

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR PARASITOLOGY

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

The Council presents its annual report and audited financial statements for the year 01 January 2004 to 31st December 2004.

Objectives

The Society's objectives are to advance the practice and study of parasitology by facilitating contact between persons interested in the discipline, and to disseminate knowledge and information relating to parasitology and the work of the Society.

Constitution

The memorandum and articles of association govern the charitable company. Management of the Society's affairs is vested in its Council of company directors, members of which are trustees of the charity.

The Council

The following persons have served on the Council during 2004:

Dr D Rollinson (retired 6/4/2004)	Dr ME Viney
Dr LH Chappell (retired 6/4/2004)	Dr A Bell
Dr G Hide (retired 6/4/2004)	Dr A Dunn
Professor H Hurd	Dr CS Jones
Dr JM Wastling	Dr D Knox
Dr JT Jones	Professor MJ Doenhoff (retired 6/4/2004)
Professor J Barrett (elected 6/4/2004)	
Dr F Tomley (elected 6/4/2004)	
Dr L Ranford-Cartwright (elected 6/4/2004)	

No directors/trustees received any remuneration for their services during the period (see note 4).

Review of activities

Council is pleased to record that the Society continues to be in an all-round good position with regard to membership, financial status and activities. The professional management of our day-to-day running remains with the secretariat, Logandale Financial Services (LFS), and has continued to be very satisfactory and stable. Membership of the Society stands at a total of ~1270 and the finances are in a healthy state, with a reported profit of considerably more than £20,000 for the year 2003 and a similar profit forecast for 2004. This excludes ICOPA monies still held in the BSP bank account.

The society now has in place a secure financial plan to ensure that recurring running costs are met from regular income (subscriptions, bank interest and royalties) with

travel awards funded with profits from meetings. In 2004 we were able to spend over £11,000 in funding student members' travel - £7,423 on supporting 40 student members to attend the Spring meeting in Chester, £2,030 to support student travel to International Meetings and £2000 on the 2004 Ann Bishop Award to Jolene Galbreath of Leeds University.

BSP continues to bank with Bank of Scotland holding three accounts. LFS continues to handle the collection of monies for membership, and from meetings by direct debit and credit/debit card as well as banking cash and cheques. Direct debits for the payment of subscriptions are collected via the BACS system. Payments by credit or debit card are collected using a Bank of Scotland Terminal and this is used for meetings registration fees as well as membership subscriptions. As well as making payments by cheque for expenses, grants and payment of invoices, the Secretariat also makes payments through the BACS system or by direct bank transfer.

The BSP Business Plan, as presented in this report by Council last year has been successfully adhered to and most of the stated objectives have been met including a reduction in the size and costs of Council, improving communications via regular production of our newsletter, *Parasitology News* and regular updating of the web-site and through regular e-mailings to members. Further improvements are planned for the website at the beginning of 2005. The Business Plan will be reviewed and updated in 2005.

A new Handbook for members was published in 2004, with updated contact lists of all members (Honorary, UK, Overseas) and copies of the Society Memorandum of Association, Articles of Association and lists of Past and present officers and medal winners. Hard copies of this Handbook were sent to all members and additional copies are available to be distributed to new members. Steps are being taken to locate members who have changed address without notifying the society, including an appeal in the newsletter to colleagues who may know of their whereabouts. We started the year with 1150 members, had 159 individuals join during 2004 and 37 resign, giving a year end tally of 1272. This is broken down into 632 full members, 600 student/retired/unwaged members and 40 Honorary members.

At the AGM of the Society, held on Tuesday 6th April at University College Chester, a number of changes in Council membership took place. David Rollinson stepped down from the Presidency, having led the society from the front for the past two years with great enthusiasm and authority. Professor Hilary Hurd moved to the role of President and Professor John Barrett was elected as vice-president. Les Chappell retired as Honorary General Secretary (his second stint in the job) and was greatly appreciated for his enormous hard work and excellent organisational skills. Fiona Tomley was elected as the new Honorary General Secretary. Geoff Hide retired as Honorary Communications Secretary having done a tremendous job in producing *Parasitology News*, putting his personal stamp on this invaluable communication. He was succeeded by Lisa Ranford-Cartwright. Finally, Mike Doenhoff retired as an elected ordinary member of Council, having executed an enormous amount of work in support of the initial bid to host the XI International Congress of Parasitology (ICOPA) in 2006 and the early planning stages.. In line with the Business plan, no ordinary members of Council were elected, taking the number of members down to 11.

The International Congress of Parasitology (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 BSP members urged to distribute these at all meetings they 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 has been 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.

BSP has committed to supporting ICOPA XI and the members have approved, in principle, that a loan of up to £20,000 could be made to ICOPA XI Ltd to assist with the preparation of the meeting

During 2004, the Society supported three meetings. The combined Spring and Malaria Meetings took place at University College Chester, organised by an excellent team led by Marcel Hommel and Jimmy Chubb. Over 530 delegates attended, representing 26 nationalities and the joint meeting formula was once again highly successful and will be retained for future meetings. In all, 186 oral presentations were scheduled, including 32 keynote speakers and over 100 posters were on display during the meeting. A very good level of sponsorship was received from GSK, Impact Malaria and Trends Journals. During the meeting, the CA Wright Medal lecture "In pursuit of parasite paralysis" was given by Professor Aaron Maule, Queen's University Belfast and Aaron was presented with his Medal by the incoming president, Hilary Hurd, at the annual Society dinner. The Plenary lecture was delivered by Professor Alan Sher, NIH, Bethesda, USA on the topic of "Induction and regulation of host resistance to *Toxoplasma gondii*". The 2004 Ann Bishop Travel Award went to Jolene Galbreath of Leeds University and student prizes were awarded to Miss Morag Nelson (University of Glasgow), Mr Ovadia Lazari (University of Liverpool), Miss Alice Rafferty (Imperial College, London) and Miss Louise Wildblood (Moredun Research Institute, Edinburgh).

The Trypanosomiasis Seminar 2004 was held in the Czech Republic 15-17th August in conjunction with the Czech Society of Parasitology. Although BSP did not have a financial role in this meeting, Geoff Hide and Sue Welburn were involved in the organisation, together with Julius Lubes from the Czech Society. The meeting was a huge success all round, with an excellent balance of good science and social activities. One hundred and twenty five people attended the meeting, including 10 invited plenary speakers who are the top people in the field. Approximately half the delegates were BSP members.

The Society Autumn Symposium took place at the Linnean Society, London on 10th

September on the topic of “Subversion of immune cell signalling by parasites”. The meeting was organised by Billy and Maggie Harnett and was greatly appreciated by the audience of around 50. For the future, it was agreed that the timing of the meeting would revert back to November, as this tends to attract a larger audience.

Future meetings are planned as follows: the 2005 Spring Meeting will be held at the University of Nottingham on the 4-6th April as a joint meeting with the malariologists; it will be convened by Professors Jan Bradley and Jerzy Behnke and Drs Richard Pleass and Joseph Jackson. The 2005 Autumn Symposium on “Protozoan parasites and programmed cell death” will be held on 14th November, at the Linnean Society, convened by Sue Welburn and Hilary Hurd. In 2006 BSP will hold no separate meetings due to ICOPA XI in Glasgow in the first week of August. In 2007, the Spring and Malaria meeting will be held at Queen’s University Belfast.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small companies.

By order of the Council

Dr FM Tomley, Secretary

