

International Biometric Society — British and Irish Region

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2013

Held at 1.00pm Thursday 14th November 2013, Main Lecture Theatre, Royal Statistical Society, Errol Street, London.

28 members present

MINUTES

1. Apologies were received from Professor Robert Curnow and Professor Geoff Freeman

2. Minutes of 2012 AGM

These were accepted

3. Matters arising, not covered on the agenda

None

4. President's report

Simon Thompson reviewed a successful year for the region, highlighting meetings on:

- (a) 29th November 2012, 'Generalized Linear Models 40 years on', which had been attended by around 40;
- (b) 8th March 2013, marking 40+ years of the Cox model, held at the LSHTM in the lecture theatre standing on the site of that in which the original paper was read. David Cox contributed a discussion, and over 120 were present;
- (c) 9th October 2013, on species distribution modelling, joint with the British Ecological Society and the Environmental Statistics Section of the RSS, which had around 30 participants.

In addition, the region hosted the Channel Network Conference, 3-5 July 2013 in St Andrews. Over 130 participated in this highly successful conference, bringing together the BIR, French, Belgium and Dutch regions. Thanks to Ruth King who chaired the local organising committee.

Simon also congratulated Dr Doug Speed (UCL), winner of the 2013 young biometricians award, given jointly by the BIR and the FMT.

Future meeting plans:

After today's meeting on statistical software interoperability, there will be no meeting in the Spring, because of the MRC-BSU centenary meeting in Cambridge.

On Wed 4th June 2014 the BIR will join with the RSS Medical Section and PSI to organise a scientific meeting before the Bradford Hill Lecture (which will be given by Stuart Pocock). David Spiegelhalter, Stephen Senn, Iain Chalmers and Peter Armitage have all agreed to give presentations. The meeting will begin at 1.45 and be held at the LSHTM.

The IBC will be held in Florence, 6-11 July.

Planning is well underway for a meeting on the analysis of big datasets, arising from genomics, social media (eg Facebook and Twitter), imaging and routinely collected health records. This is scheduled for September in London (date and venue to be confirmed).

Next year's AGM and presidential address will be in November.

5. Secretary's Report

James Carpenter drew attention to

- (a) the next IBC in Florence; the deadline for contributed abstracts is the 16th December; the invited programme is already on the website. Please encourage colleagues to submit abstracts;
- (b) the IBS student awards of US\$3000 to attend the IBC; application details are on the BIR website;
- (c) BIR/FMT bursaries to attend the IBC—details soon to be announced;
- (d) the BIR has donated US\$2000 towards the IBC travel fund for members from special circumstance countries;
- (e) the IBS is calling for nominations for the Society awards; details on the BIR website, and
- (f) the Biometric Bulletin has been re-vamped, with topical articles introduced. Comments and suggestions about future articles welcome.

(g) meeting slides are now available as a member benefit on the BIR website—please make folk aware of this, and encourage them to join!

#### 6. Treasurer's Report

The signed accounts, audited by Suzanne Clark, were circulated by the treasurer, Mark Brewer. The apparent increase of £12,000 is due to money received from the Channel Network Conference, and most of it will be needed to pay outstanding invoices. The remaining surplus will be split between the network regions, and the BIR share is likely to be around £1,200.

The Euro account had not been used for two years, yet we were paying a standing fee for it, and this had been closed. Alternative, cheaper, arrangements for handling Euro conversions were in place.

The audited accounts were accepted by the meeting, and Mark was thanked for his work as treasurer.

#### 7. Membership Secretary's Report

Diana Cole presented the membership report, which is appended.

Diana was delighted to report that full membership had increased slightly, and overall membership numbers had held steady.

Simon thanked Diana for her work in maintaining the membership database.

#### 8. Election of Officers, Committee and International Society Representatives

The following were elected:

- Incoming Vice-President: Professor John Matthews (Newcastle)
- Secretary: Dr Sue Welham, VSNI (replacing James Carpenter), Treasurer: Dr Mark Brewer (continuing) and Membership Secretary: Dr Diana Cole (continuing)
- Committee members: Dr Daniel Jackson (MRC Biostatistics Unit Cambridge) and Dr Doug Speed (UCL) to serve for 3 years.
- Members of the IBS representative council (3 year term): Dr Sue Dr Welham, VSNI (continuing); Dr Ruth King, St Andrews (continuing), Dr Rachel McCrea, Kent (new).

#### 9. Election of Auditor: Clive B Moncrieff was elected

#### 10. Any other business

None

Meeting closed 1.18pm.

## **International Biometric Society (British & Irish Region)**

### **Membership Secretary's report for 2013**

The British region now has 308 members (compared to 308 last year).

Current membership can be broken down into the following categories (2012 figures in parentheses):

Full members	184 (181)
Student members	96 (97)
Life members	4 (4)
Retired members	23 (23)
Supporting Members	1 (3)
<hr/> Total Members	<hr/> 308 (308)

Members receive electronic access to Biometrics and JABES. It is possible for full and retired members to get paper copies at a reduced rate. The following table shows how many of our members get paper copies of these journals:

<u>Biometrics</u>	<u>JABES</u>	<u>Both Biometrics and JABES</u>
25 (29)	3 (2)	6 (10)