



The *Food and Energy Security* Journal launch at the Plant Biology Congress 2012, 2/08/12 Freiburg, Germany. Editor-in-Chief Martin Parry was in attendance, accompanied by Associate Editors Bill Davies and Ricardo Azevedo.

News from Council

Council met on Wednesday 21st November 2012 at the AAB offices at Wellesbourne. The November Council is the meeting at which the budget for the year ahead is approved and this year it was also the final meeting for a number of trustees.

At the end of his term as President, Trevor Hocking reviewed the achievements of his term of office in the light of the strategic aims that had been agreed by Council 2 years ago. Council expressed its appreciation for his work in leading the Association and agreed that the AAB continued to be in a strong position with a wide ranging conference programme, active journals and investment in the new open access journal *Food and Energy Security*. Trevor noted that several initiatives e.g. an increased role for the AAB with regard to education and training had not yet been able to progress due to lack of engagement from members. However, work was underway to increase AAB engagement with the postgraduate student community. There will be an opportunity for all members to play a role in developing options to be considered further - watch out for Emails in the next few months. Peter Shewry takes on the President's role for 2013-14; Council discussed his emerging Strategy for the Association - it is expected that this will be approved at March Council and then made available to members via the website.

Thanks were expressed for the dedicated work of both Graham Russell, who was standing down as Programme Secretary, and of Martin Parry, who was standing down as Publications Secretary at the end of 2012. Nigel Halford and Trevor Hocking respectively will take on these roles from 2013. Jon Knight has moved jobs and his new role at the HDC means that he will be unable to continue as AAB Treasurer. The role of treasurer is clearly key to AAB operations; Jon will continue until a replacement is found and he will be happy to support any replacement as they take up the role. If you are interested in this role, please contact Jon Knight directly or Email via gensec@aab.org.uk

Council approved a small number of additional workshop and conference proposals; members are

provided with full details of these via Email as the 'calls for papers' and booking forms are released. It is planned that the AGM in 2013 will be held in Cambridge alongside the Crop ethnography: lessons for current and future challenges meeting. It was reported to Council that AAB had been successful in its bid to host the ESA14 congress in 2016 in Edinburgh. This will be a large multi-disciplinary conference and it is expected that the organisation of this large international meeting (300-500 attendees) will involve all of the specialist groups.

Council approved applications for membership from 51 new applicants and noted the breadth of interest amongst applications for membership and the number of student and international applications. We look forward to working with these new members in the months and years to come.

Council received reports on publications. 2014 is the centenary of *Annals of Applied Biology* and the Editor in Chief is keen to mark this. Council agreed that this was an important anniversary and suggested that the AAB Conference programme for 2014 is considered alongside the development of the centenary celebration for *Annals*. A small working group is being established to link activities of the AAB in 2014 with the celebration of the *Annals* centenary. If you have any good ideas or would like to get involved in the development of an appropriate programme to celebrate the *Annals* centenary, please contact us via gensec@aab.org.uk.

You may have heard new voices if you've rung the office or seen them at conference in the autumn; at November meeting, Council formally welcomed Luke Fabian and Russell Millman to the AAB administrative team. Russell has taken over some general office administration and also conference organisation. Luke has a particular role in the editorial support for the *Food and Energy Security* journal and it's due to his gentle encouragement that this newsletter comes out to you.

- Elizabeth Stockdale