



AAB President: Professor Bill Davies



ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
& FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR 2015**

**NOTICE OF
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

9 September 2016

THE ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

(Registered Charity No. 275655)

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at at George Square Lecture Theatre (George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LJ) at 12:30 on Friday 9 September 2016. The draft minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in 2015 are attached together with the Report of the Trustees, Financial Statements and a list of new members of the Association elected in 2015.

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/2015%20%20annual%20report%20non%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 8th September 2015**; Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire
Are these approved as a correct record of the meeting?
Any required amendments noted.
- 2) **Trustees Report of Activity 2015**
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 2015?
- 3) **Financial Report 2015**
Presentation of report
Questions and discussion by members
Is the full financial report for the Association in 2015 presented by Trustees after audit by Cleres of Birmingham accepted for publication?
- 4) **Appointment of Auditors for 2017**
Council propose the appointment of Cleres of Birmingham as auditors for 2017.
Questions and discussion by members
- 5) **Membership fees**
Council is proposing the following membership fees for 2017. This represents no change for any membership category.
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 (Blackwells); is this proposal approved?
The resulting annual charges for 2017 are:
Print only: £75
On-line only: £60 including VAT
Print and on-line: £97 including VAT
Questions and discussion by members

7) **Honorary Officers**

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

Publications Officer- Dr Roy Kennedy (current term (1st) expires at end of 2016) to serve 2nd term 2017–2019

Meetings' Treasurer – Dr Richard Glass (current term (1st) expires at end of 2016) to serve 2nd term 2017–2019

Accept Council nomination Yes / No

The following individuals are nominated by Council to serve:

President-Elect – Dr. Stuart Knight to serve in this role 2017–2018 then as President of the Association 2019–2020

Stuart Knight is the Deputy Director of NIAB, with a particular focus on the Group's science. He has 25 years of experience as a research agronomist, and has worked in university, institute and independent RTO environments, at the interface between research and practice. His interests cover most aspects of combinable crop agronomy, and the impact of farming systems and practices on the economic and environmental performance of farms. Stuart was heavily involved in establishing and organising the first two AAB 'Crop Protection in Southern Britain' conferences in 2007 and 2009, and he believes that AAB workshops, conferences and journals play a vital role in bringing together academia and industry, promoting applied research and achieving knowledge exchange through an accessible format and a spirit of inclusiveness. Stuart's ambition for the Association is to encourage, inspire and connect the next generations of applied biologists wherever they work, to ensure that sound, practical science remains at the heart of our future food, energy and environment.

Accept Council nomination Yes / No

Are there any other nominations from members?

Honorary Treasurer -

We are actively seeking a new Honorary Treasurer to replace Mr Mike May but there is no candidate yet to formally nominate at this AGM for appointment from January 2017.

Council are therefore asking the permission of members to appoint an appropriate candidate on a temporary basis ideally to start in January 2017 – with full appointment at next AGM

Accept Council nomination Yes / No

Are there any other nominations from members?

Other Honorary Officers for 2017, to note:

President – Prof Christine Watson (presidential term ends at end of 2018)

General Secretary - Dr Elizabeth Stockdale (**FINAL** term (3rd) expires at end of 2017)

Programme Secretary - Prof Nigel Halford (serving final term 2016–2018)

Conveners of specialist groups for 2017; to note:

Applied Mycology and Bacteriology - Dr T Pettitt

Biological Control and IPM - Prof. T Bruce

Cropping and the Environment - Dr R Carlton

Food Systems - Dr W Russell

Nematology - Dr M Back

Pesticide Application - Dr P Miller

Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement - Dr M F B Dale

Virology - Dr M. Gowda

8) **Proposal to form a new Specialist Group ... Soil Biology**

Council has considered a proposal from a group of members to form a new Specialist Group and has approved this proposal to be forwarded to the AGM:

Background

Soil biology remains one of the great underexplored frontiers in science. It's an astonishing biodiversity phenomenon in itself but also offers one of our best opportunities to improve environmental management. Soil biology is key in nearly all areas relating to crop and grassland productivity, due to the processes of decomposition of organic matter and nutrient cycling. Soil-borne pathogens can cause yield losses, while beneficial organisms can promote plant growth or suppress disease. However, there is a lack of tools and guidance available on managing the biological component of soil. Interest in soil health has increased in recent years and a range of indicators for soil quality, including biological indicators, have been researched and assessed, although these have not been widely taken up by growers or farmers, or their advisers. Soil biology and health is also important in semi-natural systems and in restored soils (such as in urban areas). Despite their ecological importance, there is little known about the soil communities which carry out the essential ecosystem functions upon which so much relies. Taxonomic expertise is scarce and scattered, and there is no current formal support to coordinate the development of expertise through mentoring and mutual support. A lack of taxonomic understanding has led to this vitally important ecological group being largely ignored in attempts to conserve biodiversity, as well as in other land management. The way that we engage with soil life would benefit from a coordinated approach which would help to make best use of scarce resources, and encourage exchange of knowledge and information.

Currently within the UK research community, there is considerable expertise in soil biology including specialists who would otherwise call themselves soil scientists, ecologists, taxonomists, agronomists, microbiologists, entomologists and even farmers. While other organisations are focussed on one or two aspects of the soil ecological system, there is no organisation in the UK currently providing a platform for broad discussions on issues at the forefront of the agenda for soil biology and health such as suppressiveness of soils to disease, soil function and health, resilience to climate change. Over the next 5 years, there will be a funded AHDB research partnership on soil biology and health and there are on-going soil biology-related programmes funded by NERC and BBSRC, together with EC H2020-funded projects in this area such as SOILCARE. Consequently many of the discipline-based groups within the AAB have already organised meetings and have members that reflect the importance of soil biology within plant-soil systems e.g. Improving Soil Health - Developing tools for land managers (April 2015); International Symposium of Biofumigation (September 2014); Nematodes as Environmental Bioindicators (July 2012). Furthermore, recent advances in genetic and other biochemical techniques now provide new ways to explore and characterise soil communities, and are beginning to reveal the true complexity, and functional importance, of soil communities. This includes work by major European projects such as ECOFINDERS and through emerging funded research projects such as BioInvent, SoilForEurope and SoilMan.

Proposal

In September 2014, Matthew Shepherd (Natural England) organised a soil biodiversity meeting at RAU, Cirencester as a follow-up to a meeting held at the Natural History Museum in 2012. Over 50 people attended each of these one-day meetings. As a result of further discussions at these events, the establishment of a soil biology network, community or society was agreed as a key action to take forward. A Facebook-mediated discussion group has been established, but it is now considered timely to ask whether a Soil Biology group could be established as a separate specialist group within AAB as its aims fit well with those of the AAB. **It is therefore proposed that a new topic-focussed Group be established on "Soil Biology"** as we anticipate that this topic area is likely to provide a new audience for conferences and that increased focus in this area might well increase support for the Association's activities and membership.

Proposed initial Group committee members

Felicity Crotty (GWCT)

Phil Murray (RRes North Wyke)

Matthew Shepherd (Natural England)

If this proposal is confirmed by the AGM, then this group would work with the CATE group to organise a meeting in spring 2017, Advances in Soil Biology, perhaps with a focus on measurement and monitoring on-farm; there may be research project sponsorship for such a meeting.

9) **Update to AAB strategic plan**

At the start of her Presidential Term, Christine Watson will set her strategic priorities for the Association within its charitable framework, she is seeking input from members with their ideas/ priorities/ concerns to guide that process. Hence taking into account that 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.

Members may wish to comment on the following

- Is the current group-based structure supported by Council fit for purpose?
- Are there any areas missing; should more specialist groups be developed?
- How can the Association increase engagement with agri-business and industry?
- How can the Association improve the representation of young scientist in decision making? Should there be a formally recognised role as a student member on Council? If so, should this person have trustee status?
- How should the Association engage with other Societies and groups, especially those operating to deliver very similar charitable objectives? Are there organisations we should consider working much more closely with? How much should we seek to maintain a distinct and separate role?

10) **Communication to members**

At its July meeting Council discussed new approaches to communication / newsletters for members. The proposal is that from 2017 there will be more regular short updates (monthly) being sent out by Email; hence communication of meeting reports will be sent out more quickly and more regularly to members.

Is this approach appropriate? Can members see any issues that might arise / have any concerns about moving to this approach to communication

11) **Any other issues raised by members for discussion**

ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

Reg. Charity No. 275655

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8th September 2015 at Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire TF10 8NB

The AAB Annual report for 2014 had been provided to all members before the AGM.

The meeting started at 13.35

31 members were in attendance; 10 apologies from members had been received before the meeting with 5 sets of proxy votes.

Welcome

The President, Professor Bill Davies, welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for attending. He reminded members of the importance of the AGM in providing an opportunity for members to review and approve the direction of the Association and highlighted the role of the AGM in providing an opportunity for individual members to directly influence the strategy and operation of the AAB.

Minutes of the 2013 AGM held on 11th September 2014

The minutes of the 2013 AGM were received and approved as a correct record of the meeting.

Professor Davies signed the minutes; these form part of the Annual Report to the Charity Commission.

Trustees' Report of Activity 2014

The President thanked members for their attention in reading the Trustee's Report which summarised the range of activity carried out by the AAB during 2014. He thanked Professor Peter Shewry, who had been President during 2014 and also thanked all those who had made the Centenary year of the Annals of Applied Biology a worthy celebration of the study of applied biology over the last century, as well as providing an opportunity to focus on the challenges and opportunities facing applied biology in the next century.

The Reports from the Specialist groups had been provided to members; many of the conveners were present.

No questions were raised by members,

Prof. Simon Leather 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 2014. The proposal was seconded by Dr. Simon Cooper. The proposal was accepted unanimously by the meeting.

Financial Report 2014

The Honorary Treasurer had unfortunately had to send his apologies to the AGM. The financial report was therefore presented by Treasurer's nominee, Mrs Karen Byrd.

It was noted that the report had been provided to all members in advance to allow for careful scrutiny and also that the report has been audited and approved by Clere's of Birmingham.

The following points were highlighted for the attention of the AGM:

- The income from investments continues to respond positively to the upturn in global markets, although at a slower rate than in 2013.
- Investment of the Association in the new open-access journal (Food and Energy Security) continued in partnership with Wiley through 2014 with a total investment of £11,731 in this financial year.
- The overall position for 2014 was a net increase in funds of £35,765 despite the budgeted deficit (£15k). However, this was a result of some one-off payments and is not expect to be repeated in the performance of the AAB in 2015.

There were no questions from the floor about the Financial Report or about the financial affairs of the Association.

Dr Jon Pickup proposed that the full financial report for the Association in 2014 presented by Trustees after audit by Clere's of Birmingham be approved and published. The proposal was seconded by Dr. Simon Alexander. The proposal was accepted unanimously by the meeting.

Appointment of Auditors for 2016

Karen Byrd brought the proposal on behalf of Council that Clere's of Birmingham be appointed as auditors for 2016.

The proposal was accepted unanimously by the meeting.

Membership fees

Karen Byrd brought the proposal for membership fees in 2016 on behalf of Council. 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

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

Subscription for Annals of Applied Biology

Karen Bird 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 (Wiley).

The resulting annual charges for 2016 are:

Print only: £77.91`

On-line only: £67.24 (Overseas £56.04)

Print and on-line: £103.97 (Overseas £98.82)

The proposal was accepted unanimously by the meeting.

Election and confirmation of Honorary Officers

Prof Bill Davies indicated that Prof. Nigel Halford was nominated by Council to serve a second term as Programme Secretary 2016-2018 (current term (1st) expires at end of 2015) to serve

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 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 – Dr Richard Glass (current term (1st) expires at end of 2016)

Professor Bill Davies highlighted the importance of the role of conveners in bringing together the work of the specialist groups, together with the group committees. He thanked the conveners now in place for 2016 and noted the opportunity for members to take on these roles – as two of the specialist groups (Applied Mycology and Bacteriology, Food Systems) currently had a vacancy for a convener.

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 - Mr S E Cooper

Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement - Dr M F B Dale

Virology - Dr M. Gowda

Members' discussion

In advance of the AGM, Council had asked member to consider whether the AAB structures are fit for purpose.

In particular:

- 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.

Professor Bill Davies introduced the topic and highlighted how member's discussion at last year's AGM had led to a Knowledge Exchange meeting on Issues facing the Food Supply Chain at Lancaster in June 2015. He also highlighted the increasing strong links between the conferences, journals and engagement work of the AAB. A range of multi-media approaches were being trialled alongside conferences provide opportunities to share the issues and key points raised. There is a Task and Finish group currently being set up by Council to develop and review these approaches further – members were encourage to approach Nigel Halford if they would like to join that group.

A number of members spoke from the floor to highlight the importance of the Aspects of Applied Biology series as an output of conferences. While members support the development of other approaches to dissemination, they asked that Council continue to promote and develop the role of Aspects as a route for publication of exploratory results for discussion, dissemination of short student experiments – including those showing no / limited effects of treatments/ management approaches. Agronomists and advisors also confirmed the role of Aspects as a route for rapid dissemination of data and identification of possible research partners for the industry and hence suggested that AAB should increase investment in Aspects as a route for increasing research impact.

Professor Bill Davies thanked members for their advice, reminded them to get involved in the work of the Task and Finish group and confirmed that Council would explore and review all possibilities with the aim of increasing the range of benefits for members and the wider public arising from the activities of the AAB.

Any other issues raised by members for discussion

Members asked to formally record their thanks to the Trustees and to the AAB office for their work on behalf of the Association in 2014.

The meeting closed at 14.10.

Approved as a true record _____ **Date** _____

Charity registration number: 275655

The Association of Applied Biologists

Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 December 2015

The Association of Applied Biologists

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

Statement of financial activities per fund	20 to 27
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The Association of Applied Biologists
Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name	The Association of Applied Biologists	
Charity registration number	275655	
Principal office	AAB Office Warwick Enterprise Park Wellesbourne Warwickshire CV35 9EF	
Registered office	AAB Office Warwick Enterprise Park Wellesbourne Warwickshire CV35 9EF	
Trustees	Dr. E A Stockdale, General Secretary Dr. C R Glass, Conferences Treasurer Prof. N G Halford, Programme Secretary Dr. S A Macfarlane, Virology (resigned 31 March 2015) Mr. T Bruce, Biological Control Prof W Davies, President Dr R Carlton, Cropping and the Environment Dr M Finlay Dale, Plant Physiology and Crop Improvements Dr. R Kennedy, Publications Officer Mr. M May, General Treasurer Dr. M Back, Nematology Prof. P Miller, Pesticide Application 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 & Virology (resigned 6 July 2015) Mr T Pettitt, Applied Mycology and Bacteriology (appointed 1 June 2016)	

The Association of Applied Biologists
Reference and Administrative Details

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

The Association of Applied Biologists
Trustees' Report for the year ended 31st December 2015

The Association of Applied Biologists

Report of the Trustees

for the Year Ended 31 December 2015

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2015. 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.

The Association of Applied Biologists
Trustees' Report for the year ended 31st December 2015

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.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

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.

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 continued to improve in comparison to recent years, but now contains a large element of uncertainty. The societies' investments have been slow to grow but still produced a small usable income. 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 third full year of publication of the Food and Energy Security Journal (FESJ), has resulted in an operating deficit of £31,714 (before investment gains/losses) and compares against a budgeted deficit of £25,826. The budget took into account a smaller conference programme than normal and a trial of video recording of conferences. Publications continue to be a major income stream with income received for The Plant Biotechnology Journal delivering £34,640 against £24,719 for 2014. Income received for Annals (£62,951 compared to £72,229 for 2014) is in line with that budgeted (£63,330). The investment required in FSEJ (£8,542) was lower than budgeted (£11,187) and lower than in 2014 (£14,262). Work is still 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 (£93,289) have now returned to their pre-2014 levels as the change in the timing of payments from our publisher have become embedded. The meetings programme generated a loss of £44,579 against a budgeted loss of £23,487, mainly as a result of low attendance at one main conference and consequent room fees. Sponsorship and donations (£16,105) were considerably higher than budgeted (£2,790), mostly as a result of generous support for the conferences that took place in 2015.

The Association of Applied Biologists
Trustees' Report for the year ended 31st December 2015

The investment portfolio produced a small reduction of £6,204 compared to gain of £10,727 in 2014, largely due to the need to drawdown funds to cover cash flows and fund trials of conference videos.

Balance sheet

The Association's assets have decreased by £34,004 over the past year. The value of cash and investments has decreased during the year from £483,965 to £449,961 as a result of the activities mentioned above. The net current assets are increased by £27,036 compared to last year at a positive value of £73,861. 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 stability to the investment portfolio value.

Future Developments

2016

The forecast for 2016 predicts a small operating profit at £4,148.

Forecast of Expenditure for 2016

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 is not expected to generate income within the next few years but should start to repay the investment after that.

Proposed Membership Fees for 2017

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 two years but it is proposed that membership is now raised. The Council proposes fees for 2017 remain at £60 for the Ordinary membership, £20 for Student members and £30 for Retired membership. The discounts of £3 for Ordinary and £1.50 for Student and Retired members will be retained for those who pay by direct debit and, providing the subscription is received before the start of the year to which it applies, for those who pay by cash, cheque or credit or debit card.

Proposed members' subscription rates for 'Annals' for 2017

The Council proposes that the members' subscriptions for 2017 are increased to £75 for the printed version, £60 (including VAT) for the online only version and £97 (including VAT) for the combined print and online subscription.

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 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

The Association of Applied Biologists
Trustees' Report for the year ended 31st December 2015

- 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').

Reserves Policy

To respond to the need for long-term financial stability we have approved a reserves policy which is set out here. A core purpose of the Association is to promote the study and advancement of Applied Biology. This obligation brings with it the need to ensure that the charity has sufficient funds over the short to medium term to continue to operate. To achieve this, the Association must achieve a sufficient positive annual operating contribution, or have sufficient reserves to call upon, to continue operations. The main features of the Association's reserves policy are as follows:

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

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

Investment Policy and Performance

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

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

Prof. Bill Davies - Trustee

2016

**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 2015, 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 Act
 have 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
Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2015**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2015	Total Funds 2014
Note	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Investment income	2	9,335	-	9,335
Incoming resources from charitable activities	3	222,959	-	222,959
Governance		-	-	-
Other incoming resources	4	108	-	108
Total incoming resources		<u>232,402</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>328,512</u>
Resources expended				
Charitable activities	5	170,653	310	170,963
Governance costs	8	93,289	-	93,289
Total resources expended		<u>263,942</u>	<u>310</u>	<u>303,474</u>
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		(31,540)	(310)	(31,850)
Transfers				
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before other recognised gains and losses		(31,540)	(310)	(31,850)
Other recognised gains/losses				
(Losses)/gains on revaluation of fixed assets for charity's own use		(2,154)	-	(2,154)
Gains on investment assets		-	-	10,727
Net movements in funds		(33,694)	(310)	(34,004)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		463,798	20,167	483,965
Total funds carried forward		<u>430,104</u>	<u>19,857</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
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2015

		2015		2014	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		1,270		2,034
Investments	13		374,830		381,034
			<u>376,100</u>		<u>383,068</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	14	119,641		83,284	
Cash at bank and in hand		73,827		94,710	
		<u>193,468</u>		<u>177,994</u>	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year					
	15	<u>(119,607)</u>		<u>(77,097)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>73,861</u>		<u>100,897</u>
Net assets			<u>449,961</u>		<u>483,965</u>
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted funds					
			19,857		20,167
Unrestricted funds					
Revaluation reserve		(2,154)		-	
Unrestricted income funds		<u>432,258</u>		<u>463,798</u>	
Total unrestricted funds			<u>430,104</u>		<u>463,798</u>
Total charity funds			<u>449,961</u>		<u>483,965</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

Approved by the Board on and signed on its behalf by:

.....

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

The Association of Applied Biologists
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2015

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets, and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005)', issued in March 2005, the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015) 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 2015

..... 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

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2014 £
Income from listed investments	9,335	-	9,335	9,388

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2015

..... continued

3 Incoming resources from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2014 £
Conferences				
Appeals and donations	16,105	-	16,105	42,632
Income	84,592	-	84,592	149,805
	<u>100,697</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>100,697</u>	<u>192,437</u>
Publications				
Income	92,569	-	92,569	96,928
Membership Fees				
Income	29,693	-	29,693	29,402
	<u>222,959</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>222,959</u>	<u>318,767</u>

4 Other incoming resources

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2014 £
Other income				
Appeals and donations	108	-	108	357

5 Details of charitable activities

	Activities undertaken directly £	Grant funding of activities £	2015 £	2014 £
Conferences	148,343	6,747	155,090	203,965
Publications	451	-	451	9,631
Membership Fees	15,422	-	15,422	16,068
	<u>164,216</u>	<u>6,747</u>	<u>170,963</u>	<u>229,664</u>

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2015

..... continued

6 Grantmaking

	Grants to institutions £	Grants to individuals £
Conferences	6,437	310

The support costs associated with grant making are £0.

7 Grants to institutions

Name of Institution	Activity	£
Grants payable - institutions	Conferences	6,437

8 Governance costs

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2014 £
Employment costs	40,362	-	40,362	27,966
Establishment costs	12,751	-	12,751	15,448
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,245	-	1,245	2,327
Costs of obtaining investment advice	3,792	-	3,792	4,799
Communication Costs	8,372	-	8,372	4,745
Management Expenses	11,593	-	11,593	9,098
Miscellaneous Expenses	7,219	-	7,219	6,453
Overheads Recharged	(3,115)	-	(3,115)	(7,283)
Advertising and promotion	7,042	-	7,042	6,230
Auditors' remuneration	2,875	-	2,875	2,875
Legal and professional costs	1,153	-	1,153	1,152
	<u>93,289</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>93,289</u>	<u>73,810</u>

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 £4,876 (2014 £3,432).

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2015

..... continued

10 Net (outgoing)/incoming resources

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

	2015 £	2014 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,245	2,327

11 Employees' remuneration

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

	2015 No.	2014 No.
Charitable activities	4	4
Governance	1	1
	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

The aggregate payroll costs of these persons were as follows:

	2015 £	2014 £
Wages and salaries	119,934	110,854
Other pension costs	10,269	3,393
	<u>130,203</u>	<u>114,247</u>

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2015

..... continued

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £
Cost or Valuation	
As at 1 January 2015	58,848
Additions	481
As at 31 December 2015	<u>59,329</u>
Depreciation	
As at 1 January 2015	56,814
Charge for the year	1,245
As at 31 December 2015	<u>58,059</u>
Net book value	
As at 31 December 2015	<u>1,270</u>
As at 31 December 2014	<u>2,034</u>

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2015

..... continued

13 Investments held as fixed assets

	Listed investments £
Market value	
As at 1 January 2015	381,034
Revaluation	(2,154)
Additions	52,810
Disposals	(56,860)
As at 31 December 2015	<u>374,830</u>
Net book value	
As at 31 December 2015	<u>374,830</u>
As at 31 December 2014	<u>381,034</u>

Investment assets can be further analysed as follows:

	UK £	Overseas £
Listed investments	290,583	84,247
	<u>290,583</u>	<u>84,247</u>

14 Debtors

	2015 £	2014 £
Trade debtors	68,130	16,345
Other debtors	49,898	61,861
Prepayments and accrued income	1,613	5,078
	<u>119,641</u>	<u>83,284</u>

15 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2015 £	2014 £
Trade creditors	13,845	5,780
Taxation and social security	6,395	7,895
Other creditors	90,144	60,673
Accruals and deferred income	9,223	2,749
	<u>119,607</u>	<u>77,097</u>

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2015

..... 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 £10,269 (2014 - £3,393).

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 2015

..... continued

17 Related parties

Controlling entity

The charity is controlled by the trustees.

18 Analysis of funds

	At 1 January 2015	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Other recognised gains/losses	At 31 December 2015
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds						
General Fund	463,798	9,443	(86,554)	45,571	(2,154)	430,104
Publications	-	92,569	(451)	(92,118)	-	-
Conferences	-	100,697	(154,780)	54,083	-	-
Membership	-	29,693	(15,422)	(14,271)	-	-
Investment in New Journal	-	-	-	-	-	-
Promotional Expenditure	-	-	(6,735)	6,735	-	-
	<u>463,798</u>	<u>232,402</u>	<u>(263,942)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,154)</u>	<u>430,104</u>
Restricted Funds						
Visting Overseas Lecturers	6,084	-	-	-	-	6,084
GraduateResearch Students	14,083	-	(310)	-	-	13,773
	<u>20,167</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(310)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,857</u>
	<u>483,965</u>	<u>232,402</u>	<u>(264,252)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,154)</u>	<u>449,961</u>

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2015

..... continued

19 Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2015	Total Funds 2014
	£	£	£	£
Tangible assets	1,270	-	1,270	2,034
Investments	374,830	-	374,830	381,034
Current assets	185,902	19,857	193,468	177,994
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(131,898)	-	(119,607)	(77,097)
Net assets	<u>430,104</u>	<u>19,857</u>	<u>449,961</u>	<u>483,965</u>

The Association of Applied Biologists

Statement of financial activities by fund Year Ended 31 December 2015

	General Fund 2015	General Fund 2014
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Investment income	9,335	9,388
Governance	-	-
Other incoming resources	108	357
Total incoming resources	<u>9,443</u>	<u>9,745</u>
Resources expended		
Governance costs	86,554	67,580
Total resources expended	<u>86,554</u>	<u>67,580</u>
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers	(77,111)	(57,835)
Transfers		
Gross transfers between funds	<u>45,571</u>	<u>83,826</u>
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before other recognised gains and losses	(31,540)	25,991
Other recognised gains/losses		
(Losses)/gains on revaluation of fixed assets for charity's own use	(2,154)	-
Gains on investment assets	-	10,727
Net movements in funds	(33,694)	36,718
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	463,798	427,080
Total funds carried forward	<u>430,104</u>	<u>463,798</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 2015

..... continued

	Publications 2015	Publications 2014
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Incoming resources from charitable activities	92,569	96,928
Total incoming resources	<u>92,569</u>	<u>96,928</u>
Resources expended		
Charitable activities	451	9,631
Total resources expended	<u>451</u>	<u>9,631</u>
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers	92,118	87,297
Transfers		
Gross transfers between funds	<u>(92,118)</u>	<u>(87,297)</u>
Net movements in funds	-	-
Reconciliation of funds		
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 2015

..... continued

	Conferences 2015	Conferences 2014
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Incoming resources from charitable activities	100,697	192,437
Total incoming resources	<u>100,697</u>	<u>192,437</u>
Resources expended		
Charitable activities	154,780	203,011
Total resources expended	<u>154,780</u>	<u>203,011</u>
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers	(54,083)	(10,574)
Transfers		
Gross transfers between funds	<u>54,083</u>	<u>10,574</u>
Net movements in funds	-	-
Reconciliation of funds		
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 2015

..... continued

	Membership 2015	Membership 2014
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Incoming resources from charitable activities	29,693	29,402
Total incoming resources	<u>29,693</u>	<u>29,402</u>
Resources expended		
Charitable activities	15,422	16,068
Total resources expended	<u>15,422</u>	<u>16,068</u>
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers	14,271	13,334
Transfers		
Gross transfers between funds	<u>(14,271)</u>	<u>(13,333)</u>
Net movements in funds	-	1
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	-	(1)
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 2015

..... continued

	Investment in New Journal 2015	Investment in New Journal 2014
	£	£
Net movements in funds	-	-
Reconciliation of funds		
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 2015

..... continued

	Promotional Expenditure 2015	Promotional Expenditure 2014
	£	£
Resources expended		
Governance costs	6,735	6,230
Total resources expended	<u>6,735</u>	<u>6,230</u>
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers	(6,735)	(6,230)
Transfers		
Gross transfers between funds	<u>6,735</u>	<u>6,230</u>
Net movements in funds	-	-
Reconciliation of funds		
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 2015

..... continued

	Visting Overseas Lecturers 2015	Visting Overseas Lecturers 2014
	£	£
Net movements in funds	-	-
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	6,084	6,084
Total funds carried forward	<u>6,084</u>	<u>6,084</u>

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

The Association of Applied Biologists

Statement of financial activities by fund Year Ended 31 December 2015

..... continued

	Graduate Research Students 2015	Graduate Research Students 2014
	£	£
Resources expended		
Charitable activities	310	954
Total resources expended	310	954
Net movements in funds	(310)	(954)
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	14,083	15,037
Total funds carried forward	13,773	14,083

Income & Expenditure

The global financial situation continued to improve in comparison to recent years, but now contains a large element of uncertainty. The societies' investments have been slow to grow but still produced a small usable income. 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 third full year of publication of the Food and Energy Security Journal (FESJ), has resulted in an operating deficit of £31,714 (before investment gains/losses) and compares against a budgeted deficit of £25,826. The budget took into account a smaller conference programme than normal and a trial of video recording of conferences. Publications continue to be a major income stream with income received for The Plant Biotechnology Journal delivering £34,640 against £24,719 for 2014. Income received for Annals (£62,951 compared to £72,229 for 2014) is in line with that budgeted (£63,330). The investment required in FSEJ (£8,542) was lower than budgeted (£11,187) and lower than in 2014 (£14,262). Work is still 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 (£93,289) have now returned to their pre-2014 levels as the change in the timing of payments from our publisher have become embedded. The meetings programme generated a loss of £44,579 against a budgeted loss of £23,487, mainly as a result of low attendance at one main conference and consequent room fees. Sponsorship and donations (£16,105) were considerably higher than budgeted (£2,790), mostly as a result of generous support for the conferences that took place in 2015.

The investment portfolio produced a small reduction of £6,204 compared to gain of £10,727 in 2014, largely due to the need to drawdown funds to cover cash flows and fund trials of conference videos.

Balance sheet

The Association's assets have decreased by £34,004 over the past year. The value of cash and investments has decreased during the year from £483,965 to £449,961 as a result of the activities mentioned above. The net current assets are increased by £27,036 compared to last year at a positive value of £73,861. 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 stability to the investment portfolio value.

2016

The forecast for 2016 predicts a small operating profit at £4,148.

Forecast of Expenditure for 2016

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 is not expected to generate income within the next few years but should start to repay the investment after that.

Proposed Membership Fees for 2017

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 two years but it is proposed that membership is now raised. The Council proposes fees for 2017 remain at £60 for the Ordinary membership, £20 for Student members and £30 for Retired membership. The discounts of £3 for Ordinary and £1.50 for Student and Retired members will be retained for those who pay by direct debit and, providing the subscription is received before the start of the year to which it applies, for those who pay by cash, cheque or credit or debit card.

Proposed members' subscription rates for 'Annals' for 2017

The Council proposes that the members' subscriptions for 2017 are increased to £75 for the printed version, £60 (including VAT) for the online only version and £97 (including VAT) for the combined print and online subscription.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

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

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

Risk Management

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

Reserves Policy

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

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

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

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

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

Investment Policy and Performance

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



During 2015-16, the Association continued with its active programme of meetings. Of note was a meeting on 'Pesticide Application', which was held in Spain and attracted a higher-than-expected number of delegates, clearly just what we need in times when meeting attendance often seems to be down on our expectations. Some of attendees in Spain were new participants to AAB meetings and quite a large number of students also attended. We held another in what has been a successful series of 'Wheat' meetings, this one focussed on End Use Quality. A meeting at Sutton Bonington focussing on new opportunities for applied biologists - Novel Sensors for Detecting Abiotic and Biotic Stresses, was very well received by delegates.

A strong programme of conferences is planned for 2016-7 with AAB's heavy involvement in the 14th Congress of the European Society for Agronomy prominent in our minds. This meeting to be held in Edinburgh in September is an important opportunity for AAB which has acted as the host organiser. Our Vice President, Christine Watson, is the Congress President and with Elizabeth Stockdale, Christine has devoted a considerable amount of time and energy to the project and I am certain that this will ensure that the meeting will be great success. In addition to the Congress, we have a full programme of meetings planned for late 2016 and 2017 and an interesting set of proposals for 2018. The Council has worked hard to develop the suite of benefits available to members and given considerable thought to the future developments that will further develop our position as one of Europe's leading Associations / Societies catering for the interests of applied biologists. Among opportunities under consideration is the use of different kinds of media and on line platforms to promote our activities and raise the profile of applied biology in a broad range of arenas. Through its meetings, its activities with other societies in UK and beyond and through its publishing organs, I am keen that AAB should play an influential role in debates over issues such as the future shape of agriculture and the nature of land use in the UK. We should also have views on the nature of our future food system and the role that applied biologists can play in helping to deliver food and energy security without further threat to our landscape and the many valuable services that agriculture can deliver. I believe that we should work (often through our specialist groups) to promote the views of our members in continuing policy debates. Solidifying our links with businesses in the food supply chain could be another distinctive feature of the Association for the future.

To fully exploit the opportunities that are open to the Association, the Council has looked hard at work loads in the office and at our breadth and depth of administrative expertise. We are making proposals for staff appointments which we hope will increase our effectiveness as an Association. Further we have invested in a new event management system which should help the staff with a variety of procedures in the office.

Our Journals continue to make good progress with good news on Impact Factors for The Annals of Applied Biology and Plant Biotechnology Journal. These journals continue to contribute significantly to the income of the Association. Food and Energy Security, our online journal which we run in collaboration with Wiley is on course to establish a strong position in a highly competitive field. Individual issues of the journal are being produced on a regular basis and we expect to be awarded our first impact factor in 2017. Our thanks go to the editors of the three journals and to their editorial staff who have worked hard during the last year to ensure the success of these endeavours, which are so important to the financial stability of the Association..

I am happy to report that I believe the Association to be in a good position to address future challenges, with an active incoming President and an enthusiastic Council.

It only remains for me to thank my colleagues on Council, and Carol Millman and her colleagues in the AAB office, for excellent support over the last year. As I write, I am aware that Mike May, the General Treasurer will be standing down from office and Elizabeth Stockdale our general Secretary has reached the end of her second term in office and therefore must also stand down. Both have worked exceptionally hard for the Association and have our grateful thanks for their massive contributions. Russell Millman and Sandy Hey have resigned from our admin team and we are grateful to them for their hard work over the years.

Bill Davies
Lancaster August 2016

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

MEMBERSHIP

A total of 110 new members of the Association were elected by Council during the year (see Appendix). The total of fully paid-up members and Honorary members on 31st December 2015 was 710 – 68 less than the year before. The number of Honorary members at the end of the year was 14, 15 being the maximum permissible under the Laws.

Student Travel Grants Awarded during 2015

Name	Conference	Award
Moritz Reckling	Valuing long-term sites and experiments for agriculture and ecology	£200.00
Jamie Orr	4th Symposium of Potato Cyst Nematode Management (including other nematode parasites of potatoes)	£110.50
<i>Total Student Travel Grants awarded 2014</i>		£210.50

PUBLICATIONS

The publications of Association of Applied Biology represent a major part of the core activity of the Association. Both the established Journals, the Annals of Applied Biology and Plant Biotechnology Journal continued to make good progress in 2015. Both journals contributed significantly to the income of the Association. Annals has seen an increase in the number of submitted manuscripts and an increase in its impact factor. These metrics reflect on the journals standing within the research community. Food and Energy Security, (published by Wiley) our online journal is well positioned to obtain an impact factor and establish its contribution in this new academic area. At the time of writing three more issues were required for Food and Energy Security to qualify for the designation of an impact factor. However the Journal has been accepted for inclusion in Scopus and is also listed by Web of Science. Association members benefit from a reduced fee for publication in this journal.

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 968, comprising 80 papers (82 in 2014). The number of papers submitted in 2015 is holding steady at 396, against 404 submitted in 2014. The most accessed and cited article from 2015 was a review entitled: Nitrogen losses from the soil/plant system: a review by Cameron, Di & Moir (Volume 162, pp. 145-173), which was accessed 2,112 times, and cited 53 times. The impact factor for 2015 increased to 2.103 (2.0 in 2014). The journal stands at 5th of 57 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 2015 the journal published 9 issues, totalling 1359 pages (123 articles). The impact factor also increased to over 6 in 2015 to 6.09 (5.752 in 2014). The journal currently stands at 11th of 209 in the Plant Sciences area and 13th of 161 in the Biotechnology & Microbiology area.

Food and Energy Security

The Association, along with Wiley-Blackwell, launched its new online-only journal, Food and Energy Security in 2012. In 2015 the journal published 3 issues, totalling 252 pages (15 articles), an increase from 2014 (2 issues, 10 articles and 110 pages). In 2015, there were nearly 35,000 article downloads, (28,946 in 2014). The most downloaded article by was Du et al. entitled: China's food security is threatened by the unsustainable use of water resources in North and Northwest China which had been accessed 2,395 times in 2015. By the end of 2015, 200 individuals were registered to receive automatic alerts from Wiley when new content appears on

Wiley Online Library. For a limited period, AAB Members are able to publish in Food and Energy Security for a publication fee of £500 (previously £1200). In 2015 the Editorial Board increased its handling editors to 26.

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

Due to staff shortages, only one issue of the Newsletter was published in 2015. 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 527 delegates attended the conferences in 2015 compared to 891 in 2014 and 685 in 2013, and the average number of paying delegates was 40 compared with 62 in 2014 and 62 in 2013. Details of the full scientific conference programme for 2015 are given below:

Title of Conference	Group	Date	No. delegates
Improving Soil Health - Developing tools for land managers	Cropping & The Environment	31 Mar – 1 Apr	48
Advances in Plant Virology 2015	Virology	31 Mar – 2 Apr	48
Valuing long-term sites and experiments for agriculture and ecology	Cropping & The Environment	27-28 May	55
Knowledge exchange: from research to the food supply chain (Some successes and some opportunities)	Plant Physiology & Crop Improvement	17-19 Jun	51
Getting the Most Out of Cover Crops	Cropping & The Environment	24-25 Jun	39
4th Symposium of Potato Cyst Nematode Management (including other nematode parasites of potatoes)	Nematology	7-8 Sep	66
Selectivity by application (how do you target by application)	Nematology	8 Sept	12
Dealing with combined stresses for crops: approaches to improve water and nutrient use efficiency in cropping systems	Cropping & The Environment	21-22 Sep	22
Biomass and Energy Crops V	Cropping & The Environment	20-22 Oct	57
IPM The Ten Year Plan	Biocontrol	18-19 November	71
Advances in Nematology	Nematology	15 December	58
		TOTAL	527

AAB SPECIALIST GROUP REPORTS

Applied Mycology & Bacteriology

Convener: Tim Pettitt

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

The applied mycology & bacteriology held no conferences in 2015, and no group meetings. A new convener has been appointed and the group will be putting forward some proposals for conferences in 2017/18.

Biological Control & Integrated Pest Management

Convener: Toby Bruce

Group members – Dave Chandler, Rosemary Collier, Rob Jacobson, Phil Morley, Dick Shaw, Paul Sopp, Phil Walker, Keith Walters and Xiaming Xi

The Biocontrol & IPM group held a group meeting in November 2015, and organised the IPM: The 10 year plan at the Wyndham Garden Grantham Hotel on 18-19 November 2015, which attracted 71 delegates. This event has become a favourite with the UK's IPM community and is always well attended by a wide range of experienced researchers, practitioners, consultants and product suppliers, as well as many young scientists. The number of commercial sponsors increased from eight to ten this year, clearly illustrating the growing interest of the whole industry. The 2015 AAB conference explored factors that will both drive and constrain further advancement of this subject over the next decade taking into account policy issues, technical developments and commercial uptake by farmers and growers.

The 2015 conference incorporated the Glasshouse Crops Research Institute (GCRI) Trust's Bewley Lecture, which was celebrating 100 years of research into protected crops in the UK. These biennial lectures are named in honour of Dr William F Bewley CBE, who was Director of the Experimental Research Station at Cheshunt from 1921 to 1954 and then masterminded the establishment of GCRI at Littlehampton. Without doubt, Dr Bewley was a horticultural 'giant' whose contributions to the glasshouse industries in the UK and Channel Islands helped to shape production methods throughout the world. In keeping with Dr Bewley's objectives and achievements, the Bewley Lectures' aim to highlight important advances in horticultural / agricultural science and help steer the way forward.

GCRI was internationally famous for its seminal role in the establishment of effective biological control and integrated pest management - so the AAB's IPM Conference provided a comfortable home for the 2015 Bewley Lecture. Two highly respected IPM experts, Dr David Chandler (University of Warwick) and Dr Bill Parker (NIAB), jointly presented the Lecture and provided their visions of how pest and disease management practice may be expected to change during the next 10 years. Other invited speakers updated the delegates on EU legislation, the evolution of the UK IPM supply industry over the last 2-3 decades, and the ability of the UK research community to deliver new and novel techniques to commercial growers.

The Biocontrol & IPM conference will be held again in 2016 at the same venue on 16-17 November 2016.

Cropping and the Environment

Convener – Rob Carlton

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

The group was pleased to welcome Kate Smith as a new member during 2015. Ken Davies, a long serving member and ex-convener of CATE left the group to concentrate on enjoying retirement – we wish him well.

CATE organised five conferences during the year:

1. Improving soil health - developing tools for land managers was attended by 48 delegates. A range of measures of soil health and tools for communicating with farmers were introduced and the delegates discussed their strengths and weaknesses for practical application (IBERS, NIAB, SRUC, NRM, Earthcare). Delegates also identified a number of other tools e.g. LEAF Simply Sustainable Soils. The importance of developing farmer confidence in their own ability to use whatever tools are available was highlighted so that they could identify options for alleviation. Our keynote speaker, Professor Daniel Murphy (University of Western Australia), gave an inspiring overview of the soilquality.org.au programme in Australia which had developed an integrated

web-based tool to support the analysis and interpretation of indicators of soil chemical, physical and biological properties. There was a good range of papers that were used to build robust and engaging programme with a very practical focus. The meeting concluded with a challenge from David Blacker, one of the HGCA Monitor farmers. He introduced his farm and asked "What should I be monitoring while I try to implement practices to improve overall soil health over the next 3 years?" The delegates discussed which soil characteristics and processes they thought should be measured and how this might be done. They also identified other measures and information that should be collected.

2. Valuing long term sites and experiments for agriculture and ecology. Fifty six delegates came together for a two day meeting at the end of May 2015 in the School of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development at Newcastle University, UK. The meeting began by reflecting on the range of approaches taken in long-term studies including agronomic plot experiments, farm and ecosystem monitoring and species observation and sampling. The speakers highlighted the way in which these long-term field experiments and long-term monitoring at known sites have been essential in the development of our contemporary knowledge base informing sustainable land use and management; how these datasets have led to novel insights into the mechanisms governing change and the way in which their value has increased rather than decreased with age. A link with ESA and BES worked well and the meeting provided a great opportunity for researchers from across Europe – together with those from China and the USA – to come together and consider how long-term sites, experiments and their associated datasets can be brought together more effectively and how we can continue to maintain and develop such sites to effectively underpin policy and practice into the future to give diverse and engaged audience from across the EU.

3. Getting the most out of cover crops had a good mix of papers spanning the agronomic and environmental issues to do with cover crops. We had a successful, enjoyable meeting with 40+ delegates covering researchers, advisors and farmers. Data were presented on the functionality of different species, potential benefits for nutrient management and soil health and the optimal integration of cover crops into cropping systems. What became apparent during the meeting through a number of interesting discussion sessions was that, despite the work that has been done over the past few years, a number of important issues are still unresolved. Firstly, farmers are still very reliant on seed companies for advice on the most appropriate species or mixtures with a lack of objective data to guide choice. This is starting to be addressed through centralised databases such as the one being developed in the OSCAR project (which you can find at www.covercrops.eu) but more UK specific data are needed particularly on below ground traits. Secondly, there is real concern about the possibility of cover crops acting as a 'green bridge' for pests and diseases, particularly when brassicas are used. Finally, the best management practice is still unclear with a range of options available for establishment and, more importantly, destruction of the green cover. On this latter point, concern was expressed over the reliance on glyphosate and there is a need for alternative methods of destruction that can be incorporated into minimum tillage systems. Optimising management is going to be important going forward to make sure we get the best out of cover crops in terms of the potential to suppress weeds and build soil health. One clear message that came out of the meeting was that many of the benefits from cover crops will only become apparent in the medium to long term, particularly the building of soil organic matter, and they need to become a regular feature of cropping systems if their potential is to be fully realised.

4. Dealing with combined stresses for crops: approaches to improve water and nutrient use efficiency in cropping systems. No further information is available.

5. Biomass and energy crops V. The fifth conference in this series was organised in partnership with Rothamsted Research, LogistEC, Rokwood and SuperGen Bioenergy Hub. Aiming to cover bioenergy development from crop production through to utilisation in energy generation, the conference was held in Brussels over three days with speakers from around the world and almost 80 delegates. There were strong emphases on the importance of bioenergy in renewables, the environmental sustainability of bioenergy, the economic hurdles facing development of the industry and the adverse impact of fragmented policy in this arena. A key messages that came across were the multiple benefits of developing modern bioenergy across parts of the world where adoption of these technologies can play a part addressing a number of the UN Development Goals in addition to mitigation of climate change. The conference was recorded and videos, including many of the invited talks, can be found on YouTube by searching under videos for AAB Biomass and Energy Crops, or through the link: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxlr4zT66FpItpBYUos7LeKvBguvN7dpl>. The AAB journal Food and Energy Security is producing a special issue on this topic with contributions from a number of the speakers.

Food Systems

Convener: Wendy Russell

This group was inactive during 2015, but we have now appointed a new convener, and will be aiming to provide at least one conference in 2017.

Nematology

Convener – Matthew Back (Harper Adams University)

Group members – Steve Edgington (CABI), Ivan Grove (Harper Adams University), Rosa Manzanilla-Lopez (Private Consultant), Barbara Pembroke (University of Reading), Jon Pickup (SASA), Tom Prior (Fera), Wim Wesemael (University Ghent), Lindy Holden-Dye (University of Southampton), Grace Hoysted (University of Leeds)

The Nematology Group consists of a diverse set of representatives from government, academia, and private consultancy. We have a good connection to European nematologists through Wim Wesemael (University of Ghent). The group meets twice a year, with the AGM held at the 'Advances in Nematology' meeting in London in December. 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 Harper Adams University in October 2016.

Conferences arranged during 2015

4th Symposium of Potato Cyst Nematode Management (including other nematode parasites of potatoes),

7-8th September 2015, Harper Adams University, Shropshire – article by Matthew Back and Ivan Grove

Potatoes are the fourth most produced crop in the world with around 376.5 million tonnes recorded in 2013 (FAOSTAT, 2015). The potato cyst nematodes (PCN) have quarantine status in numerous countries worldwide due to their destructive nature and long term persistence. In the advent of diminishing pesticide options and tightening legislation, new developments in PCN management are in high demand by the industry. With this in mind the 4th Symposium of Potato Cyst Nematode Management took place at an important juncture of time, providing a fitting forum for researchers, crop managers, agronomists, plant breeders and industry representatives to meet and discuss future research. The scope of this symposium was widened to include other important nematode parasites of potatoes.

During the course of this two day event, the contributors covered a plethora of topics including cultivar resistance, biofumigation, modelling of populations and legislation. It was particularly useful to hear about the experiences of pest management in different countries, which instigated some lively, yet constructive discussions. In the afternoon of the first day, the delegates were taken to a field site at the University where a series of demonstrations took place on biofumigation, variety choice and nematicide incorporation. After the demonstration we all enjoyed a barbecue in the late summer sunshine!

During the symposium, we took time to remember Pat Haydock who founded the Nematology Group at HAU and initiated this symposium series. Prizes (Pat Haydock Award) for the best PhD student platform and poster presentation were awarded in his name. After some careful deliberation by a panel of judges, Arohi Shrivastava from the University of Hertfordshire and Jamie Orr from the James Hutton Institute were awarded prizes for the best presentation and poster respectively.

The symposium was attended by 66 delegates from a wide range of countries including the US, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Norway, India and the UK.

Advances in Nematology, 15th December 2015, London Linnean Society, Piccadilly, London – Article by Sue Hockland

Specialists from the UK, several countries in Europe, China, Israel, Japan and the USA attended the annual meeting of the AAB Nematology Group at 'The Linnean Society of London'. Several students attended, either from the UK or studying in Europe or elsewhere, which reinforced a major driving force of the meeting as a place where students are encouraged to make presentations and have discussions with the wider nematology community in a welcoming and historic atmosphere.

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 (see AAB website for more details). There followed an interesting talk from invited speaker Sara Sánchez-Moreno, from the National Institute for Agricultural and Food Research and Technology in Spain, discussing whether organic

management does improve soil health. The remainder of the session included talks by students with impressive visual presentations and a high quality of delivery, with a common theme of the biology and control of root-knot nematodes. The morning session ended with a visually splendid presentation by student Xue Qing from Gent University, on the use of three-dimensional modelling and printing as tools to enhance education and research in nematology.

The poster presenters of a wide range of subjects gained from having their own one-minute introduction after lunch, and having their posters displayed in the library all day, where lunch, tea and coffee were served. The attendance of staff from the Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley, UK, and Gerard Clover, the new Senior Editor of New Disease Reports, was particularly welcome. The afternoon session commenced with invited speaker Gareth Martin from BASF Agricultural Specialities, on the commercial development of entomopathogenic nematodes, was followed by a talk by Robbie Rae, Liverpool John Moores University, UK, on studies with nematode parasites of slugs. After the afternoon poster session, developments with research on potato cyst nematodes in the UK and Norway were presented. There was plenty of time for interaction in the historic meeting room, under the gaze of original portraits of Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace, and in the Library during lunch and the afternoon tea break. The Brian Kerry award for the best student platform presentation was presented to Nele Schouteden, from the Division of Crop Biotechnics in Belgium, who will also receive a new book kindly donated by CAB International.

We are looking forward to receiving offers for this year's meeting, which will be held on 13 December 2016, again at The Linnean Society of London.

Future Conference Programme

Advances in Nematology, 14 December 2016: Linnean Society, Piccadilly, London

3rd International Symposium on Nematodes as Environmental Bioindicators, June 2017, Ireland

Pesticide Application

Convener – Paul Miller

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

The main activities of the Group during the year have centred on the preparations for the Advances in Pesticide Application conference that was to be held in Barcelona in January 2016. A total of 57 papers were submitted and processed ready for publication in an Aspects of Applied Biology associated with the conference. Plans were that the conference would include both platform and poster presentations with those having posters also giving a five-minute platform presentation relating to the poster. An award to support a young scientist attending the conference was advertised, applications evaluated by a sub-set of the committee and decisions reached regarding a recipient. Logistical arrangements relating to this conference were also finalised.

A one-day workshop entitled "Selectivity by Application (how do you target by the application)" was held on 8th September at Harper Adams University with delegates able to attend the AGM of the Association and visit the Engineering Department at The University as well as attend the workshop. Four presentations were made covering topics including spot and patch applications of herbicides, inter-row treatments and methods of characterising tree canopies for the improved targeting of pesticides. Although numbers attending the workshop were small, there was a lively and well-focused discussion that highlighted important issues relating to the future development of such application strategies.

David Stock left the Group at the end of the period (thanks for all your input David) and new members for the Group are being considered. Tom Robinson will act as Chairman for the next series of meetings.

Plant Physiology & Crop Improvement

Convener – Finlay Dale

Group members – Guy Barker, Simon Griffiths, Nigel Halford, Jim Monaghan and Erik Murchie

A group meeting was held in September 2015 to plan conferences in 2016/17, with two conferences planned for 2016. The group was also one of the organising groups for the Knowledge exchange: from research to the food supply chain (Some successes and some opportunities) held 17-19 June 2015 at the University of Lancaster, in conjunction with the Associations Food and Energy Security journal.

Virology Group

Convener – Maruthi Gowda

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

The Virology group organised their International Advances in Virology conference on 31 March-2 April, in conjunction with the Society for General Microbiology at the ICC Birmingham. There had been some problems with communication with changes of staff from both organisations, but the conference attracted 48 delegates. The next conference is planned for 7-9 September 2016 in conjunction with COST Action FA1407, which will hopefully increase the number of delegates attending.

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.

Agro Paris Tech (Benoit Gabrielle)	£3682	Biomass and Energy Crops V
BES (Agricultural Ecology Group)	£1000	Valuing long-term sites and experiments for agriculture and ecology
Anonymous Donation	£500	Knowledge exchange: from research to the food supply chain
Association of Applied Biologists	£5000	Knowledge exchange: from research to the food supply chain
Wiley-Blackwell	£5000	Knowledge exchange: from research to the food supply chain
Lancaster University	£5000	Knowledge exchange: from research to the food supply chain
Agrovista	£300	4 th Symposium of Potato Cyst Nematode Management
Agrii	£300	4 th Symposium of Potato Cyst Nematode Management
BASF The chemical company	£750	IPM: The 10 year plan
BCP Certis	£750	IPM: The 10 year plan
Bionema (M Ansari)	£250	IPM: The 10 year plan
Fargro	£750	IPM: The 10 year plan
Syngenta Bioline	£750	IPM: The 10 year plan
Koppert Biological Systems	£750	IPM: The 10 year plan
Russell IPM	£750	IPM: The 10 year plan
HDC	£750	IPM: The 10 year plan
<i>Annals</i> Centenary conference		

TOTAL £26282

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.

Applied Mycology and Bacteriology:

T Pettitt (Convener) (2018 1st term)
J Cooper (2016)
N Evans (2017)
N Havis (2017)
D Kenyon (2017)
C Orr (2016)
K Thomas (2016)

Biological Control:

T Bruce (Convener) (2017 3rd term)
D Chandler (2016)
R Collier (2016)
R Jacobson (2018)
P Morley (2016)
R Shaw (2018)
P Sopp (2016)
P Walker (2018)
K Walters (2016)
X Xu (2017)

Cropping and the Environment:

R Carlton (Convener) (2016 1st term)
D H K Davies (2016)
K A Evans (2016)
Shamal Mohamed (2017)
J Purslow (2018)
K Smith (2018)
J Storkey (2016)
D Stock (2018)
K Topp (2018)

Food Systems

W Russell (Convener) (2018 1st term)

Nematology:

M Back (Convener) (2017 2nd term)
S Edgington (2016)
I Grove (2016)
L Holden-Dye (2018)
G Hoysted (2018)
R Manzanilla-Lopez (2016)
B Pembroke (2017)
J Pickup (2017)
T Prior (2017)
W Wesemael (2018)

Pesticide Application:

P C H Miller (Convener) (2016 2nd term)
P Balsari (2017)
S E Cooper (2017)
E Gil (2018)
C R Glass (2017)
B Magri (2017)
C Mountford-Smith (2016)
D Nuyttens (2017)
J van de Zande (2017)

Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement:

M F B Dale (Convener) (2016 1st term)
G Barker (2017)
S Griffiths (2017)
N Halford (2015)
J Monaghan (2017)

Virology:

M Gowda (Convener) (2016 1st term)
G Clover (2017)
A Fox (2016)
J Milner (2016)
A Olmos (2017)
R A A van der Vlugt (2017)
J Walsh (2016)
T Wetzel (2017)

Mr M M S Al Nabhani, MSc

P.O Box 6, P.C 620, SAMAIL, Oman.

Dr S Awan, PhD

AHDB Horticulture, Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board, Stoneleigh Park, KENILWORTH, Warwickshire, CV8 2TL.

Dr J Baars, BSc; PhD

University College Dublin, School of Biology and Environmental, Belfield, DUBLIN 4, Ireland.

Dr M Bell, BSc MSc PhD

University of Nottingham, Sutton Bonington Campus, LOUGHBOROUGH, Leicestershire, LE12 5RD.

Dr A Beury, PhD

SIPRE, Rue des Champs Potez, F 62217 ACHICOURT, France.

Mr P J Blaylock, BA

45 Hesley Lane, Thrope Hesley, ROTHERHAM, South Yorkshire, S61 2PT.

Ms L Bouvet, BSc; MSc

Lucy Cavendish College, Lady Margaret Road, CAMBRIDGE, CB3 0BU.

Mr R Boyle, BSc; MRes

Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University, LANCASTER, LA1 4YQ.

Ms C Brewster, Dip; BSc

2 Park Crescent, YORK, YO31 7NU.

Mr M Britton, BA; MA; CIM

Syngenta UK Ltd, CPC4, Capital Park, Fulbourn, CAMBRIDGE, CB21 5XE.

Mr P Britton, HND, MSc

Farmcare Trading Ltd, c/o Carnoustie Packhouse, Balmachie Road, CARNOUSTIE, Angus, DD7 6LA.

Mr J Brooks, BSc

Syngenta Seeds, Hill Farm Road, WHITTLESFORD, Cambridgeshire, CB22 4QT.

Dr D Cammarano, PhD

The James Hutton Institute, Invergowrie, DUNDEE, DD2 5DA.

Mr J R Challans,

11 Newark View, Barrowby Edge, GRANTHAM, Lincolnshire, NG31 8UR.

Dr G Clover, BSc; PhD

Royal Horticultural Society, RHS Garden Wisley, WOKING, Surrey, GU23 6QB.

Mr S Collins, BSc; MSc

Warwick Crop Centre, University of Warwick, Wellesbourne, WARWICK, CV35 9EF.

**Appendix of the AAB Annual Report 2015
New Members of the Association 2015**

Mrs P Cooper, HNC

The James Hutton Institute, Invergowrie, DUNDEE, DD2 5DA.

Mr M K Cox

42 Chapel Road, Earith, HUNTINGDON, Cambridgeshire, PE28 3PU.

Dr A Crisford, BSc; PhD

University of Southampton, Life Sciences Building 85, Level 3, 45 Highfield Campus, SOUTHAMPTON, SO17 1BJ.

Dr M G Cromey, BSc; BA; PhD

Royal Horticultural Society, RHS Garden Wisley, WOKING, Surrey, GU23 6QB.

Ms M Crossland, BSc

The Organic Research Centre, Elm Farm, Hamstead Marshall, NEWBURY, RH20 0HR.

Dr F Crotty, BSc; PhD

IBERS, Aberystwyth University, Plas Gogerddan, ABERYSTWYTH, Ceredigion, SY23 3EB.

Dr T Y Curtis, MSc, PhD

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**Appendix of the AAB Annual Report 2015
New Members of the Association 2015**

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**Appendix of the AAB Annual Report 2015
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**Appendix of the AAB Annual Report 2015
New Members of the Association 2015**

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**Appendix of the AAB Annual Report 2015
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AAB

FORWARD CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

2016

- 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)

- 16-17 November **Biological Control & IPM**
Ramada Resort Grantham Hotel, Marston, Lincs
(Biological Control and Integrated Pest Management Group)

- 13 December **Advances in Nematology**
Linnean Society of London, Piccadilly, London
(Nematology Group)

2017

- 15 – 16 February **Crop Production in Southern Britain 2017**
Peterborough Arena, Peterborough, UK
(in association with BCPC)

- 21-22 June **3rd International Symposium on Nematodes as Environmental Bioindicators**
Institute of Technology Carlow, Ireland
(Nematology Group)

- 28–30 November **Sustainable Intensification**
Rothamsted Research, Harpenden, UK
(CATE, Defra, SIP)

- 12 December **Advances in Nematology**
Linnean Society of London, Piccadilly, London
(Nematology Group)

2018

- 9-11 January **International Advances in Pesticide Application**
Mercure Brighton Seafront Hotel Brighton, Sussex, UK
(Pesticide Application Group)

ELECTION TO SPECIALIST GROUP COMMITTEES FOR 2017

Nominations are sought for vacancies on some of the AAB Specialist Group Committees. The present composition of each Group Committee can be seen earlier in 'SPECIALIST GROUP COMMITTEES AS AT SEPTEMBER 2016'. 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 14th November 2016.

ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS (This form may be photocopied)

We wish to nominate Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr/Professor*

.....
for the committee ofGroup

<p>Proposed by</p> <p>Signed</p> <p>Address</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Seconded by</p> <p>Signed</p> <p>Address</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
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*Delete as appropriate

Consent to nomination

I agree to the nomination for the committee of

Signed

Address

.....
Date



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