

The committee proposed two auditors who have agreed to be nominated:

- Fraser Menzies – acceptance proposed by Katja Schulz and seconded by Hans-Herman Thulke.
- Kristien Verheyen – acceptance proposed by Christine Fourichon and seconded by Gardien van Schaik.

8. Election of officers and committee members

The following automatic changes will happen at the end of the conference:

- Timothee Vergne will become Senior Vice-President
- Fernanda Dorea will become President
- Dave Brodbelt retires from the post of Senior Vice-President, opening one committee position. The president thanked him for his time in the committee.

The following changes are proposed by the committee:

- Luis Carmo is proposed as new Junior Vice-President
- Egil Fischer is proposed to continue as Honorary Treasurer

- Carla Gomes is proposed to continue as Honorary Secretary.

Luis Carmo's acceptance as JVP was proposed by Lis Alban and seconded by Jeroen DeWulf.

Egil Fischer's acceptance as Honorary Treasurer was proposed by Carola Sauter-Louis and seconded by Ilias Chantziaras.

Carla Gomes' acceptance as Honorary Secretary was proposed by Natascha Meunier and seconded by Jeroen DeWulf.

Locksley Messam has come to the last year of his term in the committee and does not want to run for re-election. The president thanked him for his time in the committee. Therefore, another committee position is open. This meant that two seats are open on the committee, following the retirement of the SVP. Two nominations were received: Inge Santman-Berends, proposed by Gerdien Van Schaik and seconded by Carla Gomes; and Ilias Chantziaras, proposed by Jeroen DeWulf and seconded by Lis Alban. Both got a chance to introduce themselves to the membership and say a few words about why they would like to take part in the committee. Both of them were welcomed as new members of the committee.

9. Production and editing of the proceedings

The President commented on the timeliness of the production and editing of proceedings, thanks to the JVP (Fernanda Dorea) and SVP (Dave Brodbelt). The President thanked the current keeper of antiquities (Marnie Brennan).

The special issue papers (8 submitted, 7 accepted and 1 pending) had final decisions. The editorial is published.

The President thanked Hans-Herman Thulke for finalizing the proceedings' printing process with Amazon.

This year's PVM special issue: 10 papers submitted and currently under review.

The President thanked authors, reviewers, and editors especially Luís Pedro Carmo, Carla Gomes, Locksley Messam, Katja Schulz, Egil Fischer, Timothée Vergne and Dave C. Brodbelt as guest editors and Fernanda Dórea as guest Editor-in-Chief. He also encouraged members to engage as reviewers and encouraged submissions.

Katja Schulz will take over as guest Editor-in-Chief for next edition(s).

Lis Alban suggested the guest editors to use a more personal approach to get reviewers. Locksley Messam queried the assembly in relation to the need of having proceedings papers when they can submit a manuscript to a peer-review journal. There was a discussion about this point (there were conflicting opinion from members on this) and the committee will discuss this at the post-conference meeting.

AP2: The Committee will discuss keeping or not the proceedings' papers at the post-conference meeting

10. Information on future conference venues

The next conference will take place in London; local organisers are Dave Brodbelt and Lucy Brunton. The conference will take place on 25-27 March 2026.

The 2027 annual meeting will be organized in Torino by Laura Tomassone, Cristiana Maurella, Aitor Garcia-Vozmediano and team from the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Piemonte, Liguria e Valle d'Aosta and University of Torino.

The President encouraged members to consider hosting in the future.

11. Nomination of life member

Dirk Pfeiffer and Mirjam Nielen were awarded a life membership, and Katharina Stärk and Gerdien Van Schaik came on stage to say a few words in their honour, respectively.

12. Any other business

No matters.

13. Date and venue of next meeting

Next AGM: 26th of March 2026 in London, England