



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	January	2017		31	December	2017

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

The Association of Applied Biologists

Other names charity is known by

none

Registered charity number (if any)

275655

Charity's principal address

AAB Office, Warwick Enterprise Park	
Wellesbourne	
Warwickshire	
Postcode	CV35 9EF

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Honorary officers

- Prof. C Watson, President
- Mr S Knight, President Elect
- Dr E A Stockdale, General Secretary (resigned 31 December 2017)
- Prof. M A J Parry, General Secretary (appointed 1 January 2018)
- Mr M May, General Treasurer (resigned 31 December 2017)
- Mr A S Page, General Treasurer (appointed 1 January 2018)
- Prof. N G Halford, Programme Secretary
- Dr R Kennedy, Publications Officer
- Mr C R Glass, Meetings' Treasurer
- Dr F Crotty, Early Career Scientist Champion (appointed 1 January 2018)

Conveners of specialist groups

- Mr T Pettitt, Applied mycology & bacteriology
- Dr T Bruce, Biological Control
- Dr R Carlton, Cropping & the Environment
- Dr W Russell, Food systems
- Dr M Back, Nematology
- Dr G Barker, Plant physiology & crop improvement
- Dr T Robinson, Pesticide application
- Matthew Shepherd, Soil Improvement (appointed 1 January 2018)
- Dr M Gowda, Virology (resigned 1 May 2017)
- Dr M Aranda, Virology (appointed 1 May 2017)

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

None

Name of chief executive and other key advisors (Optional information)

Chief Executive Officer

Mrs. C A Millman

Solicitors

Martineau Johnson

St. Phillips House

St. Phillips Place

Birmingham B3 2PP

Independent Examiner

Clere's Ltd

Chartered Certified Accountant

G.N.House

119 Holloway Head

Birmingham

B1 1QP

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Laws of Association, revised October 2013.
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	The trust is an unincorporated members' association.
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	<p><i>Honorary Officers</i> All Honorary Officers are elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Association. Council seek nominations from members for election to each of the offices. All members are notified of those standing for election at least two weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting at which it is proposed the election should be made. The President and President-elect remain in office for a period of two years. The President Elect will succeed as President following the end of the current President's term of office. Other Honorary Officers shall hold office for a period of three years, but may, if nominated and elected by the Annual General Meeting, serve for three consecutive terms.</p> <p><i>Conveners</i> All members of the Association are members of one or more Specialist Groups. Each Specialist Group is managed by a committee of members. One member of this committee is elected as Convener by a majority of the members of the Group Committee and shall act as its Chairman. The Convener is appointed to serve for three years and is only able to serve for two consecutive terms as Convener. Each Convener also serves as a full member of Council and thereby becomes a trustee of the Association.</p>

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Trustees' induction and training

Newly appointed Trustees of the Association of Applied Biologists are 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 is issued to all new Trustees who are expected to read it. A 'job description' of each Trustee post is given to each new Trustee upon appointment.

New trustees have an induction session with the Chief Executive Officer and/or a serving Trustee of the Association.

Training and updates for Trustees are usually incorporated into the regular Council meetings.

Organisational structure

The business of the Association is conducted by a Council of Members elected in accordance with the Laws of the Association

The Council consists, as a minimum, of the following Honorary Officers:

- a. the President,
- b. the President-elect, who shall normally succeed the President,
- c. the General Treasurer,
- d. the General Secretary
- e. the Programme Secretary
- f. the Publications Officer

together with the Conveners of the Specialist Groups.

The term 'Honorary Officer' also includes any other person designated at a General Meeting as an Honorary Officer.

The Meetings' Treasurer is also a designated trustee role, which was confirmed at the AGM in October 2013.

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.

Affiliations

Affiliations were maintained with the Royal Society of Biology, the Plant Sciences Federation, the Foundation for Science and Technology and the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers

Risk management

Council maintains a risk register, which is reviewed annually alongside the work-planning and budget processes. The risk register is discussed, and Council agrees any actions required at its last full meeting of the year.

Section C

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The objects of the Association shall be to promote the study and advancement of all branches of Biology and in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) to foster the practice, growth and development of applied biology, with a focus on the application of biological sciences in the production of food, materials and energy and for the maintenance and improvement of the earth's environment.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The main activities of the Association are

- 1) the publication of scientific journals in applied biology,
- 2) the organisation of meetings and conferences in a range of related subject themes,
- 3) the provision of services for and on behalf of members.

In carrying out these activities in 2017, 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.

A full report of the activities of the Association for 2017 is given in Appendix 1.

A list of the names of the new members of the Association confirmed in 2017 is given in Appendix 2. A full register of members is maintained by the Trustees and held by the AAB office.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Grants

Grants are made by the Association to student members to cover travel costs associated with attendance at conferences. There is currently a maximum fund allocated for this purpose annually of £1,500. In 2017, two grants were made to individuals totalling £194.00.

Role of volunteers

The operation of the specialist group committees involves 67 members of the Association as volunteers. In addition, a wider network of members and affiliates, operating as volunteers, carries out organisation of the scientific programme of all conferences.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Whilst the recent global financial situation has been relatively good, the future contains a large element of uncertainty, particularly as the final effect of 'Brexit' is unknown. The Society's investments have continued to produce a small usable income. The Association continues with the long-term objective of operating with a neutral or slightly positive net movement in funds within a sustainable business plan, which includes investment expenditure. Governance costs in 2017 were £121,062.

There were fewer conferences than normal, with a total of eight conferences, from a planned number of 12 conferences. Delegate numbers were 499 in total for 2017, which is a decrease on 2016 (720), and the conference programme as a whole, generated a loss of £26,697 against a budgeted loss of £14,870, mainly as a result of low attendance at the conferences and the number of postponed conferences. Conference sponsorship and donations (£8,470) were lower than budgeted (£13,930).

Publications continue to be a major income stream with income received for *The Plant Biotechnology Journal* delivering £64,325 against a reduced budget income of £29,172. As expected income has returned to pre-2016 levels in 2017.

Income received for *Annals of Applied Biology* (£87,298 compared to £75,363 for 2016) is a slight increase compared with that budgeted (£68,234).

The investment required in *Food and Energy Security Journal* (£4,158) was lower than budgeted (£5,200) and much lower than in 2016 (£8,850). An impact factor of 3.032 was attained in 2017, and this has reflected the good quality of papers published. However, it is still likely to be some years before the investment in this journal starts to make a significant return to the Association.

The investment portfolio produced a much higher return (£26,862) to that in 2016 (£9,157) despite the withdrawal of £30,000 to fund 2018 activities of the Association, but this was later re-invested as a result of the higher than expected income from PBJ and *Annals*.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

To respond to the need for long-term financial stability we have approved a reserves policy.

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 for the *Food and Energy Security 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 is reviewed annually to ensure it accurately reflects the circumstances of the Association and the views of the Trustees.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

A summary of the main sources of funds and expenditure during 2016 has been given in Section D

Investment policy and objectives

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

Section F Other optional information

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Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>Christine A Watson</i>	
Full name(s)	Christine Anne Watson	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	President	
Date	26 October 2018	



AAB President: Professor Christine Watson



ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
& FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR 2017**

**NOTICE OF
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

26 September 2018

THE ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS
(Registered Charity No. 275655)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

Rothamsted Research, Harpenden, Herts AL5 2JQ
at 12:30 pm on Wednesday 26th September 2018

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.

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

- 1) **Minutes of the AGM held on 26th September 2017** at Harper Adams University
- 2) **Trustees Report of Activity 2017**
President's Report
Reports from the Specialist groups
Questions and discussion by members
- 3) **Financial Report 2017**
Presentation of report
Questions and discussion by members
- 4) **Appointment of Auditors for 2019**
Council propose the appointment of Cleres of Birmingham as auditors for 2019 (a proposal was sent out earlier this year for Accountancy firms to tender for this work, and Council have voted to keep Cleres as the Association's Auditors)
- 5) **Membership fees**
Council is proposing the following membership fees for 2019. This represents no change for any membership category, except Student Members
Ordinary: £60
Retired: £30
Student: £5 in the first year, followed by £20 in subsequent years (providing the student signed up using the direct debit form)
- 6) **Subscription for *Annals of Applied Biology***
Council is proposing that there is a small increase in the subscription for *Annals of Applied Biology* which simply recoups the increased charge levied on the Association by the publisher (Wiley-Blackwell).
- 7) **Honorary Officers and suggestion for additional Early-Career Scientist Champion**

President-Elect

Council currently have two candidates for President-Elect -Professor George Lomonosoff from the John Innes Centre, Norwich and Professor Christine Foyer from the University of Leeds

Programme Secretary

We have been actively seeking a new Programme Secretary to replace Dr Nigel Halford. We currently have two nominations: Dr Guy Barker (currently PP&CI Convener) and Dr Robert Carlton (currently CATE Convener)

More details are given in the members' voting papers

Other Honorary Officers for 2019, to note:

President – Mr Stuart Knight (serving in this term 2019–2020)

President-Elect – To be elected at the AGM

Honorary Treasurer – Mr Andy Page (serving 1st term 2018-2020)

General Secretary – Prof. Martin Parry (serving 1st term 2018-2020)

Programme Secretary – To be elected at the AGM

Publications Officer – Prof. Roy Kennedy (serving 2nd term 2017–2019)

Meetings' Treasurer – Mr Richard Glass (serving 2nd term 2017–2019)

Conveners of specialist groups for 2019; to note:

Applied Mycology and Bacteriology – Vacancy (nominations to Carol Millman - carol@aab.org.uk)

Biological Control and IPM – Prof. Toby Bruce

Cropping and the Environment – Dr Rob Carlton

Food Systems – Dr Wendy Russell

Nematology – Dr Matthew Back

Pesticide Application – Dr Tom Robinson

Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement – Dr Guy Barker

Soil Biology – Dr Matthew Shepherd

Virology – Dr Miguel Aranda

Early-Career Scientist Champion - Dr Felicity Crotty (serving 1 term 2017-2020 to coincide with term served by President-Elect, then President)

- 8) **Update to AAB strategic plan**
- 9) **Appointment of new President Elect and Programme Secretary**
- 10) **Election of new Honorary Members**
- 11) **Any other issues raised by members for discussion**

ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

Reg. Charity No. 275655

The objects of the Association shall be to promote the study and advancement of all branches of Biology and in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) to foster the practice, growth and development of applied biology, with a focus on the application of biological sciences in the production of food, materials and energy and for the maintenance and improvement of the earth's environment.

Association of Applied Biologists

Annual General Meeting

Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire
Tuesday 26th September 2017

The meeting commenced at 12.40 pm

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

27 members were present; 17 apologies had been received. The President, Chrisitne Watson, and the President-Elect had sent apologies and hence the Annual General Meeting was chaired by Prof. Nigel Halford, Programme Secretary.

The Chair reminded members that the AAB Annual report had been made accessible to all members before the AGM and hence except where members indicate he therefore assumed that members had read this carefully and considered the matters for discussion given in the AGM notice.

1) Minutes of AGM held on 9th September 2016 Edinburgh University

The minutes of the AGM which reviewed the operations and finances of the Association for 2015 had been provided. There were no amendments asked for. The meeting agreed that the Minutes as presented were a correct record of the meeting and they were therefore signed by the Chair.

2) Trustees' Report of Activity 2016

The Chair highlighted the Trustee's report of activity and in particular the detailed breakdown of activities given in Appendix 1 following the President's Report.

The General Secretary noted that there were some errors and inconsistencies in formatting, which had unfortunately been published in the version of the Annual Report sent to members. She thanked those members who had flagged these issues to her and confirmed that all these issues would be fixed before the report was sent to the Charity Commission.

There were no general questions and no specific questions to Conveners from the members present.

The General Secretary noted that two questions had been submitted by members in advance.

With regard to the investment in the Food and Security Journal it is noted that the report simply indicates that it is expect to be "some years" before the investment made makes a significant return to the AAB. What is the Trustees present forecast, however approximate, for when the investment in FESJ begins to make a return. Speaking on behalf of Council, the General Treasurer, Mike May, noted that there had been a new and hence uncertain process towards an Impact Factor. This is now in place and hence it is expected that paid submissions to the journal will begin to increase markedly. The journal is expected to begin to make a small operating surplus in the next 1-2 years and it is currently expected that the break-even point with fail in 3-5 years' time; after that point returns to the AAB on the investment made are expected.

It was noted that the report of activities refers to the development of the website. This is welcome. However, is there an expected timescale and budget allocated to this work.

Mike May indicated on behalf of Council that this work was at an early stage. Members will begin to see differences as the AAB was now using the CVENT system for conference bookings and members communications. Hence Council wish to embed this change in process first before moving ahead with any web re-design. Guy Barker is leading a Task and Finish group on behalf of Council to scope the needs for the AAB website by autumn 2018; this will lead to the development of a specification which can be sent to tender in late 2018. Members are invited to contact Guy Barker (via the AAB office) if they would like to be involved in the work of the Task and Finish group.

The Chair therefore asked the meeting whether the report of the Trustees (including Specialist Group reports) could be accepted for publication (following the fixing of errors and inconsistencies in formatting) as a full and complete report for the activities of the Association in 2016?

Proposed (non-trustee) Martin Parry

Seconded (non-trustee) Keith Davies

The proposal was agreed unanimously by the meeting.

3) Financial Report 2016

The Honorary Treasurer, Mike May, briefly presented the report and confirmed that the correct figure for the operating deficit was £21,524 before investment gains/losses.

There were no general questions from the members present or submitted in advance.

The Chair therefore asked the meeting whether the full financial report for the Association in 2016 presented by Trustees after inspection by Clere's of Birmingham could be accepted for publication.

Proposed (non-trustee) Simon Leather

Seconded (non-trustee) Jim Monaghan

The proposal was agreed unanimously by the meeting.

4) Appointment of Auditors for 2018

Council propose the appointment of Clere's of Birmingham as auditors for 2018.

There were no general questions from the members present. The General Secretary noted that a question had been submitted by members in advance.

Clere's has been used as the auditor to provide an inspection of the accounts for some years. I believe that there is a best practice recommendation from the Charity Commission to change auditors regularly. Hence should some more thought be given to the use of auditors rather than simply renewing our on-going relationship?

The General Secretary confirmed that there is a best practice recommendation from the Charity Commission to carefully review the use of auditors regularly. Trustees had discussed this matter briefly and were happy to continue to propose the use of Clere's in 2018 for the review of the 2017 financial report. However, the Trustees present confirm that they would take a recommendation from the AGM to Council to carry out a full review of the auditor role and to carry out a tendering process as appropriate ahead of the presentation of a recommendation to the AGM next year.

The Council proposal that Clere's of Birmingham be appointed as auditors for 2017 was accepted unanimously by the meeting.

5) Membership fees

Council is proposing the following membership fees for 2018. This represents no change for any membership category.

Ordinary: £60

Retired: £30

Student: £20

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

6) **Subscription for *Annals of Applied Biology***

Council is proposing that there is a small increase in the subscription for *Annals of Applied Biology* which simply recoups the increased charge levied on the Association by the publisher (Wiley):

The resulting annual charges for 2018 are expected to be:

Print only: £82.58

On-line only: £71.27 including VAT

Print and on-line: £108 including VAT

It was asked whether the Publication's Secretary, Roy Kennedy, challenged Wiley with regard to the increases made annually.

The Honorary Treasurer confirmed that he was aware that Wiley was challenged over these matters, although no concessions as regard subscription costs have been made. Other concessions to the benefit of the AAB as a whole have been obtained over the lifetime of the agreement with Wiley and in the re-negotiation of contracts with Wiley for publication.

The proposal was accepted unanimously by the meeting.

7) **Honorary Officers**

Honorary Treasurer

The AAB has been actively seeking a new Honorary Treasurer to replace Mr Mike May. The Chair asked that a record be made of the AAB's thanks to Mike for a great job and his willingness to serve for an extra year whilst a replacement was found.

Council are pleased to report that Mr Andy Page has offered to serve the Association. Following references and background checks, Council are now nominating Andy Page to begin his first formal term in January 2018. Andy Page was present and made himself known to the meeting, but there were no questions for him and the proposal was accepted unanimously by the meeting.

Honorary Secretary

Elizabeth Stockdale comes to the end of her third and final term as Honorary Secretary at the end of 2017. The Chair asked that a record be made of the AAB's thanks to Elizabeth for a great job over her consecutive terms of service.

Council is pleased to report that Prof Martin Parry has offered to serve the Association as Honorary Secretary from 2018. No other nominations were received in advance and there were no other nominations from members from the floor.

Martin Parry was present, and made himself known to the meeting, but there were no questions for him and the proposal was accepted unanimously by the meeting.

The Chair noted the other Honorary Officers for 2018 as follows:

- President – Prof. Christine Watson (presidential term ends at end of 2018)
- President-Elect – Mr Stuart Knight (serving in this until end of 2018 then as President of the Association 2019-2020)

Members should therefore note that there will be an opportunity to stand as President-Elect at the next AGM

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

Members should therefore note that there will be an opportunity to stand as Programme Secretary at the next AGM

- Publications Officer- Dr Roy Kennedy (serving 2nd term 2017-2019)
- Meetings' Treasurer – Dr Richard Glass (serving 2nd term 2017-2019)

The Chair also noted the conveners of specialist groups as selected by the groups for 2018:

- Applied Mycology and Bacteriology - Dr T. Pettitt
- Biological Control and IPM - Prof. T Bruce
- Cropping and the Environment - Dr R Carlton

- Food Systems - Dr W Russell
- Nematology – Dr Matthew Back
- Pesticide Application - Dr Tom Robinson
- Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement - Dr Guy Barker
- Soil Biology – Dr Matthew Shepherd
- Virology - Dr M Gowda

8) Early-Career Scientist Champion

Following discussion at the last AGM, Council has decided to create the position of Early-Career Scientist Champion. Council is proposing to establish the role with Trustee status.

The proposal was accepted unanimously by the meeting.

Felicity Crotty has offered to serve and is nominated by Stuart Knight and Christine Watson.

Felicity Crotty was present, and made herself known to the meeting, but there were no questions for her and the proposal was accepted unanimously by the meeting.

9) Any other issues raised by members for discussion

The Students' Travel Grant is a great initiative but seems to be relatively little used. Could it be promoted more widely?

Felicity Crotty noted this issue and indicated that she would consider how student and early-career researchers could be more effectively targeted by specific communications – perhaps making more use of social media.

The BBSRC are currently consulting on their strategy. Will the AAB respond and how can members co-ordinate any responses?

Nigel Halford noted that he had received notification of the consultation via the Royal Society of Biology, who would also be compiling a response. As Programme Secretary he noted that he would usually pass on any requests for input on consultations to the Conveners of the Specialist Groups and compile any responses received from across the AAB. Here it was noted that members may also have opportunities to input to the consultation via their employers (Universities, Research Institutes etc) and also as individuals. Nigel Halford confirmed that he would be happy to receive any responses from members and he would compile these – any response submitted by the AAB whether directly or via the RSoB would be made available to members via the website

FINANCIAL REPORT 2017

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Income and expenditure

The Association continues with the long-term aim of operating with a small positive cash flow as part of a sustainable Business Plan covering investment expenditure.

Pleasingly, operating income in 2017 exceeded expenditure by £23568, a respectable improvement from the cash deficit in 2016 of £21524.

Unrealised gains on investments in 2017 continued the positive trend of 2016, and finished at £26862 (2016: £41688).

Therefore, total income for the year was £50430 (2016: £20164)

Despite the prevailing uncertain economic conditions, AAB publications performed creditably with all titles showing improvements on 2016, PBJ in particular was a strong performer with income up by £48149 on the prior year. *Food and Energy Security* in its fifth year of publication reduced its deficit significantly to £4158 and, having now achieved a positive impact factor, is on course to contribute positively to cash flow within 24 months. *Annals of Applied Biology* now shows three years of performance improvement with income up from £75363 to £87298 in 2017.

Governance costs were £121062, up £30552. Establishment costs were £5382 higher and the introduction of new software created higher implementation and subscription expenses. Pensions obligations increased after changes in UK Legislation. The recruitment of a new Finance Manager increased salaries and required recruitment agency fees.

The conference programme generated a loss of £26691, slightly less than 2016 but much higher than the £15k planned. This was principally as a result of lower attendances at AAB events than planned.

Investment returns (reinvested) remained consistent and although £25,000 was disinvested at the end of 2017 to cover future disbursements, £50,000 has subsequently been reinvested in 2018.

Balance Sheet

The Association's net assets increased £50433 over the last year principally due to higher cash being held at that date (subsequently, as noted this has been reinvested).

Future Plans and Forecasts

The 2018 budget foresees a small surplus of around £16000. Currently trends are short of this target, indicating a small deficit for 2018.

A detailed budget is set for the coming year and a rolling cash flow forecast for the next 15 months. Good progress has been made with the return from publications (although ongoing effort will be needed for this to continue), but conferences continue to record significant cash shortfalls. The Trustees will be looking at strategic aims in more detail to assess whether the Association's objectives are being effectively fulfilled through the conference agenda and resources adjusted accordingly. It is pleasing to note the progress of the FES journal.

Proposed Membership Fees

The Trustees wish to raise membership numbers and at present this is not being achieved. In particular, a younger generation of members is needed for the health of the Association.

With this in mind, subscription fees are to be frozen for the coming year and a special low joining fee introduced for new student members. Strategic objectives will be set for membership increases for the coming years.

The subscription rates for *Annals* will increase 6% for 2019.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

The Association of Applied Biologists

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The Association of Applied Biologists

Reference and Administrative Details

Chief Executive Officer

Mrs C A Millman

Trustees

Dr E A Stockdale, General Secretary (resigned 1 January 2018)

Dr C R Glass, Conferences Treasurer

Prof. N G Halford, Programme Secretary

Dr T Bruce, Biological Control

Prof. W Davies, President (resigned 1 January 2017)

Dr R Carlton, Cropping & the environment

Dr R Kennedy, Publications Officer

Mr M May, General Treasurer (resigned 1 January 2018)

Dr M Back, Nematology

Prof. P Miller, Pesticide application (resigned 1 January 2017)

Prof. C Watson, President

Dr M Gowda, Virology (resigned 1 March 2018)

Mr T Pettitt, Applied mycology & bacteriology

Dr M J Shepherd, Soil biology (appointed 20 April 2017)

Dr W Russell, Food systems

Dr G Barker, Plant physiology & crop improvements

Mr S Knight, President Elect (appointed 1 January 2017)

Mr M Aranda, Virology (appointed 1 March 2018)

Dr T Robinson, Pesticide Application (appointed 1 January 2017)

Dr F Crotty, Early Career Scientist Champion (appointed 1 January 2018)

Mr A Page, General Treasurer (appointed 1 January 2018)

Dr M Parry, General Secretary (appointed 1 January 2018)

Principal Office

AAB Office

Warwick Enterprise Park

Wellesbourne

Warwickshire

CV35 9EF

Charity Registration Number

275655

Solicitors

Martineau Johnson

St. Phillips House

St. Phillips Place

Birmingham

B3 2PP

The Association of Applied Biologists

Reference and Administrative Details

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc
South Warwickshire Group of Branches
150 The Parade
Leamington Spa
Warwickshire
CV32 4A

Independent Examiner

Clere's Ltd
Chartered Certified Accountant
G.N.House
119 Holloway Head
Birmingham
B1 1QP

The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2017.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The Object of the Charity is to 'promote the study and advancement of all branches of Biology and, in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) to foster the practice, growth and development of applied biology, including the application of biological sciences for the production and preservation of food, fibre and other materials and for the maintenance and improvement of the earth's physical environment'.

Objectives, strategies and activities

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.

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.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report

Achievements and performance

Income and expenditure

The Association continues with the long-term aim of operating with a small positive cash flow as part of a sustainable Business Plan covering investment expenditure. Pleasingly, operating income in 2017 exceeded expenditure by £23568, a respectable improvement from the cash deficit in 2016 of £21524. Unrealised gains on investments in 2017 continued the positive trend of 2016, and finished at £26862 (2016: £41688). Therefore, total income for the year was £50430 (2016: £20164).

Despite the prevailing uncertain economic conditions, AAB publications performed creditably with all titles showing improvements on 2016, PBJ in particular was a strong performer with income up by £48149 on the prior year. Food and Energy Security in its fifth year of publication reduced its deficit significantly to £4158 and, having now achieved a positive impact factor, is on course to contribute positively to cash flow with 24 months. Annals now shows three years of performance improvement with income up from £75363 to £87298 in 2017.

Governance costs were £121062, up £30552. Establishment costs were £5382 higher and the introduction of new software created higher implementation and subscription expenses. Pensions obligations increased after changes in UK Legislation. The recruitment of a new Finance Manager increased salaries and required recruitment agency fees. The conference program generated a loss of £26691, slightly less than 2016 but much higher than the £15k planned. This was principally as a result of lower attendances at AAB events than planned.

Investment returns (reinvested) remained consistent and although £25,000 was disinvested at the end of 2017 to cover future disbursements, £50,000 has subsequently reinvested in 2018.

Balance Sheet

The Association's net assets increased £50433 over the last year principally due to higher cash being held at that date (subsequently, as noted this has been reinvested).

The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report

Financial review

Policy on reserves

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

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

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

Investment policy and objectives

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

Plans for future periods

Aims and key objectives for future periods

Future Plans and Forecasts

The 2018 budget foresees a small surplus of around £16000. Currently trends are short of this target, indicating a small deficit for 2018.

A detailed budget is set for the coming year and a rolling cash flow forecast for the next 15 months. Good progress has been made with the return from publications (although ongoing effort will be needed for this to continue), but conferences continue to record significant cash shortfalls. The Trustees will be looking at strategic aims in more detail to assess whether the Association's objectives are being effectively fulfilled through the conference agenda and resources adjusted accordingly. It is pleasing to note the progress of the FES journal.

Proposed Membership Fees

The Trustees wish to raise membership numbers and at present this is not being achieved. In particular, a younger generation of members is needed for the health of the Association.

With this in mind, subscription fees are to be frozen for the coming year and a special low joining fee introduced for new student members. Strategic objectives will be set for membership increases for the coming years.

The subscription rates for Annals will increase 6% for 2019

The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

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

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

All Trustees of the Association must be members of the Association of Applied Biologists. Trustees of the Association of Applied Biologists include the Honorary Officers of Council (the President, the President-elect, who shall normally succeed the President, the General Treasurer, the Meetings Treasurer, the General Secretary, the Programme Secretary, the Membership Officer, the Publications Officer plus any other person designated as an Honorary Officer at the Annual General Meeting) together with the Convenors of the Association's Specialist Groups. The Convenors are notified to the Annual General Meeting. The other Honorary Officers are elected at an Annual General Meeting. In the case of an unfilled position, trustees may be co-opted to office but must be elected at the following Annual General Meeting. The President of the Association of Applied Biologists will serve a maximum period of two years as President. The President-Elect will serve a maximum period of two years as President-elect.

Convenors are elected by members of the Group (at the last meeting of the year preceding the year of office) and may serve for up to six consecutive years, subject to annual re-election (a term of office for Convenors is deemed to be three years).

Induction and training of trustees

Potential Trustees of the Association of Applied Biology will be given copy of Association's Laws and copies of any other key documents relevant to the Charity or post.

The booklet 'Responsibilities of Charity Trustees' published by the Charity Commission gives a complete guide to the responsibilities of Charity Trustees and will be issued to all new Trustees who are expected to read it.

Trustees of the Association of Applied Biologists are expected to read the Laws of the Association of Applied Biologists, additional information provided by the Association and the booklet 'Responsibilities of Charity Trustees'.

A 'job description' of each Trustee post will be given to each new Trustee upon appointment. It is the responsibility of each post holder to review and update their particular job description by the end of October each year. Any changes are to be agreed by Council at its last full meeting of the year.

New trustees will be given an induction session with the Executive Officer and/or a serving Trustee of the Association.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report

Organisational structure

The business of the Association is conducted by a Council of Members.

Council shall consist of the Honorary Officers; President, President elect, General Secretary, General Treasurer, Chairman of the Editorial Boards, Membership Officer, Programme Secretary, Early Career Scientist Champion and Meetings Treasurer together with convenors of the AAB Specialist Groups.

Wider network

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

Financial instruments

Objectives and policies

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 a mixture of long-term and short-term debt finance.

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

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 7 September 2018 and signed on its behalf by:



.....

Prof C Watson

Trustee

The Association of Applied Biologists

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity 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 in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- 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 proper accounting records that 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 applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees 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 the trustees of the charity on 7 September 2018 and signed on its behalf by:



Prof C Watson
Trustee

The Association of Applied Biologists

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Association of Applied Biologists

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2017 which are set out on pages 11 to 24.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Clere's Ltd.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Stephen John Clere, FCCA
Chartered Certified Accountant
Clere's Ltd
G.N.House
119 Holloway Head
Birmingham
B1 1QP

7 September 2018

The Association of Applied Biologists

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2017 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies		9,475	-	9,475
Charitable activities		252,354	-	252,354
Investment income	4	8,999	-	8,999
Total Income		270,828	-	270,828
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities		(247,152)	(108)	(247,260)
Total Expenditure		(247,152)	(108)	(247,260)
Gains/losses on investment assets		26,862	-	26,862
Net movement in funds		50,538	(108)	50,430
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		453,745	16,379	470,124
Total funds carried forward	16	504,283	16,271	520,554
				Total 2016 £
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2016 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies		11,901	-	11,901
Charitable activities		265,440	-	265,440
Investment income	4	9,157	-	9,157
Total Income		286,498	-	286,498
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities		(304,545)	(3,477)	(308,022)
Total Expenditure		(304,545)	(3,477)	(308,022)
Gains/losses on investment assets		41,688	-	41,688
Net movement in funds		23,641	(3,477)	20,164
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		430,104	19,856	449,960
Total funds carried forward	16	453,745	16,379	470,124

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2016 is shown in note 16.

The Association of Applied Biologists

(Registration number: 275655)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2017

	Note	2017 £	2016 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	4,624	5,666
Investments	12	378,144	386,039
		382,768	391,705
Current assets			
Debtors	13	116,644	65,042
Cash at bank and in hand		142,589	103,978
		259,233	169,020
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	(121,447)	(90,601)
Net current assets		137,786	78,419
Net assets		520,554	470,124
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds		16,271	16,379
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		504,283	453,745
Total funds	16	520,554	470,124

The financial statements on pages 11 to 24 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 7 September 2018 and signed on their behalf by:



Prof C Watson
Trustee

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared 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) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

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 notes.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income and endowments

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

Grant provisions

Provisions for grants are made when the intention to make a grant has been communicated to the recipient but there is uncertainty about either the timing of the grant or the amount of grant payable.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees's meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £0.00 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments, other than programme related investments, are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the year end.

Trade debtors

are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of is established when there is objective evidence that the will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

Borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees's discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

Debt instruments

Debt instruments which meet the following conditions are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method:

(a) The contractual return to the holder is (i) a fixed amount; (ii) a positive fixed rate or a positive variable rate; or (iii) a combination of a positive or a negative fixed rate and a positive variable rate.

(b) The contract may provide for repayments of the principal or the return to the holder (but not both) to be linked to a single relevant observable index of general price inflation of the currency in which the debt instrument is denominated, provided such links are not leveraged.

(c) The contract may provide for a determinable variation of the return to the holder during the life of the instrument, provided that (i) the new rate satisfies condition (a) and the variation is not contingent on future events other than (1) a change of a contractual variable rate; (2) to protect the holder against credit deterioration of the issuer; (3) changes in levies applied by a central bank or arising from changes in relevant taxation or law; or (ii) the new rate is a market rate of interest and satisfies condition (a).

(d) There is no contractual provision that could, by its terms, result in the holder losing the principal amount or any interest attributable to the current period or prior periods.

(e) Contractual provisions that permit the issuer to prepay a debt instrument or permit the holder to put it back to the issuer before maturity are not contingent on future events, other than to protect the holder against the credit deterioration of the issuer or a change in control of the issuer, or to protect the holder or issuer against changes in levies applied by a central bank or arising from changes in relevant taxation or law.

(f) Contractual provisions may permit the extension of the term of the debt instrument, provided that the return to the holder and any other contractual provisions applicable during the extended term satisfy the conditions of paragraphs (a) to (c).

Debt instruments that are classified as payable or receivable within one year on initial recognition and which meet the above conditions are measured at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received, net of impairment.

With the exception of some hedging instruments, other debt instruments not meeting these conditions are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

Commitments to make and receive loans which meet the conditions mentioned above are measured at cost (which may be nil) less impairment.

Investments

Investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary or preference shares (where shares are publicly traded or their fair value is reliably measurable) are measured at fair value through profit or loss. Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, investments are measured at cost less impairment.

Investments in subsidiaries and associates are measured at cost less impairment. For investments in subsidiaries acquired for consideration including the issue of shares qualifying for merger relief, cost is measured by reference to the nominal value of the shares issued plus fair value of other consideration. Any premium is ignored.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

Derivative financial instruments

The charity uses derivative financial instruments to reduce exposure to foreign exchange risk and interest rate movements. The charity does not hold or issue derivative financial instruments for speculative purposes.

Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value at the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently remeasured to their fair value at each reporting date. The resulting gain or loss is recognised in statement of financial activities immediately unless the derivative is designated and effective as a hedging instrument, in which event the timing of the recognition in statement of financial activities depends on the nature of the hedge relationship.

Fair value measurement

The best evidence of fair value is a quoted price for an identical asset in an active market. When quoted prices are unavailable, the price of a recent transaction for an identical asset provides evidence of fair value as long as there has not been a significant change in economic circumstances or a significant lapse of time since the transaction took place. If the market is not active and recent transactions of an identical asset on their own are not a good estimate of fair value, the fair value is estimated by using a valuation technique.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds		
	General	Total	Total
	£	2017	2016
		£	£
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from companies, trusts and similar proceeds	9,475	9,475	10,833
Donations from individuals	-	-	1,068
	9,475	9,475	11,901

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds		
	General	Total	Total
	£	2017	2016
		£	£
Conferences	73,569	73,569	151,534
Publications	152,886	152,886	85,291
Membership Fees	25,899	25,899	28,615
	252,354	252,354	265,440

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	Total 2017	Total 2016
	General £	£	£
Other income from fixed asset investments	8,999	8,999	9,157

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

		Unrestricted funds		Total 2017	Total 2016
	Note	General £	Restricted funds £	£	£
Conferences		100,260	-	100,260	190,323
Publications		9,736	-	9,736	6,067
Membership Fees		12,726	-	12,726	16,339
Grant funding of activities		3,368	108	3,476	4,783
Governance costs		121,062	-	121,062	90,510
		247,152	108	247,260	308,022

6 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds	Total 2017	Total 2016
	General £	£	£
Staff costs			
Wages and salaries		37,893	32,106
Pension costs		9,751	5,296
Independent examiner fees		3,025	2,875
Examination of the financial statements		1,593	835
Legal fees		5,031	6,436
Marketing and publicity		2,337	2,670
Depreciation, amortisation and other similar costs		61,432	40,292
Other governance costs		121,062	90,510

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

7 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year include:

	2017	2016
	£	£
Depreciation of fixed assets	2,337	2,670

8 Staff costs

	2017	2016
	£	£
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	117,146	124,698
Pension costs	9,750	5,296
	126,896	129,994

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2017	2016
	No	No
Charitable Activities	4	5
Governance	1	1
	5	6

4 (2016 - 4) of the above employees participated in the Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

9 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2017	2016
	£	£
Examination of the financial statements	3,025	2,875
Independent Examiner's remuneration	3,025	2,875

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

10 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 January 2017	66,395	66,395
Additions	1,296	1,296
At 31 December 2017	67,691	67,691
Depreciation		
Charge for the year	63,067	63,067
At 31 December 2017	63,067	63,067
Net book value		
At 31 December 2017	4,624	4,624
At 31 December 2016	66,395	66,395

12 Fixed asset investments

	2017 £	2016 £
Other investments	378,144	386,039

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

Other investments

	Listed investments £	Total £
Cost or Valuation		
At 1 January 2017	386,039	386,039
Additions	(7,895)	(7,895)
At 31 December 2017	378,144	378,144
Net book value		
At 31 December 2017	378,144	378,144
At 31 December 2016	386,039	386,039

13 Debtors

	2017 £	2016 £
Trade debtors	1,348	21,706
Prepayments	1,056	926
Other debtors	114,240	42,410
	116,644	65,042

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2017 £	2016 £
Trade creditors	27,486	2,497
Other taxation and social security	12,014	10,691
Other creditors	78,921	74,459
Accruals	3,026	2,954
	121,447	90,601

15 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £9,751 (2016 - £5,296).

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2017 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2017 £
Unrestricted funds					
General	(453,745)	(270,828)	247,152	(26,862)	(504,283)
Restricted funds	(16,379)	-	108	-	(16,271)
Total funds	(470,124)	(270,828)	247,260	(26,862)	(520,554)
	Balance at 1 January 2016 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2016 £
Unrestricted funds					
General	(430,104)	(286,498)	304,545	(41,688)	(453,745)
Restricted funds	(19,856)	-	3,477	-	(16,379)
Total funds	(449,960)	(286,498)	308,022	(41,688)	(470,124)

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds £
	General £	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	4,624	-	4,624
Fixed asset investments	378,144	-	378,144
Current assets	242,962	16,271	259,233
Current liabilities	(121,447)	-	(121,447)
Total net assets	504,283	16,271	520,554

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

18 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 January 2017 £	Cash flow £	At 31 December 2017 £
Cash at bank and in hand	103,978	38,611	142,589
Net debt	103,978	38,611	142,589

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



An exciting addition to the conference series last year was the Sustainable Intensification meeting at Rothamsted in November, organized by Rob Carlton and Stuart Knight in conjunction with the Defra Sustainable Intensification Platform. We had over 100 attendees from a variety of countries including a Chinese delegation. We were privileged to have the Defra chief scientist to give an introductory talk and to have Charles Godfray as our after-dinner speaker. Our three journals continue to do well with Food and Energy Security finally achieving a first Impact Factor of 3.032. I would like to congratulate the Editor-in-Chief Martin Parry and all involved in FES on this fantastic achievement. Our journals would not succeed without the hard work and enthusiasm of the editors, editorial staff and the reviewers who maintain very high standards. I would encourage members of the Association to submit papers to our journals but also to volunteer as reviewers if you possibly can. Please note that AAB members can publish in the FES journal for a reduced cost of £750.

Martin Parry joined us at the beginning of 2018 as General Secretary and brings with him enormous expertise not only through his role as Chief Editor of FES but also through his past experience of AAB. Martin has been Editor-in-Chief of *Annals of Applied Biology* and *Food and Energy Security*, AAB Publications Office and Convener of PP&CI – that's some track record! Our new Treasurer Andy Page has a background in general management and finance principally in European manufacturing and distribution industries, but also publishing. He wanted to broaden his knowledge in other specialist areas and having previously worked with other charities thought the AAB would be an interesting place to do this and to apply his finance knowledge. In order to increase the engagement of early career researchers (ECRs) in the work of the AAB we decided to create a new position on Council for an ECR member. We welcome Felicity Crotty in this role. She is working with the Council and especially the Conveners of our Specialist Interest groups to look at how we can embed ECRs in the activities of the AAB.

We also welcomed Alberto Vitale as Office & Finance Manager at the end of 2017. Born in Italy, Alberto has a background in the hotel industry where he was involved in organizing conferences across the Midlands and London area and thus brings a wealth of useful contacts to AAB. He also worked as a financial controller in a recruitment agency for a number of years and thus brings many useful talents to the AAB Office.

I would like to thank Stuart Knight as our President Elect for all his support and help in bringing about the changes in the Office and on Council that are described above. I would also like to thank all members of Council and the staff for engaging so enthusiastically with us in a programme of work looking at the future of AAB and how the organisation can meet the changing needs of the applied biology sector. A great deal of work has gone into the design of a new website which should go live in the summer of 2018. Finally, I want to thank Carol and the team for all the hard work they have put into AAB in the last year.

Prof Christine Watson, Aberdeen
August 2018

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

MEMBERSHIP

A total of 96 new members of the Association were elected by Council during the year (see Appendix 2). The total of fully paid-up members and Honorary members on 31 December 2017 was 581- 43 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.

Student Travel Grants Awarded during 2017

Name	Conference	Award
Javier Carrillo Reche	Sustainable Intensification	£108.00
Yara Boubou	Precision systems in agricultural and horticultural production	£86.00
Total Student Travel Grants awarded 2017		£194.00

PUBLICATIONS

The progression toward Open access publishing offers significant opportunities for the published output of the AAB. Many of these opportunities are associated with the expansion of audiences and boosting the impact of the society still further. Although technological development is leading the way there must be a willingness to move forward and embrace new initiatives if the publications of Association are to progress. The past year 2017 has seen major progression by our existing published Journals and in the publication of conference proceedings. The Plant Biotechnology Journal (PBJ) has fully transitioned to open access and the new title Food and Energy Security (FES) has secured an impact factor which enables its long term future to be realised. Annals of Applied Biology continues to accept open access papers and has increased its reputation for applied research over the past year. During 2017 both PBJ and Annals substantially increased the income to the Association. Both journals continue to deliver high quality peer reviewed publications to the scientific community.

Annals of Applied Biology

There were 6 issues of Annals published during 2017. The 2017 Impact Factor for Annals of Applied Biology was 2.046 which is significant progress for the journal. Annals is planning to publish special issues, the first of which is scheduled for issue 2019, on Advances in Biological Control and IPM. The special issue would be aimed at increasing citations and growing submissions. Total revenue for the journal in 2017 was £254,326. There was a continued increase in the number of subscribers to the 'New License' options for Annals in 2017. The 'New License' offers access to a single collection of all the journals published by Wiley at a single price. Volatility in exchange rates has had a significant impact on subscription income in 2017. This was caused by the reduction in the value of the GBP compared to all other currencies in which subscriptions are paid, towards the end of 2016, just as the renewal cycle for 2017 commenced. Annals produced a profit of £161,147 and a total profit share to the Association of £87,298. There are clearly challenges ahead for publication of applied research in the future however Professor Simon Leather, his editorial team and the AAB editorial office have delivered an outstanding contribution to the Association in 2017 against some difficult head winds.

Plant Biotechnology Journal

The PBJ Journal has continued to perform well as a fully Open Access Journal. In moving to Open Access there is no revenue from subscriptions. Rights income has also decreased in 2017. Production costs decreased in 2017 as PBJ published fewer papers compared to 2016. Revenue from article publication charges increased in 2017 to £379,654 (£172,522 in 2016). Total submissions (original and revised manuscripts) for 2017 ended

on 1006. Much of the increase from prior year (735) was in line with the trajectory of previous year-on-year increases. Submissions in 2017 rebounded from the predicted impact resulting from this open access switch. Original submissions for 2017 (end-year) were up by 122 manuscripts to 834 compared with 712 new submissions in the prior year. PBJ averaged 71 new manuscripts per month throughout 2017, up from 51 in prior year. The rate of submission in the first 5 months of 2018 was 78 manuscripts per month. If this rate continues this would be the highest ever number of new submissions to the journal in a single year. The Plant Biotechnological Journal continues to go from strength to strength and Professor Henry Daniell and his editorial team should be congratulated for this outstanding effort.

Food and Energy Security

New targets agreed for FES were publishing a minimum of 10 paid submission in 2018, and a revenue target of £15,000 which is very ambitious. New arrangements for funding the editorial office at the AAB were agreed in December 2016 which were designed to minimise losses. Central to this agreement was the award of an impact factor for *Food and Energy Security*. The relatively recent announcement by Thompson that FES had been awarded an impact factor was welcome news. This means that Wiley will continue to invest in the FES brand. The new paid publishing targets look achievable and these mean that FES should be in profit within 2018 - 2019. Professor Martin Parry is standing down as senior editor of FES and on behalf of the Association I would like to thank him for his input in making FES sustainable and a growing asset in the output of the Association.

SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES

A total of 499 delegates attended the conferences in 2017 compared with 720 in 2016, 548 in 2015 and 891 in 2014. The average number of paying delegates was 54 compared with 91 in 2016, 40 in 2015 and 62 in 2014

Details of the full scientific conference programme for 2017 are given below:

Title of Conference	Date	No. of delegates	Group
Crop Production in Southern Britain	15-16 February	119	Cropping and the Environment
Practical Spray Drift Management Workshop	6 April	33	Pesticide Application
Advances in Soil Biology	20 April	33	Soil Biology
3 rd Symposium on Nematodes as Environmental Bioindicators	28-29 July	41	Nematology
Advances in IPM 2017: Reinventing agriculture to reduce dependency on pesticides	25-26 September	64	Biocontrol & IPM
Precision Systems in Agricultural and Horticultural Production	27 October	36	Applied Mycology & Bacteriology
Sustainable Intensification	28-30 November	118	Cropping and the Environment
Advances in Nematology 2017	12 Dec	55	Nematology
	TOTAL	499	

Aspects of Applied Biology

The following volumes of *Aspects of Applied Biology* were published in 2017:

No. 134 *Crop Production in Southern Britain*

No. 135 *Precision Systems in Agricultural and Horticultural Production*

No. 136 *Sustainable Intensification*

AAB SPECIALIST GROUP REPORTS

Applied Mycology & Bacteriology

Convener: Vacancy

Group members – Neal Evans, Neil Havis, David Kenyon, Caroline Orr, Keith Thomas

The applied mycology & bacteriology held one conference in 2017 (Precision Systems in Agricultural and Horticultural Production) at Pershore College in October, but no group meetings. We are currently looking for a new Convener for this group.

Biological Control & Integrated Pest Management

Convener – Toby Bruce

Group members - Richard Shaw, Phil Morley, Keith Walters, Xiangming Xu, Phil Walker, Rosemary Collier, Dave Chandler

IPM conference

We ran the first IPM conference without Rob Jacobson and trialled a different venue and time. The programme went well with a very interesting range of talks. However, it was unanimously decided that the September timing was not ideal and that the Marston venue was better, therefore we have decided to hold the conference in Marston again this year.

The 2017 AAB IPM conference had a theme of “Reinventing Agriculture to Reduce Dependency on Pesticides”. This was due to recent changes in legislation which have further restricted the pesticide availability and ongoing evolution of pesticide resistance. Jennifer Lewis (CertiS) described how the agricultural industry is managing the dilemma reducing pesticide use while trying to increase productivity. The regulatory session at the beginning had special consideration of the impact of Brexit on crop protection, with a presentation from Jon Knight (AHDB). For the time being there is unlikely to be any major change because existing EU legislation will be “lifted and shifted” into UK Law. Grant Stark (HSE) admitted that decisions made on pesticide approval/usage are now much more politically based than 20 years ago. Interestingly, we heard AHDB projections that farm incomes are likely to be squeezed by Brexit and this will mean farmers are even less able to afford the losses caused by pests, weeds and diseases. In Rob Edwards’ talk we heard that wheat crop losses caused by blackgrass cost UK farmers £0.5Bn every year! If there are fewer pesticides one way forward is to improve crop resistance or growth vigour to outcompete weeds and compensate for damage. Brande Wulff (JIC) described strategies for getting resistance genes from crop wild relatives into crops and Steve Ellis (ADAS) reported more than two-fold differences in varietal susceptibility in oilseed rape to cabbage stem flea beetle. Felicity Crotty (GWCT) made a link between soil health to plant health and resilience to attack. The need for updated economic thresholds for pesticide application was a recurring topic. Another major opportunity, of course, is biological control and we heard a wide range of talks ranging from nascent approaches to ones which are already commercially available such as Nutrimite supplementary feeding of predatory mites described by Neal Ward (Biobest). Felix Wackers described the use of bumblebees as “flying doctors” to spread biocontrol agents. Manipulating the plant microbiome to improve plant health is an upcoming area of research that is receiving increased interest. We also heard from Simon Blackmore about laser weeding and improved targeting of conventional pesticides by robots as a possible new approach.

The theme of the 2018 conference (Marston, 12–13 Dec) is “IPM: making it work for the farmer” for which the following invited speakers are confirmed:

- Adrian Dixon, FERA
- Emma Hamer, NFU IPM plan
- Susannah Bolton, AHDB
- Jake Freestone, Overbury Farms
- John Pawsey, Shimpling Park farm

The conference is advertised and we will be putting the programme together. The deadline of the Call for Papers expired on 1 Sept but only 10 papers were offered and so we will extend the deadline. Further advertising is required.

Feedback from last group meeting - discussion of IPM

It is hard to forecast what will happen with Brexit because so much is up in the air at the moment. It will have multiple affects but there are opportunities as well as challenges, for example, there are possibilities of streamlining regulation of crop protection to encourage biorational approaches and to streamline regulation as well as making regulation more evidence based. The idea of holding a short one day conference on the impact of Brexit on crop protection, in 18 months' time, was considered. This meeting could be held at Rothamsted. There was some discussion of the Agri-tech centres and the extent to which the CHAP centre could solve crop protection problems. Dick Shaw suggested that perhaps they could tackle the cabbage stem flea beetle issue. Phil Walker advocated the use of demonstration forms as a key approach for promoting IPM. There was some discussion about the fall armyworm - a huge problem that has caused \$30 – 75 Bn of crop damage. This highlights the importance of crop protection. There was some discussion about funding opportunities and challenges. For example, Innovate open calls make it hard when competing with the aerospace and medicine and that it will be interesting to see how UKRI functions in the future.

Cropping and the Environment

Convener – Rob Carlton

Group members – Andy Evans, Naomi Jones, Kairsty Topp, Kate Smith, Syed Shah, William Smith and Jake Bishop

The group is saddened by the sudden death of David Stock in 2018. David was an active member of CATE, a past member of the Pesticide Applications Group and a good friend.

CATE was involved in two conferences during 2017:

1. *Advances in Soil Biology*, a one-day meeting, was a joint meeting of the Soil Biology group and CATE, held in April 2017 at Rothmsted Research. It was attended by 33 delegates. This meeting was the first organised by the recently formed Soils Biology group and was used to explore and define the group's future work and practices.
2. *Sustainable Intensification*. This conference was organised to coincide with the end of the multi-year DEFRA funded Sustainable Intensification Programme (SIP). One hundred and eighteen delegates came together for a three-day meeting at Rothamsted Research in late November 2017. The conference, which was partly funded by the Sustainable Intensification Research Network and by Syngenta, involved sessions on Food Security, Ecosystem Services, Knowledge Exchange, Farming Systems and Practice, Metrics, Sustainable Land and What Comes Next?. Highlights of the meeting included the Plenary talk by DEFRA Chief Scientific Advisor Prof. Iain Boyd and a fascinating after dinner speech from Prof. Charles Godfray. With delegates from around the world, the meeting generated of energy and plenty of discussion, and was also used to stage an SIRN workshop and SIRN's AGM. A special issue of *Food and Energy Security*, planned for later this year, will include articles based on selected conference presentations.

Current and future CATE conferences include *Advances in Legume Science and Practice*, *Ecosystem and Habitat Management: Research, Policy, Practice, and Soil Improvement: Impact of Management Practices on Soil Function and Quality*. The group is also planning a conference exploring dietary health and sustainable agricultural practice with the Food Systems group.

Food Systems

Convener: Wendy Russell

Group members – Julia Cooper, Susan Duthie and Bryan Hanley

The group met in 2017 to discuss future conferences and is planning a 3-day conference at the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh on 21-23 May 2019, entitled: *Cultivating Healthy Food Systems*

Nematology Group

Convener – Matthew Back (Harper Adams University)

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

The Nematology Group consists of a diverse set of representatives from government, academia, and private consultancy. We have a good connection to European nematologists through Wim Wesemael and to the Organisation of Nematologists of Tropical America (ONTA) through Rosa Manzanilla-López. The group meets twice a year, with the AGM held at the 'Advances in Nematology' meeting in London in December. Our autumn meeting is used to discuss and plan forthcoming conferences as well as other wider nematology related initiatives. At the last group meeting, the topic of 'Early Career Researchers' was discussed and an ECR Nematology sub group was suggested.

Conferences arranged during 2017

Advances in Nematology, 12th December 2017, London Linnean Society, Piccadilly, London

Advances in Nematology is an annual one-day meeting held at the historic Linnean Society in Piccadilly, London. The meeting encourages early career researchers through to leading experts. The scope of the conference is diverse, including topics on biology, ecology, epidemiology, management of plant parasitic nematodes, entomopathogenic nematodes and diagnostic methods, and covers fundamental and applied research.

This year, 54 delegates attended from a range of countries including the UK, Germany, Belgium, Georgia, Norway and the USA, representing industry, academia and government. The pleasant atmosphere at this meeting encourages constructive discussions and networking between delegates. It also provides PhD students with a less stressful setting to present their first paper to their peers.

The conference began with a short AGM where the Convenor (Dr Matthew Back) discussed future conference plans and activities of the AAB Nematology Group. Following this, our invited speaker Professor Alison Woollard (University of Oxford) delivered a captivating presentation on her work on *C. elegans*. Professor Woollard did a marvellous job of summarising a significant body of work on distinct topics such as factors affecting the ageing process and pesticide resistance. The remainder of the morning was generally comprised of presentations on topics around genomics, physiology and plant-nematode interactions.

After the morning session, Dr Rosa Manzanilla-Lopez chaired the poster 'flash' presentations. During the lunch-break, delegates had an opportunity to view the posters and vote for their preferred poster-paper.

In the afternoon, we welcomed our second invited speaker, Dr Matthias Daub, from the Julius Kühn Institute in Germany. Dr Daub gave a comprehensive presentation on the integrated management of beet cyst nematodes (*Heterodera shachtii*) on sugar beet. Further presentations in the afternoon focussed on a range of topics such as entomopathogenic nematodes, spatial dynamics and cover crops.

The day concluded with the presentation of the Brian Kerry Prize for the best platform presentation and the AAB prize for the best poster presentation. This year the best platform prize was awarded to Alistair Wright (University of Nottingham) while the poster prize went to Christopher Bell (University of Leeds).

Future Conference Programme

Advances in Nematology, 11 December 2018: Linnean Society, Piccadilly, London.

Pesticide Application

Convener – Tom Robinson

Group members – Paolo Balsari, Simon Cooper, Richard Glass, Ben Magri, Colin Mountford-Smith, Andrew Shaw, Paul Miller, David Nuyttens and Jan van de Zande.

Co-opted member – Emilio Gil.

The two main activities of the Group during the year have centred on the preparation and execution of the Practical Spray Drift Management Workshop held at Rothamsted on April 5th 2017. Attended by 33 participants. The principle organiser of the workshop was Paul Miller. A successful workshop with good international contributions.

The second principal activity was organisation and execution of the International Advances in Pesticide Application (IAPA) held at the Hotel Mercure in Brighton January 9-11 2018. Principle organiser Tom Robinson. 56 offers of papers were accepted. The conference was attended by 94 delegates. The venue was an excellent choice for a c.100 delegate conference. The content was of a high standard, and feedback has been very positive. Excellent organisation by Carol Millman.

Further Activities 2018

Dose Expression 1 day Workshop:

Date: November 6 (p.m.) and November 7 (a.m.) 2018.

Location: Barcelona

Organisers| Emilio Gil (Lead), Paolo Balsari, Jan Van de Zande

Crops: Vineyards and Orchards:

Objectives

- To present the state of the art.
- Workshop sessions to define and facilitate uptake of best practice.

Proposals for future Workshops and Conferences 2019 and Beyond

- Closed Transfer Systems
- Operator Training including social media for knowledge transfer.

IAPA 2020

Venue: Italy

Local organiser: Paolo Balsari

Timing: last week in January 2020.

Plant Physiology & Crop Improvement

Convener – Guy Barker (University of Warwick)

Group members – Jim Monaghan (Harper Adams University), Eric Murchie (Nottingham University) and Simon Griffiths (JIC)

The steering group meets twice a year by Skype if we are not able to get together in person. Our role is to plan forthcoming conferences as well as to discuss other wider related initiatives and to present the views and concerns of the group at the AAB board and in the wider community. Currently concerns are around attendance at meetings which has led to the cancellation of planned meetings.

Conferences arranged during 2017

Although two meetings were scheduled for 2017, these were postponed for a number of reasons.

Soil Biology Group

Convener – Matthew Shepherd (Natural England)

Group members – Kevin Butt (University of Central Lancashire); Lea Carlesso (Rothamsted); Felicity Crotty (Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust); Anna Harper (Myercough College); Richard Gantlett (University of Reading); Phil Murray (Rothamsted/Retired); Olaf Schmidt (University College Dublin); Peter Shaw (Roehampton University); Kate Storer (ADAS);

The Soil Biology special interest group was formed during 2017, and is now supported by a committee of representatives that includes academics, students and representatives of government agencies and research institutions from the UK and abroad. The aim of the group is to bring together people from disparate backgrounds with a common interest in soil biology to facilitate knowledge exchange, organise events and conferences, enable networking and help facilitate the development of practical approaches to exploring, managing, and communicating soil biology. Its scope includes all groups of soil organisms and their interactions, but the group seeks to complement the work of existing AAB groups and other organisations that focus on nematology and microbiology, by exploring wider soil interactions, and highlighting other groups of soil organisms.

It was officially launched at the first Advances in Soil Biology conference. This conference was instigated by Matthew Shepherd, Kairsty Topp and Elizabeth Stockdale during late 2016, and a conference programme was agreed at a meeting on 3rd March 2017 of a temporary committee comprising Matthew Shepherd, Elizabeth Stockdale, Phil Murray, Kairsty Topp, Peter Shaw and Felicity Crotty.

Conferences arranged during 2017

Advances in Soil Biology, 20th April 2017, Rothamsted Reserach

The conference was attended by 27 people, almost all of whom were new to the AAB. The conference opened with a brief background to the new group delivered by Matthew Shepherd who explained how the newly formed AAB group followed on from workshops and meetings in 2012 at the Natural History Museum and

in 2014 in Cirencester which brought together academics, advisors, conservationists and land managers, to discuss and develop a common approach to soil biology. These workshops identified a need to develop and deliver improved practice in managing and monitoring soil biological function and soil health for agriculture and sustainable land management. They also recognised a need to develop expertise and knowledge in soil biology and biodiversity including soil organism taxonomy, and identification, and a need to understand the conservation status and priorities for conserving soil biodiversity. A further recommendation was the need for a coherent organisation to provide a voice for soil biologists from many different backgrounds and organisations. The special interest group of the AAB has been established to meet these needs, and conference attendees were invited to get involved by joining the committee, which met immediately after the conference. Invited speaker Phil Murray presented on the advances in soil biology over the last 20 years, noting the predominant focus on microbes and the relative lack of focus on other groups of soil organisms. He highlighted the opportunities presented by developing technologies, especially metagenetic approaches, and discussed the welcome trend towards integration of soil biology into farm advice delivery. This was followed by a diverse array of presentations covering biostimulants on soil biology and plant growth, a metaanalysis of the effect of land use on soil and litter invertebrates and on use of barcoding to characterise and detect intraspecific variation (or possibly new species) of springtails. The conference also enjoyed a series of presentations on earthworms, exploring the impact of cover cropping on their feeding behaviour, the extent to which field margins act as refugia for recolonization of cultivated fields, and a case study of the role of earthworms in the traditional use of seaweed as a soil amendment in the Scottish highlands.

The conference included presentation of posters, and a selection of these were also presented as a series of short oral “poster highlights” presentations. These included use of hypogean pitfall trapping to investigate soil invertebrates, the effect of cultivation on a species of money-spider, the response of soil mesofauna to field margin management, soil meso and microfauna under different cultivation managements, field trials investigating soil health and organic matter additions, soil conditioners, microbial inoculation in horticultural crops and a major collaborative project looking at the soil health benefits of a range of organic amendments to soil in long- and short-term trials.

The conference also included enjoyable informal networking opportunities and a “soil zoo” display of soil organisms and microscopes brought by Matthew Shepherd. The day was rounded off with a social event, attended by around a third of conference attendees, at the Axe and Cleaver, St. Albans.

Following the conference there was a meeting of 9 of the 10 committee members, with support from AAB general Secretary Elizabeth Stockdale. The committee agreed to hold annual one-day “Advances in Soil Biology” meetings that would bring together researchers and practitioners from agriculture and other land management sectors, and make efforts to attract key research groups not represented at the conference. The committee agreed to work with other AAB specialist groups to organise further shared and multi-disciplinary meetings and develop links with other organisations / societies such as British Society of Soil Science and British Ecological Society with a view to developing shared meetings and workshops with them. Some potential areas of action were identified, including providing a clear statement for policy-makers explaining why soil biology matters, the development of a resource hub to support the exploration of soil biology, and the development of local and regional activities and events, perhaps in liaison with other societies and groups. The committee met again at Rothamsted North Wyke on 20th July, with contributions from many committee members by teleconference, to agree a forward conference programme (see below), and also agreed to establish a pilot programme of webinars designed to provide knowledge exchange opportunities and sharing of soil biology expertise. The group is now planning to roll these out during 2018, along with a further “Advances in Soil biology” conference at Roehampton University, and a joint Conference on Soil Improvement at Loddington with the Cropping and the Environment Group in September 2018. The group also discussed a developing a 2 day workshop in late 2018 on communications, outreach, expertise and mentoring in soil biology.

Future Conference Programme

Advances in Soil Biology at: University of Roehampton, London, UK

Soil Improvement: Impact of Management Practices on Soil Function and Quality at: Game and Wildlife Trust, Loddington, Leicester UK.

WEBSITE

The AAB website was launched in August 2018.

DONATIONS AND SPONSORSHIP

The Trustees would like to extend their grateful thanks to the following organisations/individuals that provided financial donations or sponsorship total, together with further support during the year.

ADAMA	£1500	Crop Production in Southern Britain
SIRN	£2250	Sustainable Intensification
Syngenta	£500	Sustainable Intensification
Wychavon District Council	£500	Precision Systems in Agricultural and Horticultural Production
Worcestershire LEP	£250	Precision Systems in Agricultural and Horticultural Production
Food and Energy Security	£500	Precision Systems in Agricultural and Horticultural Production
Biobest	£250	Advances in Biological Control and IPM
Certis	£750	Advances in Biological Control and IPM
Russell IPM	£750	Advances in Biological Control and IPM
Fargro	£750	Advances in Biological Control and IPM
Koppert	£750	Advances in Biological Control and IPM
TOTAL	£8750	

AFFILIATIONS TO OTHER SOCIETIES

Affiliations were maintained with the Royal Society of Biology, the Plant Sciences Federation, 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.

SPECIALIST GROUP COMMITTEES AS AT SEPTEMBER 2018

Applied Mycology and Bacteriology:

T Pettitt (Convener) (2018 1st term)
N Evans (2018)
N Havis (2018)
D Kenyon (2018)
C Orr (2019)
K Thomas (2018)

Biological Control:

T Bruce (Convener) (2020 2nd term)
D Chandler (2018)
R Collier (2019)
P Morley (2018)
R Shaw (2018)
P Sopp (2019)
P Walker (2018)
K Walters (2019)
X Xu (2020)

Cropping and the Environment:

R Carlton (Convener) (2019 2nd term)
K A Evans (2018)
Shamal Mohamed (2020)
N Jones (2019)
J Purslow (2018)
K Smith (2018)
D Stock (2018)
E Stockdale (2019)
K Topp (2018)

Food Systems

W Russell (Convener) (2018 1st term)
J Cooper (2019)
S Duthie (2019)
B Hanley (2019)

Nematology:

M Back (Convener) (2019 2nd term)
S Edgington (2018)
I Grove (2018)
L Holden-Dye (2018)
G Hoysted (2018)
R Manzanilla-Lopez (2018)
B Pembroke (2018)
J Pickup (2018)
T Prior (2018)
W Wesemael (2018)

Pesticide Application:

T H Robinson (Convener) (2019 1st term)
P Balsari (2018)
S E Cooper (2018)
C R Glass (2018)
B Magri (2018)
P Miller (2019)
C Mountford-Smith (2019)
D Nuyttens (2020)
A Shaw (2019)
J van de Zande (2018)

Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement:

G Barker (Convener) (2019 1st term)
S Griffiths (2020)
N Halford (2018)
J Monaghan (2020)

Soil Biology:

M Shepherd (Convener) (2019 1st term)
A Campbell (2019)
L Carlesso (2019)
F Crotty (2019)
R Gantlett (2019)
P Murray (2019)
O Schmidt
P Shaw

Virology:

Miguel Aranda (Convener) (2021 1st term)
Gerard Clover (2020)
A Love (2019)
Charlotte Nellist (2019)
J Tilsner (2019)
T Tungadi (2019)
John Walsh (2018)

ELECTION TO SPECIALIST GROUP COMMITTEES FOR 2017

Nominations are sought for vacancies on some of the AAB Specialist Group Committees. The present composition of each Group Committee can be seen overleaf. The nominations, duly seconded and accompanied by the consent of the nominees, should be sent to the Executive Officer, Carol Millman, at the AAB Office to arrive not later than 14th November 2018.

**ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS
(This form may be photocopied)**

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

.....

for the committee ofGroup

Proposed by

Seconded by

Signed

Signed

Address

Address

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

***Delete as appropriate**

Consent to nomination

I agree to the nomination for the committee of

Signed

Address

.....

..... **Date**



AAB Office, Warwick Enterprise Park, Wellesbourne, Warwick CV35 9EF, UK

Email: Carol@aab.org.uk (Executive Officer, Conference Organisation & Planning, *Annals* & Advertising)

Alberto@aab.org.uk (Finance & Office Manager)

John@aab.org.uk (Conference administration, *Aspects* editorial queries)

Richard@aab.org.uk (FES Editorial Office, Newsletter, membership, website, social media)

bernadette@aab.org.uk (Conference bookings, *Annals* Subscriptions, *Aspects* sales, DPV Orders, Accounts)

Registered Charity No. 275655



AAB President: Professor Christine Watson



ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
& FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR 2017**

**NOTICE OF
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

26 September 2018

THE ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS
(Registered Charity No. 275655)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

Rothamsted Research, Harpenden, Herts AL5 2JQ
at 12:30 pm on Wednesday 26th September 2018

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.

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

- 1) **Minutes of the AGM held on 26th September 2017** at Harper Adams University
- 2) **Trustees Report of Activity 2017**
President's Report
Reports from the Specialist groups
Questions and discussion by members
- 3) **Financial Report 2017**
Presentation of report
Questions and discussion by members
- 4) **Appointment of Auditors for 2019**
Council propose the appointment of Cleres of Birmingham as auditors for 2019 (a proposal was sent out earlier this year for Accountancy firms to tender for this work, and Council have voted to keep Cleres as the Association's Auditors)
- 5) **Membership fees**
Council is proposing the following membership fees for 2019. This represents no change for any membership category, except Student Members
Ordinary: £60
Retired: £30
Student: £5 in the first year, followed by £20 in subsequent years (providing the student signed up using the direct debit form)
- 6) **Subscription for *Annals of Applied Biology***
Council is proposing that there is a small increase in the subscription for *Annals of Applied Biology* which simply recoups the increased charge levied on the Association by the publisher (Wiley-Blackwell).
- 7) **Honorary Officers and suggestion for additional Early-Career Scientist Champion**

President-Elect

Council currently have two candidates for President-Elect -Professor George Lomonosoff from the John Innes Centre, Norwich and Professor Christine Foyer from the University of Leeds

Programme Secretary

We have been actively seeking a new Programme Secretary to replace Dr Nigel Halford. We currently have two nominations: Dr Guy Barker (currently PP&CI Convener) and Dr Robert Carlton (currently CATE Convener)

More details are given in the members' voting papers

Other Honorary Officers for 2019, to note:

President – Mr Stuart Knight (serving in this term 2019–2020)

President-Elect – To be elected at the AGM

Honorary Treasurer – Mr Andy Page (serving 1st term 2018-2020)

General Secretary – Prof. Martin Parry (serving 1st term 2018-2020)

Programme Secretary – To be elected at the AGM

Publications Officer – Prof. Roy Kennedy (serving 2nd term 2017–2019)

Meetings' Treasurer – Mr Richard Glass (serving 2nd term 2017–2019)

Conveners of specialist groups for 2019; to note:

Applied Mycology and Bacteriology – Vacancy (nominations to Carol Millman - carol@aab.org.uk)

Biological Control and IPM – Prof. Toby Bruce

Cropping and the Environment – Dr Rob Carlton

Food Systems – Dr Wendy Russell

Nematology – Dr Matthew Back

Pesticide Application – Dr Tom Robinson

Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement – Dr Guy Barker

Soil Biology – Dr Matthew Shepherd

Virology – Dr Miguel Aranda

Early-Career Scientist Champion - Dr Felicity Crotty (serving 1 term 2017-2020 to coincide with term served by President-Elect, then President)

- 8) **Update to AAB strategic plan**
- 9) **Appointment of new President Elect and Programme Secretary**
- 10) **Election of new Honorary Members**
- 11) **Any other issues raised by members for discussion**

ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

Reg. Charity No. 275655

The objects of the Association shall be to promote the study and advancement of all branches of Biology and in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) to foster the practice, growth and development of applied biology, with a focus on the application of biological sciences in the production of food, materials and energy and for the maintenance and improvement of the earth's environment.

Association of Applied Biologists

Annual General Meeting

Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire
Tuesday 26th September 2017

The meeting commenced at 12.40 pm

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

27 members were present; 17 apologies had been received. The President, Chrisitne Watson, and the President-Elect had sent apologies and hence the Annual General Meeting was chaired by Prof. Nigel Halford, Programme Secretary.

The Chair reminded members that the AAB Annual report had been made accessible to all members before the AGM and hence except where members indicate he therefore assumed that members had read this carefully and considered the matters for discussion given in the AGM notice.

1) Minutes of AGM held on 9th September 2016 Edinburgh University

The minutes of the AGM which reviewed the operations and finances of the Association for 2015 had been provided. There were no amendments asked for. The meeting agreed that the Minutes as presented were a correct record of the meeting and they were therefore signed by the Chair.

2) Trustees' Report of Activity 2016

The Chair highlighted the Trustee's report of activity and in particular the detailed breakdown of activities given in Appendix 1 following the President's Report.

The General Secretary noted that there were some errors and inconsistencies in formatting, which had unfortunately been published in the version of the Annual Report sent to members. She thanked those members who had flagged these issues to her and confirmed that all these issues would be fixed before the report was sent to the Charity Commission.

There were no general questions and no specific questions to Conveners from the members present.

The General Secretary noted that two questions had been submitted by members in advance.

With regard to the investment in the Food and Security Journal it is noted that the report simply indicates that it is expect to be "some years" before the investment made makes a significant return to the AAB. What is the Trustees present forecast, however approximate, for when the investment in FESJ begins to make a return. Speaking on behalf of Council, the General Treasurer, Mike May, noted that there had been a new and hence uncertain process towards an Impact Factor. This is now in place and hence it is expected that paid submissions to the journal will begin to increase markedly. The journal is expected to begin to make a small operating surplus in the next 1-2 years and it is currently expected that the break-even point with fail in 3-5 years' time; after that point returns to the AAB on the investment made are expected.

It was noted that the report of activities refers to the development of the website. This is welcome. However, is there an expected timescale and budget allocated to this work.

Mike May indicated on behalf of Council that this work was at an early stage. Members will begin to see differences as the AAB was now using the CVENT system for conference bookings and members communications. Hence Council wish to embed this change in process first before moving ahead with any web re-design. Guy Barker is leading a Task and Finish group on behalf of Council to scope the needs for the AAB website by autumn 2018; this will lead to the development of a specification which can be sent to tender in late 2018. Members are invited to contact Guy Barker (via the AAB office) if they would like to be involved in the work of the Task and Finish group.

The Chair therefore asked the meeting whether the report of the Trustees (including Specialist Group reports) could be accepted for publication (following the fixing of errors and inconsistencies in formatting) as a full and complete report for the activities of the Association in 2016?

Proposed (non-trustee) Martin Parry

Seconded (non-trustee) Keith Davies

The proposal was agreed unanimously by the meeting.

3) Financial Report 2016

The Honorary Treasurer, Mike May, briefly presented the report and confirmed that the correct figure for the operating deficit was £21,524 before investment gains/losses.

There were no general questions from the members present or submitted in advance.

The Chair therefore asked the meeting whether the full financial report for the Association in 2016 presented by Trustees after inspection by Clere's of Birmingham could be accepted for publication.

Proposed (non-trustee) Simon Leather

Seconded (non-trustee) Jim Monaghan

The proposal was agreed unanimously by the meeting.

4) Appointment of Auditors for 2018

Council propose the appointment of Clere's of Birmingham as auditors for 2018.

There were no general questions from the members present. The General Secretary noted that a question had been submitted by members in advance.

Clere's has been used as the auditor to provide an inspection of the accounts for some years. I believe that there is a best practice recommendation from the Charity Commission to change auditors regularly. Hence should some more thought be given to the use of auditors rather than simply renewing our on-going relationship?

The General Secretary confirmed that there is a best practice recommendation from the Charity Commission to carefully review the use of auditors regularly. Trustees had discussed this matter briefly and were happy to continue to propose the use of Clere's in 2018 for the review of the 2017 financial report. However, the Trustees present confirm that they would take a recommendation from the AGM to Council to carry out a full review of the auditor role and to carry out a tendering process as appropriate ahead of the presentation of a recommendation to the AGM next year.

The Council proposal that Clere's of Birmingham be appointed as auditors for 2017 was accepted unanimously by the meeting.

5) Membership fees

Council is proposing the following membership fees for 2018. This represents no change for any membership category.

Ordinary: £60

Retired: £30

Student: £20

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

6) **Subscription for *Annals of Applied Biology***

Council is proposing that there is a small increase in the subscription for *Annals of Applied Biology* which simply recoups the increased charge levied on the Association by the publisher (Wiley):

The resulting annual charges for 2018 are expected to be:

Print only: £82.58

On-line only: £71.27 including VAT

Print and on-line: £108 including VAT

It was asked whether the Publication's Secretary, Roy Kennedy, challenged Wiley with regard to the increases made annually.

The Honorary Treasurer confirmed that he was aware that Wiley was challenged over these matters, although no concessions as regard subscription costs have been made. Other concessions to the benefit of the AAB as a whole have been obtained over the lifetime of the agreement with Wiley and in the re-negotiation of contracts with Wiley for publication.

The proposal was accepted unanimously by the meeting.

7) **Honorary Officers**

Honorary Treasurer

The AAB has been actively seeking a new Honorary Treasurer to replace Mr Mike May. The Chair asked that a record be made of the AAB's thanks to Mike for a great job and his willingness to serve for an extra year whilst a replacement was found.

Council are pleased to report that Mr Andy Page has offered to serve the Association. Following references and background checks, Council are now nominating Andy Page to begin his first formal term in January 2018. Andy Page was present and made himself known to the meeting, but there were no questions for him and the proposal was accepted unanimously by the meeting.

Honorary Secretary

Elizabeth Stockdale comes to the end of her third and final term as Honorary Secretary at the end of 2017. The Chair asked that a record be made of the AAB's thanks to Elizabeth for a great job over her consecutive terms of service.

Council is pleased to report that Prof Martin Parry has offered to serve the Association as Honorary Secretary from 2018. No other nominations were received in advance and there were no other nominations from members from the floor.

Martin Parry was present, and made himself known to the meeting, but there were no questions for him and the proposal was accepted unanimously by the meeting.

The Chair noted the other Honorary Officers for 2018 as follows:

- President – Prof. Christine Watson (presidential term ends at end of 2018)
- President-Elect – Mr Stuart Knight (serving in this until end of 2018 then as President of the Association 2019-2020)

Members should therefore note that there will be an opportunity to stand as President-Elect at the next AGM

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

Members should therefore note that there will be an opportunity to stand as Programme Secretary at the next AGM

- Publications Officer- Dr Roy Kennedy (serving 2nd term 2017-2019)
- Meetings' Treasurer – Dr Richard Glass (serving 2nd term 2017-2019)

The Chair also noted the conveners of specialist groups as selected by the groups for 2018:

- Applied Mycology and Bacteriology - Dr T. Pettitt
- Biological Control and IPM - Prof. T Bruce
- Cropping and the Environment - Dr R Carlton

- Food Systems - Dr W Russell
- Nematology – Dr Matthew Back
- Pesticide Application - Dr Tom Robinson
- Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement - Dr Guy Barker
- Soil Biology – Dr Matthew Shepherd
- Virology - Dr M Gowda

8) Early-Career Scientist Champion

Following discussion at the last AGM, Council has decided to create the position of Early-Career Scientist Champion. Council is proposing to establish the role with Trustee status.

The proposal was accepted unanimously by the meeting.

Felicity Crotty has offered to serve and is nominated by Stuart Knight and Christine Watson.

Felicity Crotty was present, and made herself known to the meeting, but there were no questions for her and the proposal was accepted unanimously by the meeting.

9) Any other issues raised by members for discussion

The Students' Travel Grant is a great initiative but seems to be relatively little used. Could it be promoted more widely?

Felicity Crotty noted this issue and indicated that she would consider how student and early-career researchers could be more effectively targeted by specific communications – perhaps making more use of social media.

The BBSRC are currently consulting on their strategy. Will the AAB respond and how can members co-ordinate any responses?

Nigel Halford noted that he had received notification of the consultation via the Royal Society of Biology, who would also be compiling a response. As Programme Secretary he noted that he would usually pass on any requests for input on consultations to the Conveners of the Specialist Groups and compile any responses received from across the AAB. Here it was noted that members may also have opportunities to input to the consultation via their employers (Universities, Research Institutes etc) and also as individuals. Nigel Halford confirmed that he would be happy to receive any responses from members and he would compile these – any response submitted by the AAB whether directly or via the RSoB would be made available to members via the website

FINANCIAL REPORT 2017

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Income and expenditure

The Association continues with the long-term aim of operating with a small positive cash flow as part of a sustainable Business Plan covering investment expenditure.

Pleasingly, operating income in 2017 exceeded expenditure by £23568, a respectable improvement from the cash deficit in 2016 of £21524.

Unrealised gains on investments in 2017 continued the positive trend of 2016, and finished at £26862 (2016: £41688).

Therefore, total income for the year was £50430 (2016: £20164)

Despite the prevailing uncertain economic conditions, AAB publications performed creditably with all titles showing improvements on 2016, PBJ in particular was a strong performer with income up by £48149 on the prior year. *Food and Energy Security* in its fifth year of publication reduced its deficit significantly to £4158 and, having now achieved a positive impact factor, is on course to contribute positively to cash flow within 24 months. *Annals of Applied Biology* now shows three years of performance improvement with income up from £75363 to £87298 in 2017.

Governance costs were £121062, up £30552. Establishment costs were £5382 higher and the introduction of new software created higher implementation and subscription expenses. Pensions obligations increased after changes in UK Legislation. The recruitment of a new Finance Manager increased salaries and required recruitment agency fees.

The conference programme generated a loss of £26691, slightly less than 2016 but much higher than the £15k planned. This was principally as a result of lower attendances at AAB events than planned.

Investment returns (reinvested) remained consistent and although £25,000 was disinvested at the end of 2017 to cover future disbursements, £50,000 has subsequently been reinvested in 2018.

Balance Sheet

The Association's net assets increased £50433 over the last year principally due to higher cash being held at that date (subsequently, as noted this has been reinvested).

Future Plans and Forecasts

The 2018 budget foresees a small surplus of around £16000. Currently trends are short of this target, indicating a small deficit for 2018.

A detailed budget is set for the coming year and a rolling cash flow forecast for the next 15 months. Good progress has been made with the return from publications (although ongoing effort will be needed for this to continue), but conferences continue to record significant cash shortfalls. The Trustees will be looking at strategic aims in more detail to assess whether the Association's objectives are being effectively fulfilled through the conference agenda and resources adjusted accordingly. It is pleasing to note the progress of the FES journal.

Proposed Membership Fees

The Trustees wish to raise membership numbers and at present this is not being achieved. In particular, a younger generation of members is needed for the health of the Association.

With this in mind, subscription fees are to be frozen for the coming year and a special low joining fee introduced for new student members. Strategic objectives will be set for membership increases for the coming years.

The subscription rates for *Annals* will increase 6% for 2019.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

The Association of Applied Biologists

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The Association of Applied Biologists

Reference and Administrative Details

Chief Executive Officer

Mrs C A Millman

Trustees

Dr E A Stockdale, General Secretary (resigned 1 January 2018)

Dr C R Glass, Conferences Treasurer

Prof. N G Halford, Programme Secretary

Dr T Bruce, Biological Control

Prof. W Davies, President (resigned 1 January 2017)

Dr R Carlton, Cropping & the environment

Dr R Kennedy, Publications Officer

Mr M May, General Treasurer (resigned 1 January 2018)

Dr M Back, Nematology

Prof. P Miller, Pesticide application (resigned 1 January 2017)

Prof. C Watson, President

Dr M Gowda, Virology (resigned 1 March 2018)

Mr T Pettitt, Applied mycology & bacteriology

Dr M J Shepherd, Soil biology (appointed 20 April 2017)

Dr W Russell, Food systems

Dr G Barker, Plant physiology & crop improvements

Mr S Knight, President Elect (appointed 1 January 2017)

Mr M Aranda, Virology (appointed 1 March 2018)

Dr T Robinson, Pesticide Application (appointed 1 January 2017)

Dr F Crotty, Early Career Scientist Champion (appointed 1 January 2018)

Mr A Page, General Treasurer (appointed 1 January 2018)

Dr M Parry, General Secretary (appointed 1 January 2018)

Principal Office

AAB Office

Warwick Enterprise Park

Wellesbourne

Warwickshire

CV35 9EF

Charity Registration Number

275655

Solicitors

Martineau Johnson

St. Phillips House

St. Phillips Place

Birmingham

B3 2PP

The Association of Applied Biologists

Reference and Administrative Details

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc
South Warwickshire Group of Branches
150 The Parade
Leamington Spa
Warwickshire
CV32 4A

Independent Examiner

Clere's Ltd
Chartered Certified Accountant
G.N.House
119 Holloway Head
Birmingham
B1 1QP

The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2017.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The Object of the Charity is to 'promote the study and advancement of all branches of Biology and, in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) to foster the practice, growth and development of applied biology, including the application of biological sciences for the production and preservation of food, fibre and other materials and for the maintenance and improvement of the earth's physical environment'.

Objectives, strategies and activities

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.

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.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report

Achievements and performance

Income and expenditure

The Association continues with the long-term aim of operating with a small positive cash flow as part of a sustainable Business Plan covering investment expenditure. Pleasingly, operating income in 2017 exceeded expenditure by £23568, a respectable improvement from the cash deficit in 2016 of £21524. Unrealised gains on investments in 2017 continued the positive trend of 2016, and finished at £26862 (2016: £41688). Therefore, total income for the year was £50430 (2016: £20164).

Despite the prevailing uncertain economic conditions, AAB publications performed creditably with all titles showing improvements on 2016, PBJ in particular was a strong performer with income up by £48149 on the prior year. Food and Energy Security in its fifth year of publication reduced its deficit significantly to £4158 and, having now achieved a positive impact factor, is on course to contribute positively to cash flow with 24 months. Annals now shows three years of performance improvement with income up from £75363 to £87298 in 2017.

Governance costs were £121062, up £30552. Establishment costs were £5382 higher and the introduction of new software created higher implementation and subscription expenses. Pensions obligations increased after changes in UK Legislation. The recruitment of a new Finance Manager increased salaries and required recruitment agency fees. The conference program generated a loss of £26691, slightly less than 2016 but much higher than the £15k planned. This was principally as a result of lower attendances at AAB events than planned.

Investment returns (reinvested) remained consistent and although £25,000 was disinvested at the end of 2017 to cover future disbursements, £50,000 has subsequently reinvested in 2018.

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The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report

Financial review

Policy on reserves

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

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

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

Investment policy and objectives

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

Plans for future periods

Aims and key objectives for future periods

Future Plans and Forecasts

The 2018 budget foresees a small surplus of around £16000. Currently trends are short of this target, indicating a small deficit for 2018.

A detailed budget is set for the coming year and a rolling cash flow forecast for the next 15 months. Good progress has been made with the return from publications (although ongoing effort will be needed for this to continue), but conferences continue to record significant cash shortfalls. The Trustees will be looking at strategic aims in more detail to assess whether the Association's objectives are being effectively fulfilled through the conference agenda and resources adjusted accordingly. It is pleasing to note the progress of the FES journal.

Proposed Membership Fees

The Trustees wish to raise membership numbers and at present this is not being achieved. In particular, a younger generation of members is needed for the health of the Association.

With this in mind, subscription fees are to be frozen for the coming year and a special low joining fee introduced for new student members. Strategic objectives will be set for membership increases for the coming years.

The subscription rates for Annals will increase 6% for 2019

The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

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

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

All Trustees of the Association must be members of the Association of Applied Biologists. Trustees of the Association of Applied Biologists include the Honorary Officers of Council (the President, the President-elect, who shall normally succeed the President, the General Treasurer, the Meetings Treasurer, the General Secretary, the Programme Secretary, the Membership Officer, the Publications Officer plus any other person designated as an Honorary Officer at the Annual General Meeting) together with the Convenors of the Association's Specialist Groups. The Convenors are notified to the Annual General Meeting. The other Honorary Officers are elected at an Annual General Meeting. In the case of an unfilled position, trustees may be co-opted to office but must be elected at the following Annual General Meeting. The President of the Association of Applied Biologists will serve a maximum period of two years as President. The President-Elect will serve a maximum period of two years as President-elect.

Convenors are elected by members of the Group (at the last meeting of the year preceding the year of office) and may serve for up to six consecutive years, subject to annual re-election (a term of office for Convenors is deemed to be three years).

Induction and training of trustees

Potential Trustees of the Association of Applied Biology will be given copy of Association's Laws and copies of any other key documents relevant to the Charity or post.

The booklet 'Responsibilities of Charity Trustees' published by the Charity Commission gives a complete guide to the responsibilities of Charity Trustees and will be issued to all new Trustees who are expected to read it.

Trustees of the Association of Applied Biologists are expected to read the Laws of the Association of Applied Biologists, additional information provided by the Association and the booklet 'Responsibilities of Charity Trustees'.

A 'job description' of each Trustee post will be given to each new Trustee upon appointment. It is the responsibility of each post holder to review and update their particular job description by the end of October each year. Any changes are to be agreed by Council at its last full meeting of the year.

New trustees will be given an induction session with the Executive Officer and/or a serving Trustee of the Association.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report

Organisational structure

The business of the Association is conducted by a Council of Members.

Council shall consist of the Honorary Officers; President, President elect, General Secretary, General Treasurer, Chairman of the Editorial Boards, Membership Officer, Programme Secretary, Early Career Scientist Champion and Meetings Treasurer together with convenors of the AAB Specialist Groups.

Wider network

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

Financial instruments

Objectives and policies

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 a mixture of long-term and short-term debt finance.

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

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 7 September 2018 and signed on its behalf by:



.....

Prof C Watson

Trustee

The Association of Applied Biologists

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity 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 in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- 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 proper accounting records that 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 applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees 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 the trustees of the charity on 7 September 2018 and signed on its behalf by:



Prof C Watson
Trustee

The Association of Applied Biologists

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Association of Applied Biologists

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2017 which are set out on pages 11 to 24.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Clere's Ltd.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Stephen John Clere, FCCA
Chartered Certified Accountant
Clere's Ltd
G.N.House
119 Holloway Head
Birmingham
B1 1QP

7 September 2018

The Association of Applied Biologists

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2017 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies		9,475	-	9,475
Charitable activities		252,354	-	252,354
Investment income	4	8,999	-	8,999
Total Income		270,828	-	270,828
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities		(247,152)	(108)	(247,260)
Total Expenditure		(247,152)	(108)	(247,260)
Gains/losses on investment assets		26,862	-	26,862
Net movement in funds		50,538	(108)	50,430
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		453,745	16,379	470,124
Total funds carried forward	16	504,283	16,271	520,554
				Total 2016 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies		11,901	-	11,901
Charitable activities		265,440	-	265,440
Investment income	4	9,157	-	9,157
Total Income		286,498	-	286,498
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities		(304,545)	(3,477)	(308,022)
Total Expenditure		(304,545)	(3,477)	(308,022)
Gains/losses on investment assets		41,688	-	41,688
Net movement in funds		23,641	(3,477)	20,164
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		430,104	19,856	449,960
Total funds carried forward	16	453,745	16,379	470,124

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2016 is shown in note 16.

The Association of Applied Biologists

(Registration number: 275655)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2017

	Note	2017 £	2016 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	4,624	5,666
Investments	12	378,144	386,039
		382,768	391,705
Current assets			
Debtors	13	116,644	65,042
Cash at bank and in hand		142,589	103,978
		259,233	169,020
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	(121,447)	(90,601)
Net current assets		137,786	78,419
Net assets		520,554	470,124
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds		16,271	16,379
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		504,283	453,745
Total funds	16	520,554	470,124

The financial statements on pages 11 to 24 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 7 September 2018 and signed on their behalf by:



Prof C Watson
Trustee

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared 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) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

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 notes.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income and endowments

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

Grant provisions

Provisions for grants are made when the intention to make a grant has been communicated to the recipient but there is uncertainty about either the timing of the grant or the amount of grant payable.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees's meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £0.00 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments, other than programme related investments, are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the year end.

Trade debtors

are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of is established when there is objective evidence that the will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

Borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees's discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

Debt instruments

Debt instruments which meet the following conditions are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method:

(a) The contractual return to the holder is (i) a fixed amount; (ii) a positive fixed rate or a positive variable rate; or (iii) a combination of a positive or a negative fixed rate and a positive variable rate.

(b) The contract may provide for repayments of the principal or the return to the holder (but not both) to be linked to a single relevant observable index of general price inflation of the currency in which the debt instrument is denominated, provided such links are not leveraged.

(c) The contract may provide for a determinable variation of the return to the holder during the life of the instrument, provided that (i) the new rate satisfies condition (a) and the variation is not contingent on future events other than (1) a change of a contractual variable rate; (2) to protect the holder against credit deterioration of the issuer; (3) changes in levies applied by a central bank or arising from changes in relevant taxation or law; or (ii) the new rate is a market rate of interest and satisfies condition (a).

(d) There is no contractual provision that could, by its terms, result in the holder losing the principal amount or any interest attributable to the current period or prior periods.

(e) Contractual provisions that permit the issuer to prepay a debt instrument or permit the holder to put it back to the issuer before maturity are not contingent on future events, other than to protect the holder against the credit deterioration of the issuer or a change in control of the issuer, or to protect the holder or issuer against changes in levies applied by a central bank or arising from changes in relevant taxation or law.

(f) Contractual provisions may permit the extension of the term of the debt instrument, provided that the return to the holder and any other contractual provisions applicable during the extended term satisfy the conditions of paragraphs (a) to (c).

Debt instruments that are classified as payable or receivable within one year on initial recognition and which meet the above conditions are measured at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received, net of impairment.

With the exception of some hedging instruments, other debt instruments not meeting these conditions are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

Commitments to make and receive loans which meet the conditions mentioned above are measured at cost (which may be nil) less impairment.

Investments

Investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary or preference shares (where shares are publicly traded or their fair value is reliably measurable) are measured at fair value through profit or loss. Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, investments are measured at cost less impairment.

Investments in subsidiaries and associates are measured at cost less impairment. For investments in subsidiaries acquired for consideration including the issue of shares qualifying for merger relief, cost is measured by reference to the nominal value of the shares issued plus fair value of other consideration. Any premium is ignored.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

Derivative financial instruments

The charity uses derivative financial instruments to reduce exposure to foreign exchange risk and interest rate movements. The charity does not hold or issue derivative financial instruments for speculative purposes.

Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value at the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently remeasured to their fair value at each reporting date. The resulting gain or loss is recognised in statement of financial activities immediately unless the derivative is designated and effective as a hedging instrument, in which event the timing of the recognition in statement of financial activities depends on the nature of the hedge relationship.

Fair value measurement

The best evidence of fair value is a quoted price for an identical asset in an active market. When quoted prices are unavailable, the price of a recent transaction for an identical asset provides evidence of fair value as long as there has not been a significant change in economic circumstances or a significant lapse of time since the transaction took place. If the market is not active and recent transactions of an identical asset on their own are not a good estimate of fair value, the fair value is estimated by using a valuation technique.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds		
	General	Total	Total
	£	2017	2016
		£	£
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from companies, trusts and similar proceeds	9,475	9,475	10,833
Donations from individuals	-	-	1,068
	9,475	9,475	11,901

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds		
	General	Total	Total
	£	2017	2016
		£	£
Conferences	73,569	73,569	151,534
Publications	152,886	152,886	85,291
Membership Fees	25,899	25,899	28,615
	252,354	252,354	265,440

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	Total 2017	Total 2016
	General	2017	2016
	£	£	£
Other income from fixed asset investments	8,999	8,999	9,157

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2017	Total 2016
		General	funds	2017	2016
		£	£	£	£
Conferences		100,260	-	100,260	190,323
Publications		9,736	-	9,736	6,067
Membership Fees		12,726	-	12,726	16,339
Grant funding of activities		3,368	108	3,476	4,783
Governance costs		121,062	-	121,062	90,510
		247,152	108	247,260	308,022

6 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds	Total 2017	Total 2016
	General	2017	2016
	£	£	£
Staff costs			
Wages and salaries	37,893	37,893	32,106
Pension costs	9,751	9,751	5,296
Independent examiner fees	3,025	3,025	2,875
Examination of the financial statements	1,593	1,593	835
Legal fees	5,031	5,031	6,436
Marketing and publicity	2,337	2,337	2,670
Depreciation, amortisation and other similar costs	61,432	61,432	40,292
Other governance costs	121,062	121,062	90,510

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

7 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year include:

	2017	2016
	£	£
Depreciation of fixed assets	2,337	2,670

8 Staff costs

	2017	2016
	£	£
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	117,146	124,698
Pension costs	9,750	5,296
	126,896	129,994

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2017	2016
	No	No
Charitable Activities	4	5
Governance	1	1
	5	6

4 (2016 - 4) of the above employees participated in the Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

9 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2017	2016
	£	£
Examination of the financial statements	3,025	2,875
Independent Examiner's remuneration	3,025	2,875

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

10 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 January 2017	66,395	66,395
Additions	1,296	1,296
At 31 December 2017	67,691	67,691
Depreciation		
Charge for the year	63,067	63,067
At 31 December 2017	63,067	63,067
Net book value		
At 31 December 2017	4,624	4,624
At 31 December 2016	66,395	66,395

12 Fixed asset investments

	2017 £	2016 £
Other investments	378,144	386,039

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

Other investments

	Listed investments £	Total £
Cost or Valuation		
At 1 January 2017	386,039	386,039
Additions	(7,895)	(7,895)
At 31 December 2017	378,144	378,144
Net book value		
At 31 December 2017	378,144	378,144
At 31 December 2016	386,039	386,039

13 Debtors

	2017 £	2016 £
Trade debtors	1,348	21,706
Prepayments	1,056	926
Other debtors	114,240	42,410
	116,644	65,042

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2017 £	2016 £
Trade creditors	27,486	2,497
Other taxation and social security	12,014	10,691
Other creditors	78,921	74,459
Accruals	3,026	2,954
	121,447	90,601

15 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £9,751 (2016 - £5,296).

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2017 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2017 £
Unrestricted funds					
General	(453,745)	(270,828)	247,152	(26,862)	(504,283)
Restricted funds	(16,379)	-	108	-	(16,271)
Total funds	(470,124)	(270,828)	247,260	(26,862)	(520,554)
	Balance at 1 January 2016 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2016 £
Unrestricted funds					
General	(430,104)	(286,498)	304,545	(41,688)	(453,745)
Restricted funds	(19,856)	-	3,477	-	(16,379)
Total funds	(449,960)	(286,498)	308,022	(41,688)	(470,124)

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds £
	General £	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	4,624	-	4,624
Fixed asset investments	378,144	-	378,144
Current assets	242,962	16,271	259,233
Current liabilities	(121,447)	-	(121,447)
Total net assets	504,283	16,271	520,554

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

18 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 January 2017	Cash flow	At 31 December 2017
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	103,978	38,611	142,589
Net debt	103,978	38,611	142,589

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



An exciting addition to the conference series last year was the Sustainable Intensification meeting at Rothamsted in November, organized by Rob Carlton and Stuart Knight in conjunction with the Defra Sustainable Intensification Platform. We had over 100 attendees from a variety of countries including a Chinese delegation. We were privileged to have the Defra chief scientist to give an introductory talk and to have Charles Godfray as our after-dinner speaker. Our three journals continue to do well with Food and Energy Security finally achieving a first Impact Factor of 3.032. I would like to congratulate the Editor-in-Chief Martin Parry and all involved in FES on this fantastic achievement. Our journals would not succeed without the hard work and enthusiasm of the editors, editorial staff and the reviewers who maintain very high standards. I would encourage members of the Association to submit papers to our journals but also to volunteer as reviewers if you possibly can. Please note that AAB members can publish in the FES journal for a reduced cost of £750.

Martin Parry joined us at the beginning of 2018 as General Secretary and brings with him enormous expertise not only through his role as Chief Editor of FES but also through his past experience of AAB. Martin has been Editor-in-Chief of Annals of Applied Biology and Food and Energy Security, AAB Publications Office and Convener of PP&CI – that's some track record! Our new Treasurer Andy Page has a background in general management and finance principally in European manufacturing and distribution industries, but also publishing. He wanted to broaden his knowledge in other specialist areas and having previously worked with other charities thought the AAB would be an interesting place to do this and to apply his finance knowledge. In order to increase the engagement of early career researchers (ECRs) in the work of the AAB we decided to create a new position on Council for an ECR member. We welcome Felicity Crotty in this role. She is working with the Council and especially the Conveners of our Specialist Interest groups to look at how we can embed ECRs in the activities of the AAB.

We also welcomed Alberto Vitale as Office & Finance Manager at the end of 2017. Born in Italy, Alberto has a background in the hotel industry where he was involved in organizing conferences across the Midlands and London area and thus brings a wealth of useful contacts to AAB. He also worked as a financial controller in a recruitment agency for a number of years and thus brings many useful talents to the AAB Office.

I would like to thank Stuart Knight as our President Elect for all his support and help in bringing about the changes in the Office and on Council that are described above. I would also like to thank all members of Council and the staff for engaging so enthusiastically with us in a programme of work looking at the future of AAB and how the organisation can meet the changing needs of the applied biology sector. A great deal of work has gone into the design of a new website which should go live in the summer of 2018. Finally, I want to thank Carol and the team for all the hard work they have put into AAB in the last year.

Prof Christine Watson, Aberdeen
August 2018

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

MEMBERSHIP

A total of 96 new members of the Association were elected by Council during the year (see Appendix 2). The total of fully paid-up members and Honorary members on 31 December 2017 was 581- 43 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.

Student Travel Grants Awarded during 2017

Name	Conference	Award
Javier Carrillo Reche	Sustainable Intensification	£108.00
Yara Boubou	Precision systems in agricultural and horticultural production	£86.00
Total Student Travel Grants awarded 2017		£194.00

PUBLICATIONS

The progression toward Open access publishing offers significant opportunities for the published output of the AAB. Many of these opportunities are associated with the expansion of audiences and boosting the impact of the society still further. Although technological development is leading the way there must be a willingness to move forward and embrace new initiatives if the publications of Association are to progress. The past year 2017 has seen major progression by our existing published Journals and in the publication of conference proceedings. The Plant Biotechnology Journal (PBJ) has fully transitioned to open access and the new title Food and Energy Security (FES) has secured an impact factor which enables its long term future to be realised. Annals of Applied Biology continues to accept open access papers and has increased its reputation for applied research over the past year. During 2017 both PBJ and Annals substantially increased the income to the Association. Both journals continue to deliver high quality peer reviewed publications to the scientific community.

Annals of Applied Biology

There were 6 issues of Annals published during 2017. The 2017 Impact Factor for Annals of Applied Biology was 2.046 which is significant progress for the journal. Annals is planning to publish special issues, the first of which is scheduled for issue 2019, on Advances in Biological Control and IPM. The special issue would be aimed at increasing citations and growing submissions. Total revenue for the journal in 2017 was £254,326. There was a continued increase in the number of subscribers to the 'New License' options for Annals in 2017. The 'New License' offers access to a single collection of all the journals published by Wiley at a single price. Volatility in exchange rates has had a significant impact on subscription income in 2017. This was caused by the reduction in the value of the GBP compared to all other currencies in which subscriptions are paid, towards the end of 2016, just as the renewal cycle for 2017 commenced. Annals produced a profit of £161,147 and a total profit share to the Association of £87,298. There are clearly challenges ahead for publication of applied research in the future however Professor Simon Leather, his editorial team and the AAB editorial office have delivered an outstanding contribution to the Association in 2017 against some difficult head winds.

Plant Biotechnology Journal

The PBJ Journal has continued to perform well as a fully Open Access Journal. In moving to Open Access there is no revenue from subscriptions. Rights income has also decreased in 2017. Production costs decreased in 2017 as PBJ published fewer papers compared to 2016. Revenue from article publication charges increased in 2017 to £379,654 (£172,522 in 2016). Total submissions (original and revised manuscripts) for 2017 ended

on 1006. Much of the increase from prior year (735) was in line with the trajectory of previous year-on-year increases. Submissions in 2017 rebounded from the predicted impact resulting from this open access switch. Original submissions for 2017 (end-year) were up by 122 manuscripts to 834 compared with 712 new submissions in the prior year. PBJ averaged 71 new manuscripts per month throughout 2017, up from 51 in prior year. The rate of submission in the first 5 months of 2018 was 78 manuscripts per month. If this rate continues this would be the highest ever number of new submissions to the journal in a single year. The Plant Biotechnological Journal continues to go from strength to strength and Professor Henry Daniell and his editorial team should be congratulated for this outstanding effort.

Food and Energy Security

New targets agreed for FES were publishing a minimum of 10 paid submission in 2018, and a revenue target of £15,000 which is very ambitious. New arrangements for funding the editorial office at the AAB were agreed in December 2016 which were designed to minimise losses. Central to this agreement was the award of an impact factor for *Food and Energy Security*. The relatively recent announcement by Thompson that FES had been awarded an impact factor was welcome news. This means that Wiley will continue to invest in the FES brand. The new paid publishing targets look achievable and these mean that FES should be in profit within 2018 - 2019. Professor Martin Parry is standing down as senior editor of FES and on behalf of the Association I would like to thank him for his input in making FES sustainable and a growing asset in the output of the Association.

SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES

A total of 499 delegates attended the conferences in 2017 compared with 720 in 2016, 548 in 2015 and 891 in 2014. The average number of paying delegates was 54 compared with 91 in 2016, 40 in 2015 and 62 in 2014

Details of the full scientific conference programme for 2017 are given below:

Title of Conference	Date	No. of delegates	Group
Crop Production in Southern Britain	15-16 February	119	Cropping and the Environment
Practical Spray Drift Management Workshop	6 April	33	Pesticide Application
Advances in Soil Biology	20 April	33	Soil Biology
3 rd Symposium on Nematodes as Environmental Bioindicators	28-29 July	41	Nematology
Advances in IPM 2017: Reinventing agriculture to reduce dependency on pesticides	25-26 September	64	Biocontrol & IPM
Precision Systems in Agricultural and Horticultural Production	27 October	36	Applied Mycology & Bacteriology
Sustainable Intensification	28-30 November	118	Cropping and the Environment
Advances in Nematology 2017	12 Dec	55	Nematology
	TOTAL	499	

Aspects of Applied Biology

The following volumes of *Aspects of Applied Biology* were published in 2017:

No. 134 *Crop Production in Southern Britain*

No. 135 *Precision Systems in Agricultural and Horticultural Production*

No. 136 *Sustainable Intensification*

AAB SPECIALIST GROUP REPORTS

Applied Mycology & Bacteriology

Convener: Vacancy

Group members – Neal Evans, Neil Havis, David Kenyon, Caroline Orr, Keith Thomas

The applied mycology & bacteriology held one conference in 2017 (Precision Systems in Agricultural and Horticultural Production) at Pershore College in October, but no group meetings. We are currently looking for a new Convener for this group.

Biological Control & Integrated Pest Management

Convener – Toby Bruce

Group members - Richard Shaw, Phil Morley, Keith Walters, Xiangming Xu, Phil Walker, Rosemary Collier, Dave Chandler

IPM conference

We ran the first IPM conference without Rob Jacobson and trialled a different venue and time. The programme went well with a very interesting range of talks. However, it was unanimously decided that the September timing was not ideal and that the Marston venue was better, therefore we have decided to hold the conference in Marston again this year.

The 2017 AAB IPM conference had a theme of “Reinventing Agriculture to Reduce Dependency on Pesticides”. This was due to recent changes in legislation which have further restricted the pesticide availability and ongoing evolution of pesticide resistance. Jennifer Lewis (Certa) described how the agricultural industry is managing the dilemma reducing pesticide use while trying to increase productivity. The regulatory session at the beginning had special consideration of the impact of Brexit on crop protection, with a presentation from Jon Knight (AHDB). For the time being there is unlikely to be any major change because existing EU legislation will be “lifted and shifted” into UK Law. Grant Stark (HSE) admitted that decisions made on pesticide approval/usage are now much more politically based than 20 years ago. Interestingly, we heard AHDB projections that farm incomes are likely to be squeezed by Brexit and this will mean farmers are even less able to afford the losses caused by pests, weeds and diseases. In Rob Edwards’ talk we heard that wheat crop losses caused by blackgrass cost UK farmers £0.5Bn every year! If there are fewer pesticides one way forward is to improve crop resistance or growth vigour to outcompete weeds and compensate for damage. Brande Wulff (JIC) described strategies for getting resistance genes from crop wild relatives into crops and Steve Ellis (ADAS) reported more than two-fold differences in varietal susceptibility in oilseed rape to cabbage stem flea beetle. Felicity Crotty (GWCT) made a link between soil health to plant health and resilience to attack. The need for updated economic thresholds for pesticide application was a recurring topic. Another major opportunity, of course, is biological control and we heard a wide range of talks ranging from nascent approaches to ones which are already commercially available such as Nutrimite supplementary feeding of predatory mites described by Neal Ward (Biobest). Felix Wackers described the use of bumblebees as “flying doctors” to spread biocontrol agents. Manipulating the plant microbiome to improve plant health is an upcoming area of research that is receiving increased interest. We also heard from Simon Blackmore about laser weeding and improved targeting of conventional pesticides by robots as a possible new approach.

The theme of the 2018 conference (Marston, 12–13 Dec) is “IPM: making it work for the farmer” for which the following invited speakers are confirmed:

- Adrian Dixon, FERA
- Emma Hamer, NFU IPM plan
- Susannah Bolton, AHDB
- Jake Freestone, Overbury Farms
- John Pawsey, Shimpling Park farm

The conference is advertised and we will be putting the programme together. The deadline of the Call for Papers expired on 1 Sept but only 10 papers were offered and so we will extend the deadline. Further advertising is required.

Feedback from last group meeting - discussion of IPM

It is hard to forecast what will happen with Brexit because so much is up in the air at the moment. It will have multiple affects but there are opportunities as well as challenges, for example, there are possibilities of streamlining regulation of crop protection to encourage biorational approaches and to streamline regulation as well as making regulation more evidence based. The idea of holding a short one day conference on the impact of Brexit on crop protection, in 18 months' time, was considered. This meeting could be held at Rothamsted. There was some discussion of the Agri-tech centres and the extent to which the CHAP centre could solve crop protection problems. Dick Shaw suggested that perhaps they could tackle the cabbage stem flea beetle issue. Phil Walker advocated the use of demonstration farms as a key approach for promoting IPM. There was some discussion about the fall armyworm - a huge problem that has caused \$30 – 75 Bn of crop damage. This highlights the importance of crop protection. There was some discussion about funding opportunities and challenges. For example, Innovate open calls make it hard when competing with the aerospace and medicine and that it will be interesting to see how UKRI functions in the future.

Cropping and the Environment

Convener – Rob Carlton

Group members – Andy Evans, Naomi Jones, Kairsty Topp, Kate Smith, Syed Shah, William Smith and Jake Bishop

The group is saddened by the sudden death of David Stock in 2018. David was an active member of CATE, a past member of the Pesticide Applications Group and a good friend.

CATE was involved in two conferences during 2017:

1. *Advances in Soil Biology*, a one-day meeting, was a joint meeting of the Soil Biology group and CATE, held in April 2017 at Rothmsted Research. It was attended by 33 delegates. This meeting was the first organised by the recently formed Soils Biology group and was used to explore and define the group's future work and practices.
2. *Sustainable Intensification*. This conference was organised to coincide with the end of the multi-year DEFRA funded Sustainable Intensification Programme (SIP). One hundred and eighteen delegates came together for a three-day meeting at Rothamsted Research in late November 2017. The conference, which was partly funded by the Sustainable Intensification Research Network and by Syngenta, involved sessions on Food Security, Ecosystem Services, Knowledge Exchange, Farming Systems and Practice, Metrics, Sustainable Land and What Comes Next?. Highlights of the meeting included the Plenary talk by DEFRA Chief Scientific Advisor Prof. Iain Boyd and a fascinating after dinner speech from Prof. Charles Godfray. With delegates from around the world, the meeting generated of energy and plenty of discussion, and was also used to stage an SIRN workshop and SIRN's AGM. A special issue of *Food and Energy Security*, planned for later this year, will include articles based on selected conference presentations.

Current and future CATE conferences include *Advances in Legume Science and Practice*, *Ecosystem and Habitat Management: Research, Policy, Practice, and Soil Improvement: Impact of Management Practices on Soil Function and Quality*. The group is also planning a conference exploring dietary health and sustainable agricultural practice with the Food Systems group.

Food Systems

Convener: Wendy Russell

Group members – Julia Cooper, Susan Duthie and Bryan Hanley

The group met in 2017 to discuss future conferences and is planning a 3-day conference at the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh on 21-23 May 2019, entitled: *Cultivating Healthy Food Systems*

Nematology Group

Convener – Matthew Back (Harper Adams University)

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

The Nematology Group consists of a diverse set of representatives from government, academia, and private consultancy. We have a good connection to European nematologists through Wim Wesemael and to the Organisation of Nematologists of Tropical America (ONTA) through Rosa Manzanilla-López. The group meets twice a year, with the AGM held at the 'Advances in Nematology' meeting in London in December. Our autumn meeting is used to discuss and plan forthcoming conferences as well as other wider nematology related initiatives. At the last group meeting, the topic of 'Early Career Researchers' was discussed and an ECR Nematology sub group was suggested.

Conferences arranged during 2017

Advances in Nematology, 12th December 2017, London Linnean Society, Piccadilly, London

Advances in Nematology is an annual one-day meeting held at the historic Linnean Society in Piccadilly, London. The meeting encourages early career researchers through to leading experts. The scope of the conference is diverse, including topics on biology, ecology, epidemiology, management of plant parasitic nematodes, entomopathogenic nematodes and diagnostic methods, and covers fundamental and applied research.

This year, 54 delegates attended from a range of countries including the UK, Germany, Belgium, Georgia, Norway and the USA, representing industry, academia and government. The pleasant atmosphere at this meeting encourages constructive discussions and networking between delegates. It also provides PhD students with a less stressful setting to present their first paper to their peers.

The conference began with a short AGM where the Convenor (Dr Matthew Back) discussed future conference plans and activities of the AAB Nematology Group. Following this, our invited speaker Professor Alison Woollard (University of Oxford) delivered a captivating presentation on her work on *C. elegans*. Professor Woollard did a marvellous job of summarising a significant body of work on distinct topics such as factors affecting the ageing process and pesticide resistance. The remainder of the morning was generally comprised of presentations on topics around genomics, physiology and plant-nematode interactions.

After the morning session, Dr Rosa Manzanilla-Lopez chaired the poster 'flash' presentations. During the lunch-break, delegates had an opportunity to view the posters and vote for their preferred poster-paper.

In the afternoon, we welcomed our second invited speaker, Dr Matthias Daub, from the Julius Kühn Institute in Germany. Dr Daub gave a comprehensive presentation on the integrated management of beet cyst nematodes (*Heterodera shachtii*) on sugar beet. Further presentations in the afternoon focussed on a range of topics such as entomopathogenic nematodes, spatial dynamics and cover crops.

The day concluded with the presentation of the Brian Kerry Prize for the best platform presentation and the AAB prize for the best poster presentation. This year the best platform prize was awarded to Alistair Wright (University of Nottingham) while the poster prize went to Christopher Bell (University of Leeds).

Future Conference Programme

Advances in Nematology, 11 December 2018: Linnean Society, Piccadilly, London.

Pesticide Application

Convener – Tom Robinson

Group members – Paolo Balsari, Simon Cooper, Richard Glass, Ben Magri, Colin Mountford-Smith, Andrew Shaw, Paul Miller, David Nuyttens and Jan van de Zande.

Co-opted member – Emilio Gil.

The two main activities of the Group during the year have centred on the preparation and execution of the Practical Spray Drift Management Workshop held at Rothamsted on April 5th 2017. Attended by 33 participants. The principle organiser of the workshop was Paul Miller. A successful workshop with good international contributions.

The second principal activity was organisation and execution of the International Advances in Pesticide Application (IAPA) held at the Hotel Mercure in Brighton January 9-11 2018. Principle organiser Tom Robinson. 56 offers of papers were accepted. The conference was attended by 94 delegates. The venue was an excellent choice for a c.100 delegate conference. The content was of a high standard, and feedback has been very positive. Excellent organisation by Carol Millman.

Further Activities 2018

Dose Expression 1 day Workshop:

Date: November 6 (p.m.) and November 7 (a.m.) 2018.

Location: Barcelona

Organisers| Emilio Gil (Lead), Paolo Balsari, Jan Van de Zande

Crops: Vineyards and Orchards:

Objectives

- To present the state of the art.
- Workshop sessions to define and facilitate uptake of best practice.

Proposals for future Workshops and Conferences 2019 and Beyond

- Closed Transfer Systems
- Operator Training including social media for knowledge transfer.

IAPA 2020

Venue: Italy

Local organiser: Paolo Balsari

Timing: last week in January 2020.

Plant Physiology & Crop Improvement

Convener – Guy Barker (University of Warwick)

Group members – Jim Monaghan (Harper Adams University), Eric Murchie (Nottingham University) and Simon Griffiths (JIC)

The steering group meets twice a year by Skype if we are not able to get together in person. Our role is to plan forthcoming conferences as well as to discuss other wider related initiatives and to present the views and concerns of the group at the AAB board and in the wider community. Currently concerns are around attendance at meetings which has led to the cancellation of planned meetings.

Conferences arranged during 2017

Although two meetings were scheduled for 2017, these were postponed for a number of reasons.

Soil Biology Group

Convener – Matthew Shepherd (Natural England)

Group members – Kevin Butt (University of Central Lancashire); Lea Carlesso (Rothamsted); Felicity Crotty (Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust); Anna Harper (Myercough College); Richard Gantlett (University of Reading); Phil Murray (Rothamsted/Retired); Olaf Schmidt (University College Dublin); Peter Shaw (Roehampton University); Kate Storer (ADAS);

The Soil Biology special interest group was formed during 2017, and is now supported by a committee of representatives that includes academics, students and representatives of government agencies and research institutions from the UK and abroad. The aim of the group is to bring together people from disparate backgrounds with a common interest in soil biology to facilitate knowledge exchange, organise events and conferences, enable networking and help facilitate the development of practical approaches to exploring, managing, and communicating soil biology. Its scope includes all groups of soil organisms and their interactions, but the group seeks to complement the work of existing AAB groups and other organisations that focus on nematology and microbiology, by exploring wider soil interactions, and highlighting other groups of soil organisms.

It was officially launched at the first Advances in Soil Biology conference. This conference was instigated by Matthew Shepherd, Kairsty Topp and Elizabeth Stockdale during late 2016, and a conference programme was agreed at a meeting on 3rd March 2017 of a temporary committee comprising Matthew Shepherd, Elizabeth Stockdale, Phil Murray, Kairsty Topp, Peter Shaw and Felicity Crotty.

Conferences arranged during 2017

Advances in Soil Biology, 20th April 2017, Rothamsted Reserach

The conference was attended by 27 people, almost all of whom were new to the AAB. The conference opened with a brief background to the new group delivered by Matthew Shepherd who explained how the newly formed AAB group followed on from workshops and meetings in 2012 at the Natural History Museum and

in 2014 in Cirencester which brought together academics, advisors, conservationists and land managers, to discuss and develop a common approach to soil biology. These workshops identified a need to develop and deliver improved practice in managing and monitoring soil biological function and soil health for agriculture and sustainable land management. They also recognised a need to develop expertise and knowledge in soil biology and biodiversity including soil organism taxonomy, and identification, and a need to understand the conservation status and priorities for conserving soil biodiversity. A further recommendation was the need for a coherent organisation to provide a voice for soil biologists from many different backgrounds and organisations. The special interest group of the AAB has been established to meet these needs, and conference attendees were invited to get involved by joining the committee, which met immediately after the conference. Invited speaker Phil Murray presented on the advances in soil biology over the last 20 years, noting the predominant focus on microbes and the relative lack of focus on other groups of soil organisms. He highlighted the opportunities presented by developing technologies, especially metagenetic approaches, and discussed the welcome trend towards integration of soil biology into farm advice delivery. This was followed by a diverse array of presentations covering biostimulants on soil biology and plant growth, a metaanalysis of the effect of land use on soil and litter invertebrates and on use of barcoding to characterise and detect intraspecific variation (or possibly new species) of springtails. The conference also enjoyed a series of presentations on earthworms, exploring the impact of cover cropping on their feeding behaviour, the extent to which field margins act as refugia for recolonization of cultivated fields, and a case study of the role of earthworms in the traditional use of seaweed as a soil amendment in the Scottish highlands.

The conference included presentation of posters, and a selection of these were also presented as a series of short oral “poster highlights” presentations. These included use of hypogean pitfall trapping to investigate soil invertebrates, the effect of cultivation on a species of money-spider, the response of soil mesofauna to field margin management, soil meso and microfauna under different cultivation managements, field trials investigating soil health and organic matter additions, soil conditioners, microbial inoculation in horticultural crops and a major collaborative project looking at the soil health benefits of a range of organic amendments to soil in long- and short-term trials.

The conference also included enjoyable informal networking opportunities and a “soil zoo” display of soil organisms and microscopes brought by Matthew Shepherd. The day was rounded off with a social event, attended by around a third of conference attendees, at the Axe and Cleaver, St. Albans.

Following the conference there was a meeting of 9 of the 10 committee members, with support from AAB general Secretary Elizabeth Stockdale. The committee agreed to hold annual one-day “Advances in Soil Biology” meetings that would bring together researchers and practitioners from agriculture and other land management sectors, and make efforts to attract key research groups not represented at the conference. The committee agreed to work with other AAB specialist groups to organise further shared and multi-disciplinary meetings and develop links with other organisations / societies such as British Society of Soil Science and British Ecological Society with a view to developing shared meetings and workshops with them. Some potential areas of action were identified, including providing a clear statement for policy-makers explaining why soil biology matters, the development of a resource hub to support the exploration of soil biology, and the development of local and regional activities and events, perhaps in liaison with other societies and groups. The committee met again at Rothamsted North Wyke on 20th July, with contributions from many committee members by teleconference, to agree a forward conference programme (see below), and also agreed to establish a pilot programme of webinars designed to provide knowledge exchange opportunities and sharing of soil biology expertise. The group is now planning to roll these out during 2018, along with a further “Advances in Soil biology” conference at Roehampton University, and a joint Conference on Soil Improvement at Loddington with the Cropping and the Environment Group in September 2018. The group also discussed a developing a 2 day workshop in late 2018 on communications, outreach, expertise and mentoring in soil biology.

Future Conference Programme

Advances in Soil Biology at: University of Roehampton, London, UK

Soil Improvement: Impact of Management Practices on Soil Function and Quality at: Game and Wildlife Trust, Loddington, Leicester UK.

WEBSITE

The AAB website was launched in August 2018.

DONATIONS AND SPONSORSHIP

The Trustees would like to extend their grateful thanks to the following organisations/individuals that provided financial donations or sponsorship total, together with further support during the year.

ADAMA	£1500	Crop Production in Southern Britain
SIRN	£2250	Sustainable Intensification
Syngenta	£500	Sustainable Intensification
Wychavon District Council	£500	Precision Systems in Agricultural and Horticultural Production
Worcestershire LEP	£250	Precision Systems in Agricultural and Horticultural Production
Food and Energy Security	£500	Precision Systems in Agricultural and Horticultural Production
Biobest	£250	Advances in Biological Control and IPM
Certis	£750	Advances in Biological Control and IPM
Russell IPM	£750	Advances in Biological Control and IPM
Fargro	£750	Advances in Biological Control and IPM
Koppert	£750	Advances in Biological Control and IPM
TOTAL	£8750	

AFFILIATIONS TO OTHER SOCIETIES

Affiliations were maintained with the Royal Society of Biology, the Plant Sciences Federation, 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.

SPECIALIST GROUP COMMITTEES AS AT SEPTEMBER 2018

Applied Mycology and Bacteriology:

T Pettitt (Convener) (2018 1st term)
N Evans (2018)
N Havis (2018)
D Kenyon (2018)
C Orr (2019)
K Thomas (2018)

Biological Control:

T Bruce (Convener) (2020 2nd term)
D Chandler (2018)
R Collier (2019)
P Morley (2018)
R Shaw (2018)
P Sopp (2019)
P Walker (2018)
K Walters (2019)
X Xu (2020)

Cropping and the Environment:

R Carlton (Convener) (2019 2nd term)
K A Evans (2018)
Shamal Mohamed (2020)
N Jones (2019)
J Purslow (2018)
K Smith (2018)
D Stock (2018)
E Stockdale (2019)
K Topp (2018)

Food Systems

W Russell (Convener) (2018 1st term)
J Cooper (2019)
S Duthie (2019)
B Hanley (2019)

Nematology:

M Back (Convener) (2019 2nd term)
S Edgington (2018)
I Grove (2018)
L Holden-Dye (2018)
G Hoysted (2018)
R Manzanilla-Lopez (2018)
B Pembroke (2018)
J Pickup (2018)
T Prior (2018)
W Wesemael (2018)

Pesticide Application:

T H Robinson (Convener) (2019 1st term)
P Balsari (2018)
S E Cooper (2018)
C R Glass (2018)
B Magri (2018)
P Miller (2019)
C Mountford-Smith (2019)
D Nuyttens (2020)
A Shaw (2019)
J van de Zande (2018)

Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement:

G Barker (Convener) (2019 1st term)
S Griffiths (2020)
N Halford (2018)
J Monaghan (2020)

Soil Biology:

M Shepherd (Convener) (2019 1st term)
A Campbell (2019)
L Carlesso (2019)
F Crotty (2019)
R Gantlett (2019)
P Murray (2019)
O Schmidt
P Shaw

Virology:

Miguel Aranda (Convener) (2021 1st term)
Gerard Clover (2020)
A Love (2019)
Charlotte Nellist (2019)
J Tilsner (2019)
T Tungadi (2019)
John Walsh (2018)

ELECTION TO SPECIALIST GROUP COMMITTEES FOR 2017

Nominations are sought for vacancies on some of the AAB Specialist Group Committees. The present composition of each Group Committee can be seen overleaf. The nominations, duly seconded and accompanied by the consent of the nominees, should be sent to the Executive Officer, Carol Millman, at the AAB Office to arrive not later than 14th November 2018.

**ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS
(This form may be photocopied)**

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

.....

for the committee ofGroup

Proposed by

Seconded by

Signed

Signed

Address

Address

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

***Delete as appropriate**

Consent to nomination

I agree to the nomination for the committee of

Signed

Address

.....

..... **Date**



AAB Office, Warwick Enterprise Park, Wellesbourne, Warwick CV35 9EF, UK

Email: Carol@aab.org.uk (Executive Officer, Conference Organisation & Planning, *Annals* & Advertising)

Alberto@aab.org.uk (Finance & Office Manager)

John@aab.org.uk (Conference administration, *Aspects* editorial queries)

Richard@aab.org.uk (FES Editorial Office, Newsletter, membership, website, social media)

bernadette@aab.org.uk (Conference bookings, *Annals* Subscriptions, *Aspects* sales, DPV Orders, Accounts)

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