



**MINUTES OF THE 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AVA  
HELD ON 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2011 AT SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY,  
CARDIFF UNIVERSITY.**

**1. ATTENDANCE**

- 1.1 Twenty two members were present. The meeting was chaired by the AVA Chairman, Prof. Tim Meese.
- 1.2 Apologies for non-attendance were received from Dr. Marco Bertamini, Dr. Gillian Porter and Mrs. Lesley Sackett.

**2. CONFIRMATION OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

The new Executive Committee was confirmed:

Dr M Bertamini	Prof T Meese
Prof R Douglas	Dr S Rushton
Prof M Georgeson	Dr M Scase
Dr Lewis Griffin	Dr A Schofield
Prof J Harris	Prof T Troscianko

Thanks were given to the people leaving the Committee this year:

Dr. Eugene McSorley      Dr Ben Webb

**3. MINUTES OF THE 15<sup>TH</sup> AGM HELD ON 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2010**

- 3.1 The Minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> AGM had been circulated to all Members of the Association present. The Minutes were approved and signed.

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- 4.1 There were no additional matters arising from the Minutes.

**5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

- 5.1 On behalf of the AVA Committee, Prof Meese welcomed members to the first AVA meeting ever to be held in Cardiff and thanked the organisers for making it possible.
- 5.2 Prof Meese reminded the assembly that the AVA's constitutional objectives were to advance, promote, develop and improve the study and knowledge of vision sciences. This is mainly achieved by holding scientific meetings and by supporting younger researchers with small grants for travel and equipment; these are the Geoffrey Burton, Richard Eagle and Mark Bradshaw Awards. Small regular travel bursaries are made for AVA conferences and the Marr

Medal is awarded every other year to outstanding young vision scientists in the first ten years of their independent research career.

- 5.3 Two scientific meetings were held in 2010. The March 2010 Annual Meeting was organised by Galina Paramei in Liverpool where there were two invited talks: Prof Bruce Bridgeman (University of California) gave a lecture entitled: 'How the brain makes the world appear stable', and Prof. Nick Wade's theme (University of Dundee) was: 'Pioneers of eye-movement research'. This meeting gave rise to a special issue in the new on-line open-access journal 'i-Perception'.

The AVA's 15<sup>th</sup> Christmas meeting was organised by Andrei Gorea and Prof Meese at the University of Paris. This was a one and a half day meeting, the first to be held overseas. There were three invited speakers: Laure Pisella (Lyon Neuroscience Federation Institute) 'The role of the posterior parietal cortex in visual perception and action', Andrew Welchman (2010 Marr Medal Winner) (University of Birmingham) 'The quest for **BOLD** fusion', and John-Dylan Hayes (Bernstein Centre for Computational Neuroscience) 'From sensory signals to perceptual decisions: Decoding the flow of visual information through the human brain'. The Chairman was pleased to report that the Christmas Meeting continued to grow in strength with 23 talks, 45 posters and 128 attendees – new records on all three counts. Prof Meese hoped that further forays abroad would be enjoyed, perhaps every other year, following the success of this meeting.

- 5.4 Prof Meese reported that next year's Christmas meeting will be of a more traditional variety, at the University of York, to be organised by Dr Peter Thompson and his colleagues.
- 5.5 Prof Meese reported that AVA membership now stood at well over 400 vision scientists with lifetime membership. As usual, proposals for new meetings would be welcomed, or for joint meetings with other societies. This year, efforts had been redoubled to encourage new blood onto the committee by actively seeking nominations and by holding a formal election prior to the AGM. It is hoped this would be done on a regular basis. It was hoped that the four honorary positions, Chairman, Vice-chairman, Treasurer and Secretary, would remain unopposed each year so as to maintain continuity on the Committee. The positions would be discussed each year and, for instance, Prof Meese had agreed to stay on as Chairman for a fourth year but would be looking for a successor next year.
- 5.6 In conclusion, Prof Meese thanked the Bristol Secretariat, Tom Troscianko, Gillian Porter, to whom good wishes were sent, and her replacement for the duration of her maternity leave, Lesley Sackett, for their efforts and efficiency in keeping AVA running smoothly.

## 6. **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Treasurer, Dr. Andrew Schofield, presented the summary accounts for 2009-2010. Dr. Schofield reminded the meeting that the small surplus last year was due to the fact that the accounts included income from the Regensburg Animal Vision meeting but no balancing expenditure and also included some interest accrued before the drop in interest rates. This year, he reported a considerable drop of £6,234 in the reserves due to the lack of interest received and the inclusion of expenditure from the Regensburg meeting.

Dr. Schofield felt the deficit reflected the reverse in bank interest received but expenditure needed to be monitored and some spending reduced, for instance in regard to multiple awards for some schemes. A new Charities Savings Account from Scottish Widows had been opened

offering an improved rate of interest, 'though still considerably less than previously and he hoped for improved meeting income from increased numbers. Dr. Schofield expected to post a small deficit for 2010/11 and hoped to break even in 2011/12.

## **7. VOTING ON PROPOSED RESOLUTION RE: POSTAL/ON-LINE ELECTION**

- 7.1 Proposed resolution 1, interpretation of postal ballot as on-line ballot. This resolution was intended to allow an 'on-line' ballot to be held for electing Committee Members where the Constitution required a 'postal ballot'. This resolution was unanimously approved.
- 7.2 Proposed resolution 2. Transfer of money with one authorization. This resolution was intended to allow a single authorized signatory to transfer funds across different AVA accounts. Any withdrawal of funds out of the spectrum of AVA accounts (including writing cheques) still requires two signatories. This resolution was unanimously approved.

## **8. VISION SCIENTISTS' MEMORIAL FUND**

- 8.1 The Geoffrey Burton Award of £750 was awarded to Katharina Zeiner (University of St.Andrews) to attend VSS, whilst the Mark Bradshaw Award of £750 was awarded to Rishi Bhardwaj (University of Durham) to attend ECVP.

## **9. DAVID MARR MEDAL:**

- 9.1 The 2010 David Marr medal was awarded to Dr. Andrew Welchman (University of Birmingham) and the 2011 David Marr Medal was awarded to Dr. Hannah Smithson (University of Durham). A call for new nominations will be sent out at a later date.

## **10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

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

1<sup>st</sup> August, 2011.