

International Biometric Society — British and Irish Region

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2009

Thursday 5th November 2009, Lecture Theatre, Royal Statistical Society, 1.15pm

Chair: Regional president, Byron Morgan

Eighteen members present

Apologies: Andrew Mead, Alistair Murray, Robin Thompson

1. Minutes of 2008 AGM were agreed.
2. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda: none
3. President's overview

Byron gave an overview of the activities and plans of the Region. He reported that, in response to a concern that too many meetings were in London, last year a number of meetings had taken place around the country, including Edinburgh and the Channel Network Conference in Ghent.

The committee had decided to restart the 'Summer meetings' focusing on visiting a site or facility of interest coupled with a short scientific programme. This Summer's meeting had been at Down House, to mark the centenary of Darwin's birth, and had been well received by those who attended.

Byron also outlined the exciting possibilities for the BIR emerging through the new 'Society of Biology' (as discussed in the October newsletter).

The region is in discussion with the Fisher Memorial Trust to create a regional research prize, and it is hoped to have more details available in the new year.

The next IBC will be in Brazil in December 2010. Members are encouraged to visit the website, note the date, and consider attending.

Finally, the fall in membership is a concern, and Byron encouraged members to invite colleagues and students to join.

4. Secretary's Report

James Carpenter (regional secretary) gave a brief summary of his written report; the full version of which will appear in the December newsletter.

5. Membership Secretary's report.

Diana Cole reported on current membership. We have gained 4 full and 7 student members, and 1 student has moved to full membership. Five members have moved from full to associate. Eleven have resigned and 21 are pending removal.

The IBS council has adopted the following changes to membership categories from Jan 2010:

- (a) The associate membership category will be closed. Associate members can choose to upgrade to full membership or become a retired member if appropriate.
- (b) There will be a retired membership category. Retired membership will be £ 20 a year, and will be open to anyone who has been a member (including current associate members) for at least 10 years and who is retired (working less than 20% FTE).
- (c) Full members and retired members will have electronic access to all IBS publications, including Biometrics, JABES and the Biometric Bulletin.
- (d) Members requiring paper copies will have to pay a supplement, currently:
 - i. Biometrics and the Biometric Bulletin: £7.
 - ii. JABES and the Biometric Bulletin: £7.
 - iii. JABES, Biometrics and the Biometric Bulletin: £14.

6. Treasurer's Report.

Peter presented a summary of the financial position, full details of which are on the regional website. Largely as a result of the BIR share of the surplus from IBC Dublin (7600 Euros) the regional balance was just below £26,000.

There were no questions, and Peter thanked for his work as Treasurer.

Robin Thompson has audited and approved the accounts.

7. Website report

In the absence of Peter Colman, James presented his report. In summary

- (a) the problems with updating the current website have been resolved
- (b) the Committee has approved a specification for a new site, drawn up by Peter Colman, Robin Thompson and James Carpenter. The committee has approved a budget of £2000 to develop this.
- (c) Following discussions with three companies (one large, two one-man operations), detailed discussions were now taking place with the one-man company FearnTech. It was hoped to place the contract in the coming weeks, and have the new site in place in the early part of next year.

Peter was thanked for his work.

8. Subscriptions

The following proposals from the committee were agreed unanimously:

- (a) student membership for 2010 will be free;
- (b) all new members introducing a new full member to the society will receive a £20 book token (up to 2 new members), and
- (c) members of other regions resident in the UK are eligible to apply to be come 'supported category' BIR members. They pay no fee and receive the regional newsletter electronically.

9. Election of Officers and Committee

No other nominations were received, so the following were elected: Professor John Hinde (incoming Regional President); Sara Geneletti and Richard Emsley to serve on the regional committee for 3 years.

Chris Glasbey and Bianca DeStavola, who have come to the end of their 3 year term, were thanked for their work.

10. Election of Auditor

Robin was thanked for his work as auditor in 2008 and for many previous years.

Geoff Freeman was elected auditor for 2010.

11. AOB

Clive Moncrieff asked whether members would be able to access electronic journals for years they had been IBS members, after their membership had lapsed. After discussion, he was requested to email Andrew Mead with this query, and copy in James Carpenter to the correspondence.

Meeting closed at 13.47