

British Paediatric Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the British Paediatric Association was held on 8 April, 1987 in the Central Hall of the University of York. The President, Professor J O Forfar, took the chair.

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Professor Barbara Clayton.

2 MINUTES OF THE 1986 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 1986, which had been circulated to members in March in the Annual Report, were accepted and signed as a correct record.

3 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The meeting noted the election of Professor June Lloyd as President-Elect 1987–88 and President 1988–91.

4 ELECTION OF HONORARY OFFICERS

The meeting ratified Council's election of Dr T L Chambers to serve as Honorary Secretary and Dr R W I Cooke and Dr Marion Miles to serve as Honorary Assistant Secretaries 1987–89.

5 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President's Report had been circulated to members in March in the Annual Report and was APPROVED by the Annual General Meeting.

The meeting stood in memory of the members who had died since the last meeting: Dr B Chown (Honorary Member); Dr Christine Cooper (Honorary Member); Dr E W Hart (Honorary Member and former Honorary Secretary to the Association); Dr D MacCarthy (Honorary Member); Dr D Pickering; Sir Harry Platt (Honorary Member); Sir Desmond Pond (Honorary Member).

The President referred to the Association's recently published reports on 'The School Health Service', 'Paediatric Training in the United Kingdom', and 'Paediatric Intensive Care'. Copies of these reports were available from the BPA office.

The Association was being consulted increasingly as it became recognised that the BPA was the appropriate body to consult on paediatric matters.

A document on the 'Integration of the Child Health Services had been agreed by the BMA Child Health Forum and unanimously approved by the

BMA Council. The President thanked the Honorary Treasurer for his contribution to these discussions.

Professor S R Meadow was retiring as editor of the *Archives of Disease in Childhood*. On behalf of the Association, the President thanked Professor Meadow for his assiduous service over the past seven years.

The President thanked the Executive Secretary and the other members of the secretariat for their hard work and valuable contribution to the work of the Association.

6 ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Professor Barbara Clayton, Professor J Dobbing, Dr Patricia Ryan, Sir Peter Tizard, Dr C H M Walker, Professor O C Ward and Dr B W Webb had been proposed for Honorary Membership and there were nominations for one hundred and twenty one Ordinary Members, twelve Overseas Members and fifty six Associate Members. The meeting approved the nominations and the new members were duly elected.

7 TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer presented the Accounts for the period 1 January to 31 December 1986. These had been circulated to members with the Annual Report and had subsequently been audited. There had been a surplus for the year and a substantial sum had been transferred to reserves. According to agreed financial policy, the Association's activities continued to be funded by income from members' subscriptions and investments and the contribution from the trade exhibition. Profits from sales of the *Archives of Disease in Childhood* had been used to build up the Association's reserves. The cost of the journal had now been fixed in sterling, so that profits would be lower than in previous years but the level of income from this source would be more predictable in future. The Association had taken expert advice on the management of its investments on which maximum return had been obtained. An increase in expenditure during the year reflected the growing

activities of the Association and the consequently higher demand for administrative support.

The Association was advised that its trading activities had increased to the point where it would be necessary to register for VAT. A public limited company, British Paediatric Services Ltd was being formed to undertake those aspects of the Association's work which would be liable to VAT.

The Honorary Treasurer thanked Mr Michael Ray, the Association's financial adviser, and the secretariat for their work in preparing the accounts.

The Honorary Treasurer's verbal report and the circulated Accounts for 1986 were APPROVED.

8 MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS

The meeting agreed that the annual subscription rate for Ordinary Members should be increased to £98 from 1 January 1988, with pro rata increases for lesser rates.

9 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

The meeting appointed Messrs Arthur G Mead & Co as auditors for the financial year 1986-87.

10 RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION

The meeting considered amendments to the Rules of the Association which had been circulated to members in March in the Annual Report. Proposed amendments to Rule 2 MEMBERSHIP 2b Election of Members were accepted.

11 REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD

The Report of the Academic Board which had been circulated to members in March in the Annual Report was received. The President expressed the Association's gratitude to Professor J D Baum for his valuable service both as Secretary to and Chairman of the Academic Board.

12 REPORTS FROM PAEDIATRIC SPECIALTY GROUPS, STANDING COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES, AND OUTSIDE BODIES

The meeting received reports which had been circulated in the Annual Report to members in March. The President thanked all those who had served and contributed to this important aspect of the Association's work.

13 THE FUTURE REPRESENTATION OF PAEDIATRICS

There was extensive discussion on Council's proposals that steps should be taken towards changing the professional representation of paediatrics and child health in the UK.

Council had submitted the following resolutions to the AGM:

- a) This Annual General Meeting endorses Coun-

cil's recommendations to approve the following objectives to be achieved by the future representative body for paediatrics and child health:

- 1 Greater professional recognition of the importance of children and improved status of paediatrics and child health.
- 2 Responsibility for setting and maintaining standards of practice in child health and paediatrics and its specialties in the UK.
- 3 The right, recognised by the Royal Colleges of Physicians and endorsed by the other Royal Colleges and Faculties, to speak for paediatrics and child health as the authoritative voice of these disciplines and to represent them at national and regional levels.
- 4 Representation on committees and councils on which paediatricians feel they should be represented, including the right to elect their own representatives who would be recognised as representing paediatrics and child health.
- 5 Maintenance of the right to publish reports and statements without prior endorsement by other bodies.
- 6 Responsibility for postgraduate examinations and for training in paediatrics and child health.
- 7 The right to appoint regional paediatric advisers who would be the recognised source of advice for health authorities on, inter alia, matters concerning career and training posts in paediatrics and child health.
- 8 Adoption of general structure (including paediatric specialty groups), organisation and constitutional aims similar to those of the British Paediatric Association.
- 9 As the body representing paediatrics it would be responsible for formulating advice on paediatrics and child health and would replace the Joint Paediatric Committee of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the UK and the BPA and the Paediatric Committees of the Royal Colleges of Physicians.
- 10 Arrangements for finance and accommodation acceptable to the members of the future representative body.

Professor R W Smithells proposed and Professor June Lloyd seconded an amendment deleting the words 'recognised by the Royal Colleges of Physicians and endorsed by the other Royal Colleges and Faculties' from Objective 3.

Voting was 116 for and 43 against the amend-

ment. Amended Resolution a) was then adopted unanimously.

- b) This Annual General Meeting authorises Council to hold a referendum to determine
 - i) whether the membership wishes to change the present representation of paediatrics in the UK and
 - ii) whether this should be better achieved through the formation of a Faculty within the Royal Colleges of Physicians or through a separate and independent College of Paediatricians.

Professor O H Wolff proposed and Professor F Harris seconded a resolution inserting a third clause iii) 'Voting in the referendum should be by single transferable vote on the three options: preserving the status quo, forming a Faculty of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and forming an independent College'. Voting on the amendment was 117 for and 2 against.

The amended Resolution b) was then adopted unanimously.

- c) This Annual General Meeting endorses Council's recommendation that voting in the referendum will be confined to the Ordinary members of the Association.

Professor S R Meadow proposed that the words 'and the full results of the referendum should be made available to the membership of the Association' be added to clause c).

The amendment was accepted by the President and the amended resolution was adopted unanimously.

- d) This Annual General Meeting empowers Council to negotiate the achievement of the Objectives enumerated in Resolution a) taking into account the result of the Referendum.

It was proposed that the following words be added: 'the results of the negotiations to be brought back to the Annual General Meeting in 1988, and thereafter to be the subject of a further referendum'.

This proposal was accepted and the amended resolution carried by 130 votes to 3.