

# Welcome to aabnews Issue 76...

Council met on Wednesday 27th June 2012  
at Three Ways House.

The summer Council meeting is an overnight affair beginning with dinner on Tuesday; this allows trustees to discuss a range of issues informally and also facilitates an early meeting by the conveners of the specialist groups ahead of the main Council meeting to discuss conference proposals for 2013 which are being presented to Council and develop ideas for multi-disciplinary meetings and other collaborations in the future. This provides a timely opportunity to thank all the conveners and the specialist group committees for their work on our behalf in organising and co-ordinating conferences – the members' survey confirmed how much all the members really value the conference programme so a very large thanks is due to you all.

Thanks was expressed to the small number of members who had provided comments on the new draft "Laws of the Association of Applied Biologists." These were discussed further at Council and the revised version of the Laws has now been submitted for legal scrutiny and advice. Any changes recommended by lawyers will be made, and the final proposed Laws will be submitted to an SGM for approval; this will be held alongside the AGM on October 3rd 2012. Please try and attend this meeting if at all possible, a larger quorum is currently required to change the Laws than for a normal AGM. As well as routine business, the AGM will also include an opportunity to make an input into the development of the AAB strategy for 2013-14 which is currently under development by Peter Shewry.

Council were pleased to approve conference proposals for 2013 which will deliver an interesting and varied programme to members with conferences across the UK and overseas, with topics of interest to all specialist groups (see details of the conference programme on the last page). Council also supported the submission of a proposal to host the European Society of Agronomy Congress in Edinburgh in 2016. While this seems a long time ahead, planning for this major congress begins early and the proposal will be submitted to the ESA Congress 2012 which is being held in Helsinki; please support our bid if you will be there.

Council approved applications for membership from 32 new applicants and noted the breadth of interest amongst applications for membership and the number of international applications. We look forward to working with these new members in the months and years to come.

Council received reports on publications. Progress with the new journal "Food and Energy Security" which is a joint venture with Wiley-Blackwell continues on schedule. The formal launch will take place at the Plant Biology Congress at Freiburg on Thursday 2nd August. If you will be there call into the stand, there are some 'amaizing' t-shirts available.

Claire Hartry will soon leave on maternity leave; Council took this opportunity to wish her and the family all the best.

-Elizabeth Stockdale

*With the current fiasco over the trade price of milk in the UK our newsletter features a timely conference report from Graham Russell on the importance of biologists working in partnership with economists. Also on topic; Richard Tiffin's new paper for Food and Energy Security 'Economists are not dismal, the world is not a Petri dish and other reasons for optimism...'*

We have been without a Membership Officer for some time and Council has resolved to increase our efforts to fill this honorary post, which also needs updating. In the future, more emphasis needs to be given to profile-raising, promoting the services of the Association to a wider community and developing more effective outreach, particularly to postgraduate applied biologists. I would be very happy to review the remit of the post with prospective candidates and explore these and other ways of increasing membership and our engagement with applied biologists worldwide. If any member is interested in the post, or would like to suggest a colleague who may be interested, please contact me directly (t.j.hocking@wlv.ac.uk) for further discussion. When nominated and elected, the officer becomes a member of Council and Trustee and has opportunities to contribute to the overall development of the Association. Please consider if you can help the AAB in this role. Many thanks.

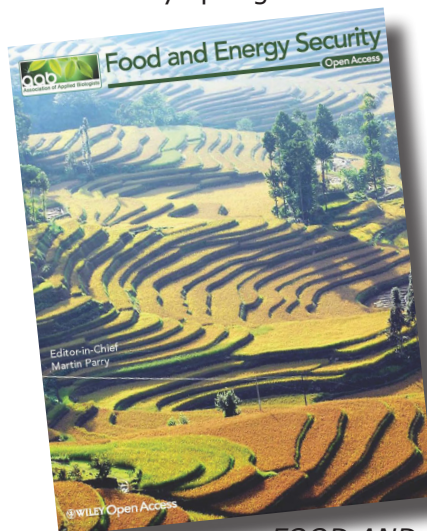
-AAB President, Trevor Hocking

## AAB Journal updates

Congratulations to the Editorial Board of *Annals of Applied Biology* and *Plant Biotechnology Journal*! The impact factor for *Annals* for 2011 has risen to 2.179 and we are now ranked 4<sup>th</sup> of 57 journals in the Agriculture, Multidisciplinary category. The impact factor for *Plant Biotechnology Journal* has risen to 5.442. This journal is ranked 10<sup>th</sup> of 190 in Plant Sciences and 16<sup>th</sup> of 157 in Biotechnology and Applied Microbiology

## Annals Centenary 2014

We are calling on members to highlight any important/influential *Annals of Applied Biology* papers for our centenary celebration. Please get in touch if any spring to mind.



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