



MINUTES OF THE 15th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AVA HELD ON 29th MARCH 2010 AT LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY

1 ATTENDANCE

- 1.1 Eighteen members were present. The meeting was chaired by the AVA's chairman, Dr Tim Meese.
- 1.2 Apologies for non-attendance were received from Prof Ron Douglas, Prof Tom Troscianko and Dr Andrew Welchman.

2 MINUTES OF THE FOURTEENTH AGM HELD ON 31st March 2009

- 2.1 The minutes of the fourteenth AGM had been circulated to all members of the Association present. The minutes were approved and signed.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 3.1 There were no additional matters arising from the minutes.

4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 4.1 On behalf of the AVA Committee, Dr Meese welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for attending. He commented that it was a pleasure to have the meeting in Liverpool, where no AVA meeting had been held in his 15 years on the Committee. He thanked the organisers, Dr Bertamini and Prof Paramei, for making this possible.
- 4.2 Dr Meese reiterated that the AVA's objectives are to advance, promote, develop and improve the study & knowledge of vision science. This is achieved mainly by holding scientific meetings and supporting younger researchers with small grants for travel and equipment. In addition to the Geoffrey Burton, Richard Eagle and Mark Bradshaw awards, regular travel bursaries are awarded for AVA conferences and the Marr medal has recently been introduced.
- 4.3 As in previous years, three scientific meetings were held in 2009. The annual meeting was organized by Dr Andrew Schofield, at Birmingham, with Prof Chris McManus (UCL) giving the Burton Memorial Lecture: *To please and entertain the eye: Explorations in visual aesthetics*. A fifth Animal Vision meeting was held straight after ECVF in Regensburg. While this remains a distinct and important feature of the AVA calendar, it is likely that the next such meeting will follow ECVF in Toulouse in 2011. The AVA's 14th Christmas meeting was organised by Dr Meese and Prof Troscianko in Bristol, with invited talks from Prof Zigmunt Pizlo: *Towards a new theory of figure-ground organization*; Prof Vilayanur Ramachandran: *Phantom limbs and synaesthesia: inter-sensory interactions as a key to understanding the brain*, and Dr Pascal Mamassian: *A couple of challenges for visual perception under uncertainty*. Although Prof Ramachandran was unable to attend the meeting in person, he sent his apologies and a DVD of his talk. This year the Christmas meeting was the largest yet with 15 talks, 41 posters and an attendance of 122.
- 4.4 Dr Meese reported a new format for the 2010 Christmas meeting, to be organized jointly by the AVA and Dr Andrei Gorea of GDR Vision in France. It will be held in the St Germain district of Paris for 1½ days over 17th -18th December. He hoped that members would support this venture with a solid showing overseas.
- 4.5 Dr Meese reported that membership now stands at over 400 lifetime members. He encouraged proposals from members for new meetings or joint meetings with other societies, and as always encouraged members to put themselves forward for Committee membership. He noted that new members had been nominated to the Committee this year and that turnover was important to ensure that members are fairly and evenly represented.

- 4.6 Finally, Dr Meese thanked the Bristol secretariat, Tom Troscianko and Gillian Porter, for their ongoing efforts to keep the AVA running smoothly.

5 TREASURER'S REPORT

- 5.1 The treasurer, Dr Andrew Schofield, presented the summary accounts for 2008-2008 to the members present. He noted that a £2,500 surplus was recorded this year, owing to all income from the Animal Vision meeting falling within the accounting year, but associated outgoings not until afterwards. Taking these meeting expenses into account, a small deficit was recorded for the year as previously predicted. He noted that with the interest rates available to charities still very low, a small deficit was again likely next year. The accounts had been independently audited and he invited members to view the inspector's report.
- 5.2 The accounts were accepted.

6 VOTING ON PROPOSED RESOLUTION

- 6.1 Dr Meese, seconded by Dr Schofield, proposed the resolution that clauses F and G1 of the constitution should be amended to increase the maximum number of Committee members from 9 to 10. Clause F (Honorary Officers) would then read "In accordance with clause P the members shall elect from amongst themselves a chairman, a vice-chairman, *a secretary [added]* and a treasurer, who shall hold office from the conclusion of the annual general meeting." Clause G1 (Executive Committee) would read "The Executive Committee shall consist of not less than *five [previously four]* members nor more than *ten [previously nine]* members being: (a) the *four [previously three]* honorary officers specified in the preceding clause; (b) not less than one and not more than *six [previously five]* members elected in accordance with clause P." All voting members present were in favour, as were the six postal votes previously received, and the motion was carried.

7 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE FOR 2010/2011

- 7.1 Dr Meese reported that this year 10 nominations had been received for places on the Executive Committee, and there was therefore no need to hold an election, although he noted that this may change in future. The meeting ratified the following to serve on the Executive Committee until the next AGM:

Dr Marco Bertamini	Prof Ron Douglas
Prof Mark Georgeson	Dr Eugene McSorley
Dr Tim Meese	Dr Simon Rushton
Dr Mark Scase	Dr Andrew Schofield
Prof Tom Troscianko	Dr Ben Webb

- 7.2 The honorary officers would be appointed at the next Committee meeting.

8 VISION SCIENTISTS' MEMORIAL FUND

- 8.1 Dr Meese announced that there had been seven high quality applications for the GJ Burton travel award and two awards of £750 were to be made. The first was to Arthur Lugtigheid (University of Birmingham), to attend VSS and present "*A surprising influence of retinal size on disparity-defined distance judgments*". The second was to Irene Espinosa (University of Bristol) to present "*Principles of camouflage as seen in ducks*" at the International Ornithological Conference, Brazil.

9 THE DAVID MARR MEDAL

- 9.1 Dr Meese reminded the members present that the AVA had introduced the David Marr Medal, to recognize the achievements of an outstanding vision scientist in the early part of his or her research career.
- 9.2 It was announced that the winner of the 2010 award was Dr Andrew Welchman (University of Birmingham), and that a 2011 award would also be made to Dr Hannah Smithson (University of Durham). Both would be invited to give talks at forthcoming AVA meetings.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 10.1 There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting.