British Paediatric Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Association held on Wednesday 12 April 1989 at the University of York. The President, Professor June Lloyd, took the chair.

1 OBITUARY
The President reported with regret that the following members of the Association had died since the last Annual General Meeting: Professor S A R Ali Taha (Honorary Member); Professor P Bray (Honorary Member); Dr P Congdon; Professor W F Gaisford (Honorary Member and Past President); Dr A G Hesling; Dr D Morris (Honorary Member); Dr Margaret Ounsted; Dr D M Ricks; Dr I D Riley; Professor C A Smith (Honorary Member); Dr B D R Wilson. Members of the Association stood in tribute.

2 MINUTES OF THE 1988 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
The minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 1988, which had been circulated to members in March in the Annual Report, were accepted and signed as a correct record.

3 ELECTION OF HONORARY OFFICERS
The meeting ratified Council’s election of Dr R MacFaul to serve as Honorary Secretary 1989–92, Dr K L Dodd to serve as Honorary Assistant Secretary 1989–92, Dr Marion Miles to serve as Honorary Assistant Secretary (re-election) 1989–90, and Dr Janet Eyre to serve as Honorary Assistant Secretary (Secretary to the Academic Board) 1989–92.

The President thanked Dr T L Chambers and Professor R W I Cooke for their work as Honorary Secretary and Secretary to the Academic Board over the past five years. Her remarks were endorsed with acclaim.

4 ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS
Dr B M Ansell, Professor A Ballabriga, Professor K Bozkowa, Professor J A Davis, Professor V W M Drury, The Baroness Faithfull, Professor J O Forfar, Professor J Frézal, Professor E Gautier, Dr J C Graham, Dr L Hanson, Professor R W Smithells, Professor L B Strang, Sir Eric Stroud, and Dr S D W Weller had been proposed for Honorary Membership and there were nominations for 80 Ordinary Members, 10 Overseas Members, and 33 Associate Members. The meeting approved the nominations and the new members were duly elected.

5 HONORARY TREASURER’S REPORT
The Treasurer presented the accounts for the period 1 January to 31 December 1988. 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, largely by substantial profits from sales of the Archives of Disease in Childhood.

There had been a regrading of the staff salary structure during the year. The Association’s financial status was sufficiently sound to allow plans to 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 1988 were approved.

6 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS
The meeting appointed Messrs Arthur G Mead & Co as auditors for the financial year 1 January to 31 December 1989.

7 MEMBERS’ SUBSCRIPTIONS
The meeting agreed that the annual subscription rate for Ordinary Members should be increased to a point within the range £115 to £125 from 1 January 1990, with pro rata increases for lesser rates. The final figure would be submitted to Council for approval in June.

8 ANNUAL REPORT
The meeting received the following which had been circulated in the Annual Report to members in March: the report of Council 1988–89; the 23rd Annual Report of the Academic Board; the annual
reports of paediatric specialty Associations, Groups and Societies, Standing Committees and Joint Standing Committees, Working Parties, BPA representatives on outside bodies, and paediatricians serving on national bodies. The President thanked all those who had served for their valuable contribution to the aims of the Association, and the office staff for all their hard work.

The President reported that during its Diamond Jubilee year, the Association's profile had been raised and the importance of children's services had been emphasised throughout the country. She drew members' attention to three recent BPA publications: The History of the British Paediatric Association 1928–1988, Health for All Children, and the manual on Infections and Immunizations in Children.

The President reported that the Joint Planning Advisory Committee had agreed, in the light of the findings of the BPA manpower survey, that there should be an increase in the number of paediatric senior registrars. She thanked members for their cooperation in the survey and gave notice that more work would be undertaken to support further attempts to improve manpower provision.

The President also reported that the Conference of Colleges and Faculties and the BMA wished the medical profession to present a unified response, through the Joint Consultants Committee (JCC), to the principles of the government’s White Paper. She would represent the Association at a JCC meeting to be held shortly to finalise this response. As far as services specifically for children were concerned, the BPA Council was preparing a statement on a recommended core service to be provided in each health district. Comments from members were welcome and the final document would be distributed widely.

9 THE FUTURE REPRESENTATION OF PAEDIATRICS
Following the last Annual General Meeting proposals for a College of Paediatricians interdependent with the Royal Colleges of Physicians had been drawn up and a draft charter had been circulated for discussion. The proposals were not supported by the Royal Colleges of Physicians. A paper had been circulated with the March Newsletter reporting on the last meeting of Council, when the views of paediatricians gathered by the regionally elected members of Council had been discussed in the light of the Colleges’ response. There was a fairly equal division of opinion among members of the Association between an independent college and a joint Faculty, with a newly emerging strong voice for the development of the status quo. Senior registrars appeared to be more in favour of a separate college. Members had also received with the March Newsletter copies of an initiative formulated by Professor Cyril Chantler which would retain the BPA with enhanced authority and achieve the objectives agreed at the 1987 Annual General Meeting.

After full discussion the following resolutions were carried by a large majority: (a) the Officers should be empowered to negotiate with the Royal Colleges ways in which the objectives previously agreed could be achieved, using as a basis Professor Chantler’s proposals and the other suggestions put forward by Council; (b) the results of such negotiations should be reconsidered by Council; (c) the proposals finally agreed by the Colleges and the Council should be submitted to the membership who would decide by referendum whether they were acceptable; (d) the establishment of a Joint Faculty should not be further considered unless the structure of Colleges changed to include Faculties of internal medicine as well as paediatrics.