

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'.

The Council of Members (Trustees) for 2008

President:	Prof. P J Lea
President Elect:	Prof. M J Jeger
General Secretary:	Dr A J Keys
General Treasurer:	Dr J D Knight
Chairman of the Editorial Boards:	Prof. M A J Parry
Programme Secretary:	Dr G Russell
Meetings Treasurer:	Dr J D Knight
Membership Officer:	Dr C Kelly
Newsletter Editor:	Vacancy

Convenors of Specialist Groups:	
Applied Mycology & Bacteriology:	Dr K R Thomas
Biological Control:	Dr J Holland
Cropping and the Environment	Dr E A Stockdale
Nematology:	Dr J Pickup
Pesticide Application:	Mr S Cooper
Plant Physiology & Crop Improvement:	Prof. N G Halford
Virology:	Dr M Stevens

Executive Officer: Mrs C A Millman

Registered Office: AAB Office, The Warwick Enterprise Park, Wellesbourne, Warwick
CV35 9EF, UK
Tel: +4(0)1789 472020; Fax: +44 (0)1789 470234
Email: carol@aab.org.uk; Home Page: <http://www.aab.org.uk>

Registered Auditors: Clere's Ltd, George Nott House, 119 Holloway Head, Birmingham B1 1QP

Advisers:

Accountants: Clere's Ltd, George Nott House, 119 Holloway Head, Birmingham B1 1QP

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

Solicitors: Martineau Johnson, St Philips House, St Philips Place, Birmingham B3 2PP
Needham & James, 25 Meer Street, Stratford on Avon, Warwickshire
CV37 6QB

Tax Advisers: Clere's Ltd, George Nott House, 119 Holloway Head, Birmingham B1 1QP

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

Investment Fund Managers: Lloyds TSB Private Banking Limited, 50 Grosvenor Street, London
W1K 3LF

Insurance Brokers: Stackhouse Poland, Exchange House, Station Road, Liphook,
Hampshire GU30 7ER
Access Insurance, 1 Regent Street, London SW1Y 4NW

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2009

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at the Hilton Hotel, Basingstoke at 12.00 noon on 23 September 2009. The draft minutes of the Special General Meeting and the Annual General Meeting held in 2008 are attached together with the Report of the Trustees, Financial Statements and a list of new members of the Association elected in 2008.

AGENDA

- 1 **Apologies for absence**
- 2 **Minutes of the Special General Meeting held at the University of Nottingham, Sutton Bonington Campus, Loughborough, Leicestershire on 11 September 2008 and matters arising**
- 3 **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the University of Nottingham, Sutton Bonington Campus, Loughborough, Leicestershire on 11 September 2008 and matters arising**
- 4 **Report of the Trustees for 2008 (excluding the Financial Report)**
- 5 **Financial Report for 2008**
- 6 **Membership fees and Subscriptions for *Annals of Applied Biology* for 2010**
- 7 **Trustees for 2010 – Nominations from Council**
Officers for election:

President	Prof. M J Jeger
Vice President	Prof. T J Hocking
General Secretary	Dr E A Stockdale
General Treasurer	Dr J D Knight
Meetings Treasurer	Mr C R Glass
Programme Secretary	Dr G Russell
Membership Officer	Dr C Kelly
Publications Officer	Prof. M A J Parry
- 8 ***Convenors to be approved:***

Applied Mycology and Bacteriology	Dr K Thomas
Biological Control	Dr R Jacobson
Cropping and the Environment	Mr D B Turley
Food Systems	Dr W Martindale
Nematology	Dr J Pickup
Pesticide Application	Mr S E Cooper
Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement	Prof. N G Halford
Virology	Dr S MacFarlane
- 9 **Appointment of Auditors for 2010**
- 10 **Future Opportunities**
- 11 **Election of Honorary Members**
- 12 **Any Other Business**

**Draft minutes of a Special General Meeting
Held on 11 September 2008 at the University of Nottingham,
Sutton Bonington, Loughborough, Leicestershire**

The President, Professor Peter Lea took the Chair. The meeting began at 12.55 p.m.. As thirty members of the Association were present, the President declared the meeting quorate.

It was proposed to change the existing laws, with respect to sections 9.1.1, 9.2.1 and 10.1. Professor Lea outlined the proposed changes in a 'PowerPoint' presentation as:

- 1) To remove the post of Chairman of the Board of Editors and replace this post with a Publications Officer.
- 2) To remove the post of Newsletter Editor.
- 3) To appoint an Editor-in-Chief for *Annals of Applied Biology*, who will not be a member of Council or a Trustee of the Association. Professor Lea explained that Professor Jari Valkonen of the University of Helsinki had agreed to take up this post.
- 4) To appoint a Publications Officer, to be a member of Council and a Trustee, to serve on the Management Boards of both *Annals of Applied Biology* and *Plant Biotechnology Journal*, and to act as Editor of the Newsletter.

The changes to the Laws that were required were included in the presentation and are shown below with deletions underlined and **additions in bold font**.

9.1.1 'Council' shall consist of the Honorary Officers (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 Newsletter Editor and **the Publications Officer** the Chairman of the Editorial Boards) together with the Conveners of the A.A.B. Specialist Groups. The term 'Honorary Officer' will also include any other person designated at a General Meeting as an Honorary Officer.

9.2.1 'The Executive Committee' shall consist of the President, the President-elect, the General Treasurer, the Meetings Treasurer, the General Secretary, the Programme Secretary, the Membership Officer, the Newsletter Editor and the Chairman of the Editorial Boards **Publications Officer**.

10.1 The persons to hold the offices of President, President-elect, General Treasurer, Meetings Treasurer, General Secretary, Programme Secretary, Membership Officer, Newsletter Editor and Chairman of the Editorial Boards **Publications Officer** shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

Acceptance of the changes was proposed by Prof Martin Parry and seconded by Dr Keith Jaggard. The changes were approved unanimously.

The Special General Meeting was closed at 13.00

Approved as a true record _____ Date _____

Draft minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 11 September 2008 at the University of Nottingham, Sutton Bonington, Loughborough, Leicestershire

The draft minutes of the 2007 AGM, the Report of the Trustees and Financial statements for 2007, a list of new members of the Association elected in 2007, nominations for Officers of the Association for 2009, and proposed Conveners of the Specialist Groups for 2009, had been circulated with the Notice of the meeting.

The meeting began at 13.00 with the President, Professor Peter Lea as Chairman. As more than 20 members of the Association were present the meeting was declared quorate.

Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Dr G Russell, Dr M Stevens, Mr MJ May, Dr Thierry Wetzel, Prof BR Kerry, Prof BD Harrison, Mr M van den Driessche

2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2007

Acceptance of the Minutes as a true record was proposed by Prof MJ Jeger and seconded by Dr JD Knight. The Minutes were accepted unanimously and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

3 Report of the Trustees for 2007

Professor Lea pointed out that the Report had been circulated. Prof MAJ Parry proposed that the Report should be accepted and this proposal was seconded by Prof NG Halford. The Report was accepted unanimously.

4 Financial Report for 2007

The Treasurer, Dr JD Knight, outlined the financial outcome for 2007. A deficit of £41,000 had resulted against a budgeted deficit of £30,000. The expected income from Wiley-Blackwell from the availability of all back numbers of *Annals of Applied Biology* in electronic form had not happened in 2007 but the benefit should be obtained in 2008. Gains on investments had totalled close to £13,000. Overall the Associations assets had declined by £29,000. With some income from Wiley-Blackwell carried forward from 2007, it appeared likely that the deficit in 2008 would be £15,000 (the treasurer provided a corrected figure of £31,500 for the projected deficit).

Acceptance of the Financial report was proposed by Prof MJ Jeger and seconded by Prof MAJ Parry. The Report was accepted unanimously.

5 Membership Fees and Subscriptions for *Annals of Applied Biology* for 2009

The Treasurer recommended that Membership fees should be increased by £3 to £52 for Ordinary members and by £1.50 to £26, for student and retired membership with discounts of £3 and £1.50 if the fees were paid by direct debit. Prof MAJ Parry proposed that these fees should be approved and the motion was seconded by Mr Simon Cooper. The proposal was approved unanimously.

It was proposed that subscription by members for *Annals of Applied biology* in 2009 should be increased by £2 to £68 for printed copies and by £2.35 to £61.10 (including VAT) for the online version only. For both printed and online versions the increase would be £2.59 making the cost £89.74 (including VAT).

Approval of these increases was proposed by Prof MAJ Parry and seconded by Prof MJ Jeger. The increases were approved unanimously.

6 Trustees for 2009 - Nominations from Council:

Election of Officers:

The list of nominations for election as Officers was presented in PowerPoint by Prof Lea who pointed out that Prof Trevor Hocking, nominated for President Elect had been elected to Honorary Membership at the 2007 AGM and had previously served the Association as Convener for 8 years and as Meetings Treasurer for 10 years. Richard Glass, who had previously been Convener of the Pesticide Application Group, had been co-opted onto Council as Meetings Treasurer for 2008 after completing his term as Convener. Prof MJ Jeger proposed that the nominated Officers should be elected *en masse* and that the proposed Conveners should be approved. This proposal was seconded by Dr E White. The named nominees below were elected unanimously and the Conveners listed were approved..

President	Prof M J Jeger
President Elect	Prof T J Hocking
General Secretary	Dr A J Keys
General Treasurer	Dr J D Knight
Meetings Treasurer	Mr C R Glass
Programme Secretary	Dr G Russell
Membership Officer	Dr C Kelly
Publications Officer	No Nomination

Convenors

Applied Mycology and Bacteriology	Dr K Thomas
Biological Control	Dr J Holland
Cropping and the Environment	Dr E A Stockdale
Food Systems	Dr W Martindale
Nematology	Dr J Pickup
Pesticide Application	Mr S Cooper
Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement	Prof N G Halford
Virology	Dr M Stevens

7 Appointment of Auditors for 2009

The Treasurer proposed that Clere's Ltd. of Birmingham should be appointed Auditors for 2009.

Dr. K W Jaggard proposed that the appointment should be approved.

The motion was seconded by Prof M A J Parry and approved unanimously.

Approved as a true record: _____ Date _____

8 Creation of a new Specialist Group – Food Systems

This will be concerned with all aspects of food quality and safety from farm to plate.

Dr Wayne Martindale as the proposed Convener attended the meeting in order to report on progress in establishing this Group and made a short statement. The committee of the group would be likely to include Dr Elizabeth Stockdale, Dr Jeremy Wiltshire, Mr Richard Glass, Dr. Lionel Murfitt and Dr. Mark Swainson.

Dr JD Knight proposed that formation of the new group should be approved.

The proposal was seconded by Prof MJ Jeger and was approved unanimously.

9 Any Other Business

Dr KW Jaggard asked how long the Association could survive bearing in mind the size of the operating deficit. The Treasurer replied that he estimated at least 5 years. This took into account that some £50,000 would be needed to wind up the Association. It was likely that the financial situation would improve. The *Plant Biotechnology Journal* was performing well and although it was still costing the Association some money there had been a 50% increase in subscriptions. At present Wiley-Blackwell were marketing the journal independently of the standard consortia to librarians. Significant changes were expected once the size of the subscription list had been increased. The President reminded members that the income from the Association's journals was very important and urged that all should send their good papers to them.

Prof M J Jeger proposed a vote of thanks to Professor Peter Lea, on this his last AGM as President, for all his hard work on behalf of the Association.

The meeting ended at 13.30

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR 2008

The Trustees present their report for the year ended 31st December 2008.

The Charity's Objective

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.

Members of Council (The Trustees) for 2008 were as follows:

President	Prof. P J Lea	(3)
President Elect	Prof. M J Jeger	(3)
General Secretary	Dr A J Keys	(3)
General Treasurer	Dr J D Knight	(3)
Chairman of the Editorial Boards	Prof. M A J Parry	(1)
Programme Secretary	Dr G Russell	(3)
Meetings Treasurer	Dr J D Knight	(3)
Membership Officer	Dr C Kelly	(2)
Newsletter Editor	Vacancy	

Convenors of Specialist Groups:

Applied Mycology & Bacteriology	Dr K Thomas	(2)
Biological Control	Dr J Holland	(2)
Cropping and the Environment	Dr E A Stockdale	(3)
Nematology	Dr J Pickup	(2)
Pesticide Application	Mr S Cooper	(3)
Plant Physiology & Crop Improvement	Dr N G Halford	(3)
Virology	Dr M Stevens	(2)
Executive Officer (Employee)	Mrs C A Millman	(3)

Attendance figures for Council meetings are shown in parentheses; the Council met three times during the year.

President's Introduction

Firstly let me thank the retiring President, Peter Lea, for his stewardship of the Association in 07-08 and for his encouragement and advice to me as the incoming President. Thanks are also due to the Officers of Council and Group Convenors who not only provided key support but also ensured that Council meetings were conducted in a constructive and lively manner. Inevitably, changes in Council have occurred during 2008. As reported by Peter Lea at the 2008 AGM, Martin Parry has stepped down as Chairman of the Editorial Boards, a post he had held since 2003. This post has been replaced by a Publications Officer responsible for all the Association's publications, as approved by a Special General Meeting of the Association on 11 September 2008. Martin has generously taken on this new Trustee role for 2009, with election of a new Publications Officer to take place at the 2009 AGM. As previously reported Jari Valkonen has now taken on the role of Editor-in-Chief of the Annals from January 2009. As an illustration of how the Association continues to adapt and evolve, it is encouraging to note the formation of a new Specialist Group on Food Systems with Wayne Martindale acting as Convenor (subject to approval at the 2009 AGM). Finally it is with great pleasure we welcome back to Council Professor Trevor Hocking as Vice President in 2009-10 and President in 2010-11. As well as his many years' service to the Association, Trevor will bring new ideas and initiatives to the fore in Council, especially in areas related to International Development.

The last five years have proved to be a turbulent period for the Association, in particular in relation to financial stability. In his term as President in 2005-06, Brian Kerry introduced a set of financial targets within an overall Strategic Plan aimed at securing the Association's future. This level of financial scrutiny continued under the Presidency of Peter Lea. In many respects the financial situation has steadily improved, despite the challenges to investment income that arose through global events in 2007-08. However, it is now even more important to scrutinise each and every element of the Association's core activities – its services to membership, journals, and conferences – to ensure that costs and income are properly allocated so that Council can plan and make decisions from a proper understanding of the financial implications. As a consequence a new Strategic Plan for 2009-10 has been approved by Council and is summarised at the end of this introductory review. In terms of the core activities, separate reports are made in this Annual Report. In my Introduction I wanted to highlight some key points as I see them.

The membership of the Society remains relatively stable, quite an achievement given the experience of other Societies of a similar size. What particularly impresses me is the annual intake of new members – some 40-50 were elected at each of the last two Council meetings. There are many reasons for this, and of course they are replacing others who leave, but it certainly dispels the myth that the Association suffers from an ageing population. On journals, it is very pleasing to note the increased impact factor for the Annals achieved in 2008. Moreover, making back copies of the Annals has proved to be more profitable than previously envisaged. Also it is noteworthy that the Plant Biotechnology Journal for the first time made a profit for the Association in 2008, although it is unclear whether this will be repeated in 2009. Even a cursory glance through the past, current and future Conference schedules shows the varied and exciting range of interests of members. Although the size and frequency of conferences should always be kept under scrutiny there is no doubt that these are major showpieces of the

Specialist Groups in attracting and retaining members. A source of particular satisfaction for me is the variety of meetings held jointly with other Societies; some may increasingly be held outside the UK.

Another key challenge for the Association in the future is to develop a true sense of identity for Applied Biology, that perhaps goes beyond that corresponding to its historical origins. To some extent with its changing structure in Specialist Groups and new publishing initiatives it is doing this, but is it really the face of applied biology in the broad areas of crop agronomy, breeding, physiology and crop protection or should it take on a broader identity in the agricultural, environmental, food and land use arenas? Members will note the formation of the new Society for Biology from the Institute of Biology and the Biosciences Foundation. The Association to some extent had not engaged fully with these as separate bodies, but should now increase its profile and status in particular with the Environment, Agriculture and Sustainability Committee of the new Society, by bringing in its unique combination of experience and expertise in applied biological research, education and practice.

Finally, I want to thank the staff of the Association's office, Carol, Rachel, Anna and Bernadette for all their support to the Officers, Convenors and Membership, and their continual efforts in bringing the activities of the Association to the wider scientific comment. As with Council, change is inevitable and at the end of 2008, Rachel resigned her position but has returned on a 20% basis dealing with the Association's accounts.

Below is the AAB Strategy for 2009-2010 as agreed at the Council meeting held in November 2008.

AAB Strategy for 2009-10

General

1. Initiate discussions with other UK Learned Societies on opportunities for mutual cost savings and efficiency gains in furthering the charitable objectives of the Association.
2. Present an interim report in July 2009 to Council

Financial

3. Deliver the budgets agreed for 2009 with an operating deficit of less than £25K in 2009.
4. Set a budget for 2010 (July 2009) in line with the effects of the international financial situation on the Association's reserves; and determine a strategy to achieve a balanced budget by end 2012.

Membership

5. Determine the staff costs associated with servicing the current Membership and ensure that income from Membership is at least equal to these costs in 2009.
6. Continue to develop (as with the Ambassadors' scheme) the international dimensions of the Association (mindful of the international financial situation) with particular targets for Membership in Europe, S. and S.E. Asia, and China.

Publications

7. Assess the relative costs involved in office editorial duties compared with transferring these to Blackwells and confirm arrangements for 2010 by July 2009.
8. Achieve a consistent Publications surplus of at least £40000 in 2009 and 2010.
9. Maintain an Impact Factor of the *Annals* of 1.5 in 2009 and 2010 with the aim of exceeding 2.0 by the end of 2012.
10. Publicise and enhance the visibility of the Association in publication of *Plant Biotechnology*. Determine the advertising income generated by the Association continuing with DPV.
11. Promote the Aspects as a "special edition" series in applied biology, open to other Societies as a publishing vehicle; and obtaining sponsorship and advertising income to increase returns to the Association.
12. Set up a new on-line only journal aimed at the South East Asian market.

Conferences

13. Deliver the agreed 2009 Association Conference programme (as confirmed at the November 2008 Council meeting).
14. Determine the staff costs associated with running Conferences in 2009 and planning conferences for 2010 and beyond.
15. Plan (in 2009) and run two joint residential Conferences with other Learned Societies in 2010, with clear contractual agreements on the sharing of risk and profit/loss.

Professor M J Jeger (President 2009-2010)

Structure, Governance and Management

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

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 A.A.B. Specialist Groups.

Appointment of 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 six consecutive years, subject to annual re-election (a term of office for Convenors is deemed to be three years).

Trustee Induction and Training

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.

Review of Achievements and Performance for the Year

Membership

A total of 126 new members of the Association were elected by Council during the year. The total of fully paid-up members and Honorary members on 31st December 2008 was 800 – the same number as the year before. The number of Honorary members at the end of the year was 14, 15 being the maximum permissible under the Laws.

Publications

Annals of Applied Biology

The Association is the owner of *Annals of Applied Biology* which is published by Wiley-Blackwell. In 2008, the total number of pages published was 828, comprising 84 papers. The number of papers submitted has increased from 203 in 2002 to over 400 in 2008. As a result we have been able to increase the quality of the manuscripts published by selecting only the most important papers with the broadest significance and most novel results. This increase in influx of manuscripts has placed a considerable burden on Carol Millman in the Office of the Association in Warwick, who is responsible for the administration of the editing process, as well as members of the Editorial Board. I cannot overemphasise her role in ensuring the success of *Annals of Applied Biology* which makes a major contribution to the income of the Association. The Board of Editors of *Annals of Applied Biology* is increasingly international. In 2008 we were able to consolidate the ISI-WoS Impact Factor for the journal at 1.868 (compared to 1.75 in 2007). The journal is currently ranked 3 out of 35 in the Agriculture, Multidisciplinary section, as listed in ISI-WoS. To improve our position as a leading Biological journal remains a major challenge for Professor Jari Valkonen, who took over the role of Editor-in-Chief from Professor Martin Parry in January 2009. However, encouragingly, the visibility and profile of the journal continues to rise. Electronic access to the journal is available via the Wiley-Blackwell web site, where the number of downloads has increased from 45,000 in 2007 to over 60,000 highlighting the usage of the journal content. The most downloaded article during 2008 was 'Nitrogen Use Efficiency' by P.J. Lea (our President 2007–2008) and R.A. Azevedo (a Senior Editor). More than 3,000 libraries globally have access to the current content of *Annals of Applied Biology*.

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 2008 the journal was available in more than 1000 libraries and articles were downloaded more than 60,000 times highlighting the usage of the journal content. The most downloaded article during 2008 was 'Plant peptides and peptidomics' by N Farrokhi, JP Whitelegge and JA Brussian. Up until now, the Association has invested in the launch and development of the *Plant Biotechnology Journal*, but in 2008 it made for the first time a small profit and thus a contribution to the income of the Association. Professor Keith Edwards of the University of Bristol acts as the Editor-in-Chief for the journal and the administration of the editing is handled from his office in Bristol, independently of the Association. In 2008, the total number of pages published in *Plant Biotechnology Journal* during the year

was 946, comprising 80 papers. The journal has a current impact factor of 4.419 (compared to 3.392 in 2008) and is ranked 11 out of 155 in Plant Sciences in ISI-WoS.

Aspects of Applied Biology

The following seven volumes of *Aspects of Applied Biology* were published to accompany scientific conferences held during the year:

- Aspects 84: International Advances in Pesticide Application 2008*
Aspects 85: Shaping a Vision for the Uplands
*Aspects 86: 1. What does “Green” Mean? Seeking to Understand and Meet
Conflicting Aspirations for Food.
2. Measuring “Green” – does Life Cycle Analysis Make Sense for Food?*
*Aspects 87: 3. Traceability – Tracking and Tracing in the Food Chain
4. Supplying Sustainable and Innovative Food and Drink Solutions*
Aspects 88: Effects of Climate Change on Plants: Implications for Agriculture
Aspects 89: Applied Aspects of Aerobiology
Aspects 90: Biomass and Energy Crops III

Descriptions of Plant Viruses

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

Newsletter

Three issues (66 - 68) were published during the year and thanks go to all those who contributed articles. The newsletter includes update reports from Council, conference reviews, book reviews, lists of new members, together with their interests, and other reports of similar interest.

Scientific Conferences

Fourteen scientific conferences, one workshop and the Postgraduate competition were held in 2008. These included 5 residential ones lasting two or more days. A total of 791 delegates attended the conferences compared to 657 last year and 741 in 2006 (an increase of 19% over last year and 13% over the average of the previous two years). The average number of paying delegates was 47 compared to 46 in 2007. It is recognised that the Association often caters for specialized interest groups resulting in low delegate numbers at some conferences. Details of the full scientific conference programme for 2008 are given below:

9-11 January	International Advances in Pesticide Application
6 February	Measuring “Green” – does Life Cycle Analysis Make Sense for Food?
8 April	Workshop on Knowledge Transfer – Best Practice
22 May	Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
2-4 June	Shaping a Vision for the Uplands
10 September	Postgraduate 2008 Poster Competition
10-12 September	Resource Capture by Crops
15 October	Traceability – Tracking and Tracing in the Food Chain
4 November	Supplying Sustainable and Innovative Food and Drink Solutions
12-13 November	Effects of Climate Change on Plants: Implications for Agriculture
19 November	The Future of Weed Research in the UK
19 November	Applied Aspects of Aerobiology in conjunction with the British Aerobiology Federation
25 November	Pollution From Pesticides – Point Source versus Diffusion
3 December	Residue Reduction through Biocontrol
10-12 December	Biomass and Energy Crops III
16 December	Advances in Nematology

All conferences in the 2008 programme were held in the UK.

The AAB offers a professional conference support service to third parties in addition to running its own conferences. This benefits all parties and provides an additional income to the AAB.

The conference programme was also supported financially by generous donations and sponsorship.

Donations and Sponsorship

The Trustees would like to extend their grateful thanks to the following organisations and individuals that provided financial donations or sponsorship totalling £12,645 during the year:-

Home Grown Cereals Authority
The Environment Agency

Journal of Experimental Botany
Plant Physiology
Microzone Ltd
Burkard Manufacturing Company Ltd
Springer Science and Business Media B.V.
Professor M A J Parry

In addition the Trustees would like to thank Members who donated a further £282 for the purpose of developing the work of the Association with students.

Website (www.aab.org.uk)

The AAB Website is an important source form of information for Members and others and provides the most up to date communications on conferences and available publications.

Affiliations to other Societies

Affiliation was maintained with the Institute of Biology, the International Society for Plant Pathology, the UK National Committee for Microbiology, the Foundation for Science and Technology and the Association of Learned & Professional Society Publishers. The Association has a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Society for Agronomy.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2009

Income & Expenditure

As most people are all too aware this past year has been an interesting one in the financial world and the Association has been affected along with most other institutions and businesses. The long term objective of the Association is to continue to move toward a neutral or slightly positive net movement in funds within a sustainable business plan to ensure its long term health. The results of this year are encouraging in that the operating surplus is positive at £11,300 (before investment gains/losses) against a budget deficit of £35,600. This figure is in large part due to the contribution from the publishing activities with *Annals* (including the digitisation of back issues) providing £75,300 and the *Plant Biotechnology Journal* providing a very small profit (£689) against a budgeted investment of £10,000.

The management of office costs continues to improve with costs being well controlled at £91,300 against a budget of £103,000. Secondly, the meetings programme resulted in an overall surplus of approximately £9,500, and although this was down against the budget of £13,500 it was up nearly £4,000 on last year.

The investment portfolio produced realised and unrealised losses of £81,000 which were a result of the market turmoil.

Balance sheet

The Association's assets have declined by £70,000. The value of cash and investments has fallen during the year from £551,000 to £405,000 due largely to a decrease in the

value of investments. The net current assets are improved over last year at a positive value of £55,000. 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 the additional income from the back issues will enable the Association to avoid this for the next 12 months which will hopefully provide some time for the investments to recover some of their value.

2009

The mid-year forecast for 2009 predicts a significantly larger operating deficit than was achieved in 2008. The key reason for this is that the money from the back issue of *Annals* came through very late in the year and this had already been budgeted for 2009. Income from conferences is due to provide a surplus after staff costs of approximately £10,000.

Forecast of Expenditure for 2009

The Trustees continue to be committed to reviewing the strategies in place for achieving a sustainable financial situation. As in previous years, the aim will be to increase revenue through running meetings for the Association but also for others, seeking to expand membership and the continued improvement in operational efficiencies with the aim of reducing overhead costs. This last target is becoming increasingly difficult as many of the efficiencies have already been made. Investment in the *Plant Biotechnology Journal* is cautiously budgeted to be £4,700 since this year's performance is not predicted to be repeated by Wiley-Blackwells.

Proposed Membership Fees for 2010

The trustees' goal of raising a third of the general administrative costs from membership fees remains in place. The Council proposes rises for 2010 of £1.00, to £53.00, for the Ordinary membership and of £0.50, to £26.50, for the two concessionary classes of Student and Retired membership, which remain at 50% of the Ordinary fee. 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 2010

The Council proposes that the members' subscriptions for 2010 are left unchanged at £68.00 for the printed version, £61.10 (including VAT) for the online only version and £89.74 (including VAT) for the combined print and online subscription.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

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

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

Risk Management

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

Reserves Policy

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

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

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

- they are an inherent part of the Association's risk management process. The need for reserves will vary depending on the Association's financial position and our continuous assessment of the many risks the Associations 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.

Authorised Charity Trustees

Prof. M J Jeger
President

Dr A J Keys
General Secretary

Dr J D Knight
General Treasurer

Date:.....

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2008.**

	<u>NOTES</u>	<u>GENERAL FUND</u> £	<u>DESIGNATED FUND</u> £	<u>2008 TOTAL FUNDS</u> £	<u>2007 TOTAL FUNDS</u> £
<u>INCOMING RESOURCES</u>					
<u>Incoming Resources from generated funds</u>					
<u>Voluntary Income</u>					
Donations and Sponsorships		2,477	-	2,477	1,940
<u>Investment Income</u>	2	18,990	2,016	21,006	20,554
<u>Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities</u>	3	225,954	-	225,954	164,354
		-----	-----	-----	-----
<u>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</u>		247,421	2,016	249,437	186,848
		-----	-----	-----	-----
<u>RESOURCES EXPENDED</u>					
Charitable Activities	5	144,826	2,016	146,842	126,663
Governance Costs	6	91,312	-	91,312	101,559
		-----	-----	-----	-----
<u>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</u>		236,138	2,016	238,154	228,222
		-----	-----	-----	-----
<u>NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS</u>					
		11,283	-	11,283	(41,374)
<u>OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES</u>					
Gains on Investment Assets	11	(81,427)	-	(81,427)	13,312
		-----	-----	-----	-----
<u>NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS.</u>		(70,144)	-	(70,144)	(28,062)
<u>Total Funds brought forward</u>		437,836	22,568	460,404	488,466
		-----	-----	-----	-----
<u>Total Funds carried forward</u>		£367,692	£22,568	£390,260	£460,404
		=====	=====	=====	=====

THERE WERE NO OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS OR LOSSES IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR.

THE NOTES IN APPENDIX 1 ARE INTEGRAL TO THESE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2008.

	<u>NOTES</u>	<u>2008</u>		<u>2007</u>	
		£	£	£	£
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>					
Tangible Assets	10		5,309		6,122
Investments	11		330,322		466,259
			-----		-----
<u>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</u>			335,631		472,381
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>					
Debtors.	12	60,877		20,241	
Cash at Bank and in Hand		74,564		85,040	
			-----		-----
<u>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</u>		135,441		105,281	
<u>LIABILITIES:</u>					
Creditors: amounts due within one year	13	80,812		117,258	
			-----		-----
<u>NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS.</u>			54,629		(11,977)
			-----		-----
<u>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			£390,260		£460,404
			=====		=====
<u>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</u>					
Undesignated.			367,692		437,836
Designated.	14		22,568		22,568
			-----		-----
<u>TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS</u>			£390,260		£460,404
			=====		=====

The Financial Statements were approved by the Association's Council on at a meeting on Wednesday 15th July 2009 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
 Prof. M J Jeger
President.

.....
 Dr A. Keys
General Secretary

.....
 Dr J D Knight
Treasurer.

THE NOTES IN APPENDIX 1 ARE INTEGRAL TO THESE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

Appendix to the AAB Annual Report 2008

1 Notes to the Financial Statements and Independent Examiner's Report (available to all)

2 New Members of the Association for 2008 (available to Members only)

All of the above reports are available on the AAB website (www.aab.org.uk) or from the AAB office.