

International Biometric Society — British and Irish Region

Annual General Meeting

12.30pm, Wednesday 2nd October 2019

De Morgan House, 57-58 Russell Square, London, WC1B 4HS

MINUTES

Present: Ruth King, Rachel McCrea, Byron Morgan, Robert Curnow, Anestis Touloumis, Geoff Morgan, Rhian Daniel, Jonathan Bartlett, Michael Sweeting, Kirsty Hassall, Stephen Powers, Rodger White, Martin Ridout

1. Apologies: Emanuele Giorgi, Lisa McFetridge, Daniel Farewell

2. Minutes of the 2018 AGM

These were posted on the BIR website and noone had any corrections.

3. Matters Arising, not covered on the agenda

None.

4. President's report

There have not been many BIR meetings this year due to the Channel Network Conference being held in Rothmsted in the summer. An exciting programme of events will be released soon for next calendar year.

The summer newsletter was not released this year due to personal reasons, therefore one bumper issue will be released in the Autumn.

There is an aim for meetings to be held outside of London, to improve geographic diversity of the society.

The Young Biometrician Award is presented every 2 years and this year we had a good number of proposals. The BIR IBS and Fisher Memorial Trust awarded the 2019 Young Biometrician award to:

Sean Yiu for his paper Covariate association eliminating weights: a unified weighting framework for causal effects estimation (Biometrika 2018: 105, 709-722).

The panel also gave honourable mention to:

Sara Wade for her paper A Bayesian nonparametric regression model with normalized weights: a study of hippocampal atrophy in Alzheimers disease (Journal of the American Statistical Association 2014; 109, 477-490)

Ming Zhou for her paper Removal models accounting for temporary emigration (Biometrics 2019; 75, 24-35).

The BIR committee are currently discussing the possibility of an infographic-themed competition, and details of this will be released in the newsletter. Comments from members of the society included the need to define what an infographic is and how they will be used to engage society members.

More generally, the committee is always keen for members share their ideas on how to engage with the community.

5. Secretary's report

BIR Meetings since last AGM

- Advances in Analysis of Count Data (followed the 2018 AGM) 28 November 2018, LMS, London, 20 participants - Workshop on Geostatistical Methods for Disease Mapping 3 June 2019, Lancaster University.

2019 Channel Network Conference

- Was held at Rothamsted Research, July 2019, 97 delegates.

BIR bursary scheme for young biometricians in association with Fisher Memorial Trust, 3 were awarded:

Nseobong Uto (University of St Andrews) Peter Godolphin (Nottingham University) Sara Wade (University of Edinburgh)

6. Treasurer's report

See attached financial report.

Byron Morgan questioned whether we are being affected by the poor exchange rate. Ruth responded by saying that we are affected by the poor rate of sterling at present, however the BIR committee has agreed not to increase the membership fees further this year.

Last year we introduced a voluntary levy at membership fee which has resulted in some additional income for the society. The ability to voluntarily donate this levy to the society will be highlighted in people's renewal reminders.

7. Membership Secretary's report

See attached membership report. We currently have a total of 173 members, which is a lot lower than last year. We would expect some decrease in a non-IBC year, however the committee plans to discuss this in more detail at their next meeting. Some of this is to establish how to recognise what the benefits of membership are.

It was commented that it is surprising that student membership is down, even though it is free to join. There is the suggestion that we need more of a presence at student conferences and encouragement of students at their own institutions to join.

It was questioned whether the overall trend was similar to the Royal Statistical Society or wider IBS. Rhian Daniel was not aware of these figures, but suggests it could be linked to more statistics-community changes. There was also a suggestion of having more of a social media presence to engage with currently underrepresented communities.

8. Election of Officers and Committee

The following have accepted the committees nomination (and no other nominations have been received):

Officers: Rachel McCrea (Secretary) (continuing) Lisa McFetridge (Treasurer) (continuing) Rhian Daniel (Membership Secretary) (continuing) Dr Daniel Farewell (vice-president 2020-2023, to serve as President during 2021-2022)

Committee members:

Professor Andy Lynch (University of St Andrews) and Dr Kirsty Hassall (Rothamsted Research), to serve for 3 years (2020-2022)

Thank you to Martin Ridout as outgoing president and Elizabeth Williamson for all they have contributed to the BIR. Kirsty will also take on the role of Biometric Bulletin and newsletter correspondent for the BIR.

9. Election of auditor

The new auditor was elected last year, Roger White from Rothamsted Research.

10. Any other business

Ruth reported that the BIR website would be moving to a site hosted by the international society and functionality would change as a result. Members will be kept informed of this as the move happens.

An issue was raised that some members may not be receiving emails from the society. Rachel McCrea will email the society members a link to these minutes of the meeting to check who acknowledges receiving them.