

International Biometric Society — British and Irish Region

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2016

Held at 1pm on Wednesday 23rd November 2016 at Chandler House (UCL), 2 Wakefield Street, London, WC1N 1PY

26 members present

MINUTES

1. Apologies were received from John Hinde, Byron Morgan, Rachel McCrea, Tom Nye.

2. Minutes of 2015 AGM

Under Secretary's Report, Leonard Soicher should have been included as an organiser of the Donald Preece Memorial Meeting in September 2015.

With this amendment, the minutes 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 that the committee have increasing difficulty in obtaining room bookings within term-time at university venues. This has led to some delay in confirming meeting dates. The new committee will look for alternative venues so that meetings can be advertised with more notice.

The Region has continued the theme of holding meetings to mark the anniversary of important papers on biometrical topics, this year to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the landmark paper by DerSimonian and Laird on meta-analysis. We were delighted that both authors could attend the meeting, giving it a good international flavour, and emphasizing the relationship of the British and Irish Region to the wider international society. The next Channel Network Conference (CNC) is to be held in Hasselt (Belgium) in April 2017; we encourage our members to maintain an international outlook by attending.

Thanks are due to Doug Speed (UCL) and Dan Jackson (MRC Biostatistics Unit, Cambridge) for the work they have done for the BIR as they reach the end of their terms as regional committee members. Thanks are also due, for their work for the International Biometric Society (IBS), to John Hinde (outgoing President) and James Carpenter (Secretary/Treasurer), as their terms come to an end in December 2016

5. Secretary's Report

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

- 8 October 2015: Food Security, held at Rothamsted Research, with 30 participants, organised by Mark Brewer.
- 13 April 2016: 30-year anniversary of DerSimonian and Laird A Celebration! held at UCL, with 65 participants, organised by Dan Jackson
- 10-15 July 2016: International Biometrics Conference 2016 in Victoria, British Columbia (Canada)
- 10 October 2016: Citizen Science in Ecology, held at Attenborough Institute in Cambridge in association with the British Ecological Society and the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) Environmental Statistics Section, co-organised on behalf of BIR by Rachel McCrea

Meetings planned for 2016-7 include

- 23 November 2016: meeting on experimental design in medicine, including Presidential Address by John Matthews.
- 23 November 2016: Statistically Significant Careers Event, Queens University Belfast (QUB), joint with RSS & QUB, co-organised for BIR by Lisa McCrink
- 10 March 2017, Exploiting Publicly Available Genetic Data, joint with SEGEG, co-organised for BIR by Doug Speed
- 6th Channel Network Conference, Hasselt University, Belgium, April 24-26, 2017

In association with Fisher Memorial Trust (FMT), the BIR ran a bursary scheme for young biometricians to attend the IBC: 3 awards were made, and 2 of the winners attended the conference, the third presented via video due to visa difficulties. At the IBC, the Rob Kempton Award was made to Jane Hutton (BIR) in recognition of her contribution to inclusion of biometry in the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) program of education in Africa.

Looking ahead, and again in association with the FMT, a bursary scheme will be provided to help young biometricians attend the CNC in Hasselt.

## 6. Treasurer's Report

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

Mark reported that the figures were as expected, as this was the more expensive year of the two-year cycle. Due to Brexit the value of the pound had fallen with respect to the dollar, meaning that the BIR subscription no longer covered the cost of dues paid to the IBS. The BIR committee had decided to maintain subscriptions at the current level for the coming year but, unless the situation reverses, some increase will be necessary in the following year.

The audited accounts were accepted by the meeting, and both the treasurer and auditor were thanked for their work.

## 7. Membership Secretary's Report

The Membership Secretary, Rhian Daniel, presented the membership numbers as follows (number at 2015 AGM in parenthesis):

Full members	148	(146)
Student members	70	(97)
Life members	5	(5)
Retired members	16	(18)
Supporting Members	8	(1)
Total Members	247	(267)

The number of full members had shown a small increase, although the number of students had decreased. The committee would investigate ways of retaining student members once their studies, and period of free membership, had ended. Encouraging membership by making it available as an add-on to meeting registration would be implemented for meetings in 2017.

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 number of members receiving paper copies of these journals are as follows (2015 numbers in parenthesis):

Biometrics	JABES	Both Biometrics and JABES
14 (14)	1 (2)	9 (7)

## 8. Election of Officers and Committee

The following officers were re-elected without opposition:

- Secretary: Dr Sue Welham (independent)
- Treasurer: Dr Mark Brewer (BioSS)
- Membership Secretary: Dr Rhian Daniel (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)

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

- Dr Elizabeth Williamson (LSHTM)
- Dr Lisa Hampson (University of Lancaster)

In addition, Dr Hannah Worthington (University of St Andrews) was elected to fill the position of Dr Janette McQuillan, an elected committee member for 2016-2018 who had resigned.

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

## 10. Any other business

Andrew Mead reported on the work of the Fisher Memorial Trust. The trust was established in the 1960s to promote interest in the life and work of R A Fisher. There are 9 committee members, including three representatives from the BIR, two from the Genetics Society, one from the Royal Society and two from the RSS. The trust hosts the Fisher Lecture every year and provides financial support for young biometricians, in particular by collaborating with the BIR on the Young Biometrician Award and in providing bursaries to enable attendance at international biometrical conferences.

Meeting closed 1.27pm.

INTERNATIONAL BIOMETRIC SOCIETY (BRITISH & IRISH REGION):  
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016

1. CURRENT ASSETS:

Account	Balance 31 Aug 2016	(Balance 31 Aug 2015)
Santander	£ 4173.79	(£ 6197.93 )
Barclays Community Account	£ 1000.85	(£ 850.85 )
Barclays Tracker Account	£ 10601.22	(£ 10595.94 )
PayPal	£ 806.17	(£ 1335.30 )
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 16582.03</b>	<b>(£ 18980.02 )</b>

2. PAYMENTS (01 SEPTEMBER - 31 AUGUST):

	2015-16	(Last year 2014-15 )
US dues	£ 6371.92	(£ 5642.13 )
Meetings*	£ 1829.73	(£ 3034.56 )
Channel Network Meeting	£ 0.00	(£ 580.75 )
Sponsorship (RSC+YSM+IBC)	£ 1582.55	(£ 320.45 )
Committee Expenses	£ 0.00	(£ 0.00 )
Corporation Tax	£ 0.00	(£ 0.00 )
IBC bursaries	£ 2000.00	(£ 0.00 )
Website	£ 380.40	(£ 430.40 )
Bank Charges	£ 0.00	(£ 0.00 )
PayPal Charges	£ 185.13	(£ 169.70 )
Misc	£ 1053.55	(£ 88.99 )
Subscriptions adjustments	£ 0.00	(£ 50.00 )
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 13403.28</b>	<b>(£ 10316.98 )</b>

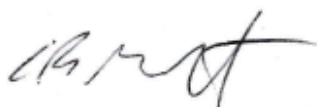
3. RECEIPTS (01 SEPTEMBER - 31 AUGUST):

	2015-16	(Last year 2014-15 )
Subscriptions	£ 7329.00	(£ 6222.00 )
Meetings*	£ 2655.00	(£ 4767.72 )
Channel Network Meeting	£ 516.01	(£ 0.00 )
Fisher Memorial Trust	£ 500.00	(£ 500.00 )
Misc	£ 0.00	(£ 43.41 )
Interest	£ 5.28	(£ 5.38 )
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 11005.29</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:

19 November 2016

## NOTES

The accounts for this year contain a £500 contribution from the Fisher Memorial Trust towards the Young Biometrician prize; the FMT have also agreed to contribute £1000 towards the IBC 2016 bursaries (one half of the outlay).

Total PayPal receipts this year were £4731, so charges amount to a fraction under 4%.

## MEETING SUMMARIES

Transactions associated with meetings occurring in the 2015/16 financial year are shown below (with any meetings occurring in different years but with transactions in 2015/16 included also, in italics).

We received £516.01 this year from the Netherlands Region, as our share of the Channel Network Conference 2015 surplus.

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; also, the meeting figures below include PayPal charges as costs - these appear on the previous page as PayPal charges rather than in Meetings figures. The table on the previous page contains two transactions for the Food Security meeting which occurred in 2014/15, amounting to income of £50.

Meeting	Income	Costs	Speaker Expenses	Balance
<i>20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> April 2015 (5<sup>th</sup> Channel Network Conference, Nijmegen)</i>	<i>£516.01</i>	-	-	<i>£516.01</i>
8 <sup>th</sup> September 2015 (Perspectives on stratified medicine, RSS Conference, Exeter)	-	-	£82.50	-£82.50
8 <sup>th</sup> October 2015 (Food Security - The Role of Biological Modelling, Rothamsted)	£655.00	£524.02	£222.90	-£91.92
13 <sup>th</sup> April 2016 (30 Years of DerSimonian and Laird's Methodology - A Celebration!, London)	£2,050.00	£601.40	£471.78	£976.82