

BUSINESS MEETING OF THE 13TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX. APRIL 3RD 1989.

AGENDA

1. Minutes
2. Matters arising
3. Presidents reports
4. Treasurers report
5. Journal - Editors report
6. Elections
7. AOB

There were 56 attendees.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the 12th AGM were circulated, agreed with one numerical correction and signed as a correct record.

2. Matters arising

Dr Colin Garner stated he now accepted the current procedures for elections as reasonable.

3. Presidents report

The President, Dr Margaret Fox, announced that the Treasurer, Dr Natalie Danford has completed six years service in this post and was thus due to step down. Dr Danford was warmly thanked for her hard work and expertise. The AGM concurred with applause. Dr Combes and Dr Green had also completed their term of office as committee members and were similarly thanked.

a) Meetings

The President, welcomed UKEMS members to Brighton. Dr Jane Cole and her colleagues were thanked for their hard work in organising both the UKEMS and DNA Repair Network meetings. The 12th Annual meeting in York had been successful with attendance up on previous years. Members were encouraged to continue to make paper/poster contributions to provide the backbone for annual meetings.

Preparations are well underway towards the XXth EEMS meeting, which the UKEMS are hosting in York (July 23rd-27th 1990). Hope was expressed that members will support this meeting and provide many contributions of their work. A possible Venue for the 14th Annual UKEMS meeting is Sheffield, but this has to be confirmed.

b) Workshops

A workshop was to be held in Swansea August 14th/16th 1989, organised by Professor Jim Parry. Professor Parry circulated a draft programme and welcomed any comments on the contents therein. This workshop is entitled "Reviews of the COM and UKEMS Mutagenicity Guidelines".

c) Guidelines Books

Part III was at the proof stage, which had entailed careful checking of mathematical formulae. The publication date given by Cambridge University Press was June/July 1989.

A revision of Part I was in its final stages and it was hoped to submit this to publishers during the next few months with a likely publication date early 1990. The final decision on the choice of publisher had not been made.

d) Industrial Genetic Toxicology Discussion Group (IGDG)

The UKEMS committee recommended to the AGM that the IGDG becomes an affiliated group to the UKEMS.

The terms of affiliation would be that the Treasurer of the IGDG submit a copy of the accounts to the UKEMS Treasurer for information and the Chairman of the IGDG become a co-opted member of the UKEMS Committee.

Before this recommendation was put to the vote, the President opened this matter for debate. Dr John Ashby asked the members of the IGDG committee present to give an explanation for the apparently closed nature of IGDG meetings in that in the main only industrially based genetic toxicologists were free to attend. Dr Barry Elliott (Chairman of IGDG) replied that the group was comprised largely of interested parties from industry who meet together informally to discuss aspects of genetic toxicology testing, with emphasis on the issues that arise when testing to satisfy regulatory requirements. It was a feature of the meetings that technical staff were encouraged to attend and contribute. The informal nature of the meetings is less easy to maintain if the meetings are large. To date the meetings had largely succeeded and they have been low cost; a manageable size (about 50 attendees) encouraging lively discussion. It was intended to retain the industrial bent of these meetings without totally excluding interested scientists from academia. There was no intention to cause a split in UKEMS. If academic UKEMS members wish to contribute to a particular IGDG meeting, then the IGDG committee would welcome their participation.

Dr Ian de Mitchell stated that IGDG meetings to date had been a good forum to bring senior technicians and encourage them to take a more research-orientated outlook, and that the group serves its original purpose well.

Dr Bob Combes felt it was Invidious to restrict attendance at meetings on the basis of where people work and what they do. He felt the existence of the group on the declared basis was sad and could be seen as offensive.

Dr Elliott re-iterated that the group is industrially based by definition and as such voting rights are restricted to industrial companies and contract laboratories that carry out regulatory studies on behalf of others. If the meetings become totally open they will become like any other UKEMS meetings and lose the original aims of the group.

Interested UKEMS members from academia have not in the past been aware of the dates of IGDG meetings. Dr Elliott stated that it was hoped to use the journal "Mutagenesis" to publicise meetings and to carry reports of meetings. The UKEMS mailings may also be used for these purposes.

Dr Elliott stated that the IGDG Constitution had been amended to allay some concerns expressed by the UKEMS committee including the election of members on to the IGDG committee by voting of the membership, fixed terms of office for committee members and the inclusion of some academics at IGDG meetings. The revised constitution had been accepted without further amendment at the latest IGDG meeting (March 29th, 1989).

Professor Parry stated that interested academics would find IGDG meetings useful to listen to problems faced by industrialists. Many academics sit on Boards/Working parties formulating regulations and would perhaps do this job better if well informed. At the moment such people can only attend if invited to contribute a presentation.

Mrs Margaret Richold stated that academics with an interest in the next topic for discussion should write declaring their interest and they would be welcome. Dr Elliott agreed and said the fear is that large groups of students would come and make the meetings so large that free discussion would be inhibited. To date the meetings had obviously been successful; served a useful purpose and to his knowledge nobody had been told directly 'you cannot come'.

Dr Michael Green stated that there were two choices for the UKEMS, to set up similar meetings in competition or to promote the affiliation of the two groups and co-operate. He advocated co-operation.

Professor Bryn Bridges was concerned that the IGDG Chairman being co-opted onto the committee was setting a precedent and that the UKEMS had not before had members on the committee to represent a particular view e.g. Industry's view on particular matters. Dr David Tweats pointed out that the IGDG Chairman would not be there to represent the view of Industry, but to report on the activities of the IGDG. Professor Parry pointed out that other members had been co-opted onto the UKEMS committee e.g. the Chairman of the Guidelines Steering group; local organisers of UKEMS meetings etc.

Following a summary of the debate by the President, Dr Tweats proposed that the AGM accept the UKEMS committee's recommendation for the IGDG to become affiliated to UKEMS. This was seconded by Dr Ian de Mitchell and carried by a clear majority in favour.

e) Third UKEMS trial

The protocols, results and analyses were not yet published, but negotiations were in progress with "Mutagenesis" (see item 5).

f) UKEMS Designs

Three UKEMS members had submitted designs for use as motifs on clothing. These members were thanked for their efforts. Full consideration would be given and a design chosen.

4. Treasurers report

The Treasurer circulated copies of the statement of Accounts for 1988 (attached).

The UKEMS committee had proposed that retired and unsalaried members should pay a proposed nominal fee of £1 to encourage them to retain their UKEMS membership. As such they would not be members of EEMS or be allowed to vote in UKEMS elections. Dr Danford asked for agreement of this point. Professor Parry stated that retired members should pay £1 for membership, but should retain the status of full members. Unsalariated members should carry on paying the full £5 membership fee as it was hoped such members would regain full employment. Professor Parry's amendment was agreed by the AGM.

The Treasurer urged UKEMS members to inform the Treasurer or Secretary if they change their address, to stop mailing going astray.

Various items on the statement of Accounts were mentioned by the Treasurer including payments for the organisation of the 1990 EEMS meeting in York. These will be repaid when the accounts for this meeting are settled.

Guideline sales have slowed, although Part I is now sold out. Part III has cost about £1000 to date, although about £700 had been received in sponsorship. There is a positive balance of approximately £600 with regard to costs and sales of both UKEMS guidelines books.

It was pointed out that the Post Office is not efficient in its management of the National Savings Investment Account, but the interest rates are sufficiently attractive to continue with this account.

At the time of the AGM there were 189 full members and 15 student members registered with the UKEMS, which includes 22 new members for 1989.

Dr Colin Arlett mentioned that the UKEMS is not recognised by the Income Tax Inspectorate in terms of rebates for professional subscriptions. The Treasurer pointed out that UKEMS is officially the UK section of the EEMS. Thus the £5 subscription should be claimed for as a subscription to the EEMS. A letter defining the acceptance of this position by the Tax authorities is available from the Treasurer.

Dr Tweats proposed that the accounts be adopted, this was seconded by Dr Colin Arlett and accepted unanimously by the meeting.

5. Journal

Professor Parry reported that IRL Press had been taken over by Oxford University Press. As a result the Editors job had become less easy due to difficulties in getting hold of the right people in a larger organisation. Last years subscriptions were at 272, at the time of the meeting they had reached 346, which is above projections. There had been an increase in UK subscriptions but more were needed from Europe. If any subscriber had not received a particular issue of 'Mutagenesis', they were urged to contact Heather Vigour, Claims Dept., Oxford University Press.

Professor Parry stated that the Journal was running into a problem due to a page shortage. The Journal is now receiving more good papers than it can publish i.e. approximately 120 submitted papers per year are of acceptable quality, but there are only enough pages to publish 90 papers. Thus the time between acceptance and publication is increasing. A bigger page budget will only be possible when there are significantly more subscribers.

At the time of the meeting the Journal was not in profit but was breaking even, (for 1988-89 alone-substantial launch costs etc. have still to be recouped). About 400 subscriptions are needed. An application form for the subscription to the Journal will be sent with the next UKEMS mailing, and there will be publicity at the Cleveland IAEMS meeting in July.

The backlog problem could be exacerbated by publication of the protocols and results of the 3rd UKEMS Trial. The best solution was deemed to provide funds from the UKEMS or preferably sponsorship to pay for a special supplementary issue, free to current subscribers. This will cost £2-3000 for camera-ready copy. Dr Arlett suggested that more use of the data base section would reduce pages per article.

Authors were encouraged to send the reprint request cards they receive for their articles to IRL, to provide names and addresses of potential subscribers.

6. Nominations

The Secretary (Dr Tweats) had received two nominations for Dr Leigh Henderson and Dr Colin Garner for the two vacant posts for ordinary committee members. Thus these nominees were declared elected unopposed. In addition Dr Terry Brooks had been nominated as Treasurer. Again Dr Brooks was declared elected unopposed.

There was no further business.