

International Biometric Society — British and Irish Region

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2015

Held at 1.00pm Friday 8th October 2015, Fowden Conference Hall, Rothamsted Research, Harpenden AL5 2JQ.

16 members present

MINUTES

1. Apologies were received from Byron Morgan, Diana Cole, James Carpenter, Simon Thompson.

2. Minutes of 2014 AGM

These were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising, not covered on the agenda

None

4. President's report

The President, John Matthews, reported

- the postal ballot on changes to the regional rules was carried out according to plan. This is an important change to allow electronic balloting as postal balloting is expensive and time consuming. John thanked Sue Welham, Diana Cole and Mark Brewer for facilitating the ballot and Byron Morgan for acting as the scrutineer.
- the IBS-BIR has a low profile in parts of the UK medical statistics community. To tackle this and raise the profile of the region, John has been recruiting people to act as champions for the society within particular departments. The champions are intended to publicise meetings and encourage membership, particularly among PhD students. Non-members who agree to act as champions are enticed by a year's free membership.
- the program during the last year included two meetings with a less-usual format. We were pleased to be associated with the Donald Preece Memorial Meeting at Queen Mary London in September. Also in September, Dan Jackson and Daniel Farewell organised an invited session at the RSS Conference on behalf of the BIR. The topic was personalised medicine and the session was well-attended. The BIR was pleased to collaborate with the RSS on this occasion, but feel that the two organisations have different priorities: the BIR tries to run high-quality scientific meetings at low cost to its members. The RSS does not have the same ethos of minimising costs and so we feel it is not to our members' advantage to substitute one of our regular meetings with an RSS conference session on a regular basis.

5. Secretary's Report

The Secretary, Sue Welham, reported that meetings since the last AGM included

- 20 November 2014: Mendelian Randomization. This meeting included the Presidential Address by Simon Thompson, plus a morning tutorial and lunch. The morning tutorial and lunch were aimed at young biometricians but were attended by biometricians of all ages. There were 110 participants.
- Channel Network Conference, Nijmegen, April 20-22nd 2015. Several attendees from British and Irish region.
- Session at RSS Conference, 8 September 2015. Perspectives on stratified medicine. About 60 participants.
- Donald Preece Memorial Meeting, 17 September 2015. Organised by Rosemary Bailey and Peter Cameron at Queen Mary London, in association with the BIR.

Meeting planned for 2015-2016 include

- 8 October 2015, Food Security: the Role of Biological Modelling, at Rothamsted Research.
- Jan or March 2016: meeting on citizen science in ecology in association with BES and RSS-ESS. Details to be arranged.
- 13 April 2016: 30 Years of DerSimonian and Laird - A Celebration! at UCL.
- IBC 2016 in Victoria, British Columbia (Canada), 10-15 July 2016.
- November 2016: meeting on experimental design in medicine, including Presidential Address by John Matthews.

Sue also drew attention to IBC 2016

- (a) the BIR will organise a bursary scheme to help young biometricians attend the IBC, hopefully in association with the Fisher Memorial Trust. Details will be released later this year.

- (b) the invited program for the conference is now in place, and a call for contributed papers has been made, closing on 6 Jan 2016.

John Hinde commented that the IBS will also have an international competition for PhD students that will provide the full expense of attendance at IBC 2016 for the winner. Members were asked to encourage students to join so they could take advantage of these benefits.

#### 6. Treasurer's Report

The signed accounts, audited by Clive B Moncrieff, were circulated by the treasurer, Mark Brewer, and are appended below.

Mark commented that the increase in funds was due to meeting income rather than subscriptions, as most of the subscription is paid to the International Society. He also noted that the BIR currently has an exemption from Corporation Tax.

John Hinde commented that there would be no increase in dues to the International Society next year.

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

#### 7. Membership Secretary's Report

Diana Cole had provided a membership report (appended below), which was presented in her absence by Sue Welham.

There was a disappointing decrease in membership numbers this year. The decrease in full members was due to non-renewal of a small number of long-term members plus more short-term members (i.e. that had joined for a meeting in the last year). There were few new members joining this year. This emphasizes the need for high-profile meetings to retain/recruit new members. Although we had two enthusiastic students from LSHTM attend the Research Students Conference, they had difficulties in recruiting members on the spot and this may explain the drop in student numbers. We need to improve the retention of student members as full members when they finish their studies. The drop in retired members is due to several semi-retired members becoming fully retired, and the reduction in life members was sadly due to the death of Roger Mead.

#### 8. Election of Officers and Committee

The following officers were elected without opposition:

- Incoming vice-president: Martin Ridout (University of Kent)
- Secretary: Dr Sue Welham (VSNi)
- Treasurer: Dr Mark Brewer (BioSS)
- Membership Secretary: Dr Rhian Daniel (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)

No nominations had been received from the membership and so the following were elected to the committee, to serve for 3 years:

- Tom Nye (University of Newcastle)
- Janette McQuillan (Cancer Research)

#### 9. Election of Auditor: Clive B Moncrieff was thanked for his work this year and re-elected.

#### 10. Review of regional rules

The postal ballot on changes to the regional rules resulted in 84 votes cast. One vote was rejected as the balloting procedure had not been correctly followed. Of the remaining 83 votes, 82 were in favour of the change. The remaining vote did not object to the changes proposed, but asked that gender neutral language be used throughout. Although there is only one instance of this, the request could not be accommodated without a further ballot, but will be addressed in future.

The changes to the rules were accepted by the meeting.

#### 11. Any other business

The President thanked the outgoing officers and committee members for their work over the past years: Simon Thompson (Outgoing Vice-President), Diana Cole (Membership Secretary), Mike Sweeting (committee member and newsletter editor/bulletin correspondent) and Rhian Daniel (committee member but also incoming Membership Secretary).

#### 12. Young Biometrician Award for 2015

The President presented David Robertson of the MRC Biostatistics Unit with the Young Biometrician Award for 2015, in recognition of his paper "Correcting for bias in the selection and validation of informative diagnostic tests" published in *Statistics in Medicine* (2015, Vol 34, pages 1417-1437).

Meeting closed 1.40pm.

INTERNATIONAL BIOMETRIC SOCIETY (BRITISH & IRISH REGION):  
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

1. CURRENT ASSETS:

Account	Balance 31 Aug 2015	(Balance 31 Aug 2014)
Santander	£ 6197.93	(£ 4674.08 )
Barclays Community Account	£ 850.85	(£ 700.85 )
Barclays Tracker Account	£ 10595.94	(£ 10590.56 )
PayPal	£ 1335.30	(£ 1793.00 )
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 18980.02</b>	<b>(£ 17758.49 )</b>

2. PAYMENTS (01 SEPTEMBER - 31 AUGUST):

	2014-15	(Last year 2013-14 )
US dues	£ 5642.13	(£ 5818.82 )
Meetings*	£ 3034.56	(£ 2046.78 )
Channel Network Meeting	£ 580.75	(£ 9601.35 )
Sponsorship (RSC+YSM+IBC)	£ 320.45	(£ 1835.89 )
Committee Expenses	£ 0.00	(£ 0.00 )
Corporation Tax	£ 0.00	(£ 73.20 )
IBC bursaries	£ 0.00	(£ 1500.00 )
Website	£ 430.40	(£ 380.40 )
Bank Charges	£ 0.00	(£ 25.00 )
PayPal Charges	£ 169.70	(£ 189.01 )
Misc	£ 88.99	(£ 65.20 )
Subscriptions adjustments	£ 50.00	(£ 33.00 )
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 10316.98</b>	<b>(£ 21568.65 )</b>

3. RECEIPTS (01 SEPTEMBER - 31 AUGUST):

	2014-15	(Last year 2013-14 )
Subscriptions	£ 6222.00	(£ 7567.00 )
Meetings*	£ 4767.72	(£ 2550.00 )
Channel Network Meeting	£ 0.00	(£ 0.00 )
Fisher Memorial Trust	£ 500.00	(£ 500.00 )
Misc	£ 43.41	(£ 0.00 )
Interest	£ 5.38	(£ 5.28 )
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 11538.51</b>	<b>(£ 10622.28 )</b>

\*see overleaf for breakdown

I certify that the above is a correct statement of the financial position as demonstrated by the bank statements and other documents shown to me.

Signed:

Date:

1st Oct 2015

## NOTES

The accounts for this year contain a £500 contribution from the Fisher Memorial Trust towards IBC 2014 bursaries.

Total PayPal receipts this year were £4227, so charges amount to a fraction over 4%.

The one remaining liability with respect to the Channel Network Conference held in 2013 (a 20% share of the surplus, amounting to €726.50, for the Belgian Region) was finally paid in November 2014, a sum of £580.75. At present I have no information on the final financial situation from the 2015 Channel Network Conference; under the Conference rules, we have joint liability on any shortfall and would share in any surplus. This will be dealt with in 2015/16.

## MEETING SUMMARIES

Transactions associated with meetings occurring in the 2014/15 financial year are shown below. Meetings which occurred in previous years but had transactions in 2014/15 are also included, in italics.

Note the income and expenditure totals do not match the figures on the previous page exactly as transactions relating to meetings are not necessarily confined to the financial years in which they are held. The accounts overleaf contain receipts for one meeting to be held in 2015/16, and lack receipts for the Big Data meeting in the table below, as those payments occurred in 2013/14. In the current financial year, we received one third of the surplus from the meeting held on June 4<sup>th</sup> 2014 (in the 2013/14 session), which was held jointly with and organised by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (£482.72, received 19<sup>th</sup> September 2014).

The final Balance with respect to the 2013 Channel Network Conference relates to the meeting total. Of this £7,176.09: £4044.33 was paid to the Netherlands Region as float for the 2015 conference; £592.63 was paid to the French Region as a share of surplus; £592.73 was paid to the Netherlands Region as a share of surplus; and as noted above, £580.75 was paid to the Belgian Region as a share of surplus (the numbers are different as the payments were made in Euros). The net surplus to the British and Irish Region was therefore £1,365.65.

Meeting	Income	Costs	Speaker Expenses	Balance
<i>3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> July 2013 (4<sup>th</sup> Channel Network Conference, St Andrews)</i>	<i>£34,781.81</i>	<i>£26,033.16</i>	<i>£1,572.56</i>	<i>£7,176.09</i>
<i>4<sup>th</sup> June 2014 (Clinical trials: past, present and glorious future?, London)</i>	<i>£482.72</i>			<i>£482.72</i>
17 <sup>th</sup> September 2014 (Big Data, London)	£1,125.00	£126.00	£510.05	£488.95
14 <sup>th</sup> November 2014 (Mendelian Randomisation, London)	£3,625.00	£2,130.30	£483.55	£1,011.15

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

### **Membership Secretary's report for 2015**

The British region now has 267 members (compared to 315 last year).

Current membership can be broken down into the following categories (2014 figures in parentheses):

Full members	146 (164)
Student members	97 (122)
Life members	5 (6)
Retired members	18 (22)
Supporting Members	1 (1)
<hr/> Total Members	<hr/> 267 (315)

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>
13 (18)	1 (4)	4 (5)