

International Biometric Society — British and Irish Region

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2017

Held at 1:30pm on Tuesday 28th November 2017 at De Morgan House, 57-58 Russell Square, London, WC1B 4HS

33 members present

MINUTES

1. Apologies were received from Professor R A Bailey.

2. Minutes of 2016 AGM

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, Martin Ridout, thanked committee members for organising scientific meetings during the year: Doug Speed organised a meeting on 'Exploiting publicly available genetic data' jointly with SEGEG (South of England Genetic Epidemiology Group); Tom Nye organised a meeting on 'Statistical image analysis in medicine and biology', John Matthews and Lisa McCrink jointly organised the meeting following the AGM on 'Celebrating Young Biometricians'.

The next regional meeting would be held in March/April 2018 on recent developments in the bootstrap.

Venues for regional meetings remain an issue. Suggestions for inexpensive venues of good quality would be welcomed by the committee.

The region supported two young biometricians to attend the Channel Network Conference in Hasselt in April 2017 (Hannah Ensor from BioSS and David Hughes from University of Liverpool). This scheme was funded jointly with the Fisher Memorial Trust.

The Young Biometrician Award 2017 received many entries of good quality. Thanks were due to the judges: Simon Thompson (Cambridge) representing the British and Irish Region (BIR), Rosemary Bailey (St Andrews) representing the Fisher Memorial Trust (FMT), and Graham Hepworth (Melbourne) as an independent external judge.

Thanks were also due to outgoing committee members for their work. John Matthews retired as the outgoing vice-president. Mark Brewer retired as Treasurer, but remained on the committee due to his position on the IBS Executive Board. Roland Langrock retired from the committee and was thanked for his work on writing and producing the newsletter. Lisa McCrink also retired from the committee but continued as the new Treasurer, using her new name of Lisa McFetridge.

5. Secretary's Report

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

- 23 November 2016: meeting on experimental design in medicine, including Presidential Address by John Matthews (Newcastle), 30 participants. Other speakers were: R A Bailey (St Andrews), Lisa Hampson (Lancaster/AstraZeneca), Steven Gilmour (Kings) & Rebecca Walwyn (Leeds) and Tomas Jaki (Lancaster).
- 10 March 2017, Exploiting Publicly Available Genetic Data, joint with SEGEG, 160 participants. Speakers were Helen Warren (Queen Mary), Jonathan Marcini (Oxford), Louise Wain (Leicester), Paul Newcombe (MRC Biostatistics Unit) and Hugues Aschard (Institut Pasteur).
- 23 May 2017, Statistical Image Analysis in Medicine and Biology, 20 participants. Speakers were John Aston (Cambridge), Adrian Bowman (Glasgow), Ian Jermyn (Durham) and Ian Dryden (Nottingham).

Looking ahead, a bursary scheme in association with the FMT would be provided to help young biometricians attend the IBC in Barcelona in 2018.

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 a fall in funds in the region of £1150 despite this being the "cheaper" year of the regular two-year cycle, where an increase would normally be expected.

The main cause of the decrease was the fall in the pound-dollar exchange rate following the Brexit vote in 2016, as member dues to the IBS are paid in dollars. The committee took the decision not to increase membership subscription fees for 2017,

but this resulted in a substantial loss on subscriptions this year. This situation is not sustainable in the longer term. As a result, the committee proposed an increase the subscription fees from £40 to £45 for full members (leaving the retired members' rate fixed at £20) and to increase the fee for paper copies of journals, from £7 to £10 per journal. This level of subscription rates would be just sufficient to cover IBS dues at current exchange rates.

There were no objections to the change in subscription rate and so the committee proposal was accepted.

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, could not be present, but submitted the membership numbers as follows (number at 2016 AGM in parenthesis):

| | | |
|--------------------|-----|-------|
| Full members | 153 | (148) |
| Student members | 43 | (70) |
| Life members | 5 | (5) |
| Retired members | 19 | (16) |
| Supporting Members | 3 | (8) |
| Total Members | 223 | (247) |

The number of full members had shown a small increase, although the number of students had decreased. The committee would consider further ways to address this. Meeting registration for non-members now included a year's membership by default (with opt-out available). Supporting members are members of other regions who choose to receive information on BIR activities, and so the reduction in these numbers was not considered a cause for concern.

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 (2016 numbers in parenthesis):

| | | |
|------------|-------|---------------------------|
| Biometrics | JABES | Both Biometrics and JABES |
| 15 (14) | 1 (1) | 11 (9) |

8. Election of Officers and Committee

The following officers were elected without opposition:

- Incoming Vice-President (President 2019-2020): Prof Ruth King (Edinburgh)
- Secretary: Dr Sue Welham (independent)
- Treasurer: Dr Lisa McFetridge (Queens University Belfast)
- Membership Secretary: Dr Rhian Daniel (Cardiff University)

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

- Dr Ruth Keogh (LSHTM)
- Dr Emanuele Giorgi (University of Lancaster)

In addition, Dr Kirsty Hassall (Rothamsted Research) was co-opted to fill the position of Dr Lisa Hampson, an elected committee member for 2017-2019 who had resigned.

9. Election of Auditor: Clive B Moncrieff was thanked for his work this year and re-elected. He indicated that this would be his last year in the post.

10. Any other business

Andrew Mead announced that the next Channel Network Conference was expected to be hosted at Rothamsted Research, to mark the centenary of the appointment of RA Fisher in 1919. The conference was planned for 10-12 July 2019 and would include the 2019 Fisher Memorial Lecture. John Hinde advertised the existence of the IBS Regional Development Fund, which could be asked for help to bring IBS members from developing regions to the conference.

The meeting closed with the presentation of the Young Biometrician Award for 2017 to Anais Rouanet (MRC Biostatistics Unit), and diplomas of Honourable Mention to Emily Dennis (Butterfly Conservation & Kent) and David Hughes (Liverpool). The presentations were made by Martin Ridout for the BIR and Andrew Mead for the FMT.

Meeting closed 1.25pm.

INTERNATIONAL BIOMETRIC SOCIETY (BRITISH & IRISH REGION):
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

1. CURRENT ASSETS:

| Account | Balance 31 Aug 2017 | (Balance 31 Aug 2016) |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Santander | £ 949.95 | (£ 4173.79) |
| Barclays Community Account | £ 1105.85 | (£ 1000.85) |
| Barclays Tracker Account | £ 10603.86 | (£ 10601.22) |
| PayPal | £ 2768.06 | (£ 806.17) |
| TOTAL | £ 15427.72 | (£ 16582.03) |

2. PAYMENTS (01 SEPTEMBER - 31 AUGUST):

| | 2016-17 | (Last year 2015-16) |
|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| US dues | £ 8094.86 | (£ 6371.92) |
| Meetings* | £ 1119.78 | (£ 1829.73) |
| Channel Network Meeting | £ 0.00 | (£ 0.00) |
| Sponsorship (RSC+YSM+IBC) | £ 250.00 | (£ 1582.55) |
| Committee Expenses | £ 18.00 | (£ 0.00) |
| Corporation Tax | £ 0.00 | (£ 0.00) |
| IBC/CNC bursaries | £ 800.00 | (£ 2000.00) |
| Website | £ 479.40 | (£ 380.40) |
| Bank Charges | £ 0.00 | (£ 0.00) |
| PayPal Charges | £ 169.11 | (£ 185.13) |
| Misc | £ 21.60 | (£ 1053.55) |
| Subscriptions adjustments | £ 60.00 | (£ 0.00) |
| TOTAL | £ 11012.75 | (£ 13403.28) |

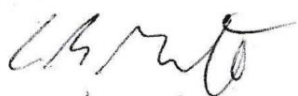
3. RECEIPTS (01 SEPTEMBER - 31 AUGUST):

| | 2016-17 | (Last year 2015-16) |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Subscriptions | £ 6977.00 | (£ 7329.00) |
| Meetings* | £ 1370.00 | (£ 2655.00) |
| Channel Network Meeting | £ 0.00 | (£ 516.01) |
| Fisher Memorial Trust | £ 1291.20 | (£ 500.00) |
| IBC bursary refunds | £ 217.60 | (£ 0.00) |
| Misc | £ 0.00 | (£ 0.00) |
| Interest | £ 2.64 | (£ 5.28) |
| TOTAL | £ 9858.44 | (£ 11005.29) |

*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:

23 / 11 / 2017

NOTES

This year we awarded two bursaries for young biometricians to attend the Channel Network Conference; the awards were for £400 each, and the Fisher Memorial Trust kindly contributed £400 representing one half of the total outlay.

Total PayPal receipts this year were £4191, so charges amount to a fraction over 4%.

MEETING SUMMARIES

Transactions associated with meetings occurring in the 2016/17 financial year 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; 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 also separates out a £20 refund on a meeting fee (counting that as expenditure) and strips out £120 of meeting income which is diverted to the subscriptions category.

| Meeting | Income | Costs | Speaker Expenses | Balance |
|--|---------|---------|------------------|----------|
| 10 th October 2016 (Challenges and opportunities of analysing ecological citizen science data) | - | - | - | - |
| 23 rd November 2016 (Design of Experiments in Medicine) | £930.00 | £92.68 | - | +£837.32 |
| 10 th March 2017 (Exploiting publicly available genetic data, Joint Meeting with SEGEG) | - | £180.00 | £64.50 | -£244.50 |
| 23 rd May 2017 (Statistical image analysis in medicine and biology) | £540.00 | £480.00 | £455.71 | -£395.71 |

Mark J Brewer, 10th September 2017