

BUSINESS MEETING OF THE 12TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF YORK. MARCH 24TH 1988.

AGENDA

- 1.Minutes
- 2.Matters arising
- 3.President's report
- 4.Treasurer's report
- 5.Journal - Editor's report
- 6.Elections
- 7.AOB

1. Minutes

The minutes of the 11th AGM were circulated, agreed and signed as a correct record.

2. Matters arising

i) The Guidelines Part III

It was anticipated that all the chapters of this book will be at the publishers (Cambridge University Press) by the end of April 1988. The publishers have stated that the book should be available 9 months following receipt of the complete volume, i.e. Jan 1989.

3. President's report

Thanks were expressed to the outgoing President, Mr Brian Dean, for the many activities he had co-ordinated and for the hard work he had put into the UKEMS.

a) Meetings

Dr Kirkland was thanked for organising the York meeting. It had been enjoyable and the joint symposium with the BTS had generated great interest. There had been an improving response in the number of contributed papers/posters and the President hoped this will continue.

The next annual meeting will be held with the DNA Repair Network at Brighton, April 3rd-5th 1989 and will include a joint symposium on the Molecular Analysis of Mutation. The DNA Repair Network meeting will run from April 5th-7th 1989. The UKEMS meeting will include a symposium on statistics (based on Part III of the UKEMS Guidelines). There will be free communication and poster sessions as usual. Early registration is required, thus UKEMS members will receive an earlier mailing than normal and there will be a January deadline on payment of registration fees.

ICI Pharmaceuticals plc has kindly agreed to sponsor a lecture from a speaker from the USA. One possible candidate is Professor Albertini. In 1990 there will be no UKEMS meeting as the society is host to the XXth EEMS meeting, which will also be held at York. The organising committee are already active.

b) Workshops

There are likely to be two workshops organised for 1989. The first of these will be a workshop organised by Professor Jim Parry concerned with the DHSS revision of the Guidelines for Mutagenicity; the second will be concerned with the statistical analysis of mutagenicity data based on Part III of the UKEMS Guidelines. This will be organised by Dr Michael Green and will be held at the University of Kent.

c) Biological Council Lecture

Details for this lecture have been finalised. It will be given by Professor Bryn Bridges and will be entitled 'Chemicals, Radiation, Genes and Disease'. It will be held at the Royal Society of Medicine on May 20th 1988 at 7.30pm. Members are urged to attend.

d) UKEMS Guidelines

Apart from the completion of Part III, the working groups for Part I have been reconvened to produce an update. This was obviously influenced by the content of the draft revision of the DHSS Guidelines. A reconstituted steering group will be meeting in the near future.

e) Third UKEMS Collaborative Study

The organisers, in particular Jane Cole and Colin Arlett, and the participants from the UKEMS were congratulated for their efforts to date on this major exercise. [Note: A full report on progress of the trial to date had been given by Dr Cole, immediately prior to the Annual Business Meeting].

f) Treasurer

The President reminded the meeting that Dr Natalie Danford, the UKEMS Treasurer, is due to retire at the next AGM following two consecutive terms of office. Members who felt they may be interested, capable and willing to be nominated for this office were asked to contact Dr Danford as soon as possible for information on what the post involves.

g) Constitution

The President proposed an addition to the constitution to take into account companies that regularly provide sponsorship to UKEMS activities. The wording was as follows:-

"Companies which make annual donations of £200 or more to the society, in addition to individual subscriptions, should be called "Sustaining Members" and their sponsorship acknowledged appropriately."

This addition will become part 4 of Article I of the Bye-Laws.

[Article II of the constitution will thus read, The Society shall consist of Ordinary, Honorary, Student and Sustaining Members]

This amendment was agreed nem con.

4. Treasurer's report

Copies of the statement of Accounts were circulated to members attending the business meeting. [Note: all members will receive a copy of this statement at the next UKEMS mailing following the AGM].

The treasurer pointed out that the accounts were from March - December 1987 (not March - Feb as in previous years), to allow next years accounts to be presented Jan - Dec 1988 as agreed previously. As a result there were no 1988 subscriptions in the current statement.

For 1987 there were 193 full members; 20 student members and 4 honorary members. These figures included 26 new members (18 full and 8 student).

The Treasurer informed the meeting that the accounts for the Bath meeting were not yet complete and a further payment of £400 would be required. Annual UKEMS meetings varied greatly in their cost to the Society but in general, meetings either have been completely self-financing or as in the case of the Bath meeting, any additional costs (usually for the expenses of external speakers) were well met by sponsorship.

Mr Dean had requested sponsorship prior to the York meeting and the accounts showed £1700 had been received up to Dec 1987. Since this time a further £300 had been received.

The accounts showed that £600 had been required as a deposit on accommodation for the York meeting. This has subsequently been returned.

Sales of the UKEMS Guidelines book had continued and in 1987 26 copies of both Part I and II had been sold. To date sales of these books had made a profit of £1800 for the society.

The Accounts show that costs have been accrued for production of Part III of the Guidelines, although a grant has been received of £539.56 from HSE. [Note: Sponsorship towards Part III expenses of £500 had been received in previous years]. The committee has produced a revised set of Guidelines for payment of expenses accrued by members on legitimate UKEMS business. The society was under no strict obligation to pay such expenses, but a sympathetic, view for legitimate expenses was taken. The new Guidelines will be circulated.

The Treasurer stated that the accounts were in a healthy state, but the balance at the end of the accounts was only £557 higher than at the beginning. In answer to a question from Dr Sue Wilson the Treasurer stated that a fee of £22 had been paid to register the society under the terms of the Data Protection Act. This registration lasts for three years.

Dr Roy Forster proposed that the statement of Accounts be adopted, this was seconded by Dr John Asquith and accepted unanimously by the meeting.

5. Journal

Professor Parry reported that up to the previous week, the number of subscriptions was 272 - the projection to be on course for a breakeven point after 5 years is 314 subscriptions by the end of 1988. The publishers are happy that we are on course for this target.

The number of subscriptions was beginning to increase in Japan and was now at 12. Of concern was that in the UK there were only 39 subscriptions including only 20 personal subscriptions, a very low number considering the very attractive low subscription rate for personal copies. Society members were encouraged to take up personal copies.

The number of papers submitted is increasing by 25-30 each year. The rejection rate is currently 20 (approx.).

Following a question from Dr Tweats, Professor Parry stated that negotiations with the American EMS to produce a joint journal with UKEMS had collapsed. The original approach had not been authorised by the American EMS committee. This does not cause concern to the UKEMS as Mutagenesis had carved out its own niche and was on course for success.

Dr Diana Anderson (a member of the American EMS committee) stated that there had been some high feelings on this subject in this committee but this had now calmed down and there was little internal animosity.

Professor Parry and his staff were thanked for their continuing efforts.

6. Elections

The President announced that Dr John Ashby had been elected as the next Vice-President (and President-Elect) of the UKEMS. Following the postal ballot.

7. AOB

1. Constitution

Dr Garner suggested that the procedure for elections may be improved if the UKEMS were to adopt the methods used by the British Association for Cancer Research (BACR), i.e. every member of the committee is elected by the membership of the Society. The committee itself then elects its officers (President; Vice-President; Secretary and Treasurer) from the elected committee members. This way should, in Dr Garner's opinion, lead to a harmonious committee. As it stands, it is possible for the membership of the society to elect a President who does not have the support of the rest of the committee, leading to conflict. This view was supported by Dr Kirkland.

Professor Parry felt that one of the successes of the present system was its openness. Dr Green supported this view as it ensures the ultimate authority of the AGM in elections. He suggested that if conflicts, such as those mentioned, do arise in committee, they should be reported at the AGM.

Dr Forster asked about the status of the various groups pursuing scientific activities on behalf of the society. Professor Parry replied that groups such as the Guidelines sub-committee had little constitutional status but the Chairman of this Group is co-opted onto the UKEMS committee. The Guidelines sub-committee had grown out of the Education Sub-committee which no longer exists.

The President stated that major issues concerning the constitution should be discussed as a main agenda item rather than under any other business. Dr Garner stated his intention to submit a more formal proposal at the next AGM.

2. Circulation of meetings abstracts

Professor Parry requested that local organisers of UKEMS meetings should make every effort to circulate abstracts of contributed papers and posters well before the date of the meeting, as is the practice of the Genetical Society. This would assist the supervisors of postgraduate students to decide whether a student should attend the meeting, or to attend for a particular day etc. Dr Kirkland stated that many would-be-authors only submit at a very late stage and often these late papers/posters were needed to make sessions viable.

After discussion it was agreed that the second mailing, related to a UKEMS meeting, should contain at least a list of titles and authors of the paper/poster sessions, even if this is incomplete. Dr Arlett mentioned that this way was the practise of the Association of Radiation Research.

3. Donation

Dr Kirkland wished to correct an omission from the York programme. A financial donation had been received from ICI Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and he wished to have this acknowledged.

Margaret Fox
3.4.88