

# British Paediatric Association

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Association held on Wednesday 13 April, 1988. The President, Professor J O Forfar, took the chair.

### 1 WELCOME TO SECRETARY

The President welcomed to the meeting Mr Paul Dunn as the Secretary to the Association.

### 2 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from the following: Dr K S Anand; Dr Barbara Ansell; Dr Margaret Borzyskowski; Professor C Chantler; Professor J A Davis; Dr Katherine Elliott; Dr A W Ferguson; Dr Patricia Hamilton; Dr R W A Jones; Dr I A McKinlay; Dr B Qureshi; Dr A Robinson; Professor R J Robinson; Professor M L Rutter; Dr H C Spratt; Dr Rosemary Stephens; Dr Margaret Stoneman; Dr M K Strelling; Professor J H Walker.

### 3 MINUTES OF THE 1987 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 1987, which had been circulated to members in March in the Annual Report, were accepted and signed as a correct record.

### 4 ELECTION OF HONORARY OFFICERS

The meeting ratified Council's election of Dr J W Partridge to serve as Honorary Treasurer 1988-91 and Dr R F MacFaul to serve as Honorary Assistant Secretary 1988-90.

### 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 Winifred Bartindale; Dr T A Brand; Dr Roma Chamberlain; Dr W Davies; Professor I Donald; Professor R Dubois; Dr R C Evans; Dr Rita Forrest; Dr M Friedman; Professor W F Gaisford; Professor J Hutchison; Dr Teresa Posmyk; Dr D M Ricks; Dr Marsha Simons; Dr Jean Thomas; Dr Vera Wilkinson.

Progress had been made on the integration of the child health services at the professional level; the administrative implications had yet to be implemented. The President referred to the need for the

paediatric subspecialties to be recognised as part of paediatrics.

The Association had accepted *Achieving a Balance* which incorporated the recognition of paediatrics as an acute specialty and recommendations for a safety net.

In the context of an increasing willingness of the government to consult the Association on matters concerning paediatrics and child health, meetings had taken place with a Minister of Health and the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health.

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

### 6 ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Professor S M S Ali Taha, Professor N R Butler, Professor A Clarke, Dr G Duncan, Professor J Lorber, Professor F Monckeberg, Professor M F Oliver, Mr G D Pinker, Sir Alan Reay, and Dr P Soysa had been proposed for Honorary Membership and there were nominations for 116 Ordinary Members, 27 Overseas Members, and 28 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 1987. These had been circulated to members with the Annual Report and had subsequently been audited. There had been a surplus for the year and the Association's reserves had been increased, mainly by substantial profits from sales of the *Archives of Disease in Childhood* and a donation from the Royal College of Physicians of London towards the cost of moving to and establishing the new premises at 5 St Andrew's Place. Council had approved the funding out of reserves of a study of the workload in children's units and also of an updating of the Association's statistics on paediatric manpower.

British Paediatric Services Ltd had been established in August 1987 and registered for VAT to

undertake trading activities on behalf of the BPA. Profits earned by the company, chiefly from the Annual Meeting Trade Exhibition, would be covenanted to the Association.

The BPA's financial status which had considerably strengthened in recent years provided a sound basis on which plans could be made for the future.

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 1987 were APPROVED.

Dr J W Partridge proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Honorary Treasurer for his hard work during his period of office. The present satisfactory state of the Association's finances was a tribute to his able administration over the last five years.

#### 8 MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS

The meeting agreed that the annual subscription rate for Ordinary Members should be increased to a point within the range £98 to £103 from 1 January 1989, with pro rata increases for lesser rates. The final figure would be submitted to Council for approval in June.

#### 9 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

The meeting appointed Messrs Arthur G Mead & Co as auditors for the financial year 1988-89.

#### 10 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.

#### 11 REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES, PAEDIATRIC SPECIALTY GROUPS, 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 significant part of the Association's work.

#### 12 DIAMOND JUBILEE

On 2 February the establishment of the Association exactly 60 years previously was celebrated at a reception held in 5 St Andrew's Place. A poster demonstration on the theme 'Make Children a Priority Again' was mounted for a week in February in the House of Commons. The exhibition was opened by Lord Skelmersdale and was attended by

Ministers of Health and other Members of Parliament.

A reception would be held in the House of Lords on 19 May. Arrangements were being made for Child Health Week in October; it was hoped that the many activities at local level during the week would further the work of caring for children in hospital and in the community. A thanksgiving service in Westminster Abbey on 12 October would be followed by a dinner in the evening at the Royal College of Physicians of London.

Publication of *Child Health in a Changing Society* was expected in May, to be followed later in the year with the publication of an updated history of the Association. The President thanked all those who had contributed to these works.

#### 13 THE FUTURE REPRESENTATION OF PAEDIATRICS

The meeting received a paper describing progress since the referendum. The opinion of members of the Association was evenly divided between the two options: Joint Faculty or Independent College. A Subcommittee had been appointed by Council to examine these on the basis of the objectives unanimously agreed at the 1987 AGM. The committee had considered the need for unity among paediatricians, the question of standard setting and the status of Faculties. Council had approved the following proposal as a basis for uniting all paediatricians on an agreed policy: 'To implement the objectives agreed at the 1987 AGM, Council recommends that steps be taken to establish a College of Paediatricians interdependent with the three Royal Colleges of Physicians'. It was intended that, if the meeting approved the resolution, the Subcommittee would look at how it would be implemented and bring to Council a detailed proposal about the most appropriate structure for any future body representing paediatrics. The Royal Colleges of Physicians would then be approached for further discussions. A referendum of the members would follow. After full discussion the resolution was carried by overwhelming majority with only four dissenters.

#### 14 VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING PRESIDENT

Dr C H Nourse paid tribute to the contribution of Professor J O Forfar to the work of Association during his term of office as President. The strength, enthusiasm, and vigour with which he had pursued the aims and policies of the BPA had significantly advanced their progress. His remarks were endorsed with acclaim.