CENTRAL BLOOD LABORATORIES AUTHORITY

Minutes of the thirty-eighth meeting of the Central Blood Laboratories Authority held on Thursday 22nd September 1988 at 11.00 am at Green College, Oxford

PRESENT:

Mr R D Smart (In the Chair)
Mr R Braithwaite
Dr B Cromie
Dr H Gunson
Dr P Kernoff
Sir Vernon Seccombe
Mr C Walker
Mr G Wilson
Mr R Wing

IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr D J Anstee
Mr B J Crowley
Dr R S Lane
Dr R Moore
Dr H Pickles
Mr B J Savery

PART I

88/50 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

88/51 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Subject to the following amendments the Minutes were accepted as a correct record:-

Dr Moore's name to be removed from attendance list and
88/38 Plasma Supply should read

89/90 350-400 tonnes
90/91 450-500 tonnes
91/92 550

2nd paragraph line 3 substitute 'additional' for 'three'.

88/52 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising not covered by the Agenda.

88/53 Chief Executive's Report

53.1 Summary

The summary was received and the contents noted.

Mr Smart said Mr Rayner had made an informal visit in response to a personal invitation.

53.2 Capital Projects

a) Phase I

The MHE(S) claim had been withdrawn and a second claim substituted. This was now being analysed and whilst less spurious than the first claim, still contained fundamental weaknesses.

Mechanical completion was no nearer as six items were still outstanding and it was unlikely that completion would be achieved this year.

During the first quarter of 1989 it was hoped to have completion and the final accounts settled.

b) Phase II

Clearing of the site had commenced and Phase II should be completed on time and within Budget.

c) Phase III

A plan was being worked on for submission to the Department for AIP.

The proposal would cost under £7m using Building 25, 27 and PFL. More detail would be available by the November CBLA Meeting.

53.3 Finance and Administration

a) Revenue Expenditure Against Budget:

A copy of CBLA 88/45 was received and the contents noted.

Revenue expenditure to the end of August was within Budget. The overspend in the Technical Department was caused by underbudgeting for machine maintenance and services.

Mr Wing asked whether the overrun on maintenance had been created by failures of MHE(S). Mr Savery said this had occurred because the Department had not allowed us the £1 m that had been allocated in our budget for this purpose.

As a result of the decision to increase production an overrun would occur in therapeutics production. Extra money may be required as production would be above target. Budgets were now being assembled for next year together with a projection for the rest of this year.

The large underrun occuring with Finance and Administration was due to no rates having been paid as yet. These would start to be paid by end of September.

b) Capital Expenditure

Phase I - No final accounts had yet been paid. Four had been received but they were returned to MHE(S) as the contents were unacceptable. CBLA would not pay Final Accounts until they were properly substantiated. A firm of Quantity Surveyors was assisting with this matter.

Phase II - Work was now underway. At present there was underspending but this would change radically within the next two months.

Dr Moore asked that early information regarding underspending could be notified to the Department as monies could be reallocated elsewhere. Sir Vernon Seccombe asked if a ½% of monies could be carried over at year end; this would be investigated.

c) Sales Analysis

Cumulatively only 60% of target had been reached but a considerable stock was being held in quarantine and should be ready for issue within two months. Last month work in progress had risen by £2 m. Dr Lane explained that if £2m were added to the August figures it would bring them to £2.8 m whereas budget was £3.1 m. Therapeutic monthly output charts were circulated and the contents noted.

Mr Savery said it was unlikely that deficits would be made up as the year was to far advanced to recoup the losses.

A clearer picture would be apparent by the end of September.

53.4 Commercial

A copy of CBLA 88/48 was received and the contents noted.

All products, with the exception of F8 and Albumin, were being produced in sufficient quantity to satisfy demand.

53.5 Collaborative Ventures

A copy of CBLA 88/49 was received and the contents noted.

The Chairman said that in any possible collaboration with Baxter Healthcare the Diagnostic area was the best area to pursue first, with an exchange of letters of intent. Dr Lane said Dupont were also well advanced in this area and that he intended to visit them while he was in Kansas for the AABB Meeting. Dr Lane said he would summarise the alternatives after his visits to Baxter and Dupont.

53.6 Production

A copy of CBLA 88/50 was received and the contents noted.

Dr Lane said the planned batches for August had been exceeded with 8Y and 9A.

The new pasteurising ovens still did not perform to specification, thus preventing production of Albumin 500 ml packs.

The possibility of using water baths for pasteurisation should be investigated. An analysis showing costs and time scale was to be prepared and circulated for the next meeting.

The Chairman re-affirmed that top priority must be given to this project.

53.7 BGRL Report

A copy of CBLA 88/51 was received and the contents noted.

Dr Anstee added that a new member of staff, Dr Marion Reid, had been nominated for an award.

The Chairman asked Dr Anstee to convey the congratulations of the Authority to her.

Dr Moore asked what charges were made for the reference facility. Dr Anstee said the only charge made was for anti-D quantitation and this was £100 per assay from overseas. Dr Anstee said the WHO provide a token grant and as it was an international reference centre he considered no charge should be made.

It was agreed that Dr Anstee should give an idea of costs involved in doing this work as it would show CBLA's contribution.

53.8 Untested Plasma

Dr Moore reported that substantial progress was now being made and that a solution was in sight.

88/54 Plasma Supply

Dr Gunson reported that at the Meeting held at the Department of the Plasma Supply and Distribution Committee several matters had come to light which had not been apparent at the Plasma Supply Committee Meetings. For example, the stockpile of plasma had been gross weight, not taking into account packaging which would make a difference of approximately 20%, also the yields had been overestimated.

550 tonnes was the maximum we could expect to receive from the RTC's therefore any increase in output would have to come from yield improvement.

The Chairman said that the Chief Executive would examine internally how gross figures had come to be quoted as opposed to net. The Chairman apologised to Dr Gunson for the extra work that would now be involved to rectify the situation.

88/55 BGRL Move to Bristol

A copy of CBLA 88/52 was received.

The presentation needed the approval of the Authority prior to onward transmission to the Department by the end of the month. The Authority agreed to grant approval subject to any objections being sent to the CBLA by the end of month.

The Authority expressed its appreciation to Sir Vernon Seccombe for the help he had given to the project.

88/56 Meeting Dates for 1989

A copy of CBLA 88/53 was received and the contents noted.

The Authority approved the 1989 meeting dates.

88/57 Any Other Business

57.1 Staff Regrading

Copies of a proposed regrading of Mr J Dolan were circulated.

The Authority accepted the proposal.

57.2 Haemophilia Directors Meeting in Dublin

The Authority gave its approval for Dr Lane to make a presentation at the 1988 UK Haemophilia Centre Directors Meeting in Dublin.

88/58 Date of Next Meeting - 24th November 1988

PART II

88/59 Matters in Confidence

There were no matters in confidence for discussion.