British Paediatric Association

Minutes

Annual General Meeting, Thursday 12 April 1984, York University

The President, Sir Peter Tizard, took the chair.

(1) Obituaries

Members of the Association stood in memory of those Members and Honorary Members* who had died since the last meeting: Dr Leonard John Henry Arthur; Professor Cedric Oswald Carter; Dr Don Hilson; Dr Meredith Vaughan Jones; Dr Arthur Charles Kendall; Dr Patrick MacArthur*; Dr Joan Margaret Pooley; Dr William Courtney Marshall; Dr Jack Rubie; Dr Bernard Edward Schlesinger* (Past President); Sir Wilfrid Sheldon* (Past President); Dr Ronald Edward Smith*; Dr Dorothy Mary Taylor*; Dr Bernard Frederick Whitehead; Dr Philip Arthur Zorab.

The President had written to the widows of recently deceased members of the Association to invite them to the annual dinner. Regrettably, none was able to accept but some very appreciative replies had been received.

(2) Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 14 April 1983 were accepted and signed as a correct record.

(3) Election of President

The President announced that Professor Emeritus John O Forfar had been elected to serve as President from April 1985 to 1988.

Details of the counting procedure under the single transferrable vote system were given as follows. A total of 1189 members of the Association were eligible to vote and 883 votes had been cast. After all the relevant votes had been redistributed in four separate stages, the result was: Professor J O Forfar 435 votes; the next candidate 361 votes.

(4) Election of Honorary Officers

The meeting ratified Council's election of Dr R W I Cooke and Dr Marion Miles to serve as Honorary Assistant Secretaries 1984–87.

(5) Election of Chairman of the Academic Board

The President announced the election by the Academic Board of Dr J D Baum as Chairman from April 1984 to 1987. Professor A G M Campbell had served on the Academic Board since 1978, and as Chairman since 1981. The President thanked him for his outstanding contribution to the work of the Association during his period of office and also thanked Dr J D Baum for all his hard work during the last four years as Secretary to the Academic Board.

(6) Election of new members

Dr S C E Abraham, Professor K Cross, Professor R J Haggerty, Dr A P Norman, Professor P E Polani, Sir John Walton, and Dr Mary J Wilmers had been nominated as Honorary Members by Council, together with 65 full Members and 20 Associate Members. The meeting approved the nominations and the new Members were duly elected. The President welcomed the new Members to the meeting and to the Association.

(7) President's report

The President reported on the following matters:

One of the main aims of the Association was to advise government in the province of child health. Consultations have until recently been directed through the Joint Paediatric Committee (JPC) of the Royal Colleges of Physicians in the UK and the BPA, and the Joint Consultants Committee. Significant advances have been made towards direct consultation. The Officers attended a meeting with Mr John Patten, MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Health) in October 1983. The Depart-
ment had agreed to regular meetings with the Association’s representatives in the future. In addition the BPA would, where appropriate, receive copies of letters from the Department to other bodies. There was reason to believe that the Association’s opinion was being sought increasingly on child health matters.

In order to effect a more closely unified voice for paediatrics, the BPA and the JPC would in future exchange information on a more regular basis than had been the case in the past. The President would keep Dr A D M Jackson, chairman of the Paediatric Committee of the London College informed of matters being discussed and Professor Forfar would communicate with the Chairmen of the Paediatric Committees of the Scottish Colleges.

There had been a very helpful meeting of the conveners of the paediatric specialty groups; it had been agreed that in future the BPA Council should receive the minutes of groups’ business meetings.

Genuine progress had been made in the field of community child health. The principle of a consultant led child health service was generally accepted by the profession. The CCHMS had accepted the proposal that there should be at least one consultant paediatrician with a special interest in community child health in each district. The BPA wished to see up to three in each district in the long term.

The Association’s views about manpower had received a very sympathetic hearing at a meeting with the Department. During the next year it was hoped to obtain acceptance of the principle that existing SCMOs who have been engaged in child health work and who have appropriate qualifications and experience should be promoted to consultant level. The Association was firmly of the opinion that the interests of the existing CMOs and SCMOs should not be prejudiced.

It was hoped that accommodation for the BPA in St Andrew’s Place would be ready for occupation by mid-1985. The Royal College of Physicians of London had launched its public appeal in October 1983. Some large contributions were still needed and members knowing of potential sources of money were asked to contact the Director of the Appeal, Mr L Amor. It was vital that any duplication of effort should be avoided whilst the RCP appeal was in progress.

Sir John Walton had indicated that paediatrics would not be represented on the General Medical Council unless a College or Faculty were established. It was therefore very important to ensure the election of a number of paediatricians at the next election in June. BPA members were commended to vote for all the paediatricians nominated. The following vacancies on the Council were to be filled: 39 from England, 6 from Scotland and one from Northern Ireland.

The Association was immensely grateful to Messrs Cow and Gate for redesigning and printing the abstract form and programme for the meeting. Their contribution in terms of money and time had been particularly large this year. Wyeth Laboratories had agreed to support a research secretary for three years which would greatly strengthen the work of the BPA and for which the Association was very thankful.

Mrs Jean Gaffin, Executive Secretary, and her staff were thanked for all their hard work during the year.

The Association was enormously grateful to the retiring Honorary Secretary, Dr David Harvey for his invaluable contribution to the advancement of the Association’s purpose during his term of office.

Members were urged to visit the exhibitions by both the commercial firms and voluntary bodies which were a very useful part of the Annual Meeting.

(8) Treasurer’s report

The Honorary Treasurer paid tribute to Dr A D M Jackson whose achievements included: charitable status; the new agreement with the Archives; and the soundness of the BPA’s current financial position.

Expenditure for the year had been covered largely from subscription income alone. A system of budgetary control had been introduced. Council had adopted the following financial strategy: (a) the Annual Meeting should be self financing; (b) the Association’s other activities should be covered by members’ subscriptions and interest on investments; (c) reserves equal to one year’s turnover should be built up; (d) profits on the sale of the Archives should be used to build up reserves and for specific projects.

In order to maximise its reserves, the Association was seeking guidance from Phillips and Drew, a firm of stock brokers specialising in investment advice for charities.

The Association had approached HM Customs and Excise in order to clarify the BPA’s liability for VAT; a decision had not yet been reached. Subsequently legal advice had been sought and it was hoped that the question would soon be resolved.

Mr Michael Ray, the Association’s financial adviser, and the secretariat were thanked for their hard work in preparing the accounts.

The Honorary Treasurer’s verbal account and the printed accounts for 1983 were accepted.
(9) Members’ subscriptions

The meeting agreed;

(a) that the subscription rate for ordinary Members should be increased to a point between £82.50 and £87.50 from 1 January 1985, with increases pro rata for the lower rates; the Honorary Treasurer would present the final figure decided upon to Council for ratification at its Autumn meeting.

(b) that in future the subscription rates would be increased by a small percentage annually to keep pace with inflation.

(10) Rules of the Association

The meeting considered amendments to the Rules of the Association which had been approved by the Association’s solicitors and the Charities Commissioners. After full discussion:

(a) the proposed amendment 2 (c) Termination of Membership was rejected;

(b) the remaining amendments were accepted with the proviso that Council should consider a revision of Rule 9, Voting Rights, and that alternative amendments to Rule 9 with consequent changes in other rules effected by Rule 9 should be presented to the 1985 Annual General Meeting for approval.

(11) Report of Council

The Reports of Council and of the Academic Board which had been circulated to members in March 1984 were received. The Honorary Secretary thanked the members of these two committees for their hard work during the year.

(12) Annual reports of standing committees, working parties, paediatric specialty groups and outside bodies

The meeting received reports which had been circulated to members in March 1984. All those who had served were thanked for their valuable contribution to the work of the Association.

The meeting discussed the report of the working party on The Future of Paediatrics which had been circulated to members with the March Newsletter. Members in their regions were encouraged to discuss both the main body of the report and also the appendix regarding the future of the Association.

Concern was expressed about the unequal distribution of representation on the Joint Paediatric Committee, and its ability to reflect the views of the BPA. Professor J O Forfar pointed out that the membership of the committee was for the Royal Colleges to decide.

(13) Hospital facilities for children undergoing ENT treatment

Dr N H Bluett regretted the lack of a continuing link with the British Association of Otolaryngologists (BAO). The BAO Council had considered a statement which departed from the joint agreement with the BPA published in 1973. The Honorary Secretary reported that this later document had not been accepted by the DHSS and the Council of the BAO were to reconsider the matter.

(14) Annual Meeting 1989

It was agreed that the BPA Annual Meeting in 1989 should be held at York University.