

**President** Dr David Rollinson  
**Vice-President** Professor Hilary Hurd  
**Honorary General Secretary** Dr Les Chappell  
**Honorary Treasurer** Dr John Jones  
**Honorary Meetings Secretary** Dr Jonathan Wastling  
**Honorary Communications Secretary** Dr Geoff Hide

## **BRITISH SOCIETY FOR PARASITOLOGY**

### **43<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**University College Chester (Molloy Theatre)**

**Tuesday April 6<sup>th</sup> 2004 16.15h**

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Dr David Rollinson (chair), Dr Les Chappell, Dr Jonathan Wastling, Mrs Janice Finn and 33 members of BSP including Council members

**1. Apologies for absence:** Dr John Jones

**2. Minutes of the 42<sup>nd</sup> AGM held at UMIST 2003:** these were signed as a true record of the meeting.

**3. Matters arising:** Dr Jack Chernin had suggested that Council might wish to investigate the possibility of an annual undergraduate award for the best research project report/dissertation. Council has debated this proposition but felt it would be too complicated to expedite.

**4. President's report:**

**(a)** The President recorded the gratitude of Council and the membership to Marcel Hommel, Jimmy Chubb, Liz Hommel, Davina and others in the Chester meeting organising team for putting together an excellent conference. Thanks were recorded for production of the abstract book by Dr Frank Nowell and also for the work of the malaria programme committee. It was noted that the joint meeting formula seems to be highly successful and one which Council would wish to retain for future meetings. A very good level of sponsorship has been received from GSK, Impact Malaria and Trends Journals.

**(b)** The BSP is now in good heart thanks to the day-to-day business activities of Janice Finn and an active and committed Council. The Business Plan, as presented to the AGM last year and subsequently published in *Parasitology News*, has been successfully adhered to and most of the stated objectives have been met including reducing the size and costs of Council, improving communications via *Parasitology News*, the web-site and through regular e-mailings to members. *Parasitology News* is now routinely placed on the web-site at time of publication and back numbers are easily accessed. Dr Dave Knox has been the web-master responsible for many of the changes and was thanked for his good services. Council plans to further improve the web-site during the coming year.

**(c)** Financially the BSP is in a better position than last year and all travel awards have been funded from the meetings surplus.

**(d)** The membership of BSP is now at 1250; a new handbook will be published and sent to all members very shortly. The President requested that any member whose entry is incorrect should contact Janice Finn.

**(e)** We have reintroduced parasitology teaching into our meetings programme and Council will develop this further during the coming year.

**(f)** ICOPA XI will be held in Glasgow in August 2006 and BSP will be the host society. Professors Mike Doenhoff and Paul Hagan are leading the planning process. Subvention funding has been awarded by the Glasgow City Council and Convention Centre and it will be given in two instalments, £9000 now and a further £9000 after the conference. Publicity fliers have been printed and all members are urged to distribute these at any meeting they may attend. Insurance cover has been purchased for £3500 and a student support scheme initiated in the form of raffles at BSP annual dinners this and last year. A limited company called ICOPA XI is in the process of being formed with Paul Hagan, Mike Doenhoff and John Jones as directors. Glasgow City Council has agreed to fund a major reception and further sponsorship will be sought through the activities of a dedicated sub-committee of the ICOPA Organising Committee. A dedicated web-site has been established and it can be accessed independently (<http://www.icopa-xi.org>) or as a link within the BSP web-site. Next year Meeting Makers will take it over and it will be able to receive abstracts and bookings. An International Advisory Committee is being established and members are asked to submit ideas and names to the organisers. The President will be reporting on planning progress at the forthcoming EMOP meeting in Valencia. He drew attention to the £18000 subvention award now confirmed but pointed out that Council members were concerned about possible cash-flow problems and thus requested agreement from the membership to loan ICOPA XI up to £9000 should the need arise. This was unanimously approved by the members.

**(g)** Several Council officers and one member were retiring at this time. Geoff Hide has done a superb job as Honorary Communications Secretary in producing *Parasitology News* and he has put his personal stamp on this invaluable communication. Mike Doenhoff retires as an elected member of Council; he has executed an enormous amount of work for ICOPA and is thanked for his past and also future activities on behalf of the society. Les Chappell retires as Honorary General Secretary and was thanked for his hard work and support. The membership expressed

their appreciation of the retiring Council members with applause. The President is also stepping down this year and accordingly invited incoming President Professor Hilary Hurd to chair the remainder of the meeting. In accordance with tradition this offer was declined.

David Rollinson then invited comment and questions from the members. Chris Arme wondered whether the new membership list would go online. It was pointed out that the list is for use of BSP members only and must not be handed to any third party for any purpose and therefore could not go into the public domain. Former Honorary General Secretary Ralph Muller indicated that he still receives communications and requests for the membership list. The fear was expressed that release of the membership list might also result in unwanted e-mail traffic.

### **5. Honorary Treasurer's report:**

Janice Finn presented the financial report in the absence of John Jones.

A year ago we felt we had turned the corner and could look forward to a brighter financial future. The results for 2003 have not been a disappointment. We have published a surplus for the year of £23,683.

Income from our regular sources of subscriptions, royalties, bank interest and advertising brought in over £32,000 in 2003 with our day-to-day running costs including the secretariat, Council expenses and newsletters/mailings costing less than £28,000. We have therefore achieved our aim of being self-financing and exceeded that by a considerable margin. This has allowed us to fund the Ann Bishop and Garnham travel awards from our regular income and we intend to fund these awards in this way from now on.

Both meetings in 2003 returned an excellent surplus, with the Spring Meeting generating over £20,000 and the Autumn Symposium over £3,000. Our strong financial position allowed us to grant awards to all 2003 applicants for assistance to attend meetings. We now plan to make a funding allocation at the beginning of each year based on surpluses from the previous year. The allocation made for 2004 is £10,000.

Where surpluses remain they will be held in reserve for future years, for example to meet the extra costs of funding student awards to attend ICOPA in Glasgow in 2006. Where demand exceeds the funding available then BSP meetings will take priority over other meetings.

One final issue was identified a year ago and concerns the deduction of tax from our bank interest. On studying our bank statements it was noted that tax was being deducted incorrectly from our bank interest and for some periods no interest had been paid at all. Lengthy discussions with the Bank of Scotland were making no progress and so an official complaint was made to the Financial Services Ombudsman. We then saw a very rapid resolution to the problem. While we believed we may have lost between £1000 and £2000, the investigation in fact found a deficit of over £5,000 all of which has been repaid to us in 2003.

There were no questions of Council concerning the financial report.

## **6. Honorary Meetings Secretary's report:**

Dr Jonathan Wastling was pleased to be able to report good news on the meetings front.

The Chester Spring Meeting was very well attended with over 530 delegates present. It is both scientifically and financially successful and the joint BSP/Malaria Meeting format is clearly to everyone's advantage and will be continued at future meetings. Marcel Hommel, Jimmy Chubb and their team of assistants were thanked by the meetings secretary for making the meeting the obvious success it was: he noted that that combining meetings was not simply additive but synergistic.

The 2003 Autumn Symposium on parasite post-genomics was also a success in attracting 100 delegates and completely filling the meeting room at the Linnean Society. The proceedings will be published as a supplement to *Parasitology* later in 2004.

The Trypanosomiasis Seminar 2004 will be held in the Czech Republic 15-17<sup>th</sup> August in conjunction with the Czech Society of Parasitology. BSP contacts for this meeting are Drs Geoff Hide and Sue Welburn; details are also lodged on the BSP web-site.

The Autumn Symposium 2004 will be held on Friday September 10<sup>th</sup> at the Linnean Society. The topic is subversion of immune cell signalling by parasites; the meeting will be convened by Professor Billy Harnett.

Spring Meeting 2005 will be held at the University of Nottingham and convened by Professor Jan Bradley with assistance from Professor Jerzy Behnke and Dr Richard Pleass. As for this year it will combine the BSP Spring Meeting and the Malaria Meeting. The 2005 Autumn Symposium is provisionally arranged for Friday November 18<sup>th</sup> at the Linnean Society. The meeting will concern apoptosis and parasitism and be convened by Professors Hilary Hurd and Gwyn Williams and Dr Sue Welburn.

The members present were reminded that 2006 represented a significant deviation from the normal pattern of meetings due to ICOPA in August that year. It has been agreed that BSP would run no other meetings in 2006 but would subsume all meetings into the ICOPA package such that the Autumn Symposium, the Malaria Meeting and the Trypanosomiasis Seminar would all be recognisable events within ICOPA. Dr Wastling reminded the members that the success of ICOPA would demand all of our efforts and he urged members to become involved by offering suggestions for topics and names of organisers for sessions.

Finally it was pointed out that there were no plans for any meetings for 2007 and beyond at this time. Again members were asked to put suggestions forward to the Meetings Secretary.

There were no questions arising from this report.

#### **7. Council elections:**

Council nominations for the current Council officer vacancies were: Professor John Barrett for Vice-President, Dr Fiona Tomley for Honorary General Secretary and Lisa Ranford-Cartwright for Honorary Communications Secretary. There being no other nominations the above were deemed elected to office.

#### **8. Awards:**

Council was delighted to record the award of the CA Wright medal to Professor Aaron Maule, Queen's University Belfast. The 2004 Ann Bishop Travel Award went to Jolene Galbreath of Leeds University.

#### **9. AOCB**

Geoff Targett queried whether there was a need to adopt formally the tabled financial statement. The end of year accounts had been signed off by Hartley Fowler and sent to Companies House and the Charities Commission as required by statute, nevertheless the members were asked to approve the accounts and did so *nem con*.

#### **10. Date of next AGM:**

Tuesday April 5<sup>th</sup> 2005 at the University of Nottingham.

Dr Les Chappell  
April 9<sup>th</sup> 2004