

WPSA UK BRANCH

WINTER 2016

NEWSLETTER

www.wpsa-uk.com



education organization research

Introduction

Welcome to our last Newsletter of 2016. As the year draws to a close it is an opportunity to reflect on another successful year for our Branch. Membership of the Branch remains steady at between 240 and 250 members. The WPSA UK Annual meeting was again held at the University of Chester, where about 80 delegates attended and listened to a varied programme of over 25 papers, many offered by young, enthusiastic researchers. Plans are already well advanced for 2017 with a return to Chester, possibly for the last time. Calls for abstracts have now closed and we look forward to an interesting and entertaining Meeting in April 2017 (more details are available later in this newsletter).

2017 will also see our next Poultry Science Symposium to be held from the 3rd to 5th July 2017 in Cambridge. The topic will be "Poultry Feathers & Skin – the past, present and future of the poultry integument". More details of the Symposium are available on the WPSA UK website. Abstract submission for the

Symposium is now open and the deadline for submission is 28th February 2017, but it is hoped that abstracts will start to be submitted very soon.

So all that is left is to wish members a very happy Christmas and a successful, happy and healthy 2017 with as many members as possible taking advantage of all WPSA both in UK and globally has to offer.

Don't forget to use our website to update yourself and also see ways of spreading the word by use of social media.

Stephen Lister
Branch Secretary, WPSA UK
salister@crowshall.co.uk

The Presidents Piece

Contributed by Vicky Sandilands

Welcome to the Winter newsletter, I hope that you are enjoying the change of the seasons, although the threat of H5N8 from the continent is making everyone rather nervous, understandably. Disease risk not only threatens the welfare of our animals, but the welfare of staff

whom may have to work in difficult situations. It can also make research and teaching responsibilities difficult, as visits between research facilities or poultry producers are put on hold. We are all hoping that the housing order will reduce the risk of flocks becoming infected, but it is bound to be difficult for free-range birds and staff who have to deal with being cooped up indoors for the next month. Let's hope for a good outcome.

Those of you that attended WPC in Beijing will know that one of our long-term members (and past president) Dr Paul Hocking was inducted into the International Poultry hall of Fame after we nominated him for the award - well done Paul, well deserved!

Our most recent council activity was a meeting in October. There, we reviewed the summer scholarship reports, which were of high quality and deserving of their funds, well done everyone.

We also discussed possible topics and speakers for our annual spring conference (26-27 April 2017, Chester). Some readers may not be aware, but the programme is put together by our Programme Committee, a group of 11 branch members (some of whom are also on council). They are responsible for the Invited Speakers Session and Joint WPSA/BSAS Industry Session, reviewing all submitted abstracts, producing the programme, and editing the abstracts for final publication in British Poultry Abstracts. Some of our long-standing members are looking to step back from

their posts, and so we are looking for new recruits to work with us in producing an exciting annual programme. Please get in touch if you would like to join us! Contact the Committee Chair, Dr Emily Burton: emily.burton@ntu.ac.uk

In the not to distant future (spring 2018), we will be bidding farewell to our current secretary (Stephen Lister) and treasurer (Andrew Ball) and so we are looking for people to take up these highly responsible positions. These two posts are really the backbone of the branch - keeping us straight with requirements from the mother ship (WPSA) and staying on top of membership dues and our funds. They come with a small honorarium each, which may help sweeten the workload. If you are interested, please do get in touch with Stephen our current secretary (salister@crowshall.co.uk).

CONGRATULATIONS To Dr Steven Pace!



Hot on the heels of our own Dr Paul Hocking being inducted into the WPSA International Poultry Hall of Fame WPSA UK is pleased to congratulate another of our members, Dr Steven Pace, (pictured above holding the cup) who last month was honoured with the

accolade of Young Poultry Person of the Year, awarded during the banquet at the Egg and Poultry Industry Conference at Celtic Manor in November.



**WPSA UK Branch
Spring Meeting
26th and 27th
April 2017
University of
Chester**

Our annual spring meeting will be held for a final time in Chester before we move on with the British Society for Animal Science in their quest for pastures new. The dates are the 26th and 27th April 2017 and will follow the BSAS Student Day on the 25th of April - also held at the University of Chester.

The joint session with BSAS will explore views of animal science activities from the outside looking inwards: **Dr Nick Rousseau**, Managing Director of the Woven Network will discuss public perception over the use of insects as feed and food, and **Professor David Hughes**, Emeritus Professor of Food Marketing at Imperial College London on engaging the end consumer.

The **WPSA Industry session** will feature an introduction to current technologies in gene editing from **Dr Mike McGrew**, Research Group Leader at the Roslin Institute, progressing to recent advances in

gene editing for poultry and a bit of blue sky thinking and discussion about how it could potentially be used in the industry. Our second speaker will cover the topical issue of alternative protein sources – sharing a commercial viewpoint encompassing product quality, availability, supply chain volatility and a host of other factors influencing the decision over whether or not to invest in a raw material.

The **2017 Gordon Memorial Lecture** will focus on laying hens this year, with a talk from **Professor Rudi Preisinger**, of Lohmann Tierzucht GmgH, covering the interface between industry and research. The Gordon Memorial Lecture is a tribute both to the monumental work of Robert Fraser Gordon during his life, and also to the extraordinary achievements of poultry scientists who have followed him. The WPSA UK branch is proud to host this annual event, and our website gives more details on the Gordon Memorial Trust and the annual Award recipients.

The deadline for abstract submissions has now closed but we look forward to accepting as many of the submissions as possible..

As in 2016, there will be ten meeting scholarships available to registered students to facilitate their attendance at the meeting. Each **WPSA UK Branch Spring Meeting Scholarship** will be worth £150 and is sponsored by the branch. The scholarship is intended for payment or part payment of registration fees and accommodation and will be awarded on a competition basis at the discretion of the branch Council and although all students are encouraged to apply, preference may be given to UK undergraduates. **Applications will close on January 31st 2017.** More details are available on the branch website.

WPSA SUMMER VACATION SCHOLARSHIPS

It is not too early to start thinking about applications for Summer 2017:

Conditions of Award

1 Scholarships will be awarded to selected bona fide students for the furtherance of a period of study or research into an aspect of poultry science, or a poultry related subject. BSc, (taught) MSc or other “qualifying” degrees will be considered. Only students who are undertaking, but have not yet completed, a UK based recognised first degree or (taught) MSc course may apply.

2 This period of study is normally expected to take place during the summer vacation in the year of application, and to be of approximately eight weeks duration.

3 The application must be supported by the Supervisor/ or Head of Department/Director or equivalent, who should also provide guidance and supervision during the project.

4 Preference will be given to applicants who are, or whose Supervisors are, members of WPSA.

5 Applicants may be in receipt of other concurrent awards, but any applied for or

already agreed must be declared in the initial application.

6 Applicants should not normally be more than 35 years of age and scholarships will not normally be awarded to the employees of commercial enterprises. This is at the discretion of the Branch Council who will consider applications on merit, see para 8.

7 Successful applicants will be expected to produce a short report in a standard format (full details will be provided to successful applicants) on the completion of their period of study/research. These must be completed and submitted by 1 October in the year of the award and may be chosen for presentation as either short papers or posters at the WPSA UK Branch Annual Conference in the following Spring.

8 Applications will be considered on their merit, irrespective of the level of degree course being undertaken by the applicant. The decision of the Council of the UK Branch of WPSA is final. The Branch reserves the right to make awards in full or in part, to withhold awards in exceptional circumstances and holds no responsibility for any claims which may arise as a result of these awards.

9 Any research or other work undertaken must comply with all existing legislation and any necessary licences must be obtained.

10 Applications, which must be made on the appropriate form (photocopies are permitted), must be received prior to the Branch Annual Meeting, April 2017.

WPSA UK Research Award

The WPSA (UK Branch) is pleased to offer an annual award in addition to their existing Summer Vacation Scholarship. The award is of £1000 to support a piece of research of broad benefit to the UK poultry sector. The intention of the award is to catalyse small research projects not generating commercial gain for individual organisations. Projects involving matched funding will be considered on an equal basis, but a condition of funding is the publication of findings within 12 months of project completion, ideally via the Branch's Spring Meeting. Proposals covering any aspect of poultry science are welcomed, including laboratory analysis of samples, collection of field data, expansion of an existing poultry trial or compilation and analysis of existing field data. For details on how to apply for the award, please contact WPSA Secretary. Further details will appear on the WPSA website

Hennovation *(submitted by Claire Weeks, University of Bristol)*

In a novel approach to knowledge transfer the Hennovation project aims to promote and develop innovative ideas at the grassroots level. Led by the University of Bristol the project has six other partners and has established networks in the UK, the Netherlands, Sweden, the Czech Republic and Spain. These are either on-farm networks which are mainly trialling ways of controlling feather pecking, or off-farm networks looking at end of lay opportunities. For the latter in the UK in conjunction with ADAS we are looking at improving the efficiency of catching from colonies. The aim for both networks is for the industry to lead in terms of generating and prioritising ideas. The project assists by facilitating the groups and finding experts or information as required to support the innovation process, which is being documented by social scientists at the University of Exeter. It is expected that this approach will transfer to other agricultural initiatives and indeed it has much in common with the [Innovative Farmers](#) set up by the Soil Association. Hennovation will be disseminating its findings widely via the media, its website www.hennovation.eu and through the [EIP-Agri](#) portal as well as arranging workshops during 2017. We would welcome expert additions to the [wiki](#) that provides supporting information on end of lay and injurious pecking.

Dates for your diary:

**32nd Poultry
Science
Symposium**

3 to 5 July 2017
Clare College,
Cambridge, UK

**Poultry Feathers & Skin –
the past present and
future of poultry
integument**

WPSA UK is pleased to announce the 32nd Poultry Science Symposium that is scheduled to be held in the historic and scenic city of Cambridge in July 3 to 5, 2017. The theme of the symposium is “Poultry feathers and skin – the past, present and future of poultry integument”. The programme committee is working to ensure that this informative symposium is of wide appeal to all in the poultry industry.

Abstract submission for the symposium is now open with the deadline for submission closing on 28/02/2017.

There is a link for abstract submission is on the symposium website where readers can also preview the invited topics and speakers.

<http://wpsa-uk.com/meeting/32-poultry-science-symposium>

Sponsorship opportunities are now available for the Symposium and all sponsorship goes directly to supporting the costs of the meeting. Lots of exciting possibilities exist from sponsoring coffee breaks to individual sessions.

Please contact Nell at helen.maseyoneill@abagri.com or +44 7738881597 for more information.

***XVII European
Symposium on the
Quality of Eggs and Egg
Products
XXIII European
Symposium on the
Quality of Poultry Meat,***

3 to 5 September 2017

Scientific sessions 4-5th September
**John McIntyre Conference
Centre**
Edinburgh University
**Edinburgh
Scotland**

This symposium provides a platform for scientists and those working in the egg and meat sectors of the poultry industry to come together and discuss a range of ‘hot topics’ and to exchange knowledge on improving the quality of meat and eggs.

Website:

<http://eggmeat2017.efconference.co.uk/>

**Further details will appear on
the WPSA UK website**

**Turkey Science and
Production Conference**
8th to 10th March 2017
Carden Park, Chester
www.turkeytimes.co.uk

**The 10th European
Symposium on Poultry
Genetics** will take place
at the Congress Center
in **Saint Malo in France,**
June 26-28, 2017.
Save the date!

The Symposium will offer sessions on "One health", genomics, New Breeding Technologies, genetics of product quality and breeding issues for other species

**Xth European
Symposium on Poultry
Welfare**



Visit the conference website
www.poultrywelfare2017.com/

19 to 22 June 2017 -
22 June 2017
ISPAIA - ZOOPOLE
développement
Ploufragan, France

Abstract submission deadline:
November 2016

UK Branch Administration 2016/2017

President

Dr V Sandilands

Vice President

Dr E Burton

Treasurer/Membership Secretary

Mr A Ball

Secretary

Mr S A Lister

Elected Councillors

Dr H Masey O'Neill (2018)

Mr S Wilson (2019)

Dr D Scholey (2019)

Prof M Bain (2020)

Dr C Donaldson (2020)

Dr J Martin (2020)

Mrs L Tovey (2017)*

Dr I Dunn (2018)*

Mr R Kempsey (2018)*

Dr O Olukosi (2020)*

* = second term - ineligible for re-election

Programme Committee Spring Meeting:

Dr D Scholey Chair

Dr M E Ball

Dr I Dunn

Dr N Whenham

Mr P Garland

Dr V Pirgozliev

Dr S Pace

Dr V Sandilands

Dr N Sparks

Mr S Wilson

Dr J Martin

Organising Committee 32nd Poultry Science Symposium

Joint chairs Mrs L Tovey and Dr O Olukosi

Representative on Egg and Poultry Industry Conference Committee:

Mr S A Lister

R F Gordon Memorial Trust:

Dr P M Hocking

(**Webmaster:** Dr O Olukosi)