

Veterinary History Society

Minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting

Wellcome Trust, 215 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE

Thursday 1 November 2012 3.30 pm

Members Present: Robin Bone, John Broberg, Clare Boulton, Gary Clayton-Jones, John Clewlow, Tim Cox, Gareth Davies, Roger Ewbank, Richard Greenwood, Mike Hinton, Dick Lane, Peter Lane, Norman Leslie, Vernon Little, Jean Mann,

Apologies for absence: Twink Allen, Tony Andrews, Carl Boyde, John Cooper, Julie Hipperson, John Ishmael, Peter Jackson, Simon Jackson, Bruce V Jones, Alan Laursen-Jones, John Moffitt, David Morton, David North, Abigail Woods

1. Minutes of the 2011 AGM

The minutes of the 2011 AGM which was held on 30th November were agreed and signed, there were no matters arising.

2. Chairman's report

The Chairman commented that the Society is in good health as shown by the quality of the meetings and the strength of the journal. Over its 50 year history the Society has experienced a number of fallow periods and we must be mindful of this and ensure that the Society remains sustainable in the future. He encouraged members to support the Committee by offering to speak at meetings or suggesting others who can, by writing for the journal and by making the most of any opportunity that arises to promote its work. We will also need to make connections and link the Society, its members and the history of the profession to existing projects. He quoted two examples: the involvement of the Society in the new Veterinary Gallery at the National Horseracing Museum in Newmarket and that John Fletcher, who gave a lecture on Deer Parks to the Society in July, was now writing an essay on *The Deer in Art* for the British Sporting Art Trust'.

The Chairman then informed the members present that Committee member Abigail Woods had proposed to the Committee that the Society organise the next Congress of the World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine (WAHVM) which is to be held in the UK in 2014. After lengthy and sometimes difficult discussions, which resulted in the resignation of a member from the Committee, this was agreed. There is some financial risk but arrangements are already in place to manage this risk and sponsorship is already been sought. A separate committee has been set up which includes key members of the Society's Committee as well as others. The theme of the Conference will be twofold: 'History of One Health' and 'War, Animals and the veterinary profession'. At the next committee meeting the Chairman will propose that the Society joins WAHVM as a logical step following the agreement to organise the 2014 Congress.

The next Granville Press book *Twentieth Century Veterinary Lives* by Bruce Vivash Jones will be published soon and members are encouraged to purchase a copy.

3. Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer circulated accounts showing income and expenditure for the year ended 31 October 2012. Acceptance of the Report was proposed and seconded and passed unanimously. The Treasurer noted that the Society is in good financial shape, there is currently a larger surplus than usual as there are two outstanding invoices. This year the Society has paid for copies of the *Victorian Veterinary Student's Diary* for the UK Vet School libraries and for a book, *A Manual for the use of coachmen, grooms, ostlers* (1799), to be conserved in memory of Norman Comben. The Treasurer expressed his gratitude to the Wellcome Trust for giving free use of the room for the 50th Anniversary meeting.

4. Editor's report

The Editor commented that he is always looking for contributions, of any length, for the journal. It was suggested that consideration could be given to republishing some of the articles from the early issues of the journal. The Editor commented that this had been discussed but that he would always prefer to publish new material.

5. Election of Officers and Committee

The current Officers had indicated that they were all willing to stand again. As there had been no proposals for new Officers they were re-elected *en-masse*; proposed by Richard Greenwood, Seconded by Gary Clayton-Jones.

The following Committee members had indicated their willingness to stand again John Broberg, Mike Hinton, Jean Mann, Abigail Woods; proposed by Richard Greenwood, Seconded by Gary Clayton-Jones.

Both elections were carried unanimously

6. Any other business

6.1 Norman Leslie outlined recent changes at the World of James Herriot and suggested that the Society could consider holding a meeting there in the future.

6.2 The Chairman mentioned an exhibition that has just opened at the Museum of London – Doctors, Dissection and Resurrection men – which runs until the 14 April 2013.

The meeting closed at 4.15 pm.