Editorial

It is with some sense of surprise that I find myself, if not exactly in the editorial hot seat, at least nudging my predecessor off his cushion. Scanning back numbers (for inspiration?) I quickly established that I am only the sixth editor in the journal’s 55 year existence. The first two, G.F. Heuser and R.G. Japp, both from the US, made rare forays on to the editorial pages and then only to make rather turgid reports. When the editorship crossed the Atlantic Ocean in 1973 into the hands of R.F. Gordon, then Director of the Houghton Poultry Research Station, a full two-page editorial was produced and the purposes and policies of the journal clearly espoused. Subsequently, Dr Gordon used the editorial pages to pass on relevant factual information to his readers and comments appeared in most, although not all, issues. His successor, J.D. Blaxland, whom I had the pleasure of knowing well, also followed that style, although comment appeared in rather fewer of the journals. His successor and my predecessor, Chris Hann, who took over the reins under rather sad and challenging circumstances when David died very suddenly, has been very fastidious in producing editorial copy for each issue, frequently trying to stimulate debate on articles in the journal or other topical issues (he even volunteered to ghost this one!). In his first Chris stated that his prime endeavour was to preserve the standards and reputation of the journal established by David Blaxland. He can retire well satisfied that his goals have been comfortably exceeded. I have two objectives: to sustain the high standards set by Chris and, if possible, like the journal’s first editor, Dr Heuser, to retire to Lakeland, Florida.

Jim McNab
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The World’s Poultry Science Journal publishes: review articles on all aspects of poultry science, reports on the development of poultry production from around the world, reports from constituent scientific working groups, book reviews, Association and Branch news, together with a listing of forthcoming events. Summaries of the review articles are published in French, German, Russian and Spanish. The journal does not publish the results of original research unless these form a minor part of an article that mainly reviews published work, or where they are contained in reports given at branch meetings or arise from the activities of Federation Working Groups. Among the characteristics considered important in a review paper are that it should be comprehensive within the area defined by its title, the structure should be logical and the citations should be subjected to critical appraisal – which should extend to the methodology and statistical significance of results. In preparing a review, sound deductive and constructive processes should be used to produce valid, useful and clearly presented conclusions. The appropriate use of figures, tables, formulae and illustrations is encouraged. The object must always be to produce a worthwhile addition to the body of available literature.

Typescripts
Typescripts should be in English and should be sent in duplicate, to the Editor, World’s Poultry Science Journal, Dr J. M. McNab, Roslin Institute (Edinburgh), Roslin, Midlothian EH25 9PS, UK. Contributions, which will be subject to scrutiny by independent referees and editorial revision, should normally not be longer than the equivalent of 8–10 pages of the journal (or approximately 6000 words) including tables, illustrations and references. Longer reviews are accepted from time to time, but it is advisable for authors to contact the Editor before submission. Papers should be typewritten on one side of the paper only and the typing should be double-spaced between lines with ample margins on each side of the sheet. The automatic numbering of lines in the margin is a great advantage. Pages should be assembled in the order: title; name and postal address(es) of author(s); where applicable, name and address of institution where the work was done; summary of between 100 and 300 words; keywords (up to 8); text of paper; references; tables; figures; figure legends (on separate page); abbreviated title (for use as a running headline). The pages of the paper itself should be numbered in the upper right-hand corner and should only be fastened by means of a paper-clip. To enable summaries to be translated into French, German, Russian and Spanish, contributions should be accompanied by an additional copy of the summary (in English) of 100–300 words, typed on a separate sheet of paper.

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References to previous work should be cited in the text with the author’s name and the year of publication in parentheses, e.g. ‘Brown (1957) showed that . . .’. At the end of the paper, the references should be listed in alphabetical order of the surnames of the first author with all authors included, e.g. ‘BROWN, A.B., SMITH, C.D. and JACK, E.F. . . .’. The titles of journals should be given in full and should include the first and last page numbers of the papers concerned.
Notes for Contributors

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Tables and line drawings should be typed or drawn on separate sheets and their approximate location in the text indicated in pencil; they should not be enclosed by lines. Tables should be typed with adequate spacing, keeping column headings as brief as possible, and they should include a self-explanatory legend. Line drawings should be clearly drawn in black on white paper. Computer produced figures must be from high quality printers, e.g. laser or bubble jet. Photographs of line drawings may be submitted. Black and white photographs (half-tones) submitted, preferably not smaller than 110mm × 150mm, should be glossy prints of good contrast and, where necessary, should carry a scale mark of magnification. Lettering may be placed on the print or on a tracing paper overlay, which should be fixed securely to the print along one edge only. Legends for line drawings and half-tones should be typed on a separate sheet. The author’s name and figure number should be written on the back of each line drawing or photograph.

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Typescripts and matter relating to the content of the journal should be addressed to the Editor, Dr J. M. McNab, Roslin Institute (Edinburgh), Roslin, Midlothian EH25 9PS, UK.

Back numbers
Requests for back numbers up to the completion of Volume 44 (1988) should be addressed to the Editor, as above. For back numbers from Volume 45 (1989) onwards, please make application to the Secretary of the World’s Poultry Science Association, Dr Ir Piet C.M. Simons, Centre for Applied Poultry Research, “Het Spelderholt”, Postbus 31, 7360 AA Beekbergen, The Netherlands (Tel. +31 55 506 65 34, Fax: +31 55 506 48 58).