
Editorial

I'm sure that, like many more before me, I fully expected on taking up the editorship of your journal at the beginning of this year that it would be possible to produce the four 1999 issues more or less on time. By issue number 2 I find myself in the position of having to apologise unreservedly for failing to achieve this objective by a substantial margin. Whilst in the editorial office at *British Poultry Science*, I was constantly critical of our publishers for failing to dispatch the journal during the month that matched its cover date. Now I realise how painful are the stones pitched at editors in glass offices!

On a more serious note, however, the timely appearance of a journal does matter to the following groups of people who are vital to its continued well being.

Firstly, it is important to the contributors who justifiably wish to see their articles in print as soon as possible. Publication indices are influential in a scientist's career advancement and, such is the pace of modern science, that delays in the publication process can mean that results from new research overtake the results of and opinions expressed in a review.

Secondly, it is important to the members/readers who rightly expect to read authoritative accounts on topical poultry science subjects by leading international experts as soon as possible after they are written. Only relevant and timely reporting allows them to keep pace with progress and construct their future strategies. Calendar planning is also made easier and more effective.

Finally, but no less importantly, it is imperative that advertisers see their promotional material appear when expected. They have become an increasingly compelling component in the economics of your journal in the past few years. This is the result of a lot of hard work and entrepreneurial skill by a number of office bearers of the Association, although much of the credit for putting the financial status of the *WPSJ* on such a sound footing resides with your Secretary, Piet Simons.

I alone must accept the responsibility for the tardiness of both the March and June issues. The September edition will also be late, although I hope less so, and, as I write this, I intend to pull out all stops to have the December copies on most of your desks on time.

Jim McNab