

International Biometric Society — British and Irish Region

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2014

Held at 1.00pm Friday 14th November 2014, John Snow Lecture Theatre, LSHTM, Keppel Street, London.

20 members present

MINUTES

1. Apologies were received from Professor Robert Curnow.

2. Minutes of 2013 AGM

These were accepted with minor corrections (overall heading should have been 'MINUTES' rather than 'AGENDA'; item 4: Doug Speed won the young biometricians award in 2013 not 2014).

3. Matters arising, not covered on the agenda

None

4. President's report

Simon Thompson reviewed a successful year for the region, with three local meetings and one international meeting:

- (a) 14th November 2013, Statistical Software Interoperability, organised by Bill Browne (from IBS) jointly with RSS Statistical Computing Section, held at RSS building in Errol St, London, ~30 attendees.
- (b) 4th June 2014, Clinical trials: past, present and glorious future? Meeting held at LSHTM, organised by James Carpenter (from IBS) jointly with MRC Biostatistics Unit, RSS Medical Section and PSI, to mark centenary of the MRC Biostatistics Unit. ~220 attendees.
- (c) 6-11th July 2014, International Biometric Conference, Florence, Italy.
- (d) 17th September 2014, Statistics for Big Data, organised by Vincent Plagnol and Doug Speed (for the IBS), held in the Roberts Engineering Building, UCL. ~45 attendees.

Simon thanked all of the meeting organisers for providing varied and stimulating programs, and thanked the outgoing committee members, Bill Browne and Daniel Farewell, for their contributions to the running of the region.

Finally, Simon was delighted to congratulate the two BIR Region members who had been awarded Honorary Life Membership by the IBS. These awards were formally announced at the IBC in Florence, and were made to Byron Morgan and Roger Mead.

5. Secretary's Report

Meetings planned for 2015 include

- Channel Network Conference, held jointly with the French, Belgian and Dutch regions. To be held in Nijmegen, in the Netherlands, April 20-22nd 2015. Deadline for abstract submission 10 Jan 2015.
- Statistical issues in stratified medicine, date to be confirmed
- Biological modelling for food security, planned for autumn 2015

Sue also drew attention to

- (a) the Regional prize for career-young biometricians, awarded every other year, due for award in 2015. The prize is a diploma plus £1000. Details will be made available in early 2015, but nominees must be IBS-BIR members, so please encourage any career-young colleagues to join the society and nominate their work.
- (b) The next IBC will be held in Victoria on Vancouver Island, BC, Canada, 10-15 July 2016. Currently calls are being made for proposals for Invited Sessions and Short Courses. Members are encouraged to submit proposals to influence the program to make sure it includes your areas of interest.

6. Treasurer's Report

The signed accounts, audited by Clive B Moncrieff, were circulated by the treasurer, Mark Brewer, and are appended below. The apparent deficit in this year is due to payments made re: the Channel Network Conference, whereas the income was received in the previous financial year. The surplus, after passing a float onto the next CNC, was split between the network regions. After excluding these payments, income and outgoings were approximately balanced.

Rules on Corporation Tax have changed, which meant that our payments have increased this year (due to the CNC). Based on our usual lower level of activity, an exemption for Corporation Tax has been granted for the next 5 years.

The current level of subscriptions will be maintained for 2015. It was noted that most of the subscription is paid to the International Office as dues, with only a small proportion retained by the BIR.

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 reported that full membership had decreased, although overall membership numbers had increased, due to a large increase in student members. There was a decrease in the number of members taking paper copies of the journal.

James Carpenter asked if the increase in student members was due to people joining prior to the IBC. Diana thought that it was more likely to be due to BIR presence at the Research Students Conference.

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

8. Election of Officers, Committee and International Society Representatives

The following officers were re-elected:

- Secretary: Dr Sue Welham (VSNi)
- Treasurer: Dr Mark Brewer (BioSS)
- Membership Secretary: Dr Diana Cole (University of Kent)

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

- Roland Langrock (University of St Andrews)
- Lisa McCrink (Queens University Belfast)

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

10. Review of regional rules

The incoming president, John Matthews, noted that the Officers recently had cause to consult the rules of the Region, principally to clarify how elections should be conducted. The current rules require postal ballots to be used for deciding contested elections and for changing rules. It became clear that many other rules were out of date, for example referring to structures in the International Society that no longer exist. The committee therefore intends to amend the rules so that postal ballots can be replaced by an electronic alternative, and to tidy up the parts that are no longer appropriate. The aim is for a small working group (James Carpenter, John Matthews and Sue Welham) to propose new rules for consideration by the Committee in March 2015 and then to consult the membership of the region. Once broad agreement has been achieved, the new rules will be the subject of a postal ballot and agreed at the AGM in 2015.

11. Any other business

None

Meeting closed 1.25pm.

INTERNATIONAL BIOMETRIC SOCIETY (BRITISH & IRISH REGION):
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2014

1. CURRENT ASSETS:

Account	Balance 31 Aug 2014	(Balance 31 Aug 2013)
Santander	£ 4674.08	(£ 16213.72)
Barclays Community Account	£ 700.85	(£ 540.85)
Barclays Tracker Account	£ 10590.56	(£ 10585.28)
PayPal	£ 1793.00	(£ 1365.01)
TOTAL	£ 17758.49	(£ 28704.86)

2. PAYMENTS (01 SEP 2013 - 31 AUG 2014):

	£		€	
US dues	5818.82	(7610.77)	-	(-)
Meetings*	2046.78	(5438.57)	-	(-)
Channel Network Meeting	9601.35	(23234.06)	-	(-)
Sponsorship (RSC+YSM+IBC)	1835.89	(334.04)	-	(-)
Committee Expenses	0.00	(23.50)	-	(-)
Corporation Tax	73.20	(1.20)	-	(-)
IBC bursaries	1500.00	(250.00)	-	(-)
Website	380.40	(432.40)	-	(-)
Bank Charges	25.00	(25.00)	-	(9.66)
PayPal Charges	189.01	(N/A)	-	(-)
Misc	65.20	(1043.05)	-	(1121.33)
Subscriptions adjustments	33.00	(68.00)	-	(-)
TOTAL	£ 21568.65		€ -	

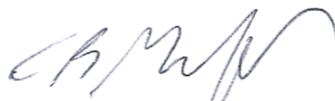
3. RECEIPTS (01 SEP 2013 - 31 AUG 2014):

	£		€	
Subscriptions	7567.00	(8396.91)	-	(-)
Meetings*	2550.00	(5750.79)	-	(-)
Channel Network Meeting	0.00	(34781.81)	-	(-)
Fisher Memorial Trust	500.00	(500.00)	-	(-)
Misc	0.00	(889.37)	-	(-)
Interest	5.28	(5.08)	-	(-)
TOTAL	£ 10622.28		€ -	

*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:

13 Nov 2014

NOTES

The accounts for this year contain a £500 contribution from the Fisher Memorial Trust towards the £1000 Young Biometrician prize, actually paid in 2012/13. The IBC bursaries figure relates to six awards of £250 for IBC 2014; we are due £500 from the Fisher Memorial Trust towards these.

The way that PayPal transactions are summarised has changed after a suggestion by the auditor for the 2012/13 accounts. Previously, income via PayPal was included as net minus the transaction charges; from this year, PayPal income is now included as gross and the PayPal charges are listed separately; this enables us to keep track of the costs of using PayPal to receive payment via credit and debit cards (total receipts through PayPal this year were £4617, so charges amount to around 4%).

There is one remaining liability with respect to the Channel Network Conference held in 2013: namely, a 20% share of the surplus, amounting to €726.50, to be paid to the Belgian Region.

Transactions associated with meetings, occurring in the 2013/14 financial year (plus the Channel Network Conference), are shown below. 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 2014/15, and lack receipts for one or more of the meetings in the table below, as those payments occurred in 2012/13. We are due one third of the surplus from the 4th June meeting, which was held jointly with and organised by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (£482.72, received 19th September 2014).

Meeting	Income	Costs	Speaker Expenses
3 rd -5 th July 2013 (4 th Channel Network Meeting, St Andrews)	£34,781.81	£26,033.16	£1,572.56
9 th October 2013 (Species distribution modelling, London)	£1,592.78	£1,141.00	£451.78
14 th November 2013 (Statistical software interoperability, London)	£553.01	£250.00	£104.00
4 th June 2014 (Clinical trials: past, present and glorious future?, London)	£482.72		
Total income:	£37,410.32		
Total expenditure:		£29,552.50	

International Biometric Society (British & Irish Region)

Membership Secretary's report for 2014

The British region now has 315 members (compared to 308 last year).

Current membership can be broken down into the following categories (2013) figures in parentheses:

Full members	164 (184)
Student members	122 (96)
Life members	6 (4)
Retired members	22 (23)
Supporting Members	1 (1)
<hr/> Total Members	<hr/> 315 (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>
18 (29)	4 (3)	5 (6)