



*AAB President: Professor Bill Davies*



**ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
& FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR 2014**

**NOTICE OF  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**8 September 2015**



**THE ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS**  
(Registered Charity No. 275655)

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at the Food Innovation Building, Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire TF10 8NB at 13:10 on 8 September 2015. The draft minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in 2014 are attached together with the Report of the Trustees, Financial Statements and a list of new members of the Association elected in 2014.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA**

The AAB Annual report is made accessible to all members before the AGM and it is advised that you have read this before the meeting at <http://www.aab.org.uk/images/2014%20%20annual%20report%20members.pdf>

Attendance and apologies for the AGM are recorded in writing and hence do not form part of the oral business of the meeting.

- 1) **Minutes of AGM held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014**; Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire  
Are these approved as a correct record of the meeting?  
Any required amendments noted.

- 2) **Trustees Report of Activity 2014**  
President's Report, together with the outgoing President's Report  
Reports from the Specialist groups

Questions and discussion by members

Is the report of the Trustees (including Specialist Group reports) accepted for publication as a full and complete report for the activities of the Association in 2014?

- 3) **Financial Report 2014**  
Presentation of report by Treasurer's nominee  
Questions and discussion by members  
Is the full financial report for the Association in 2014 presented by Trustees after audit by Cleres of Birmingham accepted for publication?

- 4) **Appointment of Auditors for 2016**  
Council propose the appointment of Cleres of Birmingham as auditors for 2016.  
Questions and discussion by members

- 5) **Membership fees**  
Council is proposing the following membership fees for 2016. This represents a small increase for ordinary and retired members, with no change for students, and is the first for a number of years.  
Ordinary: £60  
Retired: £30  
Student: £20  
Questions and discussion by members

- 6) **Subscription for *Annals of Applied Biology***  
Council is proposing that there is a small increase in the subscription for *Annals of Applied Biology* which simply recoups the increased charge levied on the Association by the publisher (Wiley-Blackwell); is this proposal approved?

The resulting annual charges for 2016 are:

Print only: £77.91 (Zero VAT)

On-line only: UK and Europe £67.24 (20% VAT inclusive); Overseas £56.04 (VAT Exempt)

Print and on-line: UK and Europe £103.97 (5% partial exemption VAT); Overseas £98.82 (VAT Exempt)

Questions and discussion by members

## 7) **Honorary Officers**

The following individuals are nominated by Council to serve as Honorary officers, as outlined in the Laws:

Programme Secretary - Prof. Nigel Halford (current term (1st) expires at end of 2015) to serve second term 2016-2018

Any other nominees? Presentations, if required

Election of Programme Secretary

Other Honorary Officers for 2016, to note:

President - Prof. W Davies (term expires at end of 2016)

President-Elect – Prof C. Watson (presidential term expires at the end of 2018)

Honorary Treasurer - Mr M May (current term (1st) expires at end of 2016; notification given that he will not seek re-election)

General Secretary – Dr Elizabeth Stockdale (current term (3rd, final) expires at end of 2017)

Publications Officer- Dr Roy Kennedy (current term (1st) expires at end of 2016)

Meetings' Treasurer – Mr Richard Glass (current term (1st) expires at end of 2016)

Conveners of specialist groups for 2016; to note:

Applied Mycology and Bacteriology - TBC

Biological Control and IPM - Prof. T Bruce

Cropping and the Environment - Dr R Carlton

Food Systems - TBC

Nematology - Dr M Back

Pesticide Application - Prof. P H Miller

Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement - Dr M F B Dale

Virology - Dr M Gowda

## 8) **Are the AAB structures fit for purpose?**

Given that the AAB is a membership association and that:

The objects of the Association shall be 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, with a focus on the application of biological sciences in the production of food, materials and energy and for the maintenance and improvement of the earth's environment.

- Is the current group-based structure supported by Council fit for purpose?
- Are the groups fostering sharing of knowledge and development in their specialist areas?
- How should the Association link the journals (*Annals of Applied Biology*, *Food and Energy Security*, *Plant Biotechnology Journal*) to the other activities of the Association?
- How can the Association increase engagement with policy makers, the education sector, the media and the general public.

Discussion led by Prof. Bill Davies

## 9) **Any other issues raised by members for discussion**

Charity registration number: 275655

# The Association of Applied Biologists

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2014

Clere's Ltd  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
G.N.House  
119 Holloway Head  
Birmingham  
B1 1QP

# The Association of Applied Biologists

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

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**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Reference and Administrative Details**

<b>Charity name</b>	The Association of Applied Biologists	
<b>Charity registration number</b>	275655	
<b>Principal office</b>	AAB Office Warwick Enterprise Park Wellesbourne Warwickshire CV35 9EF	
<b>Registered office</b>	AAB Office Warwick Enterprise Park Wellesbourne Warwickshire CV35 9EF	
<b>Trustees</b>	Prof. P R Shewry, President	(resigned 31 December 2014)
	Dr.E A Stockdale, General Secretary	
	Mr C R Glass, Conferences Treasurer	
	Prof. S P Cummings, Applied Mycology & Bacteriology	(resigned 1 June 2014)
	Prof. N G Halford, Programme Secretary	
	Dr.S A MacFarlane, Virology	(resigned 31 March 2015)
	Prof. T Bruce, Biological Control	
	Prof. W Davies, Vice-President	
	Dr R Carlton, Cropping and the Environment	
	Dr M Finlay Dale, Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement	
	Prof. R Kennedy, Publications Officer	(appointed 1 January 2014)
	Mr M May, General Treasurer	(appointed 1 January 2014)
	Dr.M Back, Nematology	(appointed 1 January 2014)
	Prof. P Miller, Pesticide Application	(appointed 1 January 2014)
	Dr.R Binks, Food Systems	(resigned 25 February 2015)
	Prof. C Watson, President Elect	(appointed 1 January 2015)
	Dr M Gowda, Virology	(appointed 31 March 2015)
	Dr J West, Applied Mycology & Bacteriology	(appointed 1 June 2014) (resigned 6 July 2015)

**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Reference and Administrative Details**

<b>Chief executive officer</b>	Mrs. C A Millman
<b>Solicitors</b>	Martineau Johnson St. Phillips House St. Phillips Place Birmingham B3 2PP  Shakespeares Solicitors Bridgeway House Bridgeway Stratford-upon-Avon Warwickshire CV37 6YY
<b>Bankers</b>	Barclays Bank plc South Warwickshire Group of Branches 150 The Parade Leamington Spa Warwickshire CV32 4A
<b>Accountant</b>	Clere's Ltd G.N.House 119 Holloway Head Birmingham B1 1QP
<b>Investment Advisor</b>	Lloyds TSB Private Banking Limited 50 Grosvenor Street London W1K 3LF
<b>Independent Financial Advisers</b>	Cherwell Asset Management The Old Granary Shotteswell Oxon OX17 7HU
<b>Insurance Brokers</b>	Stackhouse Poland Exchange House Station Road Liphook Hampshire GU30 7ER  Access Insurance 1 Regent Street London SW1Y 4NW



**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2014**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2014	Total Funds 2013	
Note	£	£	£	£	
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Investment income	2	9,388	-	9,388	9,023
Incoming resources from charitable activities	3	318,767	-	318,767	228,366
Governance		-	-	-	-
Other incoming resources	4	357	-	357	6,000
Total incoming resources		<u>328,512</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>328,512</u>	<u>243,389</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Charitable activities	5	234,940	954	235,894	175,782
Governance costs	8	67,580	-	67,580	91,193
Total resources expended		<u>302,520</u>	<u>954</u>	<u>303,474</u>	<u>266,975</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		25,992	(954)	25,038	(23,586)
<b>Transfers</b>					
Gross transfers between funds		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains and losses		25,992	(954)	25,038	(23,586)
<b>Other recognised gains/losses</b>					
Gains on investment assets		<u>10,727</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,727</u>	<u>40,768</u>
Net movements in funds		36,719	(954)	35,765	17,182
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>427,079</u>	<u>21,121</u>	<u>448,200</u>	<u>431,018</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>463,798</u>	<u>20,167</u>	<u>483,965</u>	<u>448,200</u>

The notes on pages 10 to 19 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 December 2014**

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2014. The trustees have adopted the provisions 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.

**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 December 2014**

***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.

**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 continues to improve in comparison to recent years, but still retains an element of uncertainty. However, the situation is still encouraging from the perspective of the societies' investments. 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 includes investment expenditure. The results of this year, which has seen the second full year of publication of the *Food and Energy Security Journal* (FESJ), has resulted in an operating profit of £21,179 (before investment gains/losses) and compares against a budgeted deficit of £15,835. Publications continue to be a major income stream with income received for *The Plant Biotechnology Journal* delivering £24,719 against £18,732 for 2013. Income received for *Annals of Applied Biology* (£72,229

**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 December 2014**

compared to £70,645 for 2013) is higher than budgeted (£63,330) partly due to the improved impact factor. The investment required in FSEJ (£11,731 compared to an investment of £8,532 in 2013) has increased as work is on going towards an impact factor and it is still expected to be some years before the investment in this journal starts to make a return to the Association.

Governance costs (£67,580) are much lower than 2013, mostly due to a change in the timing of payments from our publisher. It is expected that costs will return to nearer the 2013 levels (£91,193) in 2015. The meetings programme generated a loss of £3,481 against a budgeted loss of £9,638, mainly as a result of tight budgeting by the office and conference organisers. Sponsorship and donations (£42,632) were considerably higher than budgeted (£18,250), mostly as a result of generous support for the *Annals* Centennial and other conferences that took place in 2014.

The investment portfolio produced a smaller unrealised gain of £10,727 compared to £40,768 in 2013, largely due to the need to drawdown funds to cover cash flows.

#### *Balance Sheet*

The Association's assets have increased by £35,765 over the past year. The value of cash and investments has gone down during the year from £488,266 to £475,744 as a result of the activities mentioned above. The net current assets are increased by £60,904 compared to last year at a positive value of £100,897. 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.

#### *Future Developments*

##### *2015*

The forecast for 2015 predicts a slightly greater operating deficit than was achieved in 2014 at £25,038.

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 2016*

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 faced by members the fees were not increased for 2 years but it is proposed that membership is now raised. The Council proposes fees for 2016 of £60 for the Ordinary membership, £20 for Student members and £30 for Retired membership (rises of £5, £0 and £2.50 respectively). 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 2015*

The Council proposes that the members' subscriptions for 2016 are increased to printed version - £77.91 (Zero rated VAT), online only - £67.24 (including VAT); overseas - £56.04 (VAT Exempt), and for the combined print and online subscription - £103.97 (including 5% partial exemption for VAT); overseas - £98.82 (VAT Exempt).

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### ***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

**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 December 2014**

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')

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

Prof. Bill Davies - Trustee  
8<sup>th</sup> September 2015

**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 2014, which are set out on pages 8 to 19.

**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  
Chartered Certified Accountants

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

Date:.....

**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2014**

		2014		2013	
	Note	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	12		2,034		3,854
Investments	13		381,034		404,353
			383,068		408,207
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	14	83,284		74,929	
Cash at bank and in hand		94,710		83,913	
		177,994		158,842	
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	15	(77,097)		(118,849)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			100,897		39,993
<b>Net assets</b>			483,965		448,200
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>					
<b>Restricted funds</b>			20,167		21,121
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted income funds			463,798		427,079
<b>Total charity funds</b>			483,965		448,200

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

Approved by the Board on 8 September 2015. and signed on its behalf by:

.....  
Prof. William Davies

## **The Association of Applied Biologists**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2014**

#### **1 Accounting policies**

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention 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 18.

##### **Incoming resources**

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.

##### **Irrecoverable VAT**

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



**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2014**

..... continued

**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.

**2 Investment income**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2014 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 2013 £</b>
Income from listed investments	9,388	-	9,388	9,023

## The Association of Applied Biologists

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2014

..... continued

#### 3 Incoming resources from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2014 £	Total Funds 2013 £
<b>Conferences</b>				
Appeals and donations	42,632	-	42,632	18,250
Income	149,805	-	149,805	98,233
	<u>192,437</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>192,437</u>	<u>116,483</u>
<b>Publications</b>				
Income	96,928	-	96,928	82,346
<b>Membership Fees</b>				
Income	29,402	-	29,402	29,537
	<u>318,767</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>318,767</u>	<u>228,366</u>

#### 4 Other incoming resources

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2014 £	Total Funds 2013 £
<b>Other income</b>				
Appeals and donations	357	-	357	6,000
	<u>357</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>357</u>	<u>6,000</u>

#### 5 Details of charitable activities

	Activities undertaken directly £	Grant funding of activities £	2014 £	2013 £
Conferences	195,843	14,352	210,195	133,837
Publications	9,631	-	9,631	21,496
Membership Fees	16,068	-	16,068	20,449
	<u>221,542</u>	<u>14,352</u>	<u>235,894</u>	<u>175,782</u>

## The Association of Applied Biologists

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2014

..... continued

#### 6 Grantmaking

	<b>Grants to institutions</b>	<b>Grants to individuals</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Conferences	13,398	954

The support costs associated with grant making are £0.

#### 7 Grants to institutions

Name of Institution	Activity	£
Grants payable - institutions	Conferences	13,398

#### 8 Governance costs

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2014	Total Funds 2013
	£	£	£	£
Employment costs	27,966	-	27,966	47,632
Establishment costs	15,448	-	15,448	15,858
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	2,327	-	2,327	3,604
Costs of obtaining investment advice	4,799	-	4,799	4,739
Communication Costs	4,745	-	4,745	2,629
Management Expenses	9,098	-	9,098	12,031
Miscellaneous Expenses	6,453	-	6,453	7,770
Overheads Recharged	(7,283)	-	(7,283)	(6,911)
Auditors' remuneration	2,875	-	2,875	3,000
Legal and professional costs	1,152	-	1,152	841
	67,580	-	67,580	91,193

#### 9 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 £3,431.96 (2013 £943.41).

## The Association of Applied Biologists

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2014

..... continued

#### 10 Net incoming/(outgoing) resources

Net incoming/(outgoing) resources is stated after charging:

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	2,327	3,604
	2,327	3,604

#### 11 Employees' remuneration

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

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
Charitable activities	4	3
Governance	1	1
	5	4

The aggregate payroll costs of these persons were as follows:

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	110,854	114,916
Other pension costs	3,393	5,558
	114,247	120,474

**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2014**

..... continued

**12 Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Fixtures, fittings and equipment £</b>
<b>Cost</b>	
As at 1 January 2014	58,341
Additions	507
As at 31 December 2014	<u>58,848</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>	
As at 1 January 2014	54,487
Charge for the year	2,327
As at 31 December 2014	<u>56,814</u>
<b>Net book value</b>	
As at 31 December 2014	<u>2,034</u>
As at 31 December 2013	<u>3,854</u>

## The Association of Applied Biologists

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2014

..... continued

#### 13 Investments held as fixed assets

	<b>Listed investments £</b>
<b>Market value</b>	
As at 1 January 2014	404,353
Revaluation	10,701
Additions	9,775
Disposals	(43,795)
As at 31 December 2014	381,034
<b>Net book value</b>	
As at 31 December 2014	381,034
As at 31 December 2013	404,353

Investment assets can be further analysed as follows:

	<b>UK £</b>	<b>Overseas £</b>
Listed investments	290,686	90,348
	290,686	90,348

#### 14 Debtors

	<b>2014 £</b>	<b>2013 £</b>
Trade debtors	16,345	23,476
Other debtors	61,861	45,303
Prepayments and accrued income	5,078	6,150
	83,284	74,929

#### 15 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	<b>2014 £</b>	<b>2013 £</b>
Trade creditors	5,780	15,827
Taxation and social security	7,895	13,555
Other creditors	60,673	86,719
Accruals and deferred income	2,749	2,748
	77,097	118,849

**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2014**

..... continued

**16 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 £3,393 (2013 - £5,558).

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 2014

..... continued

#### 17 Related parties

##### Controlling entity

The charity is controlled by the trustees.

#### 18 Analysis of funds

	At 1 January 2014	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Other recognised gains/losses	At 31 December 2014
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>General Funds</b>						
General Fund	427,080	9,745	(67,580)	83,826	10,727	463,798
Publications	-	96,928	(9,631)	(87,297)	-	-
Conferences	-	192,437	(209,241)	16,804	-	-
Membership	(1)	29,402	(16,068)	(13,333)	-	-
Investment in New Journal	-	-	-	-	-	-
Promotional Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>427,079</u>	<u>328,512</u>	<u>(302,520)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,727</u>	<u>463,798</u>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>						
Visting Overseas Lecturers	6,084	-	-	-	-	6,084
Graduate Research Students	15,037	-	(954)	-	-	14,083
	<u>21,121</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(954)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,167</u>
	<u>448,200</u>	<u>328,512</u>	<u>(303,474)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,727</u>	<u>483,965</u>



## The Association of Applied Biologists

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2014

..... continued

#### 19 Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2014	Total Funds 2013
	£	£	£	£
Tangible assets	2,034	-	2,034	3,854
Investments	381,034	-	381,034	404,353
Current assets	177,023	21,121	177,994	158,842
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(97,247)	-	(77,097)	(118,849)
Net assets	<u>462,844</u>	<u>21,121</u>	<u>483,965</u>	<u>448,200</u>

**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Statement of financial activities by fund Year Ended 31 December 2014**

	<b>General Fund 2014</b>	<b>General Fund 2013</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Investment income	9,388	9,023
Governance	-	-
Other incoming resources	357	6,000
Total incoming resources	<u>9,745</u>	<u>15,023</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>		
Charitable activities	-	150
Governance costs	67,580	91,193
Total resources expended	<u>67,580</u>	<u>91,343</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers	(57,835)	(76,320)
<b>Transfers</b>		
Gross transfers between funds	<u>83,826</u>	<u>54,181</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains and losses	25,991	(22,139)
<b>Other recognised gains/losses</b>		
Gains on investment assets	<u>10,727</u>	<u>40,768</u>
Net movements in funds	36,718	18,629
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>		
Total funds brought forward	427,080	408,450
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>463,798</u></u>	<u><u>427,079</u></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 2014**

..... continued

	<b>Publications 2014</b>	<b>Publications 2013</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
Incoming resources from charitable activities	96,928	82,346
Total incoming resources	96,928	82,346
<b>Resources expended</b>		
Charitable activities	9,631	15,295
Total resources expended	9,631	15,295
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers	87,297	67,051
<b>Transfers</b>		
Gross transfers between funds	(87,297)	(67,051)
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 2014**

..... continued

	<b>Conferences 2014</b>	<b>Conferences 2013</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
Incoming resources from charitable activities	192,437	116,483
Total incoming resources	<u>192,437</u>	<u>116,483</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>		
Charitable activities	209,241	132,240
Total resources expended	<u>209,241</u>	<u>132,240</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers	(16,804)	(15,757)
<b>Transfers</b>		
Gross transfers between funds	<u>16,804</u>	<u>15,757</u>
Net movements in funds	-	-
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>		
Total funds brought forward	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></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 2014**

..... continued

	<b>Membership 2014</b>	<b>Membership 2013</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
Incoming resources from charitable activities	29,402	29,537
Total incoming resources	29,402	29,537
<b>Resources expended</b>		
Charitable activities	16,068	20,449
Total resources expended	16,068	20,449
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers	13,334	9,088
<b>Transfers</b>		
Gross transfers between funds	(13,333)	(9,088)
Net movements in funds	1	-
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>		
Total funds brought forward	(1)	-
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 2014**

..... continued

	<b>Investment in New Journal 2014</b>	<b>Investment in New Journal 2013</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Net movements in funds	-	-
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>		
Total funds brought forward	-	-
Total funds carried forward	<u>-</u>	<u>-</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 2014**

..... continued

	<b>Promotional Expenditure 2014</b>	<b>Promotional Expenditure 2013</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>		
Charitable activities	-	6,201
Total resources expended	-	6,201
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers	-	(6,201)
<b>Transfers</b>		
Gross transfers between funds	-	6,201
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 2014**

..... continued

	<b>Visting Overseas Lecturers 2014</b>	<b>Visting Overseas Lecturers 2013</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	6,084	6,084



**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Statement of financial activities by fund Year Ended 31 December 2014**

..... continued

	<b>Graduate Research Students 2014</b>	<b>Graduate Research Students 2013</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>		
Charitable activities	954	1,447
Total resources expended	954	1,447
 Net movements in funds	 (954)	 (1,447)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>		
Total funds brought forward	15,037	16,484
Total funds carried forward	14,083	15,037

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

# ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

Reg. Charity No. 275655

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at Harper Adams University, Shropshire. The meeting started at 13.10**

27 members were in attendance; 28 apologies from members had been received ahead of the meeting with 14 sets of proxy votes.

### **Minutes of 2013 AGM**

The minutes of the 2013 AGM were received and agreed.

### **Trustees Report 2013**

The President, Professor Peter Shewry, welcomed all members to the AGM and briefly introduced the Trustees Report of activity which had been sent to all members in advance. Prof Shewry thanked the trustees and all other volunteers involved in supporting the work of the Association. In particular Prof. Shewry drew the attention of the AGM to two current initiatives:

- 2014 is the Centenary year of the *Annals of Applied Biology*. A range of special centenary reviews have been commissioned and are appearing in the journal through the year and there will be a Centenary conference in December 2014 which will look forward to the challenges and opportunities facing applied biology in the next 100 years. This will be the final year in the term of the current Editor in Chief, Prof. Jari Valkonen, and the Council is pleased to note that Prof Simon Leather will take on this role in 2015.
- The AAB's open access only journal, Food and Energy Security, is establishing successfully. The Editorial Board are pleased to be able to launch today to AAB members a much reduced rate for publishing in FES. This offer is part of the further launch activity for the journal.

There were no questions from the floor about the report or more generally about the work of the Association in 2013. Dr. Ian Lane proposed that the report of the Trustees (including Specialist Group reports) be published as it gave a full and complete report of the Activities of the Association in 2013. The proposal was seconded by Prof. Simon Leather. The proposal was accepted unanimously by the meeting.

### **Financial Report 2013**

The financial report was introduced by Mr. Mike May which had been sent to all members in advance. This had been audited and approved by Clere's of Birmingham. Mr. May thanked Dr. Jon Knight for all his work as Honorary Treasurer for the Association during 2013. He highlighted key points in the report for the AGM:

- The income from investments was now responding positively to the upturn in global markets
- Investment of the Association in the new Journal (Food and Energy Security) was now included in the main accounts as part of publications; it had previously been reported separately.
- The overall position for 2013 was a net deficit (£22, 139) but the AGM should note that this was an improvement on the deficit expected in the budget for the same period.
- The current forecast for 2014 was a smaller operating deficit of around £15k.

There were no questions from the floor about the Financial Report or about the financial affairs of the Association. Andy Cherrill proposed that the full financial report for the Association in 2012 presented by Trustees after audit by Clere's of Birmingham be approved and published. The proposal was seconded by Prof. Simon Leather. The proposal was accepted unanimously by the meeting.

### **Appointment of Auditors for 2014**

Mr Mike May brought the proposal on behalf of Council that Clere's of Birmingham be appointed as auditors for 2015. The proposal was accepted unanimously by the meeting.

### **Membership fees**

Mr Mike May brought the proposal on behalf of Council that there is no increase in membership fees for 2015. This would mean that membership fees continued to be £55 for ordinary members, £27.50 for retired members and £20 for students with discounts for payment by direct debit as indicated on the website.

There was no alternative proposal from the floor and the proposal was accepted unanimously by the meeting.

### **Subscription for *Annals of Applied Biology***

Mr. Mike May brought the proposal on behalf of Council that there is a small increase in the subscription for *Annals of Applied Biology* which simply recoups the increased charge levied on the Association by the publisher (Blackwells). There was no alternative proposal from the floor and the proposal was accepted unanimously by the meeting.

### **Honorary Officers for 2015**

Prof. Shewry brought the proposal on behalf of Council that Dr. Elizabeth Stockdale be elected to serve as General Secretary for a 3<sup>rd</sup> and final term (2015-2017).

No alternative nominations have been notified in advance and there were no other nominations from the floor.

The proposal was accepted unanimously by the meeting.

Prof. Shewry brought the proposal on behalf of Council that Prof. Christine Watson be elected as Vice-President (2015-2016) and then as President of the Association (2017-2018).

A brief biography and vision statement from Prof. Watson had been reviewed by Council and circulated to members, she had confirmed her willingness to serve in the role and Council was confident that Prof Watson is an excellent candidate.

No alternative nominations have been notified in advance and there were no other nominations from the floor.

The proposal was accepted unanimously by the meeting.

### *Other Honorary Officers, to note:*

President - Prof. W Davies (2015-2016)

Programme Secretary - Prof. N G Halford (2013-15, 1<sup>st</sup> term)

Honorary Treasurer Mr Mike May (2014-2016, 1<sup>st</sup> term)

Publications Officer Dr. Roy Kennedy (2014-2016, 1<sup>st</sup> term)

Meetings' Treasurer Dr Richard Glass (2014-2016, 1<sup>st</sup> term)

### *Conveners of specialist groups for 2015; to note:*

Applied Mycology and Bacteriology - Dr Jon West

Biological Control and IPM - Prof. Toby Bruce

Cropping and the Environment - Dr Rob Carlton

Food Systems - Dr Richard Binks

Nematology - Dr Matthew Back

Pesticide Application - Mr Simon Cooper

Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement - Dr Finlay Dale

Virology - Dr Stuart MacFarlane

### **Matters for discussion**

#### *Engagement activity of the Association*

Prof. Bill Davies introduced the topic for the AGM. The role and opportunities for the AAB to develop its visibility with regard to engagement activity in interaction with policy makers, the education sector, the media and the general public have been discussed regularly in Council over the last year. At conferences there has been increased use of video, interactivity in sessions and through social media. Specialist groups have been developing new routes for communication with key stakeholder groups and developing existing routes. The AAB has excellent conferences and publications, however, it is timely to consider whether / how conferences+ and publications+ can be developed most effectively to maximise engagement impact without significant additional staff/volunteer effort or cost.

A member (Tony Wilson) had proposed that the AAB should consider holding a translation event – skills, education and technology needs for agriculture. This would allow the AAB to stimulate debate and discussion on this issue and provide a platform for stakeholders in these sectors to debate, exchange ideas and knowledge, network and potentially build consortia for collaboration. This would be timely as there is currently a high level of funding available in the UK and Europe that has business, research and skills components and it would be highly beneficial to establish groups that have capacity to access and make use of this funding. The AGM agreed that this area was a timely and appropriate one but recognised that there were a range of other ongoing activities in this area. It was agreed that a general meeting in this area might be too broad. Hence it would be more appropriate to consider hosting 1 or 2 meetings a year with a more focussed topic (and in partnership with other Societies as appropriate) – Developing the skills and technology needed to ... . It was suggested that the first could focus on new approaches to pest/weed and disease management given the Sustainable Use Directive. Further possible topic areas included water use in agriculture, nutrient use and recycling.

There were no further questions/ issues raised from the floor. The AGM confirmed that it was content that the Council continue to work with members in the ways identified to take this work forward and looked forward to joining in the initiatives and hearing about them in future newsletters and Annual reports.

*Scholarships for young scientists in association with the specialist groups.*

A member (Nik Koukiasas) suggested that the AAB consider the development of PhD opportunities and/or scholarships to young scientists in association with the specialist groups.

The AGM noted the suggestion and agreed that it would be an initiative that would fit within the purposes of the Association and would be effectively, especially for the individual scientists so sponsored. However, it was noted that there were currently insufficient funds to allow the further scoping of such an initiative.

*Entomology within the AAB*

A member (Paul Bartlett) asked what had happened to entomology within the AAB. He noted that work on crop protection was only partially covered by the Pesticide Application and Biological control and IPM groups. The AGM noted that careful cooperation with the Royal Entomological Society and SCI (and other societies) was needed in this topic area to avoid fruitless competition. However, any member with an idea for a conference, workshop or other relevant activity which does not fall within the remit of any particular specialist group is asked to contact the AAB Office who will ensure that any proposal relevant to the purposes of the Association is considered carefully and supported where approved by Council.

**Approved as a true record** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

## OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S REPORT



I reported in some detail on the first part of 2014 in my introduction to the 2013 Report, and therefore will only provide a brief update to the activities during the remaining part of my tenure as President. The Association continued with its active programme of meetings, including a conference on Pollinators in Agriculture in Brussels in April and a workshop on Developments in Hand-held Application Techniques in Barcelona in October. A similarly strong programme of conferences is planned for 2015, including Biomass and Energy Crops to be held in Brussels in October 2015. However, the main conference activity was undoubtedly the *Annals of Applied Biology* Centenary Conference held at Rothamsted on 9-10 December 2014. The title "Challenges for Crop Production and Quality" and strong programme of invited and offered papers demonstrated that both the Association and *Annals* are strongly focused on future challenges for applied biologists. The *Annals of Applied Biology* (which is now under the editorship of Simon Leather) and *Plant Biotechnology Journal* continued to make good progress and significant contributions to the income of the Association. *Food and Energy*

*Security*, our online journal which was recently launched in collaboration with Wiley, is also on course to establish its position in a highly competitive field. This will be greatly assisted when it has published a sufficient number of issues to qualify for an impact factor.

Finally, I wish to re-iterate that I think that the Association is in good shape for future challenges, with a dynamic new President and excellent appointments to key positions on Council and groups. It only remains to me to thank my colleagues on Council, and Carol Millman and her colleagues in the AAB office, for excellent support over my tenure as President.

Peter Shewry

## INCOMING PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION

### AAB Strategy for 2015-7



I was honoured to succeed Peter Shewry as AAB President at the beginning of this year. I thank him on behalf of the Association for his hard work and enthusiasm over the last two years.

In the last few months, I have proposed a number of strategic targets to Council. These have been discussed and agreed. Briefly, we see the following as important targets for 2015-7

- To raise the profile of the Association among our professional community and more generally
- To enhance the promotion of our meetings and our publications with some attempt to use the meetings to generate more quality content for our journals
- To attract and retain new young members

Particular consideration will be given to these areas of our activity

- a) Our profile.
  - Think more about the focus of our meetings
  - More vigorous marketing of our meetings
  - Raise our level of participation in larger international meetings such as ESA, FESP, EPSO.
  - Meeting periodically with other large national disciplinary societies, e.g. American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, BCPC etc?
- b) Adding value by building better links between AAB activities and journal activities.
  - Video talks at meetings or interviewing speakers for short podcasts,
  - Make short films on farm to allow comment on topical issues,
  - Interviewing authors of important papers in our journals
- c) Young members
  - Identify a dedicated structure, (e.g. an Education and public affairs officer and group) to contribute to debate in schools and in the public arena more generally

## FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2014

This report can be found on pages 3-4.

### MEMBERSHIP

A total of 152 new members of the Association were elected by Council during the year (see Appendix 2). The total of fully paid-up members and Honorary members on 31st December 2014 was 778 – 13 more 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.

#### *Student Travel Grants Awarded during 2014*

Name	Conference	Award
C Ferguson	International Advances in Pesticide Application	£250.00
J Bishop	Pollinators in Agriculture	£87.20
J Bishop	Agronomic Decision Making in an Uncertain Climate	£70.50
J Barbiri	Pollinators in Agriculture	£105.89
M Le Febevre	5 <sup>th</sup> International Conference of Biofumigation	£200.00
R Bozbuga	Advances in Nematology	£59.10
R Bozbuga	Challenges for Crop Production and Quality - <i>Annals of Applied Biology</i> Centenary conference	£116.53
S D De Jesus	Advances in Nematology	£65.00
<i>Total Student Travel Grants awarded 2014</i>		£954.22

### PUBLICATIONS

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

The Association is the owner of *Annals of Applied Biology* which is published by Wiley-Blackwell. The total number of pages published was 970, comprising 82 papers (78 in 2013). The number of papers submitted in 2014 is holding steady at 404, against 407 submitted in 2013. The most downloaded article from 2014 was a review entitled: *Food security: The challenge of increasing wheat yield and the importance of not compromising food safety* by Halford & Curtis (Volume 164, pp. 354-372), which was accessed 2,365 times. The impact factor for 2014 increased to 2.0 (1.955 in 2013). A conference to celebrate the *Annals of Applied Biology* centenary, took place in December 2014, a report on which can be found in AAB News 82, pp. 17-19, published in August 2015. The journal stands at 4<sup>th</sup> of 56 in the Agriculture & Multidisciplinary area.

#### ***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 2014 the journal published 9 issues, totalling 1342 pages (124 articles). The impact factor also increased in 2014 by almost a point to 5.752 (5.677 in 2013). The journal currently stands at 11<sup>th</sup> of 200 in the Plant Sciences area and 15<sup>th</sup> of 162 in the Biotechnology & Microbiology area. There was a large increase in submissions from Asia, particularly China, and an increased in submissions from the United States of America. Submissions in 2014 were the highest ever at 660 (489 in 2013 and 387 in 2013, respectively).

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

The Association, along with Wiley-Blackwell, launched its new online-only journal, *Food and Energy Security* in 2012. In 2014 the journal published 2 issues, totalling 110 pages (10 articles). In 2014, there were 28,846 article downloads, 4% more than in 2013. The most downloaded article by was Hawkesford *et al.* entitled:

*Prospects of doubling global wheat yields*, which had been accessed 3,431 times in 2014. By the end of 2014, 172 individuals were registered to receive automatic alerts from Wiley when new content appears on Wiley Online Library. This reflects 40% growth in registrants over the course of 2014. For a limited period, AAB Members will be able to publish in *Food and Energy Security* for a publication fee of £500 (previously £1200). In 2014 the Editorial Board increased its handling editors to 24.

### ***Aspects of Applied Biology***

The following volumes of *Aspects of Applied Biology* were published to accompany scientific conferences held during the year. However, *Aspects 123: Advances in Cider and Wine Making Technology* and *Aspects 124: Breeding Plants to Cope with Future Climate Change* will be produced post-conference, and published in 2015.

*Aspects 122: International Advances in Pesticide Application 2014*  
*Aspects 125: Agronomic Decision Making in an Uncertain Climate*  
*Aspects 126: 5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium of Biofumigation*  
*Aspects 127: Crop Production in Southern Britain: Precision Decisions for Profitable Cropping*

### ***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***

Two issues of the Newsletter were published in 2014. The Newsletter includes update reports from Council, conference reviews, book reviews, lists of new members, together with their interests, and other reports of similar interests.

## **SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES**

A total of 891 delegates attended the conferences in 2014 compared to 685 in 2013 and 711 in 2012, and the average number of paying delegates was 62, the same as in 2013 and 61 in 2012. Details of the full scientific conference programme for 2014 are given below:

<b>Title of Conference</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>No. delegates</b>
International Advances in Pesticide Application	Pesticide Application	8-10 January	108
Wheat Breeding 2014: Tools, targets and progress	Plant Physiol. & Crop Improvement	29-30 January	90
Pollinators in Agriculture	Cropping & The Environment	1-3 April	82
Advances in Cider & Wine Making Technology	Applied Mycology & Bacteriology	16 April	31
Breeding Plants to Cope with Future Climate Change	Plant Physiol. & Crop Improvement	16-18 June	94
Agronomic Decision Making in an Uncertain Climate	Cropping & The Environment	19-20 June	32
5 <sup>th</sup> International Symposium of Biofumigation	Nematology	9-12 September	66
Developments in hand-held application techniques	Pesticide Application	28-29 October	24
Advances in IPM 2014		19-20 November	75
Crop Production in Southern Britain: Precision Decisions for Profitable Cropping	Cropping & The Environment	25-26 November	129
Challenges for Crop Production & Quality: <i>Annals of Applied Biology</i> Centenary conference	Multi-disciplinary	9-10 December	105
Advances in Nematology	Nematology	16 December	55
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>891</b>

## AAB SPECIALIST GROUP REPORTS

### **Applied Mycology & Bacteriology**

Convener – Vacancy

Group members – Julia Cooper, Neal Evans, Neil Havis, David Kenyon, Caroline Orr, Keith Thomas, Jon West

*Advances in Cider Technology* conference – 16 April 2014

The second *Advances in Cider Technology* workshop extended previous topics covered in the first workshop in 2011 and introduced advanced studies in specialist areas relevant to the industry.

The morning session covered topics relevant to small scale production including orchard management and fruit selection, efficiencies in juice extraction, fermentation management and conditioning and quality assurance for consistency. Speakers will be sought with production and problem solving experience and a knowledge of the retail trade. This session was particularly relevant to small and craft scale producers looking to extend their understanding of the basic process and seeking to manage consistency in product character. Contributors from continental production provided insights to specialist products.

The afternoon talk session was more academic and focussed on advanced techniques currently under development and with potential for future application. Specific topics included use of molecular biology in fruit and microbial identification, fruit and microbial genetics for product character and flavour, metabolomics in flavour analysis, dietary and nutritional characterisation of apple and fruit wines and sensory analysis technology.

A parallel afternoon session provided a hands-on laboratory workshop demonstrating basic analysis techniques for small scale production management. Participants were encouraged to bring their own fruit, cider and wine samples for analysis which included alcohol and gravity assessment, sugar and acid profiling, sulphur titrations and tannin assessment. Microbiology topics focussed on yeast evaluation and bacteria identification and light microscopes will be available to demonstrate and develop skills in assessment. Identification of fruit quality by visual and microscopic analysis was conducted and faults in production presented for familiarisation.

### **Biological Control & Integrated Pest Management**

Convener – Toby Bruce

Group members – David Chandler, Rosemary Collier, Rob Jacobson, Phil Morley, Dick Shaw, Paul Sopp, Phil Walker, Keith Walters and Xiangming Xu

The group recruited two new members during 2013 – Paul Sopp and Dale Walters. The group organised two conferences on 15/16 October back-to-back:

#### *IPM: Pushing back the frontiers & Biopesticides*

There can be no doubt that the EU Sustainable Use Directive will impact on everyone involved with crop production and crop protection in the UK over the next few years. The overall objective of the Directive is to ensure that pesticides are used sustainably by reducing the risks and impacts of use on human health and the environment and encouraging the development and introduction of integrated pest and disease management (IPM). In short this will mean the replacement of broad spectrum pesticides with alternative approaches and techniques. The Directive requires the general principles of IPM to be implemented by professional pesticide users by 1 January 2014. In reality, this can only be achieved by the cropping sectors that were already using IPM when the Directive was announced. The UK's National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of the Directive has been prepared by the Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) with strategic oversight by Defra. Given the urgency for the implementation of the NAP, there can never have been a more appropriate time to draw together and pool the expertise of people currently involved with IPM. The Association of Applied Biologists (AAB), which has over 280 members with a special interest in IPM, organises an annual gathering of the IPM community at which policy makers, experienced researchers, young scientists and practitioners can detach themselves from their usual day-to-day pressures and totally immerse themselves in the subject.

The recent 2013 conference, entitled 'IPM: Pushing back the frontiers', was organised in partnership with the International Biocontrol Manufacturers' Association (IBMA) with the specific aim of addressing issues associated with the implementation of the UK's NAP. The event attracted over 90 delegates from many different backgrounds.



There is a common misconception that IPM is simply an alternative term for biological control but this could not be further from the truth. While biological agents often provide the backbone of an IPM programme, they also draw on cultural and physical techniques, all integrated with target specific chemical pesticides and biopesticides. A total of 20 speakers described the development and implementation of a wide range of techniques including opportunities for genetic modification, conventional plant breeding, incorporation of plant extracts and semiochemicals, optimising the use of parasites and predators, and novel methods of distributing biopesticides. Several speakers considered methods of integrating such techniques with conventional pesticides. In addition, Dr Steve Ellis and Dr Sarah Kendall (ADAS) clearly illustrated the importance of understanding economic damage thresholds and explained why doing nothing is often the best financial option. Abstracts of all the technical papers are available via the AAB and HDC websites.

There were several open discussion sessions during the conference at which delegates debated issues relating to the implementation of the NAP. There is little doubt that this annual AAB conference has become the primary IPM event in the UK.

## **Cropping and the Environment**

Convener – Rob Carlton

Group members – Nigel Boatman, Ken Davies, Andy Evans, Shamal Mohammed, John Purslow, Kate Smith, Elizabeth Stockdale, Jonathan Storkey and Kairsty Topp

The group was pleased to welcome Shamal Mohammed as a new member during 2014. Shamal helped with the organisation of the Agronomic Decision Making conference.

Cropping and the Environment organised three conferences during the year: *Pollinators in Agriculture*, *Agronomic Decision Making in an Uncertain Climate* and *Crop Production in Southern Britain*. The focus for the group continues to be on issues that have relevance to commercial arable farmers.

The Pollinators in Agriculture conference was held in Brussels on 1-3 April 2014. The first morning was devoted to neonicotinoids and honey bees, with invited presentations from the European Food Safety Agency, Bayer CropScience and the University of Wageningen; followed by an extended panel session with the same speakers. The session generated considerable interest with the audience engaging in a lengthy debate. In a first for AAB, this session was recorded and a video showing highlights of the presentations plus interviews with speakers and members of the audience is available on youtube through the following link:

**<http://youtu.be/e8jxf39TeIM>**.

The conference went on to explore the importance of a broad range of pollinator species to pollination of crops and covered a range of topics including, population dynamics, landscapes and resources, crop yields, pollinator pathogens and parasitoids, and climate related stress. The IUCN also used the conference to launch the RED list for bumble bees.

This was a truly international conference with papers from many European countries plus India and Canada. The standard of offered contributions was high throughout, with a number of excellent presentations by invited speakers. Poster presenters were invited to give mini-presentations which also worked well.

The conference was sponsored by the British Ecological Society and STEP (the Status and Trends of European Pollinators project). It well publicised and had contributors from a range of countries despite competing events in Brussels. We will certainly consider holding more conferences on this topic.

The Agronomic Decision Making in an Uncertain Climate conference was held in Leeds on 25-26 June 2014 immediately after Plant Breeding for Climate Change (also held in Leeds).

The aim of this conference was to explore the problems related to changing climate that arable farmers in north western Europe are currently facing, what the near future may hold and what short to medium term adaptive strategies are available to farmers. It was therefore surprising, given the recent history of extreme weather events, that the initial call for papers was met with a distinctly underwhelming response. Feedback suggested that agronomists thought it was a conference about climate change (and therefore not relevant to them) and it seems likely that climate change professionals saw it as a conference about agronomy. Furthermore, there was a common view that climate change mitigation, rather than adaptation, has been the focus of most research funding in the area.

In another first for AAB (following the Pollinator conference video), the Plenary presentation, by Roger Street of the Environmental Change Institute, was given by video link from North America. Even though the one-way

video link did not allow Roger to see the screen as he was presenting, this worked surprisingly well. Not only did the talk cover future risks to agriculture, it also highlighted the need to take account of increasing climatic uncertainty when developing adaptive strategies.

At a very practical level, it became apparent during the conference that farmers can adopt practices that protect their businesses from extremes of weather. For example, it was reported that inter-ridge micro dams established on a hillside sown with maize can reduce soil erosion and pesticide runoff associated with spring and summer storm rainfall by more than 90%. This not only protects the topsoil and crop, it also reduces contamination of adjacent waterways. A session on pollinators that built on the April conference emphasised the importance of this group of animals, including moths, to agronomy, and highlighted the vulnerability of pollinators to climate related abiotic stress. A number of practical management options to protect and enhance local pollinator populations were discussed. These measures can clearly make for more resilient agro-environments and, importantly, they are feasible at farm level.

The conference was sponsored by Syngenta and HGCA. Overall, the conference was well received and, despite the initial difficulties building a programme, feedback at the conference was very positive it was clear that this is a subject which is worthy of further activity.

The *Crop Production in Southern Britain* conference was held in the Peterborough Arena on the 25-26 November 2014.

The conference, which is run biennially, was held jointly with the British Crop Production Council and with support from AIC, AICC and HGCA.

There were 40 papers presented over the two days of the conference, plus seven posters. These reflected many aspects of crop production including weed, disease, nematode and insect control in the major field crops. The spectre of pesticide resistance was perhaps highlighted more strongly than in previous conferences. However, the control of herbicide resistant black-grass had less prominence than in the previous conference although it is interesting to note that there were as many papers on its cultural control as on its chemical control. There were also papers on crop nutrition, soil structure issues, the number of available spray days and the future trends in cropping, which included the subject of cover cropping. Inevitably there was also a paper raising concerns about pesticide legislation as well as the UK regulator's views on pesticide resistance. The threat to fruit production posed by pesticide legislation was also well described.

For the first time in this conference there was a session with five papers on 'precision farming'. The scientific community is getting closer to delivering an improved understanding of factors affecting field variation and how to measure and respond to variation across a field. This will eventually lead to improved decision making.

## **Food Systems**

Convener – The is a vacant position; Group members - awaiting invitation;

This group has been inactive during 2014; there is currently an advertisement in AAB News for a new convener.

## **Nematology**

Convener – Matthew Back

Group members – Steve Edgington, Ivan Grove, Sue Hockland, Thomae Kakouli-Duarte, Rosa Manzanilla-Lopez, Barbara Pembroke, Jon Pickup, Tom Prior and Wim Wesemael

The Nematology Group consists of a range of researchers from government, academia, and private consultancy. The group meets twice a year, with the AGM held at the 'Advances in Nematology' meeting in London. Our autumn meeting is used to discuss and plan forthcoming conferences as well as other wider nematology related initiatives. This year we will be meeting at Fera (York) where members will have an opportunity to view the facilities.

### *Conferences arranged during 2014*

**5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium of Biofumigation**, 9-12 September 2014: Harper Adams University, Shropshire: Biofumigation is a crop management method that utilises brassica species with high glucosinolate content for the suppression of pests, weeds and diseases. The event brought together a variety of crop consultants, academics and industry experts to discuss specific topics on biofumigation. Each session was successful in

capturing specific areas of research associated with the technique such as the measurement of isothiocyanates, impact on soil ecology and specific approaches for the management of weeds, nematodes, insects and soil borne pathogens.

A practical session was held to demonstrate 30 different field plots of biofumigant species, cultivars and blends. Seed suppliers were on hand to discuss their cultivars and blends and delegates were able to see practical demonstrations of sowing and brassica incorporation. This section of the event was made all the better with some late summer sunshine and an enjoyable barbeque to finish the day.

Overall, the event had a great atmosphere and was successful in sharing the latest developments and encouraging stimulating discussions. The delegates represented 17 different countries, making this a truly international symposium. Previous symposia have taken place in Italy, USA, Australia and Canada.

**Advances in Nematology**, 16 December 2014: Linnaean Society, Piccadilly, London: This year 55 delegates from the UK, Europe and North America saw a wide range of talks covering very recent developments in nematology, with excellent presentations from both leading experts and students. Invited speakers gave absorbing talks on the management of root-knot nematode in vegetables (Miguel Talavera, Institute for Training in Agriculture and Fisheries of Andalusia, Spain) comparative genomics (David Lunt, University of Hull) and the use of mitogenomes in the study of systematics (Tim Littlewood, Natural History Museum, London), whilst also providing plenty of time for interaction with the audience.

The meeting began with the AGM of the Nematology Group, which, whilst brief, allowed the work of the members to be introduced to the delegates and provided publicity for forthcoming meetings.

As well as experienced speakers this annual meeting also provides a platform for students to present their research and discuss their views in an informal, friendly atmosphere in the historic Linnean Society building in Piccadilly, London (LSL), which adds to the sense of occasion for this annual reunion. Their participation was also encouraged this year by the prospect of winning the new Brian Kerry award for the best student platform presentation, which this year was also accompanied by a copy of 'Plant Nematology', kindly donated by CABI Books. Grace Hoysted from the University of Leeds was voted the winner. Those presenting posters were assigned one minute on the platform to introduce the key features of their presentations, and this new approach was well received by the audience, which had time to view the posters after lunch and during the afternoon tea break.

Time was arranged for plenty of discussion and the much-valued networking, and this aspect has become increasingly important as the number of nematologists becomes less and the institutions that employ them change their focus or become the centre of new initiatives as new challenges in nematology emerge. Feedback from delegates emphasised this point, so for the 2015 meeting lunch may be held in the same venue of the LSL, thus also allowing yet more time for delegates to peruse the posters. Local hostelrys also provide excellent venues in a seasonal atmosphere that allow a continuation of the discussions after the meeting closes.

#### *Future Conference Programme*

**4<sup>th</sup> Symposium of Potato Cyst Nematode Management** (including other nematodes parasites of potatoes), September 2015: Harper Adams University, Shropshire

**Advances in Nematology**, 15 December 2015: Linnaean Society, Piccadilly, London

**Nematology Session at ESA14 - European Society of Agronomy Conference**, 5-9 September 2016: Edinburgh, Scotland

#### **Pesticide Application**

Convener – Paul Miller

Group members – Paolo Balsari, Simon Cooper, Richard Glass, Ben Magri, Colin Mountford-Smith, David Nuyttens, Tom Robinson, David Stock and Jan van de Zande. Co-opted member – Emilio Gil and Bill Jones

The Group held two international events during 2014: The International Pesticide Application conference – a bi-annual event that in 2014 was held in Oxford between 8 and 10th January and a two day workshop entitled “Developments in Hand-Held Application Techniques” that was held in Barcelona on 28–29th October.

**International Advances in Pesticide Application** was again a successful conference attracting a total of 63

papers, 15 of which were presented as posters. The participants came from many countries throughout the world including Australia, Brazil, China, Israel, USA and the European member states of Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Sweden and the UK - this level of participation confirming the status of this conference as a major event within the international pesticide application calendar. The level of both presentations and discussion was generally good with a mix of practical and more theoretical aspects, including some original work, being presented. Proceedings were again published as an *Aspects of Applied Biology* (No. 122) in colour to provide a valuable record of the papers presented. The weather at the time of the conference did not help us – Oxford was mostly under water such that travelling was more difficult than usual – and there were some minor issues with the venue. However, overall it was a successful event providing a good opportunity for discussion between participants.

**Developments in Hand-Held Application Techniques** – this workshop was held at the Universitat Politecnica De Catalunya in Barcelona with the twin objectives of having a European workshop and also assessing the potential for holding the International conference at the venue in January 2016. Highlights of the workshop included:

- A tribute to Per Gummer Anderson (who had been a member of the Group committee)
- A discussion of operator training issues in Kenya
- Presentations and discussion of standards relating to hand-held sprayers
- Considerations of deposition and drift when using small-scale application equipment.

The workshop was hosted very well by those at the University and so following the workshop it was decided that the 2016 International Advances in Pesticide Application conference would be held at the University and that there would be an award to support a young delegate at the conference as a memorial to Per Gummer Anderson.

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

Convener – Finlay Dale

Group members – Roxanna Bonyadi, Nigel Halford, Erik Murchie

The group recruited two new members during 2014 – Simon Griffiths of Crop Genetics, John Innes Centre and Jim Monaghan based at Harper Adams University.

The PP&CI group organised the “Wheat Breeding 2014 - Tools, Targets and Progress” on 29–30 Jan 2014 at Rothamsted Research, Harpenden, organised by Nigel Halford (Rothamsted Research, UK) and Simon Griffiths (John Innes Centre, UK). The conference discussed the development and application of powerful new tools for wheat breeders in recent years, including genome data, doubled haploid mapping populations and mathematical modelling of whole systems. This conference brought together a number of leading researchers from academia and institutes together with wheat breeders to debate the opportunities that these new tools offer and how they are being applied for wheat improvement. It also engaged representatives from the food industry, describing the targets that the industry recognise as important to see incorporated into breeding programmes.

The first day included three sessions. The first titled “Tools, resources and methods” included prominent speakers Keith Edwards, Cristobal Uauy and Ian Mackay (and co-authors) describing new genomic tools, new complex traits in wheat and genomic selection developments respectively. The second session “Quality and safety” included presentations from Peter Shewry on ‘Improving the quality of wheat for a healthy diet’ and Tanya Curtis on ‘Reducing the acrylamide-forming potential of wheat’. The second day comprised four further sessions. The first session on “Nitrogen” included presentations by Malcolm Hawkesford on ‘Genetic diversity for nutrient use efficiency’, Tracy Valentine and co-authors on ‘Phenotyping for nitrogen economy in wheat using physiological traits’ and Jacques le Gouis and co-authors from INRA (France) on ‘Nitrogen use efficiency in bread wheat: breeding tools and recent genetic progress’. The next session titled “Yield” included Gustafo Slafer on ‘Fruiting efficiency an alternative trait to further rise wheat yield potential’ and Mike Gooding discussing ‘Gibberellin signalling: The target of the first green revolution, but not for the second’. The third session of the day, titled “Disease resistance”, included presentations by Kim Hammond-Kosack on ‘Genetic approaches to minimise take-all root disease in wheat’ and by Paul Nicholson on ‘Improving Fusarium head

blight resistance in wheat and barley'. The final session included an invited presentation by Richard Jennaway on 'Developments in wheat breeding using hybrid technologies'. The conference included a productive and informative poster session covering a number of areas relating to wheat improvement.

The goal of this meeting was to get leading people involved in wheat genetics, genomics, agronomy and wheat breeding to discuss and interact not only with fellow researchers but also with the industry in a wider sense. In doing this we were pleased to get a good input from manufacturers. Given the positive discussions that went on during the 2 days and the complimentary feedback I have had, I believe the conference was well received and a follow up conference is now arranged for January 2016 at Rothamsted.

The second main conference the group organised was one at Leeds University titled "Breeding Plants to Cope with Future Climate Change" over three days from 16th to 18th June 2014. The conference explored the fact that while our climate and global weather patterns are changing, the ways in which agricultural crop production might be adapted to meet these challenges are much less certain, particularly with regard to an increased frequency of associated extreme weather events, such as drought and flooding. It is predicted that there will be a large increase in food demand in coming decades to meet the increasing demands of a growing world population. The need to enhance plant performance and crop productivity in the face of climate change is therefore one of the most important issues of our time. The conference was wide ranging over a number of diverse areas, addressing key issues directly, including areas such as Improving photosynthesis to enhance yield, genome plasticity in relation to biotic and abiotic stress responses, pathways to innovation and targeting climate information for crop breeding. The conference was based at Leeds University and included a number of African delegates through the Africa College based at the University of Leeds and also a strong European representation through the Modelling European Agriculture with Climate Change for Food Security (MACSUR) Knowledge Hub (<http://macsur.eu/>). Further speakers from USA, South America, Asia, Australia and Nordic countries all ensured a well attended and truly international conference. The Aspects produced from the conference brings together the wide range of reviews and original research articles from the experts attending the conference - in plant science, plant breeding and crop modelling considered topics ranging from the plasticity of plant genome, its regulation in relation to climate change to the requirements of plant breeding for increasing agricultural productivity while decreasing the ecological and water footprint. While the contents of the Aspects highlight the importance of joined up thinking in research and innovation activities from a global food security perspective, the central roles of basic plant science and crop modelling in supporting plant breeding, are emphasised, as well as the technologies and innovation required to achieve productivity gains and sustainable agricultural production

The interdisciplinary nature of the conference not only provided new information but also thoughtful and discerning discussion concerning how plants might be bred to cope with the challenges of climate change. Thanks go not only to the Association of Applied Biologists office and staff for their work in helping to organise the conference and the Aspects but also to Africa College at the University of Leeds and the Modelling European Agriculture with Climate Change for Food Security (MACSUR) Knowledge Hub (<http://macsur.eu/>) for making the conference possible. The conference served as an important forum to discuss current thinking in a number of strategic areas pertaining to this field of growing importance. Plans are underway for a follow-on conference in the future.

## **Virology**

Convener – Maruthi Gowda

Group members – Gerard Clover, Adrian Fox, George Lomonosoff, Joel Milner, Antonio Olmos, Rene van de Vlugt, John Walsh and Thierry Wetzal

The group holds an international conference every 18 months, and in 2015 the International Advances in Plant Virology took place in Birmingham on 31 March–2 April. The scientific content of the conference was very good, with three international quality invited speakers, and a very good spread of postdoctoral and PhD-level speakers. The un-themed meeting format encouraged speakers from thirteen different countries to present a broad range of talks. The Bryan Harrison prize was awarded to the best student oral presentation, and the Roger Hull prize was awarded for the best student poster.

The group has members from Belgium and Germany with the intention of promoting AAB and the group in wider Europe. The group has sought to refresh the committee in 2015 with the intention of attracting more participants to our conferences, and thus invited Antonio Olmos from Spain to cover wider geographical area.

Gerard Clover from the UK is another new member to the group. The group took the opportunity of everyone being together at the Birmingham conference, to hold their annual group meeting at the same time.

The next conference is scheduled to be held at the University of Greenwich 7-9 September 2016. Plans are already underway with three invited speakers confirming their participation for this conference.

## WEBSITE

AAB had previously relaunched a new website in 2011, but we are now working on a more modern approach to dealing with the data. We are launching the ESA 2016 conference with a new look website, and the main AAB site will follow suite. The website 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 nearly xxx followers), and the site has become increasingly interactive, allowing members to engage with the Association and other members across a range of social media.

## 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.

Journal of Experimental Botany	£3600	Wheat Breeding
BES (Agricultural Ecology Group)	£900	Pollinators in Agriculture
Africa College/CCAFA/MACSUR	£20000	Breeding Plants to Cope with Future Climate Change
Journal of Experimental Botany	£4800	Breeding Plants to Cope with Future Climate Change
HGCA	£500	Agronomic Decision Making in an Uncertain Climate
Syngenta	£1000	Agronomic Decision Making in an Uncertain Climate
Agrium Italia	£800	5 <sup>th</sup> International Symposium of Biofumigation
Tozer Seeds	£500	5 <sup>th</sup> International Symposium of Biofumigation
Joordens Zaden	£395	5 <sup>th</sup> International Symposium of Biofumigation
High Performance Seeds, Inc	£846	5 <sup>th</sup> International Symposium of Biofumigation
BASF The chemical company	£750	Advances in IPM 2104
BCP Certis	£750	Advances in IPM 2104
Fargro	£750	Advances in IPM 2104
Syngenta Bioline	£750	Advances in IPM 2104
Koppert Biological Systems	£750	Advances in IPM 2104
Russell IPM	£750	Advances in IPM 2104
HDC	£750	Advances in IPM 2104
Anonymous Donation	£500	<i>Annals</i> Centenary conference

TOTAL £39091

## 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.

## SPECIALIST GROUP COMMITTEES AS AT SEPTEMBER 2015

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

Vacancy (Convener)  
J Cooper (2016)  
N Evans (2015)  
N Havis (2015)  
D Kenyon (2015)  
C Orr (2016)  
K Thomas (2014)  
J West (2016)

### **Biological Control:**

T Bruce (Convener) (2017 2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
D Chandler (2016)  
R Collier (2016)  
R Jacobson (2015)  
P Morley (2016)  
R Shaw (2015)  
P Sopp (2016)  
P Walker (2015)  
K Walters (2016)  
X Xu (2015)

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

R Carlton (Convener) (2016 1<sup>st</sup> term)  
N Boatman (2015)  
D H K Davies (2016)  
K A Evans (2015)  
Shamal Mohamed (2017)  
J Purslow (2015)  
E A Stockdale (2016)  
J Storkey (2016)  
K Topp (2015)

### **Food Systems**

Vacancy (Convener)

### **Nematology:**

M Back (Convener) (2016 1<sup>st</sup> term)  
S Edgington (2016)  
I Grove (2016)  
S Hockland (2015)  
T Kakouli-Duarte (2015)  
R Manzanilla-Lopez (2015)  
B Pembroke (2014)  
J Pickup (2016)  
T Prior (2014)

### **Pesticide Application:**

P C H Miller (Convener) (2016 1<sup>st</sup> term)  
P Balsari (2016)  
S E Cooper (2016)  
C R Glass (2017)  
B Magri (2017)  
C Mountford-Smith (2015)  
D Nuyttens (2017)  
D Stock (2015)  
J van de Zande (2015)

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

Vacancy (Convener)  
M F B Dale (Convener) (2016 1<sup>st</sup> term)  
R Bonyadi Pour (2015)  
S Griffiths (2017)  
N Halford (2015)  
J Monaghan (2017)

### **Virology:**

S MacFarlane (Convener) (2015 2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
G Clover (2017)  
A Fox (2015)  
J Milner (2016)  
A Olmos (2017)  
R A A van der Vlugt (2014)  
J Walsh (2015)  
T Wetzels (2014)

**ELECTION TO SPECIALIST GROUP COMMITTEES FOR 2016**

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 2015.

\*\*\*\*\*

**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 .....**

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.....

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**\*Delete as appropriate**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Consent to nomination**

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

**Signed .....**

**Address .....**

.....

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



# AAB

## FORWARD CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

### 2015

- 7-8 September **4<sup>th</sup> Symposium of Potato Cyst Nematode Management (including other nematode parasites of potatoes)**  
Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire, UK  
(HAU/Nematology Group)
- 8 September **Selectivity by application (how do you target by the application) - workshop**  
Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire, UK  
(Pesticide Application Group)
- 8 September **Association of Applied Biologists AGM (AAB members and their guests only)**  
Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire, UK
- 21-22 September **Dealing with combined stresses for crops: approaches to improve water and nutrient use efficiency in cropping systems**  
St Leonard's Hall, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK
- 20-22 October **Biomass and Energy Crops V**  
The Bedford Hotel, Brussels, Belgium  
(CATE Group/Multidisciplinary/Rothamsted/Rokwood/ LogistEC SUPERGEN Bioenergy Hub)
- 18-19 November **IPM: The 10 year plan**  
The Wyndham Garden Grantham Hotel, Marston, Lincs  
(Biocontrol and IPM Group)
- 15 December **Advances in Nematology**  
Linnean Society of London, Piccadilly, London  
(Nematology Group)

### 2016

- 13-15 January **International Advances in Pesticide Application**  
The School of Agriculture, Universitat Politècnica De Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain (Pesticide Application Group)
- 9-10 February **Wheat – genetic improvement of end use quality**  
Rothamsted Research, Harpenden, UK (PP&CI Group)
- 5-9 September **ESA14 - European Society of Agronomy Conference 2016**  
Edinburgh, Scotland
- 7-9 September **International Advances in Plant Virology**  
University of Greenwich, Greenwich, UK (Virology Group)



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