

International Biometric Society — British and Irish Region

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2018

Held at 1:30pm on Wednesday 28th November 2018 at De Morgan House, 57-58 Russell Square, London, WC1B 4HS

13 members present

MINUTES

1. Apologies were received from Andrew Mead, Byron Morgan, John Hinde, Daniel Farewell, James Carpenter.

2. Minutes of 2017 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, began by reporting that this year had seen the death of two former Presidents of the region. Doug Altman was President during 1997-8 and David Finney 1956-7! Finney, who was also President of the International Society 1964-5 was one of the small group of Honorary Life Members of the IBS. The BIR summer newsletter carried an obituary of Doug Altman and the December newsletter will include one of David Finney.

Regrettably it was necessary for the Committee to propose a further modest increase in membership dues, to ensure that the financial future of the Region remains secure. Many costs arise from supporting younger members of the Society (through travel bursaries and the Young Biometrician Award, both of which benefit from generous support from the Fisher Memorial Trust) and also members of the IBS from developing countries, through contributing to the IBS travel award fund. The region is also proposing a voluntary levy to help continue these activities, whilst minimising essential increases in dues.

Channel Network Conferences provide an excellent opportunity to network with European colleagues, and many members of the BIR attended the 2017 conference in Belgium. The BIR will be hosting the 2019 conference, to be held at Rothamsted Research and it is hoped that this will be widely supported by members of the Region.

Thanks were given to Daniel Farewell and Mike Sweeting for the work they put into organising meetings over the last year, and to all of the committee for their hard work during the past two years. Tom Nye and Hannah Worthington were completing their terms as members of the Regional Committee. And particular thanks were made to Sue Welham on finishing her term as Secretary for having done an exemplary job over the last 5 years.

5. Secretary's Report

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

- 28 November 2017: Celebrating Young Biometricians, organised by John Mathews, 33 participants. Speakers were: Anais Rouanet (MRC-Biostatistics Unit, Cambridge), David Robertson (MRC-Biostatistics Unit, Cambridge), Doug Speed (UCL Genetics Institute), John Hinde (NUI Galway).
- 18 April 2018: The Modern Bootstrap, organised by Daniel Farewell, 20 participants. Speakers: Daniel Farewell (Cardiff), Richard Everitt (Reading), Adriana Cornea-Madeira (York), Alastair Young (Imperial).
- 26 September 2018: Utilising Electronic Health Records for Medical Research, organised by Michael Sweeting, 60 participants. Speakers: Elizabeth Williamson (LSHTM), John Tazere (LSHTM), Harvey Goldstein (Bristol), Angela Wood (Cambridge), Peter Diggle (Lancaster).

The IBC took place in Barcelona from 8-13 July 2018. The BIR and the Fisher Memorial Trust co-funded 5 bursaries of £500 to enable young biometricians attend this conference. Reports from the bursary recipients would be included in the next regional newsletter. Similar bursaries are intended to be made available for the Channel Network Conference at Rothamsted in July 2019.

The Young Biometrician Award, co-funded by the BIR and Fisher Memorial Trust, with a prize of £1000 was due for award in 2019. Entry is by nomination of one published paper and nominations were encouraged. The full rules are detailed on the BIR website.

6. Treasurer's Report

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

The treasurer noted a large drop in assets, mainly due to a loss in membership income no longer covering the dues paid (in US dollars) to the central IBS. In addition to the IBS dues, the major items of expenditure were sponsorship (contributions to the IBC Travel Fund and the Young Biometrician Award) and bursaries for young biometricians to attend the IBC and CNC. The YBA and travel bursaries are co-funded by the Fisher Memorial Trust. Expenditure on meetings was exceeded by income over the year.

To stabilise the finances, an increase in subscription rates was proposed for full members to £55, for retired members to £30, with paper copies of journals charged at £10 per journal. A voluntary levy (suggested £5 or £10) was proposed to enable continuation of the sponsorship activities. Both proposals (which had previously been circulated to all members by email) were accepted unanimously by the meeting.

The audited accounts were accepted by the meeting, and particular thanks were given to the auditor on his retirement from the role.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

The Membership Secretary, Rhian Daniel, presented the membership numbers as follows (number at 2017 AGM in parentheses):

Full members	146	(153)
Student members	82	(43)
Life members	5	(5)
Retired members	17	(19)
Supporting Members	1	(3)
Total Members	251	(223)

The number of full members had shown a small decrease, although the number of students had increased. Meeting registration for non-members now included a year's membership by default (with opt-out available) and had recruited several new members. 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 (2017 numbers in parentheses):

Biometrics	JABES	Both Biometrics and JABES
9 (15)	1 (1)	9 (11)

8. Election of Officers and Committee

The following officers were elected without opposition:

- Secretary: Dr Rachel McCrea (Kent University)
- 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 Anestis Touloumis (Brighton University)
- Dr Angela Wood (University of Cambridge)

9. Election of Auditor: Rodger White was elected as the auditor for 2019.

10. Any other business

Dr Kirsty Hassall (Rothamsted Research) gave brief details of the Channel Network Conference to be held at Rothamsted during 10-12 July 2019, and encouraged members to publicise the event and plan their attendance.

Meeting closed 1.25pm.

INTERNATIONAL BIOMETRIC SOCIETY (BRITISH & IRISH REGION):
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

1. CURRENT ASSETS:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance 31 Aug 2018</u>	<u>(Balance 31 Aug 2017)</u>
Santander	£ 8167.61	(£ 949.95)
Barclays Community Account	£ 0.00	(£ 1105.85)
Barclays Tracker Account	£ 0.00	(£ 10603.86)
PayPal	£ 1686.12	(£ 2768.06)
TOTAL	£ 9853.73	(£ 15427.72)

2. PAYMENTS (01 SEPTEMBER - 31 AUGUST):

	2017-18	(Last year 2016-17)
US dues	£ 8590.08	(£ 8094.86)
Meetings*	£ 1127.53	(£ 1119.78)
Channel Network Meeting	£ 0.00	(£ 0.00)
Sponsorship (IBC, YBA)	£ 2321.07	(£ 250.00)
Committee Expenses	£ 66.90	(£ 18.00)
Corporation Tax	£ 0.00	(£ 0.00)
IBC/CNC bursaries	£ 2500.00	(£ 800.00)
Website	£ 479.40	(£ 479.40)
Bank Charges	£ 0.00	(£ 0.00)
PayPal Charges	£ 192.44	(£ 169.11)
Misc	£ 8.55	(£ 21.60)
Subscriptions adjustments	£ 57.00	(£ 60.00)
TOTAL	£ 15342.97	(£ 11012.75)

3. RECEIPTS (01 SEPTEMBER - 31 AUGUST):

	2017-18	(Last year 2016-17)
Subscriptions	£ 7447.00	(£ 6977.00)
Meetings*	£ 1745.00	(£ 1370.00)
Channel Network Meeting	£ 0.00	(£ 0.00)
Fisher Memorial Trust	£ 500.00	(£ 1291.20)
IBC bursary refunds	£ 0.00	(£ 217.60)
Donations received	£ 64.00	(£ 0.00)
Misc	£ 1.50	(£ 0.00)
Interest	£ 11.48	(£ 2.64)
TOTAL	£ 9768.98	(£ 9858.44)

*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: 26 Nov 2018

NOTES

This year we started the process of closing the two Barclays' accounts with the money being transferred into the Santander account (£11,826.19 in total). The closure of these accounts will be finalised in the next financial year.

Subscription fees for full members increased from £40 to £45. Several members with standing orders had to transfer an additional top-up fee for their subscriptions, usually by bank transfer.

We awarded five bursaries for young biometricians to attend the International Biometric Conference; the awards were for £500 each. The Fisher Memorial Trust have kindly agreed to contribute £1,100 which will appear in next year's financial report.

Total PayPal receipts this year were £4885.50, so charges amount to a fraction under 4%.

MEETING SUMMARIES

Transactions associated with meetings occurring in the 2017/18 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. Both the table below and figures on the previous page separate out meeting fees and subscriptions for attendees who join the Society through attendance at meetings (each £70 = £45 Subscriptions and £25 Meetings fee).

Meeting	Income	Costs	Speaker Expenses	Balance
28 th November 2017 (2017 AGM and Young Biometricians Meeting)	£570.00	£542.34	£105.78	-£78.12
18 th April 2018 (The Modern Bootstrap Meeting)	£295.00	£355.11	£259.65	-£319.76
26 th September 2018 (Statistical challenges in utilising Electronic Health Records for Medical Research)	£1695.00	£579.59	-	£1115.41

Lisa McFetridge, 11th October 2018