



*AAB President: Prof. Peter Shewry BA, BSc, PhD, DSc*



**ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
& FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR 2012**

**NOTICE OF  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**7 October 2013**

# THE ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

(Registered Charity No. 275655)

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at the Sophi Taylor Building, NIAB Innovation Farm, Impington, Cambridge CB24 9NZ at 13:00 on 7 October 2013. The draft minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in 2012 are attached together with the Report of the Trustees, Financial Statements and a list of new members of the Association elected in 2012.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Harper Adams University on 3 October 2012 and matters arising
- 3 Report of the Trustees for 2012 (excluding the Financial Report)
- 4 Financial Report for 2012
- 5 Membership fees and Subscriptions for *Annals of Applied Biology* for 2014
- 6 Trustees for 2014 – Nominations from Council

### *Officers for election:*

President	Prof. P R Shewry
Vice President	Prof. W Davies
General Secretary	Dr E A Stockdale
General Treasurer	Mr M J May
Meetings Treasurer	Mr C R Glass
Programme Secretary	Prof. N G Halford
Membership Officer	Vacancy
Publications Officer	Prof. R Kennedy

- 7 *Conveners to be approved:*

Applied Mycology and Bacteriology	Dr S Cummings
Biological Control	Prof. T Bruce
Cropping and the Environment	Dr R Carlton
Food Systems	Prof. L Terry
Nematology	Dr J Pickup
Pesticide Application	Mr S E Cooper
Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement	Dr M F B Dale
Virology	Dr S MacFarlane

- 8 Appointment of Auditors for 2014
- 9 Any Other Business

**REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 275655**

**Report of the Trustees and  
Financial Statements for the year ended  
31 December 2012  
for the Association of Applied Biologists**

**Clere's Limited  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
G.N. House  
119 Holloway Head  
Birmingham  
West Midlands  
B1 1QP**

# ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

## Contents

Reference and Administrative Details .....	1
Trustees' Report .....	2 to 5
Independent examiner's report .....	6
Statement of financial activities .....	10
Balance Sheet .....	11
Notes to the financial statements .....	12 to 23

The following pages do not form part of the statutory financial statements:

Statement of financial activities per fund .....	24 to 31
--	----------

# THE ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

<b>Charity Name</b>	Association of Applied Biologists
<b>Registered Charity number</b>	275655
<b>Principal address</b>	AAB Office, Warwick Enterprise Park, Wellesbourne, Warwick CV35 9EF
<b>Registered Office</b>	AAB Office, Warwick Enterprise Park, Wellesbourne, Warwick CV35 9EF

### Trustees

Prof. T J Hocking	President
Prof. P R Shewry	President Elect
Dr. E A Stockdale	General Secretary
Dr. J Knight	General Treasurer
Prof. M A J Parry	Chairman of the Editorial Boards (completing term at end of 2012)
Dr. G Russell	Programme Secretar (completing term at end of 2012)
Mr. C R Glass	Meetings Treasurer
Prof. S P Cummings	Applied Mycology & Bacteriology
Dr. R Jacobson	Biological Control (resigned 1 Mach 2012)
Prof. T Bruce	Biological Control (appointed 1 March 2012)
Mr D B Turley	Cropping and the Environment (completing term at end of 2012)
Dr. J Pickup	Nematology
Mr. S E Cooper	Pesticide Application
Prof. N G Halford	Plant Physiology & Crop Improvement
Dr. S A Macfarlane	Virology
Dr. W Martindale	Food systems

**Executive Officer** Mrs C A Millman

**Independent Examiner** Clere's Limited, Chartered Certified Accountants  
G.N.House, 119 Holloway Head, Birmingham, West Midlands B1 1QP

**Solicitors** Martineau Johnson, St Phillips House, St Phillips Place  
Birmingham B3 2PP

Shakespeares Solicitors. Bridgeway House, Bridgeway,  
Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 6YY.

**Bankers** Barclays Bank plc, South Warwickshire Group of Branches,  
150 The Parade, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 4A

**Independent Financial Advisers** Cherwell Asset Management, The Old Granary, Shotteswell, Oxon  
OX17 7HU

**Independent Fund Managers** Lloyds TSB Private Banking Limited, 50 Grosvenor Street,  
London W1K 3LF

**Insurance Brokers** Stackhouse Poland, Exchange House, Station Road, Liphook,  
Hampshire GU30 7ER

Access Insurance, 1 Regent Street, London SW1Y 4NW

## **Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 December 2012**

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2012. The trustees have adopted the provision of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

#### **Governing document**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

The trust is an unincorporated trust, constituted under Laws of Association revised December 1977 and is a registered charity, number 275655.

#### **Recruitment and appointment of new trustees**

All Trustees of the Association must be members of the Association of Applied Biologists.

Trustees of the Association of Applied Biologists include the Honorary Officers of Council (the President, the President-elect, who shall normally succeed the President, the General Treasurer, the Meetings Treasurer, the General Secretary, the Programme Secretary, the Membership Officer, the Publications Officer plus any other person designated as an Honorary Officer at the Annual General Meeting) together with the Convenors of the Association's Specialist Groups. The Convenors are notified to the Annual General Meeting. The other Honorary Officers are elected at an Annual General Meeting. In the case of an unfilled position, trustees may be co-opted to office but must be elected at the following Annual General Meeting.

The President of the Association of Applied Biologists will serve a maximum period of two years as President. The President-Elect will serve a maximum period of two years as President-elect.

Convenors are elected by members of the Group (at the last meeting of the year preceding the year of office) and may serve for up to six consecutive years, subject to annual re-election (a term of office for Convenors is deemed to be three years).

#### **Induction and training of new trustees**

Potential Trustees of the Association of Applied Biology will be given copy of Association's Laws and copies of any other key documents relevant to the Charity or post.

The booklet 'Responsibilities of Charity Trustees' published by the Charity Commission gives a complete guide to the responsibilities of Charity Trustees and will be issued to all new Trustees who are expected to read it.

Trustees of the Association of Applied Biologists are expected to read the Laws of the Association of Applied Biologists, additional information provided by the Association and the booklet 'Responsibilities of Charity Trustees'.

A 'job description' of each Trustee post will be given to each new Trustee upon appointment. It is the responsibility of each post holder to review and update their particular job description by the end of October each year.

Any changes are to be agreed by Council at its last full meeting of the year.

New trustees will be given an induction session with the Executive Officer and/or a serving Trustee of the Association.

#### **Organisational structure**

The business of the Association is conducted by a Council of Members.

Council shall consist of the Honorary Officers; President, President elect, General Secretary, General Treasurer, Chairman of the Editorial Boards, Membership Officer, Programme Secretary and Meetings Treasurer together with convenors of the AAB Specialist Groups.

### **Wider network**

Affiliations were maintained with the Institute of Biology, the Foundation for Science and Technology and the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers. The Association has a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Society for Agronomy.

### **Risk management**

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The trustees regularly review major operational and business risks to the charity and take such steps as are needed to mitigate them. The trustees believe that the current reserves are adequate in the light of those risks.

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Objectives and aims**

The Object of the Charity is to ‘promote the study and advancement of all branches of Biology and, in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) to foster the practice, growth and development of applied biology, including the application of biological sciences for the production and preservation of food, fibre and other materials and for the maintenance and improvement of the earth’s physical environment’.

## **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

### **Charitable activities**

#### *Income & Expenditure*

The global financial situation has shown a degree of stability in comparison to the last few years which is encouraging from the perspective of the society’s investments if nothing else. The Association continues with the long term objective of operating with a neutral or slightly positive net movement in funds within a sustainable business plan which will include investment expenditure. The results of this year, which has seen the publication of the *Food and Energy Security* Journal (FESJ) has resulted in an operating deficit of £10,762 (before investment gains/losses) and compares well against a budgeted deficit of £38,600. Publications continue to be a major income stream with *The Plant Biotechnology Journal* delivering £17,512 against £10,348 for 2011. It is with this in the mind an investment of £19,580 was made in the FESJ.

Governance costs have decreased slightly this year as a result not having a full complement of staff for a significant period but and are £86,706 against £90,577 for last year. The meetings programme generated a surplus of £3,314 against a budgeted figure of £2,931 which is impressive given predicting conference attendance and income is not a precise science and a fair degree of variation in this figure can be expected!

The investment portfolio produced an unrealised gain of £34,259 which was substantially better than in 2009.

### *Balance sheet*

The Association's assets have increased by £28,817 over the past year. The value of cash and investments has risen during the year from £412,963 to £431,018 as a result of the activities mentioned above. The net current assets are reduced compared to last year at a positive value of £56,614, down £4,741 from last year. As always, funds may be drawn from the portfolio of quoted investments as required and without undue delay to bolster the Association's working capital, however, it is hoped that this can be avoided over the next 12 months which will hopefully provide some further time for the investments to recover some of their value.

### *2013*

The mid-year forecast for 2013 predicts a significantly larger operating deficit than was achieved in 2012 at £46,800. The primary reason for this is a much reduced income from publications (budgeted at £48,000) as the windfall of back issues is likely to reduce.

### *Forecast of Expenditure for 2013*

The overall objective of the Trustees is to ensure a sound financial footing for the Association into the future enabling it to pursue its charitable aims and objectives. The review of strategic targets with a view to achieving a sustainable financial situation continues. All avenues of appropriate activities will be explored with the aim to increase revenue through running meetings for the Association and for others, seeking to expand membership and the continued tight control of operational expenditure with the aim of minimising overhead costs. The investment in the FESJ should hopefully start to generate income within the next few years and start to repay the investment.

### *Proposed Membership Fees for 2014*

The trustees' goal of raising a third of the general administrative costs from membership fees remains in place however, bearing in mind the financial restrictions being faced by members it is proposed that membership is held at the same level as last year. The Council proposes fees for 2014 of £55, for the Ordinary membership, £20 for Student members and £27.50, for Retired membership. The discounts of £3 for Ordinary and £1.50 for Student and Retired members will be retained for those who pay by direct debit and, providing the subscription is received before the start of the year to which it applies, for those who pay by cash, cheque or credit or debit card.

### *Proposed members' subscription rates for 'Annals' for 2014*

The Council proposes that the members' subscriptions for 2014 are £75.00 for the printed version, £61.10 (including VAT) for the online only version and £96.74 (including VAT) for the combined print and online subscription.

### *Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities*

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the surplus or deficit of the Charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required:

- ◆ to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ◆ to make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- ◆ to prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue its activities.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the requirements of the 'Accounting by Charities - Statement of Recommended Practice' ('Charities SORP').

### *Risk Management*

The trustees regularly review major operational and business risks to the charity and take such steps as are needed to mitigate them. The trustees believe that the current reserves are adequate in the light of those risks.

### *Reserves Policy*

To respond to the need for long-term financial stability we have approved a reserves policy which is set out here.

A core purpose of the Association is to promote the study and advancement of Applied Biology. This obligation brings with it the need to ensure that the charity has sufficient funds over the short to medium term to continue to operate. To achieve this, the Association must achieve a sufficient positive annual operating contribution, or have sufficient reserves to call upon, to continue operations.

The main features of the Association's reserves policy are as follows:

- ◆ they are an inherent part of the Association's risk management process. The need for reserves will vary depending on the Association's financial position and our continuous assessment of the many risks the Association faces at a particular time
- ◆ the need for reserves will be assessed as part of our strategic planning.
- ◆ reserves exist either to provide short-term protection against downward fluctuations in annual revenues, or to provide long-term strategic financial support for future projects as has been carried out in the recent past with the *Plant Biotechnology Journal*
- ◆ the reserves policy balances the need to maintain long-term reserves against the need for short-term spending on our core purpose

This reserves policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it accurately reflects the circumstances of the Association and the views of the Trustees.

### *Investment Policy and Performance*

There are no restrictions on the Association's power to invest. Its investment portfolio is managed by Private Banking Lloyds TSB, whose performance the trustees review. It is the Association's policy to avoid high risk investments.

### **ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:**

Prof. P R Shewry - Trustee

20 September 2013

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
The Association of Applied Biologists**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2012, which are set out on pages 7 to 20.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

.....  
Stephen John Clere, FCCA  
Clere's Ltd  
Certified Chartered Accountants

19 August 2013

G.N.House  
119 Holloway Head  
Birmingham  
B1 1QP

**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2012**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2012	Total Funds 2011
Note	£	£	£	£
<b>Incoming resources</b>				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Voluntary income	2	-	-	804
Investment income	3	7,819	1,175	8,994
Incoming resources from charitable activities				
	4	265,409	-	317,558
Other incoming resources	5	320	-	5
Total incoming resources		<u>273,548</u>	<u>1,175</u>	<u>326,815</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>				
Charitable activities	6	197,604	1,175	247,253
Governance costs	9	86,706	-	90,577
Total resources expended		<u>284,310</u>	<u>1,175</u>	<u>337,830</u>
Net outgoing resources before transfers		(10,762)	-	(11,015)
<b>Transfers</b>				
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-
Net outgoing resources before other recognised gains and losses		(10,762)	-	(11,015)
<b>Other recognised gains/losses</b>				
Gains/(losses) on investment assets		28,817	-	(21,807)
Net movements in funds		18,055	-	(32,822)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Total funds brought forward		<u>390,395</u>	<u>22,568</u>	<u>412,963</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>408,450</u>	<u>22,568</u>	<u>412,963</u>

The notes on pages 9 to 20 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2012**

		2012		2011	
	Note	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	13		4,831		6,982
Investments	14		369,573		344,626
			<u>374,404</u>		<u>351,608</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	15	68,292		51,272	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>87,512</u>		<u>109,068</u>	
		155,804		160,340	
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	16	<u>(99,190)</u>		<u>(98,985)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>56,614</u>		<u>61,355</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>431,018</u>		<u>412,963</u>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>					
<b>Restricted funds</b>			22,568		22,567
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Revaluation reserve		28,817		(21,807)	
Other reserves		(21,807)		-	
Unrestricted income funds		<u>401,440</u>		<u>412,203</u>	
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>			<u>408,450</u>		<u>390,396</u>
<b>Total charity funds</b>			<u>431,018</u>		<u>412,963</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

Approved by the Board on 19 August 2013 and signed on its behalf by:

.....

## **The Association of Applied Biologists**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2012**

#### **1 Accounting policies**

##### **Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets, and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005)', issued in March 2005, the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008) and the Charities Act 2011.

##### **Fund accounting policy**

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Further details of each fund are disclosed in note 19.

##### **Incoming resources**

Donations are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Income from charitable activities includes income recognised as earned (as the related goods or services are provided) under contract.

##### **Resources expended**

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Grants payable are payments made to third parties in the furtherance of the charitable objectives. Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SoFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specific service or output.

Grants payable without performance conditions are only recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to the grant which remain in the control of the charity.

Provisions for grants are made when the intention to make a grant has been communicated to the recipient but there is uncertainty about either the timing of the grant or the amount of grant payable.

##### **Governance costs**

Governance costs include costs of the preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2012**

..... continued

**Irrecoverable VAT**

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

**Fixed assets**

Individual fixed assets costing £50 or more are initially recorded at cost.

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	25% straight line basis
----------------------------------	-------------------------

**Investments**

Fixed asset investments are included at market value at the balance sheet date.

Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the statement of the financial activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the statement of financial activities based on the market value at the year end.

**Operating leases**

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged in the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

**Pensions**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the statement of financial activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

## The Association of Applied Biologists

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2012

..... continued

#### 2 Voluntary income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2012 £	Total Funds 2011 £
<b>Donations and legacies</b>				
Appeals and donations	-	-	-	804
	-	-	-	804

#### 3 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2012 £	Total Funds 2011 £
Income from listed investments	7,776	1,175	8,951	8,408
Interest on cash deposits	43	-	43	40
	7,819	1,175	8,994	8,448

#### 4 Incoming resources from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2012 £	Total Funds 2011 £
<b>Conferences</b>				
Appeals and donations	8,500	-	8,500	-
Income	129,809	-	129,809	196,397
	138,309	-	138,309	196,397
<b>Publications</b>				
Income	96,953	-	96,953	89,756
<b>Membership Fees</b>				
Income	30,147	-	30,147	31,405
	265,409	-	265,409	317,558

## The Association of Applied Biologists

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2012

..... continued

#### 5 Other incoming resources

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2012 £	Total Funds 2011 £
<b>Other income</b>				
Appeals and donations	306	-	306	-
Other income	14	-	14	5
	320	-	320	5

#### 6 Details of charitable activities

	Activities undertaken directly £	Grant funding of activities £	2012 £	2011 £
Conferences	134,995	1,270	136,265	185,751
Publications	42,401	-	42,401	44,626
Membership Fees	20,113	-	20,113	16,876
	284,215	1,270	285,485	337,830

#### 7 Grantmaking

	Grants to institutions £	Grants to individuals £
Conferences	95	1,175

The support costs associated with grant making are £0.

#### 8 Grants to institutions

Name of Institution	Activity	£
Grants payable - institutions	Conferences	95

## The Association of Applied Biologists

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2012

..... continued

#### 9 Governance costs

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2012 £	Total Funds 2011 £
Employment costs	45,758	-	45,758	40,404
Establishment costs	13,129	-	13,129	13,057
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	3,517	-	3,517	3,701
Costs of obtaining investment advice	4,401	-	4,401	4,048
Communication Costs	3,799	-	3,799	5,813
Management Expenses	12,117	-	12,117	13,556
Miscellaneous Expenses	6,574	-	6,574	8,669
Overheads Recharged	(7,630)	-	(7,630)	(2,500)
Auditors' remuneration	2,750	-	2,750	2,750
Legal and professional costs	2,291	-	2,291	1,079
	86,706	-	86,706	90,577

#### 10 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No trustees received any remuneration during the year.

All sixteen of the Charity's trustees are entitled to be reimbursed for travelling and subsistence expenses, actually and necessarily incurred on the business of the Charity. The total amount of expenses paid during the year totalled £3,204.64 (2011 £5,302.57).

#### 11 Net outgoing resources

Net outgoing resources is stated after charging:

	2012 £	2011 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	3,517	3,701

## The Association of Applied Biologists

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2012

..... continued

#### 12 Employees' remuneration

The average number of persons employed by the charity (including trustees) during the year, analysed by category, was as follows:

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
Charitable activities	3	3
Governance	1	1
	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

The aggregate payroll costs of these persons were as follows:

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	117,467	108,128
Other pension costs	5,743	5,043
	<u>123,210</u>	<u>113,171</u>

**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2012**

..... continued

**13.. Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Fixtures, fittings and equipment £</b>
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>	
As at 1 January 2012	54,348
Additions	1,366
As at 31 December 2012	<u>55,714</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>	
As at 1 January 2012	47,366
Charge for the year	3,517
As at 31 December 2012	<u>50,883</u>
<b>Net book value</b>	
As at 31 December 2012	<u>4,831</u>
As at 31 December 2011	<u>6,982</u>

**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2012**

..... continued

**14.. Investments held as fixed assets**

	<b>Listed investments £</b>
<b>Market value</b>	
As at 1 January 2012	344,626
Revaluation	28,818
Additions	11,813
Disposals	(15,684)
As at 31 December 2012	369,573
<b>Net book value</b>	
As at 31 December 2012	369,573
As at 31 December 2011	344,626

Investment assets can be further analysed as follows:

	<b>UK £</b>	<b>Overseas £</b>
Listed investments	285,889	83,684
	285,889	83,684

**15 Debtors**

	<b>2012 £</b>	<b>2011 £</b>
Trade debtors	16,516	15,351
Other debtors	47,790	32,588
Prepayments and accrued income	3,986	3,333
	68,292	51,272

**16 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2012 £</b>	<b>2011 £</b>
Trade creditors	19,199	5,332
Taxation and social security	10,050	5,175
Other creditors	64,533	80,699
Accruals and deferred income	5,408	7,779
	99,190	98,985

**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2012**

..... continued

**17 Pension scheme**

**Defined contribution pension scheme**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the period represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £5,743 (2011 - £5,043).

There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at either the beginning or end of the financial year.

**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2012**

..... continued

**18 Related parties**

**Controlling entity**

The charity is controlled by the trustees.

## The Association of Applied Biologists

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2012

..... continued

#### 19 Analysis of funds

	At 1 January 2012	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Other recognised gains/losses	At 31 December 2012
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>General Funds</b>						
General Fund	390,395	8,139	(86,801)	67,900	28,817	408,450
Publications	-	96,953	(15,797)	(81,156)	-	-
Conferences	-	138,309	(134,995)	(3,314)	-	-
Membership	-	30,147	(20,113)	(10,034)	-	-
Investment in New Journal Promotional Expenditure	-	-	(19,580)	19,580	-	-
	-	-	(7,024)	7,024	-	-
	<u>390,395</u>	<u>273,548</u>	<u>(284,310)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,817</u>	<u>408,450</u>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>						
Visting Overseas Lecturers	6,084	-	-	-	-	6,084
Graduate Research Students	16,484	1,175	(1,175)	-	-	16,484
	<u>22,568</u>	<u>1,175</u>	<u>(1,175)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,568</u>
	<u>412,963</u>	<u>274,723</u>	<u>(285,485)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,817</u>	<u>431,018</u>

## The Association of Applied Biologists

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2012

..... continued

#### 20.. Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2012	Total Funds 2011
	£	£	£	£
Tangible assets	4,831	-	4,831	6,982
Investments	369,573	-	369,573	344,626
Current assets	145,056	22,568	155,804	160,340
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(111,010)	-	(99,190)	(98,985)
Net assets	<u>408,450</u>	<u>22,568</u>	<u>431,018</u>	<u>412,963</u>

**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Statement of financial activities by fund Year Ended 31 December 2012**

	<b>General Fund 2012</b>	<b>General Fund 2011</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Voluntary income	-	804
Investment income	7,819	8,214
Other incoming resources	320	5
Total incoming resources	8,139	9,023
<b>Resources expended</b>		
Charitable activities	95	90
Governance costs	86,706	90,577
Total resources expended	86,801	90,667
Net outgoing resources before transfers	(78,662)	(81,644)
<b>Transfers</b>		
Gross transfers between funds	67,900	70,629
Net outgoing resources before other recognised gains and losses	(10,762)	(11,015)
<b>Other recognised gains/losses</b>		
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	28,817	(21,807)
Net movements in funds	18,055	(32,822)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>		
Total funds brought forward	390,395	423,217
Total funds carried forward	408,450	390,395

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.

**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Statement of financial activities by fund Year Ended 31 December 2012**

..... continued

	<b>Publications 2012</b>	<b>Publications 2011</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
Incoming resources from charitable activities	96,953	89,756
Total incoming resources	96,953	89,756
<b>Resources expended</b>		
Charitable activities	15,797	20,138
Total resources expended	15,797	20,138
Net outgoing resources before transfers	81,156	69,618
<b>Transfers</b>		
Gross transfers between funds	(81,156)	(69,618)
Net movements in funds	-	-
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>		
Total funds brought forward	-	-
Total funds carried forward	-	-

**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Statement of financial activities by fund Year Ended 31 December 2012**

..... continued

	<b>Conferences 2012</b>	<b>Conferences 2011</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
Incoming resources from charitable activities	138,309	196,397
Total incoming resources	138,309	196,397
<b>Resources expended</b>		
Charitable activities	134,995	185,426
Total resources expended	134,995	185,426
Net outgoing resources before transfers	3,314	10,971
<b>Transfers</b>		
Gross transfers between funds	(3,314)	(10,971)
Net movements in funds	-	-
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>		
Total funds brought forward	-	-
Total funds carried forward	-	-

**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Statement of financial activities by fund Year Ended 31 December 2012**

..... continued

	<b>Membership 2012</b>	<b>Membership 2011</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
Incoming resources from charitable activities	30,147	31,405
Total incoming resources	30,147	31,405
<b>Resources expended</b>		
Charitable activities	20,113	16,876
Total resources expended	20,113	16,876
Net outgoing resources before transfers	10,034	14,529
<b>Transfers</b>		
Gross transfers between funds	(10,034)	(14,529)
Net movements in funds	-	-
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>		
Total funds brought forward	-	-
Total funds carried forward	-	-

**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Statement of financial activities by fund Year Ended 31 December 2012**

..... continued

	<b>Investment in New Journal 2012</b>	<b>Investment in New Journal 2011</b>
	£	£
<b>Resources expended</b>		
Charitable activities	19,580	15,598
Total resources expended	19,580	15,598
Net outgoing resources before transfers	(19,580)	(15,598)
<b>Transfers</b>		
Gross transfers between funds	19,580	15,598
Net movements in funds	-	-
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>		
Total funds brought forward	-	-
Total funds carried forward	-	-

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.

**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Statement of financial activities by fund Year Ended 31 December 2012**

..... continued

	<b>Promotional Expenditure 2012</b>	<b>Promotional Expenditure 2011</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>		
Charitable activities	7,024	8,890
Total resources expended	<u>7,024</u>	<u>8,890</u>
Net outgoing resources before transfers	(7,024)	(8,890)
<b>Transfers</b>		
Gross transfers between funds	<u>7,024</u>	<u>8,891</u>
Net movements in funds	-	1
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>		
Total funds brought forward	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>1</u></u>

**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Statement of financial activities by fund Year Ended 31 December 2012**

..... continued

	<b>Visting Overseas Lecturers 2012</b>	<b>Visting Overseas Lecturers 2011</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Net movements in funds	-	-
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>		
Total funds brought forward	6,084	6,084
Total funds carried forward	<u>6,084</u>	<u>6,084</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.

**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Statement of financial activities by fund Year Ended 31 December 2012**

..... continued

	<b>Graduate Research Students 2012</b>	<b>Graduate Research Students 2011</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Investment income	1,175	234
Total incoming resources	1,175	234
<b>Resources expended</b>		
Charitable activities	1,175	235
Total resources expended	1,175	235
Net movements in funds	-	(1)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>		
Total funds brought forward	16,484	16,484
Total funds carried forward	16,484	16,483

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.

**ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS**  
**Reg. Charity No. 275655**

Minutes of the Special General Meeting together with the minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting held at the National Centre for Precision Farming, Harper Adams University College, Newport on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012.

A draft of the proposed new Laws of the Association submitted for approval to the Special General Meeting had been circulated to members with the notice of the meeting.

Draft minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting held in October 2011 together with the Report of the Trustees and the Financial Statements for 2011 together with a list of new members of the Association elected in 2011 had been circulated to members with the notice of the meeting.

The meeting began at 13.05 with the President, Professor Trevor Hocking as Chairman.

**Thirty members of the Association were present.**

W Martindale	D Turley	I Grove	A Muroch
M Buck	P R Shewry	T J Hocking	P Mills
N Halford	A R Thompson	N D Boatman	J Baxter
T Robinson	J C van de Zande	J Storkey	J S Clayton
K A Evans	T Bals	E Thornhill	P Turnbull
R Bateman	P Goddard	E A Stockdale	P Chambers
B Magri	S Cooper	C Flint	G Martin
R Carlton	M Baxter		

**Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from David Hand, Rob Jacobson, Jon Knight, Mike May, Graham Russell, Peter Taylor, Mike van den Driessche, Helmut van Emden, Martyn Bush, Ken Davies, Simon Leather, Keith Chaney.

**Special General Meeting**

**1 Approval of new Laws of the Association**

After welcoming members to the meeting Prof. Trevor Hocking asked the General Secretary, Elizabeth Stockdale to provide a brief background to the new Laws presented to members for approval. The General Secretary highlighted the reasons for the redrafting in particular to ensure that the AAB laws were in line with the best practice recommendations of the Charity Commission following new Charity legislation and to update the laws to reflect evolving custom and practice with regard to electronic communication and the setting of membership fees. A draft of the Laws had been circulated to members for comment in May 2012, the version now presented included changes made as a result of comments received and subsequent recommendations of the Association's legal advisors.

Alwyn Thompson proposed that members accept and approve the Laws as presented to the SGM with no further amendment to come into force from 1st January 2013. Nigel Halford seconded the proposal.

Alwyn Thompson then thanked the General Secretary on behalf of the members for the considerable work and effort that had been involved in the revision of the Laws and the engagement of members during the process.

## 2011 Annual General Meeting

### 2 Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting held at the Olde Barn Hotel, Martson on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Acceptance of the minutes as a true record was proposed by Wayne Martindale and seconded by Nigel Halford. The minutes were accepted unanimously and signed as a true record.

Trevor Hocking noted that there were no matters arising that were not covered elsewhere in the Agenda.

### 3 Report of the Trustees for 2011 (excluding the Financial Report)

The President presented the report by drawing out key areas from the written report.

Professor Trevor Hocking felt that it had been a good year for the Association with a significant programme of conferences held (11 conferences and 4 workshops) covering a broad range of relevant topics. The Association received 137 new members during 2011, largely linked to recruitment at conferences. There have been significant developments within publications, *Annals of Applied Biology* has consolidated its position and continues to improve its impact factor, *Plant Biotechnology Journal* is now well established and as discussed at the previous AGM work towards the launch of the new *Food and Energy Security Journal* is proceeding well.

The President asked for questions, but there were none from the floor.

David Turley proposed on behalf of members that the report of the Trustees be accepted and published. The proposal was seconded by Nigel Halford and was accepted unanimously.

### 4 Financial Report for 2011

The full Financial Report as approved after audit by Cleres of Birmingham was presented to the meeting for comment / questions. The Honorary Treasurer, Jon Knight, had unfortunately been unable to attend. Trevor Hocking therefore presented the Financial report to members.

The financial report for 2011 shows a good performance with regard to operations with a small operating surplus. This has enabled investment in the new journal from reserves without undermining the long term sustainability of the Association.

Return on investments continues to be low given the circumstances externally.

The President asked for questions.

It was noted that there had been an overall drop in registration fees received compared with 2010; however, there was a higher donation component in the financial report for the conferences. Was this sustainable?

The President noted that each conference is required to present a clear business plan to Council before approval where the registration fee is set at a level which seeks to provide an overall balanced budget or small surplus for each conference; therefore where any one conference is successful at obtaining sponsorship this is used to reduce the registration fees for that conference. Therefore the overall sustainability of the conference programme is not affected by the increased proportion of donation income in any year.

It was noted that the financial report for publications still contained a header referring to TAC.

The President noted that there have been small ongoing receipts which can be attributed to TAC following the cessation of publication. However, the details will be checked and reference to TAC removed once receipts attributable to this source become negligible.

It was noted that all core activities are generating small surpluses. Within the business plan for the new Journal at what point were surpluses anticipated?

The President noted that the current business plan (which is kept under constant review) predicts the generation of surpluses after 5 years of publication.

Wayne Martindale proposed that the Financial Report be approved and published. This was seconded by Simon Cooper. The Financial report was approved unanimously.

## **5 Membership fees and Subscriptions for Annals of Applied Biology for 2013**

### *Membership fees*

As outlined on page 23 of the report, the Treasurer proposed that membership fees should be maintained at £55 for members, with half price for retired members for 2013 and the student rate maintained at £20. A small discount was attracted if paying by direct debit.

Nigel Halford proposed acceptance of these changes and this was seconded by Simon Cooper.

### *Subscriptions for Annals of Applied Biology for individual members*

The Treasurer has indicated that to cover increases in costs from the publisher the subscription rates for members would need to increase in 2013.

For the printed version, the subscription would therefore be £73.50; there would be no increase for the on-line version with a rate of £61.10 including VAT and where both versions were required the subscription would be £95.24.

It was noted that the online only costs seemed quite high – given the much smaller differential when both print and online access were taken. The President noted that there was currently a “set up” charge which applied to any subscription to offset the costs of journal production; however, he noted that it was likely that the relative costs of online and print access to members would be likely to continue to diverge in the future.

Nigel Halford proposed acceptance of these changes and this was seconded by Roy Bateman.

## **6 Trustees for 2013 – Nominations from Council**

The President pointed out that Council wish to nominate Professor Bill Davies as vice-president for 2013-14 and then to take on the role of President for 2015-2016. Council were very pleased that Bill Davies was prepared to accept this nomination. He has a strong research record in applied biology and has had a strong link to the journals produced by the Association.

Council note that Martin Parry is standing down as Publications Officer from the end of 2012 to take on the role as Editor in Chief of *Food and Energy Security*.

Council are nominating Trevor Hocking to take on this role primarily because of his active role in the development of the new Journal and because of the importance of continuity at this key time for the new Journal.

Council note that Graham Russell is standing down as Programme Secretary from the end of 2012. He retired from his University post some years ago but has remained very active in a number of areas but has decided to stand down from his role at the AAB to allow him to focus on other commitments. Council are therefore nominating Nigel Halford to take on this role.

Council acknowledge the highly valued and much appreciated contribution of both Martin and Graham to the work of the AAB during their time as trustees.

Trevor Hocking highlighted the current gap on Council for a membership officer with responsibility for co-ordination of communication and services to members and with a particular role in developing the AABs engagement with the postgraduate research community.

Trevor Hocking asked if there were any nominations from the floor for the Honorary posts.

None were received.

Conveners of the specialist groups had been elected by the specialist groups. Council noted that Rob Jacobson had stood down during 2012 and had been replaced as convener of the Biocontrol group by Toby Bruce. Nigel Halford was standing down as convener of the Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement group at the end of 2012 and would be replaced by Findlay Dale. David Turley would also be standing down at the end of 2012 as convener of the Cropping and the Environment group – however, no replacement had yet been found by the group.

Martin Baxter proposed that the nominations of Council for Honorary Officers should be elected and the Conveners of the Specialist Groups approved as set out in the lists below. Nigel Boatman seconded the motion. This was agreed unanimously by all members present.

**Officers as elected:**

President	Prof P Shewry
Vice President	Prof. W Davies
General Secretary	Dr EA Stockdale
General Treasurer	Dr JD Knight
Meetings Treasurer	Mr CR Glass
Programme Secretary	Prof NG Halford
Membership Officer	Vacancy
Publications Officer	Prof TJ Hocking

**Conveners as approved:**

Applied Mycology and Bacteriology	Prof S Cummings
Biological Control	Dr T Bruce
Cropping and the Environment	Vacancy
Food Systems	Dr W Martindale
Nematology	Dr J Pickup
Pesticide Application	Mr SE Cooper
Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement	Dr MFB Dale
Virology	Dr S MacFarlane

**7 Appointment of Auditors for 2013**

Trevor Hocking identified that the Treasurer had suggested that Clere's Ltd, George Nott House, 119 Holloway Head, Birmingham B1 1QP should be re-appointed for 2013. Professor Nigel Halford proposed the re-appointment of Clere's, Ltd and the proposal was seconded by David Turley and agreed by members present.

**8 Change of name of Biocontrol Group to Biocontrol and IPM group**

The Group had made this proposal ahead of the 2010 AGM; the secretary apologises that it was missed from the Agenda of that meeting. The proposal was circulated to members for comment in spring 2012 and received overwhelming support. Some minor issues were raised to the group which were addressed in the development of the groups terms of reference.

Alwyn Thompson proposed that the Biocontrol Group be therefore permitted to change its name to the Biocontrol and IPM group from 2013. The proposal was seconded by Simon Cooper and accepted unanimously by members.

**9 Election of Honorary Members**

The President noted that from time to time the opportunity arises for the AAB to be able to elect Honorary members on the basis of their contribution to the field of science and their work with the Association. Council had received a proposal from the Editorial Board of the *Annals of Applied Biology* that Martin Parry should be considered for Honorary membership as a result of his key role in establishing a productive collaboration with Wiley-Blackwell and his extremely important role in the development of *Annals*. Trevor Hocking read out the brief citation to the meeting and indicated that the proposal had received the support of Council not only because of Martin's work with publications, but also because of his long standing commitment to and engagement with the wider work of the AAB.

Peter Shewry therefore nominated Martin Parry to be elected as an Honorary member of the Association from 2013. The proposal was seconded by Alwyn Thompson and agreed unanimously by members. Martin Parry was duly elected an Honorary member of the Association.

10 There was no Other Business raised by members. The meeting was closed at 14.05.

Approved as a true record \_\_\_\_\_

Date .....

## PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION



I would like to start by thanking Trevor Hocking, my predecessor as President, his colleagues on council and the AAB office for handing over the duties as President with the Association in excellent shape. The office has been running with its usual high level of efficiency, with maternity cover being provided for Claire who will return to the office later this year. We are particularly grateful to Carol and her colleagues for bringing us through the difficult period referred to in the report for 2011 with minimum disruption to the activities of the Association. The past year has also seen several changes on Council, with further changes in prospect. Two long-serving colleagues decided to resign their membership to focus on new interests, Graham Russell as Programme Secretary and Martin Parry as Publications Officer. Both have served the Association for many years and leave with our sincere thanks and best wishes for the future. Martin Parry will continue

his association with the AAB as Editor-in-Chief of *Food and Energy Security* and was awarded Honorary Membership in recognition of his contributions in several roles and over many years. Nigel Halford kindly agreed to become Programme Secretary and Trevor Hocking has taken over as Publications Officer, which reflects his strong interest in this aspect of the Association's activities including the launch of *Food and Energy Security*. Nigel's position as convener of the Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement has been taken by Finlay Dale who was previously a group member. Finally, we were pleased to welcome Professor Bill Davies from the University of Lancaster as Vice President. Bill is a distinguished plant scientist and a long-time supporter of the AAB. However, Council urgently needs to fill two crucial positions. Jon Knight has announced his intention to resign as General Treasurer because his move to the HDC means that he can no longer devote sufficient time to the duties. Jon has kindly agreed to continue until a replacement is found but this is an important post and we should not impose on Jon's goodwill any longer than we need to. A call and job description have been circulated to members and we would appreciate the help of all members in filling this position. Similarly, the post of Membership Officer has been unfilled since 2010, the duties being taken on by other Council members and the office. Filling this post is essential for delivering the future strategy of the Association!

My predecessor referred in his introductions to the 2010 and 2011 Annual Reports to the revision of the strategic objectives for the period to 2015 with detailed objectives for seven areas: General (to include staffing, organisation and accommodation issues), Financial, Membership, Publications, Conferences, Partnerships & Collaborative Ventures, and Education & Training. Good progress had been achieved in finance, publications and conferences as detailed elsewhere in this report. However, it should be noted here that 2014 is the Centenary of the *Annals of Applied Biology* with a range of celebratory activities being planned.

The staffing of the AAB office is now established for the foreseeable future and the accommodation at Wellesbourne secured on favourable terms until 2015. However, the aim to widen membership, and in particular to attract more students and young scientists, has been limited by the lack of an Honorary Membership Officer. This topic has been discussed several times in Council with the recognition that the focus needs to be on new approaches to engage young scientists, including developing appropriate training and education activities.

Collaborative ventures with other societies have not developed as much as anticipated, despite approaches by the SCI and RSC which led to a discussion meeting attended by the President and Executive Officer. Despite some overlaps in scope of activities we could benefit greatly from increasing our interactions with these and other learned societies and will be reviewing our strategy again in the coming year.

The Association continues to have a strong international presence, particularly in Europe, although it was decided that this should not be reflected in any changes in the name or status of the Association. It is also recognised that the organisation of conferences outside the UK places extra pressure on the AAB office and requires efficient local organisation.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues on Council, particularly Trevor Hocking, Elizabeth Stockdale and Jon Knight, for their help and advice, and Carol and her colleagues in the office for their efficient support and understanding as I have settled into my new role.

Peter Shewry

## FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2012

This report can be found on pages 3-4.

### MEMBERSHIP

A total of 132 new members of the Association were elected by Council during the year (Appendix 2). The total of fully paid-up members and Honorary members on 31 December 2012 was 754 - 13 less than the year before. The number of Honorary members at the end of the year was 15, 15 being the maximum permissible under the Laws.

### PUBLICATIONS

#### ***Annals of Applied Biology***

The Association is the owner of *Annals of Applied Biology* which is published by Wiley-Blackwell. *Annals* continues to do well, and in 2012 there were more than 93,881 full text downloads (up from 81,842 in 2011), to *Annals of Applied Biology*. The total number of pages published was 660, comprising 62 papers. The number of papers submitted has increased from 203 in 2002 to over 400 in 2012 (407). The most downloaded article, *The potential of beneficial microorganisms in agricultural systems* by Andrews *et al.*, was accessed 1,457 times. The impact factor for 2012 eased a little to 2.147 (2.179 in 2011), which was not surprising after it had jumped so much in the previous year. There were also two virtual issues produced in 2012, "Phytoplasm" in April and "Positive plant microbial interactions" in May.

#### ***Plant Biotechnology Journal***

The Association is the joint owner of the *Plant Biotechnology Journal* along with the Society for Experimental Biology and Wiley-Blackwell. The first issue of the journal was published in 2003 and since then the profile of the journal has risen steadily. In 2012 the journal published 9 issues, totalling 1114 pages (103 articles). The impact factor rose again in 2012 to a record high of 6.279 (5.442 in 2011). Keith Edwards, the Editor-in-Chief of the journal stood down at the end of 2012, and his role has been taken by Henry Daniel., starting in 2013. *Plant Biotechnology Journal* is now available in 4,481 institutions worldwide via the Wiley-Blackwell license and in 5,116 institutions in the developing world via philanthropic initiatives.

#### ***Food and Energy Security***

The Association, along with Wiley-Blackwell, launched its new online-only journal, Food and Energy Security in 2012. The journal's first article by Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Martin Parry was published in April and the first issue went live in July. In 2012 the journal's editorial board increased with the introduction of twenty-one 'Handling Editors.' These editors are expected submit and solicit new manuscripts. The journal is expected to be submitted for an Impact Factor in 2014 and achieve somewhere in the range of 5+.

### **Aspects of Applied Biology**

The following volumes of *Aspects of Applied Biology* were published to accompany scientific conferences held during the year. However, *Aspects 116: Acrylamide, furans and other food-borne contaminants, from plant science to food chemistry* will be produced post-conference, and published in 2013. For the first time, the *Aspects* were published in full colour for the *International Advances in Pesticide Application* conference held in Wageningen, and the delegates there were delighted with them, even though the cost is substantially more than printing them in black and white.

*Aspects 114:* International Advances in Pesticide Application 2012

*Aspects 115:* Restoring diverse grassland: What can be achieved where, and what will it do for us?

*Aspects 116:* Acrylamide, furans and other food-borne contaminants, from plant science to food chemistry

*Aspects 117:* Crop Protection in Southern Britain

### **Descriptions of Plant Viruses**

Descriptions of Plant Viruses is published as a CD Rom and online. This is an invaluable information tool for all those involved with the identification of plant viruses, including students, teachers and researchers. It is unique in the breadth of the information that it covers.

### **Newsletter**

Three issues of the Newsletter were published in 2012. The newsletter includes update reports from Council, conference reviews, book reviews, lists of new members, together with their interests, and other reports of similar interest.

## **SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES**

A total of 711 delegates attended the conferences in 2012 compared to 835 in 2011 and 897 in 2010, and the average number of paying delegates was 61 compared to 46 in 2011 and 53 in 2010. Details of the full scientific conference programme for 2012 are given below:

Title of Conference	Group	Date	No. delegates
International Advances in Pesticide Application	Pesticide Application	10-12 Jan	100
International Advances in Plant Virology	Virology/SGM	28-30 Mar	65
Restoring Diverse Grasslands	AAB/BES/BGS	19-20 Jun	78
2 <sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on Nematodes as Environmental Indicators	Nematology/Univ. of Ghent	5-6 Jul	65
Precision Farming for Crop Protection - Practical Use of Variable Rate Application	Pesticide Application	3 Oct	48
Acrylamide, furans and other soil borne contaminants	PP&CI	8-9 Oct	61
Advances in Biological Control	Biocontrol & IPM	16 Oct	67
Crop Protection in Southern Britain 2012	CATE/BCPC/AICC	27-28 Nov	165
Crop Genomics and Crop Improvement	PP&CI	5-6 Dec	36
Advances in Nematology 2012	Nematology	12 Dec	30
TOTAL			711

## SPECIALIST GROUP REPORTS

### **Applied Mycology and Bacteriology Group**

Convener – Stephen Cummings

Group members – Mitchell Andrews, Neal Evans, Tim Finnigan, Neil Havis, David Kenyon, Keith Thomas, Jon West

Although the applied mycology group and bacteriology group held no individual conferences this year, there was a pathology aspects to the *Crop Protection in Southern Britain* conference. The group are planning a conference for 2013 on *Plant Microbial Interactions*.

They are currently looking for new members.

### **Biocontrol and IPM Group**

Convener – Toby Bruce

Group members – David Chandler, Rosemary Collier, Rob Jacobson, Phil Morley, Dick Shaw, Paul Sopp, Phil Walter & Xiaming Xu. Co-opted members – Richard Glass and Roma Gwynn.

The AAB Biocontrol and IPM group sees an increasing need for the development of novel approaches to crop protection as existing pesticides are lost to resistance and as EU legislation restricts their use. Agricultural yields are destabilised by pests, weeds and diseases if they are left to run rampant in agricultural habitats that are intrinsically susceptible to them as monocultures that have lost many of the natural resistance traits that exist in wild plants. The group took an active role in responding to the Sustainable Use Directive but have become increasingly concerned about the lack of provision being made for the development of alternatives to pesticides. Farmers need alternatives if conventional pesticides are restricted or banned. This not only affects farmer livelihoods but also has implications for food security and the environment. Inadequate crop protection and losses to pests, weeds and diseases means that less crop is produced using more precious resources such as land, water and nutrients. This is the opposite direction of travel from the 'sustainable intensification' of agriculture that the Royal Society recommended in its Reaping the Benefits Report. The group decided to write an open letter to the Minister of Agriculture outlining our concerns about the lack of investment in alternative approaches to crop protection as pesticides are restricted. The letter was joint with the NFU showing that the farming community support the need for greater R&D and knowledge exchange in this area.

### **Cropping and the Environment Group**

Convener – David Turley

Group members – Nigel Boatman, Martyn Bush, Ken Davies, Andy Evans, Hannah Jones, Elizabeth Stockdale, Jonathan Storkey; AICC representative Peter Taylor

In 2012, the group committee met twice during the year and the CATE group led two large conferences. A joint conference on *Grassland Restoration* was held with the British Grassland Society, Natural England and the BES Agricultural Ecology Group. The conference attracted over 80 attendees from a wide range of interest groups with an almost even split between academics, government and policy agencies such as Natural England, and non-governmental representatives including the Wildlife Trusts, as well as a handful of land managers. This diversity was welcomed as an opportunity for discussion of grassland restoration across the science-policy interface.

The fourth *Crop Protection in Southern Britain* conference in the biennial series was held at the end of November 2012 at the Peterborough Arena. This conference was sponsored by the BCPC and was supported by the Agricultural Industries Confederation and the Association of Independent Crop Consultants. The first day was based on recent research findings and the second was based around strategic issues. Nearly half of these papers were on the intractable issue of the chemical and cultural control of herbicide resistant black-grass (*Alopecurus myosuroides*). There were around 150 delegates on the first day of the conference and 100 on the second day.

2012 was unfortunately the last year on the group committee for David Turley, Hannah Jones and Martyn Bush. We appreciate their efforts for the Association. In 2013, Rob Carlton will take over as Convener after election by the group committee. Rob runs a business in France centered on

sustainable agriculture and with a focus on climate change, resource management and pesticide stewardship. He is particularly interested in management of arable soils in order to protect the environment and manage water resources whilst maintaining productivity. Kairsty Topp has joined the group committee and we will be on the lookout for new members – watch out!

In 2013 the group is looking forward to organising a one day workshop on Farming System Design (March) and conferences on Environmental Management on Farmland (April) and 10,000 Years of Plant Breeding (October).

### **Food Systems**

Convener – Wayne Martindale.

Group members – Lionel Murfet, Mark Swainson, H Stichnoff. Co-opted members – Richard Glass, Elizabeth Stockdale. The group were planning to hold a one-day workshop in 2013. They are currently looking for new members.

### **Nematology Group**

Jon Pickup (Convener): Jan 2008 - Dec 2010, Jan 2011 - Dec 2013

Group members:

Jacqui Sheridan: Jan 2008 - Dec 2010, Jan 2011 - Dec 2013

Vivian Blok: Jan 2008 - Dec 2010, Jan 2011 - Dec 2013

Pat Haydock: Jan 2008 - Dec 2010, Jan 2011 - Aug 2012

Sue Hockland: Jan 2008 - Dec 2010, Jan 2011 - Dec 2013

Charlie Opperman: Jan 2011 - Dec 2013

Barbara Pembroke: Jan 2010 - Dec 2012

Rosa Manzanilla-Lopez: Jan 2010 - Dec 2012

Thomae Kakouli-Duarte: Jan 2010 - Dec 2012

During the course of 2012 the group lost the services of Pat Haydock who very sadly passed away in August and Sue Hockland who stood down from the committee after retiring from Fera in September. Thomas Prior was co-opted onto the group to replace Sue Hockland. However, Sue Hockland assisted with the organisation of the *Advances In Nematology* meeting in December.

The Nematology Specialist Group AGM took place at 12:25 on 11 December 2012 during the *Advances in Nematology* meeting at the Royal Astronomical Society, London, UK. The main business of the AGM is to inform the members of the business of the group and to elect the group members.

#### **Conferences arranged during 2012**

a. *2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on Nematodes as Environmental Bio-Indicators* (Ghent, 5-6 July 2012)

b. *Advances in Nematology* (11 December 2012)

#### **Future Conference Programme**

a. *Advances in Nematology* (Linnean Society: 10 December 2013, 9 December 2014)

b. *5<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Potato Cyst Nematodes* (HAUC: September 2015)

### **Pesticide Application**

Convener – Simon Cooper

Group Members – Paolo Balsari, Philip Carpenter, Richard Glass, Ben Magri, Colin Mountford-Smith, Tom Robinson, David Stock, Bill Taylor, Jan van de Zande. Co-opted members: Paul Miller, Bill Jones

The 2012 seasons saw the group organise two events, one international conference and one workshop. January 2012 saw the biennial *International Advances in Pesticide Application* conference, IAPA 2012, adopt a truly international identity by being held in Wageningen in the Netherlands.

The move to the Netherlands succeeded in attracting 99 delegates, of which 62 were from mainland Europe, 22 UK based and 15 long-haul participants, an encouraging attendance overall. Access from Schiphol International airport and rail network made for an easy straight forward arrival to the conference centre.

The conference attracted 57 platform papers and 11 posters and covered just about all walks of pesticide application. Split into 15 sessions over the 22/3 days it made for a busy programme.

A further bold move was to publish the *Aspects* in colour. Historically the conference had attracted papers containing many complex figures and diagrams that lost a lot of their impact in monochrome. Session organisers, all of whom were group committee members, encouraged authors to make use of the opportunity and the resulting *Aspects* 114 vindicated the decision.

The proceedings as an *Aspects* has always been a significant record of the conference and were quantified as representing the best part of a million man hours of research, development and analysis. It is a synopsis of the majority of applied research into pesticide application that is current and on-going in the world and a big thank you goes to all those who contributed and shared their endeavours. The workshop coincided with the 2012 AGM entitled *Precision Farming for Crop Protection- Practical use of Variable Rate Application*. Held at Harper Adams University College, the event attracted an encouraging 47 delegates to hear a mix of offered papers and invited presentations from research and industry backgrounds. Among the delegates were those who had travelled or were based on France, Netherlands, United States of America and New Zealand. The programme followed a theme that started beyond the boundary of the earth's atmosphere and ended rooted in the soil.

For 2013, the group plans to hold a workshop in Germany on *Dust emissions from seed drills* in March 2013 before starting preparation for the *IAPA 2014* conference in January 2014. A workshop concerning hand held application equipment is also in the early stages of planning for later that year.

### **Plant Physiology & Crop Improvement**

Convener – Nigel Halford

Group Members – Finlay Dale, Huw Jones, Erik Murchie, Richard Weightman

The group organised two conferences during 2012: *Acrylamide, furans and other food-borne contaminants, from plant science to food chemistry* at the Technical University of Munich at Freising, Germany on 8-9 October, the other being *Crop Genomes and Crop Improvement* at the University of East Anglia, Norwich from 5-6 December.

### **Virology**

Convener – Stuart MacFarlane

Group members – Adrian Fax, Maruthi Gowda, George Lomonosoff, Joel Milner, Mark Stevens, Rene van de Vlugt, John Walsh, Thierry Wetzl

The group holds an international conference every 18 months, and in 2012 the *International Advances in Plant Virology* took place in Dublin on 28-30 March. The group also took the opportunity of everyone being together at the conference, to hold their annual group meeting at the same time. The first half day of the conference was organised together with the Society of General Microbiology, then the following one and a half day were run independently. The scientific content of the conference was very good, with four International quality invited speakers, and a very good spread of post-doctoral and PhD-level speakers. Keeping the meeting content broad and mixed was welcomed and enabled the greatest number of potential delegates to attend.

Plans are underway for the next conference at Norwich in September 2013.

## **WEBSITE**

AAB had previously relaunched its website in 2011 and this is now substantially populated. It details forthcoming events for other organisations as well as promoting our own conferences and workshops. The development is on-going with new pages being added, links to business and social networks (including Facebook and Twitter, where we now have over 400 followers), and the site has become increasingly interactive, allowing members to engage with the Association and other members across a range of activities.

## DONATIONS AND SPONSORSHIP

The Trustees would like to extend their grateful thanks to the following organisations/individuals that provided financial donations or sponsorship total, together with further support during the year.

British Ecological Society	£3,000.00	RestoringGrassland
HDC	£600.00	Advances in Biological Control
Certis	£600.00	Advances in Biological Control
Koppert UK Limited	£600.00	Advances in Biological Control
Russell IPM	£600.00	Advances in Biological Control
Becker Underwood	£600.00	Advances in Biological Control
BCPC	£600.00	Crop Protection in Southern Britain
TOTAL	£6,600.00	

## AFFILIATIONS TO OTHER SOCIETIES

Affiliations were maintained with the Society of Biology, the Foundation for Science and Technology and the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers. The Association has a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Society for Agronomy.

**ELECTION TO SPECIALIST GROUP COMMITTEES FOR 2014**

Nominations are sought for vacancies on some of the AAB Specialist Group Committees. The present composition of each Group Committee can be seen overleaf. The nominations, duly seconded and accompanied by the consent of the nominees, should be sent to the Executive Officer, Carol Millman, at the AAB Office to arrive not later than 14<sup>th</sup> November 2013. Please note there are currently no vacancies in the Pesticide Application group.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS  
(This form may be photocopied)**

**We wish to nominate Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr/Professor\*** .....  
.....  
**for the committee of** .....**Group**

**Proposed by**

**Seconded by**

**Signed** .....

**Signed** .....

**Address** .....

**Address** .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**\*Delete as appropriate**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Consent to nomination**

**I agree to the nomination for the committee of** .....

**Signed** .....

**Address** .....

.....

..... **Date** .....

## SPECIALIST GROUP COMMITTEES AS AT SEPTEMBER 2013

### **Applied Mycology and Bacteriology:**

S Cummings (Convener) (2015 2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
N Evans (2014)  
N Havis (2014)  
D Kenyon (2014)  
K Thomas (2013)  
J West (2013)  
T Finnigan (2013)

### **Biological Control:**

T Bruce (Convener) (2014 1<sup>st</sup> term)  
D Chandler (2014)  
R Collier (2014)  
R Jacobson (2014)  
P Morley (2013)  
D Richardson (2014)  
R Shaw (2014)  
X Xu (2014)  
P Walker (2014)

### **Cropping and the Environment:**

R Carlton (Convener) (2015 1<sup>st</sup> term)  
N Boatman (2014)  
D H K Davies (2013)  
K A Evans (2013)  
E A Stockdale (2013)  
J Storkey (2013)  
P Taylor (2014) – AICC Rep.  
K Topp (2015)

### **Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement:**

M F B Dale (Convener) (2015 1<sup>st</sup> term)  
R Bonyadi Pour (2015)  
N Halford (2015)  
E Murchie (2014)  
R Weightman (2013)

### **Nematology:**

J Pickup (Convener) (2013 2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
V Blok (2013)  
T Kakouli-Duarte (2015)  
R Manzanilla-Lopez (2015)  
B Pembroke (2013)  
C Opperman (2013)  
T Prior (2014)

### **Pesticide Application:**

S E Cooper (Convener) (2013 2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
P Balsari (2013)  
P I Carpenter (2013)  
C R Glass (2013)  
B Magri (2014)  
C Mountford-Smith (2013)  
T H Robinson (2013)  
D Stock (2014)  
J van de Zande (2015)

### **Food Systems:**

L A Terry (Convener) (2015 1<sup>st</sup> term)  
R Binks (2015)  
L Murfet (2014)  
M Swainson (2014)  
H Stichnoff (2014)

### **Virology:**

S MacFarlane (Convener) (2012 2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
A Fox (2014)  
M N Gowda (2013)  
G Lomonosoff (2014)  
J Milner (2013)  
M Stevens (2013)  
R A A van der Vlugt (2014)  
J Walsh (2015)  
T Wetzell (2013)

# AAB CONFERENCE CALENDAR

## 2013

- 6-7 November **Fruits and Roots: A Celebration and Forward Look**  
East Malling Research, Kent (East Malling Research/AAB)
- 2-3 December **Positive plant microbial interactions: their role in maintaining sustainable agricultural and natural ecosystems**  
Forest Pines Hotel, nr Brigg, North Lincolnshire (AM&B Group)
- 10 December **Advances in Nematology**  
Linnean Society of London, Piccadilly, UK (Nematology Group)
- 18-19 December **Rethinking Agricultural Systems in the UK**  
St Catherine's College, Oxford (BES Agricultural Ecology, Forest Ecology & Computation Ecology Groups/AAB)

## 2014

- 8-10 January **International Advances in Pesticide Application**  
Oxford Spire Hotel, Oxford, UK (Pesticide Application Group)
- 29-30 January **Wheat Breeding 2014: Tools, targets & progress**  
Rothamsted Research, Harpenden, Herts, UK (PP&CI Group)
- 1-3 April **Pollinators in Agriculture**  
Venue to be confirmed, Brussels, Belgium (CATE Group)
- 16 April **Advances in Cider Technology**  
Pershore College, near Evesham, Worcestershire (AM&B Group)
- 7-8 May **Annals of Applied Biology Centenary – Sustainable Agriculture**  
Rothamsted Research, Harpenden, Herts, UK (Multidisciplinary/Annals Senior Editors)
- 16-18 June **Breeding for Climate Change**  
University of Leeds (Multidisciplinary/University of Leeds)
- 18-20 June **Climatic Uncertainty – Its Impact on Agronomic Decision Making**  
University of Leeds (CATE Group)
- 9-12 September **5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium of Biofumigation**  
Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire (HAU/Nematology Group)
- 25-26 November **Crop Protection in Southern Britain - Precision Decisions for Profitable Cropping**  
Peterborough Arena, Peterborough (CATE Group/AICC, AIC, BCPC)
- 9 December **Advances in Nematology**  
Linnean Society of London, Piccadilly, UK (Nematology Group)

Association of Applied Biologists, Warwick Enterprise Park, Wellesbourne, Warwick CV35 9EF, UK  
Registered Charity No. 275655; <http://www.aab.org.uk>  
Tel: +44 (0)2476 575195; Fax: +44 (0)1789 470234 Email: [john@aab.org.uk](mailto:john@aab.org.uk)

If you would like to be kept informed about the Association's conferences on a quarterly basis, please email [Bernadette@aab.org.uk](mailto:Bernadette@aab.org.uk)

