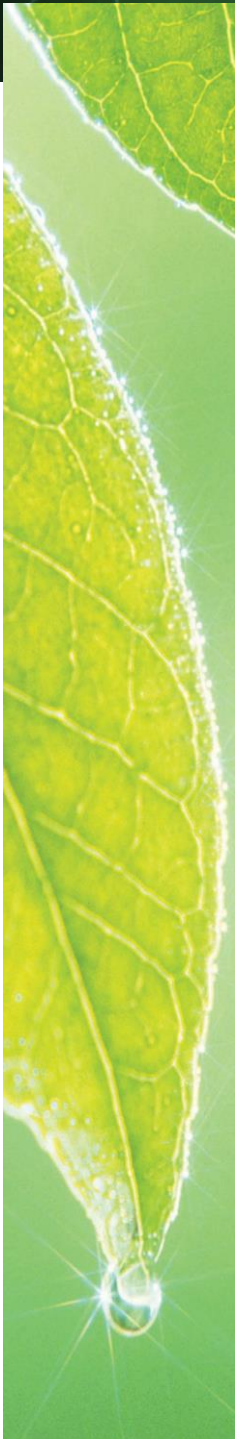


AAB President: Prof. Christine Foyer



ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
& FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS FOR 2020**

**NOTICE OF
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

14th SEPTEMBER 2021

ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

(Registered Charity No. 275655)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Virtually via ZOOM (Details to follow)

14 September 2021 at 10:30 am

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:

Annual Report for 2020 - available on the AAB web site, by the middle of August and sent directly by Email or post to all AAB members (if requested)

Virtual attendance and apologies for the AGM are recorded in writing and hence do not form part of the virtual business of the meeting.

- 1) Minutes of AGM held on 16 September 2020; Virtually Via Zoom
- 2) Trustees Report of Activity 2020
President's Report
Reports from the Specialist groups
Questions and discussion by members
- 3) Financial Report 2020
Presentation of report
Questions and discussion by members
- 4) Appointment of Auditors for 2022
- 5) Membership fees 2022
- 6) Subscription fees for *Annals of Applied Biology* for AAB Members 2022
- 7) Honorary Officers
- 8) Update to AAB strategic plan
- 9) Proposed change in of the Applied Mycology and Bacteriology Group Name to Applied Pathology
- 10) Proposal to Incorporate the AAB into a CIO
- 11) Proposed changes of the AAB Laws to increase the number to Honorary Members to 30
- 12) Any other issues raised by members for discussion.

Association of Applied Biologists
Minutes Annual General Meeting 2020

Held Virtually via Zoom

Wednesday 16th September 2020

The meeting commenced at 12.30pm

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

32 members were present. In addition, 5 apologies had been received with voting papers.

The President reminded members that the AAB annual report had been made accessible to all members before the AGM and hence, except where members indicated they had not received it, he assumed that members had read this carefully.

1) Minutes of AGM held on 10th September 2019 at Harper Adams University, Edgmond, Newport TF10 8NB

The minutes of the last meeting were provided, the meeting agreed that the minutes did not need any amendment and they were a correct record of the meeting.

Proposed: Rob Carlton

Seconded: Roy Kennedy

Accepted with 21 votes

2) Trustee Report of Activity 2019

The Trustee report had been provided. The President presented progress with delivery of the strategy focused on consolidating AAB's financial position and building upon AAB's specialist groups, conference activities and journal publications.

He also noted a few highlights of the year:

Annals saw a significant increase in subscription revenue during 2019 and an increase in its Impact Factor above 2.0 again, with the Association's Journals currently *Annals* 2.037, FES 5.212 and PBJ 8.154. The Virology Conference was highly successful with 135 delegates from around the world, but the President noted that due to COVID it had unfortunately been necessary to postpone or cancel a number of conferences during 2020.

At the end of 2019, General Secretary Martin Parry stepped down and Guy Barker replaced him. Christine Foyer took on the role of Editor-in-Chief for FES.

The President welcomed Phillipa Borrill, as AAB's second early career scientist champion, Christine Bosch as the new Food Systems Group Convener. Keith Walters as Biocontrol Group Convener succeeding Toby Bruce and Steve Edington, as Convener for the Nematology Group, succeeding Matt Back. Matthew Shepperd had stepped down from the role of Convener for the Soil Biology Group.

Finally, the President thanked AAB's trustees, specialist groups, members and the AAB office team for their support.

The President invited questions on the report, but none were forthcoming. The President therefore asked if the report of the trustees (including the Specialist Group Reports) could be accepted for publication as a full and complete report of the Association in 2019.

Proposed by Colin Mountford-Smith

Seconded by Neal Evans

Accepted with 26 votes.

3) Financial Report

The Treasurer referred to the finance report available to members and outlined the key aspects of performance for 2019. Operating cash flow in 2019 exceeded expenditure by £8,435 compared to the deficit of £7,808 in 2018. Unrealised gains on investments in 2019 were £35,418 comparing favourably to 2018's losses of £32,734. resulting in total surplus of £43,853 for the year. All AAB publications performed well financially in 2019 with total share of publication profits up by around £30,000.

Management and Administration costs increased from £120,147 to £136,992. Overall, for the AAB, staff costs were up modestly by 2.4% for all activities.

A shortfall in revenue compared to actual and allocated costs meant the conference programme generated a loss of £46,632 (2018: loss £50,914). Conference activity remained at a lower level than the Trustees would ideally like. The Trustees continue to work on a schedule of topics and events that will attract high quality speakers and improved attendance.

The Treasurer asked if there were any questions, but none were raised.

Therefore, he asked if the 2019 Finance report presented by the Trustees after audit by Dains of Birmingham could be accepted for publication.

Proposed by Martin Parry

Seconded by Christine Watson

The proposal was accepted with 20 votes.

4) Appointment of Auditors

Council proposed the appointment of Dains of Birmingham as auditors in 2021 for the 2020 account. The proposal was accepted unanimously.

5) Membership Fees

The Council proposed that the membership fees for 2021 remain the same as 2020:

Ordinary £62

Retired £31

Student £5 in the first year £20 in subsequent years providing the student signed up using a direct debit form

There were no questions.

The proposal was accepted with 27 votes.

6) Subscription for *Annals of Applied Biology*

The Council proposed that the subscription fees for 2021 stay the same with no increase:

Print on Demand: \$104.37 (UK); Americas \$149.26; Europe \$117.13; ROW \$174.49

On-line: £75.55 including VAT

There were no questions.

The proposal was accepted unanimously.

7) Food and Energy Security Editorial Board Discount Fee

The Council proposed that a 50% discount on the AAB membership fee be applied for members of the Editorial Board of the Food and Energy Security Journal from 1 January 2021

There were no questions. The proposal was accepted unanimously.

8) Honorary Officers

President Elect

There was 2 nomination for President Elect, Prof. Mike Gooding and Prof. Peter Gregory. They had introduced themselves via a short personal statement that was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

There were no further nominations.

Prof. Mike Gooding was elected.

Honorary Treasurer There was one nomination for the election of Honorary Treasurer, Prof. Nigel Halford. He had introduced himself via a short personal statement that was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

There were no further nominations.

Prof. Nigel Halford was elected.

9) Update to AAB strategic plan

There was a brief discussion of how the Association will operate in the following years, focusing on its specialist groups and conferences.

10) Proposed changes in the AAB Laws

A proposal had been made to change the Laws of the Association with respect to specialist group membership, the time that committee members can serve, the process of committee member selection and the role of the convenor. Rob Carlton noted that there was an erroneous extra word present in point 10.5; this will be amended in the new version.

The proposed changes in the AAB Laws were proposed and accepted.

11) Any other issues raised by members for discussion

No issues were raised.

The President concluded the meeting by thanking everyone and announcing, after 32 years of service for the AAB, Carol Millman will be retiring in 2021, and that her position will soon be advertised.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2020

The Association of Applied Biologists

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The Association of Applied Biologists

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers For the year ended 31 December 2020

Trustees	Prof C H Foyer, President Dr M J Gooding, President Elect (appointed 1 January 2021) Dr N Halford, Honorary Treasurer (appointed 1 January 2021) Mr C R Glass, Conferences Treasurer Prof R Kennedy, Publications Officer Dr G Barker, General Secretary Dr S Edgington, Nematology Dr C Bosch, Food Systems Dr R Ray, Applied Mycology and Bacteriology Mr T Robinson, Pesticide Application Dr K F A Walters, Biological Control Dr M Aranda, Virology Dr P Borrill, Early Career Scientist Champion Dr C F E Ashworth, Cropping and the Environment Dr R Carlton, Programme Secretary (resigned 1 January 2021) Dr M Back, Programme Secretary (appointed 1 January 2021)
Charity registered number	275655
Principal office	Warwick Enterprise Park Wellesbourne Warwickshire CV35 9EF
Executive Officer	Mrs C A Millman
Accountants and Independent examiner	Dains LLP 15 Colmore Row Birmingham B3 2BH
Bankers	Barclays Bank plc 150 The Parade Leamington Spa Warwickshire CV32 4A
Solicitors	Harbottle & Lewis LLP 7 Savoy Court London WC2R 0EX

The Association of Applied Biologists

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2020

Applied Mycology and Bacteriology	R Ray (Convener) (2021 1st term) A Bennett (2021) N Boonham (2021) J Clarkson (2021) N Havis (2020) F Ritchie (2021) J West (2021) R Jackson (2023) A Mikaberidze (2023) Jennifer Hodgetts (2023)
Pesticide Application	T H Robinson (Convener) (2021 1st term) C Butler-Ellis (2021) P Balsari (2020) S Cooper (2022) E Gil (2020) C R Glass (2021) B Magri (co-opted) C Mountford-Smith (2021) D Nuyttens (2020) J Thomas (2021) J van de Zande (2021)
Biological Control	K Walters (Convener) (2021 1st term) J Burnstone (2022) T J A Bruce (2021) D Chandler (co-opted) R Collier (2021) P Morley (2021) C Rowley (2021) D Shaw (co-opted) P Walker (2021) X Xu (2021)
Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement	G Barker (Convener) (2021 2nd term) L Bell (2021) N Bernstein (2021) D Chandler (co-opted) S Griffiths (2021) Y Boubou (2021) S Griffiths (2021) N Halford (2022) P Morley (2021) J Monaghan (2020)
Cropping and the Environment	K Topp (Convener) (2021 1st term) J Bishop (2020) R Carlton (2021) N Jones (2022) S Shah (2022) K Smith (2021) W Smith (2022) M Fletcher (2023) M McCracken (CEH) (co-opted)

The Association of Applied Biologists

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2020

Soil Biology	J Stroud (Convener) (2023 1st term) R Gantlett (2022) C White (2023) K Butt (2022)
Food Systems	C Bosch (Convener) (2021 1st term) Y Benitez-Alfonso G Toledo-Ortiz E Combet
Virology	M Aranda (Convener) (2021 1st term) S Bertin (2022) M Varrelmann (2022) A Love (2022) C Nellist (2022) J Tilsner (2022) T Tungadi (2022) S Bouvaine (2022) J Verchot (2022) J Walsh (2022) (Co-opted)
Nematology	S Edgington (Convener) (2022 1st term) A Evans (2021) R Lawson (2021) C Lilley (2021) A Wright (2021) M Back (2022) K Davie (2021) K Davies (2022) L Holden-Dye (2021)

Terms for Conveners and Group members are three years.
Conveners can serve three consecutive terms.
Dates in brackets are the end of the current terms.

The Association of Applied Biologists

President's Report For the year ended 31 December 2020



The President presents her statement for the year.

The past 12 months have witnessed a great deal of change both within the Association of Applied Biologists (AAB) and in the wider world. However, with all the challenges have come significant opportunities. The restrictions of coronavirus pandemic have allowed innovative ways of working to evolve faster than otherwise, particularly with regard to the organisation of national and international meetings and conferences. The AAB like other similar organisations has successfully embraced the opportunities of on-line work and conference organization. While face to face meetings are likely to resume within the coming 12 months, the possibilities of holding hybrid meetings that embrace a much wider audience will be explored and consolidated within the coming months. We look forward to being able to return to a very full programme of conference activities in the coming year.

There has been a timely turnover of some of the officers of the AAB and the succession of posts has been achieved relatively seamlessly. AAB was sad to learn of the retirement of Mrs Carol Millman from her post as the Association Executive Officer at the end of May 2021. However, AAB was fortunate in being able to recruit a very experienced replacement for Carol in Dr Geraint Parry, who has been acting as the Deputy Executive Officer in recent months to take on the role on Carol's departure. AAB thanks Carol for her steadfast dedication to AAB and a long career of service to the organisation. We wish her every success and happiness in her future endeavours.

The financial position of AAB has been secured over the last months, not least by the sale of AAB's share in *Food and Energy Security*. This sale provided a substantial return on the initial investment and has provided a significant amount of revenue that will allow AAB to explore new activities and open new opportunities for the Association to grow and develop, in the service of its members and society in general. It is possible now to plan for a greater elaboration of the 'Fit for the Future' strategy, built upon AAB's specialist groups, conference activities and journal publications, that will enable the association to grow its membership and increase its appeal internationally as well as nationally through a wider range of activities and interactions. The last twelve months have also witnessed the successful renewal of contracts for *The Plant Biotechnology Journal* and *Annals of Applied Biology* with the Wiley Publishing Group on favourable terms. AAB is also delighted to welcome the new *Annals of Applied Biology* Editor-in-Chief, Professor Ricardo Antunes Azevedo, who has already started to steer the Journal to future successes. These two journals remain a vital part of AAB activities and an important source of revenue to support the functions of the charity. AAB is grateful to our editors, editorial staff and reviewers for their hard work, and for the support of our publisher Wiley. Together with Wiley, we continue to monitor developments around the wider move to Open Access, and their potential implications for the future strategy for our journals.

The negotiation of the contracts with Wiley however alerted council to the vulnerability of trustees with regard to risk within the context of the existing unincorporated association. AAB Council therefore agreed to investigate the steps required to implement the incorporation of AAB as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). A working group headed by the President Elect Professor Mike Gooding was therefore established to investigate the procedures involved in the incorporation and transfer of assets from the AAB to the proposed CIO.

The Association of Applied Biologists

President's Report (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2020

At the end of December 2020 Professor Stuart Knight stepped down as AAB President. I would like to thank Stuart for his excellent leadership and for his key contribution to the success of AAB over the last two years. Dr Rob Carlton stepped down from his role as Programme Secretary at the end of 2020. We thank Rob for his tireless energy and enthusiasm, as well as strong leadership in this important role. I am delighted to welcome Professor Matthew Back as the new Programme Secretary, and also Professor Nigel Halford, who has taken on the role of AAB Treasurer. We thank Mr Andy Page as the retiring Treasurer, whose record of excellence in curating and guiding the AAB finances will be difficult to surpass. We are actively looking for a Convener for the Soil group, a role that has been temporarily covered by the Early Career Scientist Champion (Felicity Crotty) in 2020.

Finally, last but not least, we are grateful to all our convenors, and specialist groups, for their vital contributions to the success of the Association. Moreover, I would personally like to thank all members of Council for their support, enthusiasm and commitment to AAB, and the office team of Carol, Geraint, Alberto, John and Bernadette for all their hard work and achievements over the past 12 months.

C H Foyer
President

Date: 14 September 2021

The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report For the year ended 31 December 2020

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the for the ended 31 December 2020.

The Charity also trades under the name AAB.

Objectives and activities

a. Policies and objectives

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'.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

b. Strategies for achieving objectives

We deliver this charitable mission through the publication of scientific journals in applied biology, the organisation of conferences in a range of related subject themes, the formulation and dissemination of policies to promote the discipline, the production of a newsletter and the provision of services for members.

c. Main activities undertaken to further the Charity's purposes for the public benefit

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 earth's environment.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Achievements and performance

a. Main achievements of the Charity

Publications

The Association of Applied Biologists has a long history in academic publishing which promotes its charitable objectives. The major changes currently occurring in academic publishing continue to impact on the Association. However the journals, conference papers and abstracts are a notable resource for the members of the Association and in the applied biology research community. There are many journals reporting on the fundamentals aspects of plant science but the translational aspects of plant science will become important in the drive for zero carbon farming. It remains unclear how this will impact on agriculture and horticulture. The commitment to a free flow of information will be essential for scientists in this discipline and remains an important core part of the Association's objectives. The Association's Journals continue to develop with this ever changing background.

Annals of Applied Biology

The *Annals* publishing meeting was held virtually on 12 May 2020. Wiley reported that *Annals* like other journals was migrating to the 'All Journals' licence. Total subscription revenue was £212,575 which is a significant increase compared to prior year. Non-subscription revenue in 2019 was £37,942, which is on level with prior year. There was an increase in open access revenue. In 2019, direct costs totaled £51,512. Setting the total income against costs and Publisher's Overheads produces a profit of £162,877 and a total profit share to the Association of £87,428. The target for the numbers of articles published in *Annals* in 2021 is 80. Seventy-four articles were published in *Annals* in 2020, which was on target as set out in the *Annals* publication plan (368 pages in Volume 176 and 423 pages in Volume 177). Professor Ricardo Antunes de Azevedo (the new editor in chief starting 2021) has worked alongside Prof. Simon Leather, the outgoing Editor-in-Chief during 2020 to ensure a smooth handover. No figures are available for revenue by *Annals* in 2020. New impact factor for *Annals* has risen to 2.037 in 2020.

Changes already implemented by Simon Leather resulted in the appointment of new subject editor for livestock (Philip Robinson) and a reviews editor (Antonino Malacrino). We also welcomed other new colleagues on the Board of Editors from 2020: Maria Patricia Benavides from Argentina, Ivana Maksimovic from Serbia, Marcia E.A. Carvalho and Paulo Mazzafera from Brazil, Vassilis Fotopoulos from Cyprus, Mengji Cao from China, Duncan Westbury, Lucy Ridding and Arran Greenop from UK.

The Editor-in-Chief remuneration has been increased to £5,000 per annum from 2021. Arising out of the new *Annals* publication contract current rate for members based in the UK is £82 per print subscription. Wiley will have a 0% increase, on *Annals of Applied Biology* pricing in 2021 for institutions, individuals, and members.

Food and Energy Security

No publication meeting was held for *Food and Energy Security* due to the ongoing publication contractual negotiations. Wiley gave notice to AAB (as stipulated in the publication contract) at the end of 2019 that they no longer wanted to publish *Food and Energy Security*. This was a prelude to negotiations with Wiley over a new publication contract for FES. The new contract was due to start in January 2021. This left AAB to put in place new arrangements during 2020 (the last year of the existing contract). The negotiations were progressed during 2020 by the AAB Task & Finish group who were initially interested in purchasing the Wiley 50% share of FES. However, Wiley valued FES at £1.6 Million. Eventually Wiley offered to purchase AAB's 50% ownership stake in FES for £800,000 GBP. The entire rights, title and interest in FES was acquired by Wiley on 1 January 2021, immediately after the expiry of the current agreement with the AAB. This was successfully concluded, and FES has now passed out of AAB ownership and is no longer connected with the AAB.

(continued)

Plant Biotechnology Journal

PBJ Publication Meeting

PBJ achieved a high impact factor of 8.154, which means the journal is in the top 5 of original research journals in plant sciences and the number 1 Open Access journal. The Editor-in-Chief remuneration for *PBJ* has been increased to £10,000 per annum. This is recognition for the continued success that Henry Daniell has brought to the publication and the extra work load that has arisen as a result. The *PBJ* management meeting was held virtually on Wednesday 5th August 2020. The publication meeting covered several issues especially how *PBJ* is heavily dependent on one country (China) for manuscripts compared to competitors. The promotion of *PBJ* in the US and Europe was discussed with Wiley as there is a continuing decline in submission from countries outside China. The role of *PBJ* editorial office in analysing data on poorly cited articles was discussed and how this can be used to maintain *PBJ* ranking and productivity. One idea was to publish articles based on associate editor's percentage acceptance, not using reviewer rating scores.

New PBJ Contract

A new *PBJ* contract was required by the end of 2021 to commence in 2022. This was to avoid parties giving notice on the publication contract at the end of 2020. Unfortunately the three-way ownership of the Journal (SEB, AAB and Wiley) has made this difficult. An initial suggested new contract has resulted in the need for exploration of different revenue models governing the share of *PBJ* revenues. The new contract was eventually negotiated based on a revenue sharing model (see attached) which gave AAB 20 % of all revenue. Further drafts of the contract revealed the need for AAB to explore incorporation of the Society as a means of limiting the liability.

Scientific Conferences

A total of 707 delegates participated in events in 2020.

Unfortunately, the Coronavirus pandemic impacted the number of events held during 2020.

Details of the conference programme is given below:

Title of Conference	No. Delegates	Date	Group
International Advances in Pesticide Application	89	28-30 Jan	Pesticide Application
Legumes from Farm to Food and Feed - Free Webinar	85	23-Oct	Cropping and the Environment
Tomato brown rugose fruit and cucumber green mottle mosaic virus, two emerging tobamoviruses	276	02-Dec	Virology
Trees for the Future - Free Webinar	186	10-Dec	AAB/BIFOR
Advances in Nematology 2020	71	15-Dec	Nematology
Total	707		

(continued)

Biological Control and IPM Group

Convener – Keith Walters

Group members – Toby Bruce, Joshua Burnstone, Dave Chandler, Rosemary Collier, Philip Morley, Charlotte Rowley, Dick Shaw, Phil Walker, Xiaming Xu

The work of the Group was severely disrupted during 2020 by the Covid-19 pandemic, affecting all planned activities. To respond to the evolving restrictions and in order to ensure normal activities could be resumed as soon as possible, the committee responded by increasing the frequency of its meetings and moving to an online format. The changes have proven successful, with time being saved by avoiding the need to travel to a central venue, while still facilitating a full discussion of all agenda items. It is likely that the new format will be retained following eventual easing of Covid restrictions, perhaps with occasional face-to-face meetings organised when issues to be addressed make it appropriate.

Following discussion during 2019 of developing problems relating to the gender and age balance of the committee, two new members (Charlotte Rowley (AHDB) and Joshua Burnstone (Fargro)) have now joined. Their contributions are proving to be invaluable in modifying the focus of our future activities in order to reach out to a wider audience, with associated impact on the planning of our forthcoming 2021 “Advances” Conference (see below). Further progress in this area was achieved during 2020. Joe Roberts (Harper Adams University) kindly agreed to join the organizing group for our November event, to represent the views of early career scientists and to introduce new components of the conference that would offer opportunities for increased contributions and participation from the sector. Joe will take up his seat at our meeting in January 2021.

In view of a trend of declining number of delegates attending the Annual Advances in Biocontrol and IPM conference, a review of the delegate lists for the period 2015/2019 was undertaken during the year. It showed a significant reduction in the number of delegates from the industry sector, particularly from medium and large companies. The number of delegates from universities/institutes showed a stable attendance of established academics, but declining numbers of early career delegates with student attendance displaying a particularly alarming decline. The stable attendance of established academics was noticeably reliant on a few universities/institutes.

The findings were discussed with industry and academic representatives. Industry contacts commented on a need to increase the relevance of the work reported to industry needs, making it less “academic” by increasing/linking the information presented to near(er) to market issues. Early career scientists suggested that less reliance on a traditional format for the conference (including more use of current technology) would encourage attendance/participation, as would making sessions more inclusive (e.g. early career/student presentations in all sessions rather than specific early career only sessions). The latter group cited the difficulty of paying travel/overnight expenses etc. as a factor limiting the number of conferences they could attend each year. Registration costs were also thought to be important for many Biocontrol companies, who also suggested that a greater focus be given to (amongst other areas) (i) scientific information generated through collaboration between industry and academics in areas of common interest, and (ii) promotion of product efficacy/safety issues. Specifically, there was a commonality in responses with many calling for more attention being paid to knowledge supporting the delivery of sustainable integrated solutions for pest management. It was thought that we might ensure our conference fills a specific role (amongst others) of identifying the research that urgently needs to be done. The findings will be used to develop our approach to future conferences.

The Covid-19 pandemic and associated restrictions were discussed by the committee on an ongoing basis and, inevitably, resulted in the cancellation of the planned “Advances in Biocontrol and IPM” conference in November 2020. Leading up to the decision, various options were considered to avoid breaking the now well established annual cycle of the event including (i) Business as usual; (ii) Complete abandonment of the 2020 event; (iii) Running an interim (scaled-back) “2020” event, held either in autumn 2020 or spring 2021; (iv) In isolation, or in combination with (i) or (iii) above, a relaunch of the main conference series in November 2021 perhaps combining a “standard meeting” (delegates attending a central venue) with the added option of joining online instead - hereafter referred to as a hybrid conference. To maintain the continuity of this conference series it was

(continued)

decided to organise a scaled-back online-only “interim” conference which will be held on 25 February 2021. Subject to further developments relating to the pandemic, planning is underway for the conference series to then return to its normal slot in November 2021. The event will be relaunched as a hybrid conference involving both a central conference venue for delegates who prefer a conventional meeting, and facilities/support for online speaker contributions and Q&A/discussion. Poster sessions will also adopt a hybrid approach. A potential dedicated issue of *Annals of Applied Biology* (peer reviewed) has been provisionally agreed, in which selected papers will be published. In addition, a virtual issue of *Annals of Applied Biology* in which a collection of influential papers published in the journal during the last 10-15 years will be highlighted, is also planned. Publicising of the November meeting will follow the interim conference to avoid potential confusion.

Finally, the Group would like to record its appreciation of members of the AAB Office, who under the leadership of Carol Millman has once again formed the “glue” holding our activities together, and whose “hidden contributions” have underpinned our effective functioning. With her impending retirement in mind we would particularly like to thank Carol for her constant support, advice and guidance since the Biocontrol and IPM Group was first launched. Her encyclopedic knowledge of current and historic activities of AAB, and extensive contacts, have enabled us to avoid many pitfalls and she will be sorely missed. Very best wishes for the future and enjoy your retirement Carol.

Virology Group

Convener – Miguel A. Aranda

Group members – Sabrina Bertin, Sophie Bouvaine, Gerard Clover, Andrew Love, Charlotte Nellist, Jens Tilsner, Trisna Tungadi, Jeanmarie Verchot, John Walsh, Mark Varrelmann

The Virology group has been particularly active during 2020. Four main activities kept us busy; these have been (i) planning and organizing the next International Advances in Plant Virology Conference (IAPVC), (ii) planning and organizing the webinar “Tomato brown rugose fruit virus and Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus, two emerging tobamoviruses threatening tomato and cucurbit crops worldwide”, (iii) resuming discussions with the Microbiology Society to re-establish joint meetings and (iv) redesigning the future of the Description of Plant Viruses (DPV) database. As for (i), Andrew Love took the lead; by now, there is a well-planned conference that will take place on-line during 20-22 April 2021. Five high profile international researchers have accepted our invitation to present their work at the conference, the registration is open and deadline for abstract submission is approaching; we are confident that the conference, in spite of its on-line format, will be a highly attended and successful event. Regarding the webinar, it took place on-line on the 2nd December 2020. We had four invited speakers plus six offered communications. Miguel Aranda chaired the two sessions and the webinar was masterfully hosted by the AAB office lead by Carol Millman. At its audience peak, the webinar was followed by 268 delegates, with an average audience above 250. In January 2020 the Group successfully resumed discussions with the Microbiology Society to re-establish joint meetings. Andrew Love is currently channeling discussions, and the hope is that spring IAPVCs will take place in conjunction with the Microbiology Society meetings. Regarding the DPV database, it was agreed at a Council meeting that the Society will assume the cost of reestablishing the DPV web portal; also a mechanism for incentivizing the updating of the database has been envisaged. Hopefully, the new DPV database can be launched during the IAPVC in April 2021. So, in spite of the struggles with the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, the Virology Group has had a really productive year.

Nematology Group

Convener – Steve Edgington (CABI)

Group members – Matthew Back (Harper Adams University), Kim Davie (SASA), Keith Davies (University of Hertfordshire), Andy Evans (SRUC), Rebecca Lawson (Fera), Lindy Holden-Dye (University of Southampton), Catherine Lilley (University of Leeds) and Alistair Wright (BBRO).

The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2020

(continued)

The Nematology Group consists of a diverse set of representatives from government, academia, research and consultancy. The group meets twice a year, with the AGM held at the 'Advances in Nematology' meeting in December. An autumn meeting is used to discuss and plan forthcoming conferences as well as other wider nematology related initiatives.

Conferences arranged during 2020:

Advances in Nematology, 15th December 2020 (virtual conference)

Advances in Nematology is an annual meeting that, over recent years (and when physical), has taken place at the Linnean Society in London or at SASA in Edinburgh. This is always a popular, stimulating and much enjoyed meeting, with consistently good student representation. The decision was taken to keep it in the calendar for 2020 even if we had to go virtual.

The conference was attended by over 70 delegates, including a good number of students. And thanks to the virtual nature of the conference we were joined by delegates from around the world; at one point Australia, India, USA, South Africa and a number of European countries were all represented, before time differences meant some had to get to bed. The programme included a broad range of topics on plant parasitic, entomopathogenic and free-living nematodes; and there was an excellent balance between fundamental nematode science and applied 'in-the-field' presentations, which helped keep the delegates engaged throughout.

We were joined by two excellent keynote presenters. Inga Zasada from the USDA in Oregon gave a great talk on nematode pests of wine grapes and the work her team are doing to understand population dynamics and link this to control. Roy Neilson (James Hutton Institute) gave a super presentation on the value of nematodes to soil processes and, from a wider perspective, their value in addressing global challenges, such as the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis.

As in previous years, two awards were given to students who presented their work at the meeting. The Brian Kerry Award for the best platform presentation was awarded to Hugo Silva from the University of Coimbra, Portugal, for his presentation on the pinewood nematode and host defences. The AAB Poster Prize Award went to Nasuma Musa (Harper Adams University) for his great poster on mechanisms to stop nematode migration towards host plants. Thanks go to the judges, all members of the Nematode Group, as well as CABI for donating a book for the Brian Kerry Award.

Overall, this was an excellent meeting, with plenty of good science and a great international feel. We missed the personal interactions over coffee but going virtual certainly had its benefits. An excellent decision keeping nematodes in the 2020 calendar.

Future Conference Programme:

Advances in Nematology, 14 December 2021: To be confirmed

AM&B Group Report for 2020 Annual Report

Convener – Rumiana Ray

Group members – Rumiana Ray, Amanda Bennett, John Clarkson, Jon West, Neil Havis, Faye Ritchie, Neil Boonham

Due to Covid-19 pandemic and restrictions in face-to-face meetings the group decided to postpone the planned meeting on 5th November 2020 titled "Thinking differently about soil-borne disease management" until 2021. The group is meeting in February 2021 to make plans for this meeting to be either hybrid or virtual.

Discussions were also in progress with the IPM group to have sessions within their focussed meeting on Plant Health in December 2020. However, following the Covid-19 lockdown with consequences for large gatherings it has been discussed to postpone this meeting until 2021.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2020

(continued)

Annual Report 2020 - PP&CI Group

Convener – Guy Barker (University of Warwick)

Group Members – Jim Monaghan (Harper Adams University), Luke Bell (University of Reading), Nirit Bernstein (The Volcani Center, Israel), Yara Boubou (Hadlow College), Simon Griffiths (John Innes Centre), Nigel Halford (Rothamsted Research)

Due to the COVID pandemic, the PP&CI group did not hold any conferences during 2020.

Yara Boubou moved on to pastures new, and Simon Griffiths came to the end of his term in December. The group is planning to recruit some new members during 2021.

Plans for future conferences include:

- Biotic and Abiotic stress in horticultural crops
- Acrylamide in crop plants
- Genome Editing
- new Agriculture bill

If you would like to join the Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement Group and have involvement in future planning of AAB conferences within the group, please contact Guy Barker at guy.barker@warwick.ac.uk

Pesticide Application Group Annual Report – January 2021

Convener – Tom Robinson

Group members – Paolo Balsari, Simon Cooper, Richard Glass, Ben Magri, Colin Mountford-Smith, Clare Butler Ellis, James Thomas, David Nuyttens, and Jan van de Zande.

Co-opted member – Emilio Gil.

Unfortunately Covid has severely restricted the activities of the Pesticide Application Group in 2020. The biennial Conference: International Advances in Pesticide Application (IAPA) was successfully held at the Hotel Mercure In Brighton UK January 28-30. A well attended conference; 90 delegates from across the world, addressing a broad range of application topics

Key topic areas for sessions include:

- Biopesticides and Vectors
- Regulations and Standards
- Precision Application
- Sprayer Loading and Cleaning
- Target Deposition, Fruit and Vine, and Formulation
- Drift, and Post Application Emissions
- Training
- Pesticide Application Modelling
- Unmanned Aerial Spray Systems

The invited speaker at the 2020 IAPA Conference was: John Martin – Farmer and Sprayer Operator from Dorset UK. His Topic - Keeping Surface Water Clean at Deverell Farm.

Thanks go to the session organisers Ben Magri, Colin Mountford-Smith, Jan van de Zande, Paolo Balsari, Simon Cooper, Richard Glass, James Thomas, David Nuyttens, Clare Butler Ellis and Emilio Gil for their work on editing the papers and to Carol Millman and the staff at the AAB Office for organising the conference and producing the proceedings.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2020

(continued)

Current Activities:

Closed Transfer Systems Workshop Sept 28 2021:

Originally planned for the Autumn 2020, The Closed Transfer Systems Workshop, lead by James Thomas. The workshop has been postponed twice due to Covid. It is planned for September 28 2021 at Silsoe Bedfordshire UK.

IAPA 2022 January 25-27 2022:

To be held at the Chamber Of Agriculture, North Rhine Westphalia, Germany.

Also in the pipeline but delayed due to Covid are: Targeted Application Technology Workshop at Wageningen Holland, and a Decision Support Systems Workshop venue to be announced.

Cropping and the Environment Annual Report 2020

CATE Group – Kairsty Topp (convener, SRUC), Rob Carlton (Private Consultant), Kate Smith (ADAS), Naomi Jones (FERA), Jake Bishop (University of Reading), Morag McCracken (CEH), Syed Shah (NIAB) and Will Smith (NIAB)

Kairsty Topp took over from Rob Carlton as convenor in January 2019.

The group meets once in 2020 via TEAMS. Due to the pandemic, the conferences planned for 2020 were postponed until 2021. We held a webinar in October on 2020 on legumes. The Intercropping for sustainability, which was due to be held in Reading on 18-20 January, has been moved to online. The external company SpeakEasy were employed to host the online facility for the conference. This conference was organised by the EU project Diversify (led by JHI) and ReMix (led by INRAE). The conferences planned for 2021 /early 2022 are 1) Advances in Legumes in Practice 2, which will be held Online via ZOOM on 1-3 September 2021 2) Crop production with reduced pesticide and fertiliser inputs without compromising yield and quality, will be held Virtually via ZOOM on 13-14 October and 3) Greenhouse gas emissions & ammonia emissions from agriculture, which will be held in Edinburgh 2022 4) Shaping the Future for Pollinators Innovations in Farmed Landscapes, which will be held at the Copthorne Hotel, Slough-Windsor on 06-08 September 2022. These conferences may be moved online or changed to a hybrid event due to the covid 19 restrictions.

Membership

A total of 88 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 2020 was 553 - 55 less than the year before.

The number of Honorary members at the end of the year was 13, 15 being the maximum permissible under the Laws.

Financial review

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

b. 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.

c. Financial overview

Income and expenditure

The Association benefitted from a generous legacy bequest in 2020 from David Hand of £114,824 and from the sale of the journal *Food and Energy Security* to Wiley for £800,000. This meant that total income for 2020 exceeded expenditure by £947,852 (before investment gains). Nevertheless, the Association continues with the long-term aim of operating with a small positive cash flow, or cash neutrality, as part of a sustainable long term business plan, and at the time of writing options are being considered to use some of that money to fund projects in line with the Association's charitable objectives. The rest will be reinvested to secure the long-term financial viability of the Association.

Publications

The three journals in the Association's portfolio all performed well in 2020, providing a total income of £215,115 to the Association. Note that this includes £37,766 from *Food and Energy Security*, which is no longer owned by the Association, so that contribution will not be made in the future. However, it also includes £52,257 legal fees arising from contract negotiations with Wiley over the *Plant Biotechnology Journal*. These negotiations have now been concluded.

Management and admin, including staff costs

Management and admin costs decreased from £136,992 in 2019 to £92,352 in 2020, mainly due to a reduction in staff costs.

Conferences

Conferences are an important Association activity and the Association continued to run conferences through the COVID19 pandemic, thanks to the efforts of organisers and staff. The experience gained in running virtual conferences means that virtual and hybrid events are likely to remain part of the conference programme alongside face-to-face events in the future. The Association continued to subsidise conferences in 2020, to the tune of £38,017.

Membership

Membership income declined by 8% from £20,924 in 2019 to £19,194 in 2020. Declining membership remains a concern for the Association.

Balance Sheet

The Association's net assets increased by £962,339 in 2020 to £1,486,208, thanks in the main to the exceptional occurrences of the generous legacy bequest and the sale of the *Food and Energy Security* Journal.

d. Investments policy

The Association's investments continue to be managed by Tilney Investment Management and the gains on investments in 2020 were £14,487.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2020

e. Principal risks and uncertainties

The charity's activities expose it to a number of financial risks including credit risk, cash flow risk and liquidity risk. The use of financial derivatives is governed by the charity's policies approved by the board of trustees, which provide written principles on the use of financial derivatives to manage these risks. The charity does not use derivative financial instruments for speculative purposes.

Cash flow risk

The charity's activities expose it primarily to the financial risks of changes in foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates. The charity uses foreign exchange forward contracts and interest rate swap contracts to hedge these exposures. Interest bearing assets and liabilities are held at fixed rate to ensure certainty of cash flows.

Credit risk

The charity's principal financial assets are bank balances and cash, trade and other receivables, and investments. The charity's credit risk is primarily attributable to its trade receivables. The amounts presented in the balance sheet are net of allowances for doubtful receivables. An allowance for impairment is made where there is an identified loss event which, based on previous experience, is evidence of a reduction in the recoverability of the cash flows. The credit risk on liquid funds and derivative financial instruments is limited because the counterparties are banks with high credit ratings assigned by international credit-rating agencies. The charity has no significant concentration of credit risk, with exposure spread over a large number of counterparties and customers.

Liquidity risk

In order to maintain liquidity to ensure that sufficient funds are available for ongoing operations and future developments, the charity uses investment funds.

Further details regarding liquidity risk can be found in the Statement of accounting policies in the financial statements.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

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.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2020

Structure, governance and management (continued)

b. Methods of appointment or election 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 Conference 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 Conveners of the Association's Specialist Groups. The Conveners 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.

Conveners 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 Conveners is deemed to be three years).

c. Policies adopted for the induction and training of 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.

d. 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, Publications Officer, Membership Officer, Programme Secretary, Meetings Treasurer and Early Career Scientist Champion, together with Conveners of the AAB Specialist Groups.

Wider network

Affiliations were maintained with the Institute of Biology, the Foundation for Science and Technology and the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers. The Association has a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Society for Agronomy.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2020

Plans for future periods

The 2021 budget predicts a small cash deficit of around £9,039. However, this may increase as the Trustees invest the money received in 2020 towards the charitable objectives of the Association.

Proposed Membership Fees

The Associations finances are in a healthy state due to the generous legacy bequest that was received and the sale of the *Food and Energy Security* journal. In addition, the UK economy is unlikely to see significant inflation in the foreseeable future, while declining membership continues to be of concern. The Trustees therefore propose freezing membership fees for 2022.

Annals are now published online. However, members will be able to obtain print on demand copies of Annals till the end of 2022.

The current rate for members based in the UK would be around £91 per print subscription and around £77 for online subscription. The current global rates below (all in USD) will apply to Annals:

Member Direct POD Price (USD)	Americas	UK	Europe	Rest of World
	\$160.45	\$118.8	\$125.91	\$187.57

The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2020

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Laws of Association. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 14 September 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Prof C H Foyer
Trustee

The Association of Applied Biologists

Independent Examiner's Report For the year ended 31 December 2020

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Association of Applied Biologists ('the Charity')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the Trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the Charity has prepared the accounts in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters, other than those fully detailed below, have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Independent Examiner's Report (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2020

Disclosure Section

The Charity has breached the audit threshold for the year ended 31 December 2020 as its gross income exceeded £1 million. As the Trustees deemed the reason for breaching the audit threshold exception, as a result of the sale of journal publication profit sharing rights, they applied to the Charity Commission for a dispensation from audit. On 28 July 2021, the Charity Commission granted the Charity audit dispensation under Regulation 34(3)(b) of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and therefore the Trustees have only obtained an Independent Examiners Report for the year ended 31 December 2020.

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed:

Dated: 14 September 2021

Mark Gurney FCCA

Dains LLP

Birmingham

The Association of Applied Biologists

Statement of financial activities For the year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	114,824	-	114,824	14,050
Charitable activities	4	267,792	-	267,792	271,805
Investments	5	2,409	-	2,409	6,126
Other income	6	800,000	-	800,000	-
Total income		1,185,025	-	1,185,025	291,981
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	7	236,670	503	237,173	283,546
Total expenditure		236,670	503	237,173	283,546
Net gains on investments		14,487	-	14,487	35,418
Net movement in funds		962,842	(503)	962,339	43,853
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		509,322	14,547	523,869	480,016
Net movement in funds		962,842	(503)	962,339	43,853
Total funds carried forward		1,472,164	14,044	1,486,208	523,869

The notes on pages 25 to 40 form part of these financial statements.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Balance Sheet For the year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	2,417	3,456
Investments	13	536,740	392,283
		<u>539,157</u>	<u>395,739</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	14	148,515	115,176
Cash at bank and in hand		1,167,296	201,896
		<u>1,315,811</u>	<u>317,072</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(368,760)	(188,942)
		<u>947,051</u>	<u>128,130</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>1,486,208</u></u>	<u><u>523,869</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	16	14,044	14,547
Unrestricted funds	16	1,472,164	509,322
		<u>1,486,208</u>	<u>523,869</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 14 September 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Prof C H Foyer
Trustee

The notes on pages 25 to 40 form part of these financial statements.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Statement of Cash Flows For the year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash used in operating activities	19	1,093,861	89,175
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interests and rents from investments		2,409	6,126
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(900)	(2,241)
Proceeds from sale of investments		78,137	32,404
Purchase of investments		(208,107)	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities		(128,461)	36,289
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		965,400	125,464
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		201,896	76,432
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	20	1,167,296	201,896
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The notes on pages 25 to 40 form part of these financial statements

1. General information

The Association of Applied Biologists is a charitable trust and registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales under, number 275655. It is constituted under its Laws of Association revised December 1977.

The principal office address is Warwick Enterprise Park, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, CV35 9EF.

The principal activity of the charitable trust is to organise conferences and support publications, in order to support those working in the area of applied biology and to promote advances in the field.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The Association of Applied Biologists meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis. Financial budgets are set to ensure that the organisation can continue to operate as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements. Detailed financial budgets are presented and approved by the Trustee Board on a 12 month basis. Any changes in funding within the year are reflected as soon as practicable and action taken by management to ensure that the Charity spends within its available resources.

The Trustees have concluded that there are no material uncertainties which cast doubt on the Charity's going concern status.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Charity has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Charity, can be reliably measured.

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.6 Foreign currencies

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at rates of exchange ruling at the reporting date.

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate ruling on the date of the transaction.

Exchange gains and losses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2.7 Taxation

The Association of Applied Biologists has charitable status and is registered with the Charity Commission and is therefore exempt from paying Corporation Tax on charitable activities.

2.8 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £350 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Office equipment	- 4 years straight line
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2.9 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2.10 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.11 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.12 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

2.13 Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.14 Pensions

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge in the Statement of Financial Activities represents the amounts payable by the Charity to the fund in respect of the year. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the Charity pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the Charity has no further obligations.

Amounts not paid are shown in accruals as a liability in the Balance Sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the Charity in independently administered funds.

2.15 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2020

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Legacies	114,824	114,824
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £
Donations	14,050	14,050
	<hr/>	<hr/>

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Conferences	33,483	33,483
Publications	215,115	215,115
Membership Fees	19,194	19,194
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	267,792	267,792
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £
Conferences	78,746	78,746
Publications	172,135	172,135
Membership Fees	20,924	20,924
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	271,805	271,805
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2020

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Income from listed investments	2,153	2,153
Bank interest received	256	256
	<u>2,409</u>	<u>2,409</u>

	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £
Income from listed investments	5,990	5,990
Bank interest received	136	136
	<u>6,126</u>	<u>6,126</u>

6. Other incoming resources

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Proceeds from sale of journal publication profit sharing rights	800,000	800,000
	<u>800,000</u>	<u>800,000</u>

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2020

7. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Conferences	71,499	-	71,499
Publications	56,889	-	56,889
Membership Fees	15,930	-	15,930
Grant funding of activities	-	503	503
Management & administration costs	92,352	-	92,352
	<u>236,670</u>	<u>503</u>	<u>237,173</u>

	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £
Conferences	125,378	-	125,378
Publications	5,080	-	5,080
Membership Fees	15,196	-	15,196
Grant funding of activities	-	900	900
Management & administration costs	136,992	-	136,992
	<u>282,646</u>	<u>900</u>	<u>283,546</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2020

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2020 £	Support costs 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Conferences	71,499	-	71,499
Publications	56,889	-	56,889
Membership Fees	15,930	-	15,930
Grant funding of activities	503	-	503
Management & administration costs	-	92,352	92,352
	<u>144,821</u>	<u>92,352</u>	<u>237,173</u>
	<u><u>144,821</u></u>	<u><u>92,352</u></u>	<u><u>237,173</u></u>
	Activities undertaken directly 2019 £	Support costs 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £
Conferences	125,378	-	125,378
Publications	5,080	-	5,080
Membership Fees	15,196	-	15,196
Grant funding of activities	900	-	900
Management & administration costs	-	136,992	136,992
	<u>146,554</u>	<u>136,992</u>	<u>283,546</u>
	<u><u>146,554</u></u>	<u><u>136,992</u></u>	<u><u>283,546</u></u>

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2020

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Staff costs	49,187	66,678
Depreciation	1,939	3,272
Staff training and welfare	81	517
Office costs	6,954	6,831
Miscellaneous expenses	3,036	5,516
Independent examiner fees	2,470	2,470
Legal fees	1,128	7,080
Marketing and publicity	400	1,404
Establishment costs	21,342	20,842
Travel and accommodation	314	1,877
Governance costs	5,501	20,505
	92,352	136,992

9. Independent examiner's remuneration

	2020 £	2019 £
Fees payable to the Charity's independent examiner for the independent examination of the Charity's annual accounts	2,470	2,470

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2020

10. Staff costs

	2020 £	2019 £
Wages and salaries	89,866	111,257
Social security costs	7,608	10,476
Staff pension costs	7,517	13,943
	<u>104,991</u>	<u>135,676</u>

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

	2020 No.	2019 No.
Charitable Activities	3	4
Governance	1	1
	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

11. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2019 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 December 2020, expenses totalling £447 were reimbursed to 3 Trustees (2019 - £3,906 to 17 Trustees). The expenses reimbursed primarily related to travel and subsistence costs incurred in attending Council meetings and various other meetings, and general administration costs.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2020

12. Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment £
Cost	
At 1 January 2020	72,418
Additions	900
At 31 December 2020	<u>73,318</u>
Depreciation	
At 1 January 2020	68,962
Charge for the year	1,939
At 31 December 2020	<u>70,901</u>
Net book value	
At 31 December 2020	<u>2,417</u>
At 31 December 2019	<u>3,456</u>

13. Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £
Market value	
At 1 January 2020	392,283
Additions	208,107
Disposals	(86,200)
Revaluations	22,550
At 31 December 2020	<u>536,740</u>

The historical cost of the listed investments at the year end was £513,080.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2020

14. Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade debtors	159	686
Other debtors	145,198	114,490
Prepayments and accrued income	3,158	-
	<u>148,515</u>	<u>115,176</u>

15. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade creditors	64,165	13,594
Other taxation and social security	161,113	10,956
Other creditors	44,978	46,582
Accruals and deferred income	98,504	117,810
	<u>368,760</u>	<u>188,942</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2020

16. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2020 £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds	509,322	1,185,025	(236,670)	14,487	1,472,164
Restricted funds					
Student travel grants	14,547	-	(503)	-	14,044
Total of funds	523,869	1,185,025	(237,173)	14,487	1,486,208

The restricted fund balance constitutes only one restricted fund, historically brought forward to be utilised for providing student travel grants, subject to applications being approved by the Association, and overseas travel grants. The grants are available to all students, whether members of the Association or not, but only available to students attending AAB conferences and meetings. For overseas travel grants, these are primarily for invited speakers and guests travelling from afar to attend conferences.

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 January 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2019 £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds	464,569	291,981	(282,646)	35,418	509,322
Restricted funds					
Student travel grants	15,447	-	(900)	-	14,547
Total of funds	480,016	291,981	(283,546)	35,418	523,869

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2020

17. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2020 £
General funds	509,322	1,185,025	(236,670)	14,487	1,472,164
Restricted funds	14,547	-	(503)	-	14,044
	<u>523,869</u>	<u>1,185,025</u>	<u>(237,173)</u>	<u>14,487</u>	<u>1,486,208</u>

Summary of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 January 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2019 £
General funds	464,569	291,981	(282,646)	35,418	509,322
Restricted funds	15,447	-	(900)	-	14,547
	<u>480,016</u>	<u>291,981</u>	<u>(283,546)</u>	<u>35,418</u>	<u>523,869</u>

18. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Tangible fixed assets	2,417	-	2,417
Fixed asset investments	536,740	-	536,740
Current assets	1,301,767	14,044	1,315,811
Creditors due within one year	(368,760)	-	(368,760)
Total	<u>1,472,164</u>	<u>14,044</u>	<u>1,486,208</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2020

18. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £
Tangible fixed assets	3,456	-	3,456
Fixed asset investments	392,283	-	392,283
Current assets	302,525	14,547	317,072
Creditors due within one year	(188,942)	-	(188,942)
Total	<u>509,322</u>	<u>14,547</u>	<u>523,869</u>

19. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2020 £	2019 £
Net income for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<u>962,339</u>	<u>43,853</u>
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	1,939	3,272
Gains on investments	(14,487)	(35,418)
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	(2,409)	(6,126)
Increase in debtors	(33,339)	(29,380)
Increase in creditors	179,818	112,974
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>1,093,861</u>	<u>89,175</u>

20. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2020 £	2019 £
Cash in hand	1,167,296	201,896
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>1,167,296</u>	<u>201,896</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2020

21. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 January 2020 £	Cash flows £	At 31 December 2020 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>201,896</u>	<u>965,400</u>	<u>1,167,296</u>

22. Pension commitments

The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the Charity to the scheme and amounted to £7,517 (2019: £13,943). The contributions payable to the fund at the balance sheet date were £NIL (2019: £NIL).

23. Operating lease commitments

At 31 December 2020 the Charity had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Not later than 1 year	13,317	13,317
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	3,329	16,646
	<u>16,646</u>	<u>29,963</u>

AAB FORWARD CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

2021

- 1-3 September **Advances in Legume Science and Practice 2**
Virtually via ZOOM
(Cropping and the Environment group)
- 28 September onward **#UKPlantSciPresents webinar series**
Virtually via ZOOM
- 13-14 October **Crop production with reduced pesticide and fertiliser inputs without compromising yield and quality**
Virtually via ZOOM
(Cropping and the Environment groups)
- 1-15 November **AAB-COP26 webinar series**
Virtually via ZOOM
- 3-4 November **Trees for the Future - Diversity and complexity for resilience and carbon storage**
University of Birmingham; **HYBRID**
(AAB Multi Disiplinary, University of Birmingham, Bifor)
- 10 November **Thinking differently about soil-borne disease management**
Virtually via ZOOM
(Applied Mycology and Bacteriology group)
- 17-18 November **Improving Global and Local IPM**
Olde Barn Hotel, Marston, Lincs UK; **HYBRID**
(Biocontrol & IPM group)
- 14 December **Advances in Nematology 2021**
Linnean Society, London, UK
(Nematology group)

2022

- 25-27 January **International Advances in Pesticide Application**
Chamber of Agriculture, North Rhine Westphalia, Germany
(Pesticide Application Group)
- 9 March **Closed Transfer Systems Workshop**
Wrest Park, & Silsoe Spray Application Group, Silsoe, Bedford, UK; **HYBRID**
(Pesticide Application Group)
- 23-25 March **Agricultural greenhouse gas and ammonia mitigation; Solutions, challenges, and opportunities**
Edinburgh Venue TBC
(Cropping and the Environment group/Scottish Government)
- 29-30 March **HortStresses: Understanding and managing biotic and abiotic stresses of horticultural crops**
University of Reading
(Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement group)
- 6-8 September **Shaping the Future for Pollinators: Innovations in Farmed Landscapes**
Cophthorne Hotel, Slough, UK
(Cropping and the Environment group/University of Reading/
British Ecological Society/Royal Entomological Society)