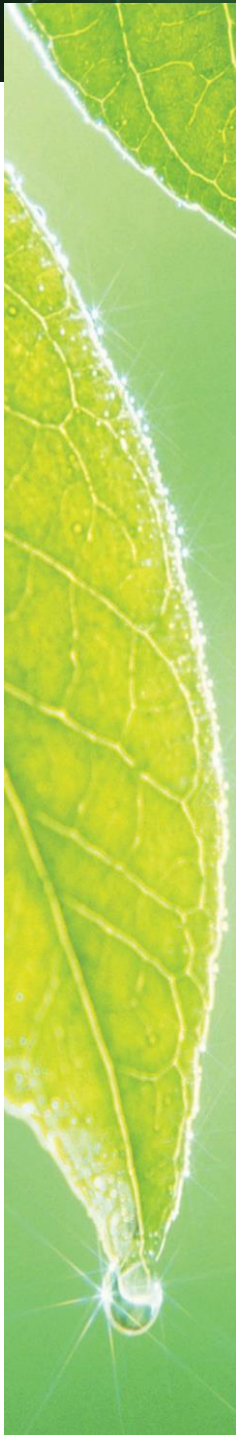


AAB President: Stuart Knight



ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
& FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS FOR 2019**

**NOTICE OF
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

16 SEPTEMBER 2020

Association of Applied Biologists
Warwick Enterprise Park, Wellesbourne, Warwick CV35 9EF, UK
Registered Charity No. 275655
<http://www.aab.org.uk>; Tel: +44 (0)2476 999486

ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

(Registered Charity No. 275655)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Virtually via ZOOM (Details to follow)

16 September 2020 at 12:30 pm

The AAB Annual report is made accessible to all members before the AGM and it is advised that you have read this before the meeting:

Annual Report for 2019 - available on the AAB web site Home Page, by the middle of August and sent directly by email or post (if requested) to all AAB members

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

- 1) Minutes of AGM held on 10 September 2019; at Harper Adams University, Shropshire, UK**
- 2) Trustees Report of Activity 2019**
President's Report
Reports from the Specialist groups
Questions and discussion by members
- 3) Financial Report 2019**
Presentation of report
Questions and discussion by members
- 4) Appointment of Auditors for 2021**
- 5) Membership fees 2021**
- 6) Subscription fees for *Annals of Applied Biology* for AAB Members**
- 7) Food and Energy Security Board of Editors discount fee.**
- 8) Honorary Officers**
- 9) Update to AAB strategic plan**
- 10) Proposed change in the AAB laws**
- 11) Any other issues raised by members for discussion**

Association of Applied Biologists
Minutes Annual General Meeting 2019

Harper Adams University, Edgmond, Newport TF10 8NB

Tuesday 10th September 2019

The meeting commenced at 12.45

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. In addition, 7 apologies had been received with voting papers.

The President reminded members that the AAB annual report had been made accessible to all members before the AGM and hence except where members indicate he therefore assumed that members had read this carefully.

1) Minutes of AGM held on 26th September 2018 at Rothamsted Research, Harpenden

The minutes of the last meeting were provided, the meeting agreed that the minutes were a correct record of the meeting and were therefore signed by the president.

2) Trustee Report of Activity 2018

The Trustee's report had been provided. The President presented the strategy and noted a few highlights of the year, the success of few Conferences and the cancellation of others (total for the year 11) and securing an impact factor for the Association's journals. He highlighted the successful transfer to Tilney, a more secure and low risk investment funds and the fact that the newsletters have been produced on a regular basis. He also thanked our specialist groups for their support. The President invited questions on the report, but none were forthcoming. The President therefore asked if the report of the trustees (including the Specialist Group Reports) could be accepted for publication as a full and complete report of the Association in 2018.

Proposed by Jim Monaghan

Seconded by Simon Cooper

3) Financial Report

The Treasurer referred to the finance report available to members and outlined the key aspects of performance for 2018. Operating cash flow was negative at £7808 compared to the surplus of £23568 in 2017. This offset higher governance costs and lower conference attendance and income. Unrealised losses on investments due to the stock market uncertainties, showing a loss of £32734, resulting in total loss of £40542 for the year. Conference programmes will continue to be monitored to ensure that resources devoted to this activity are used effectively.

For 2019, a small deficit of £7500 from all operations. A rolling cash flow for the next 15 months has been established and regular 13 weeks cash forecasts ensure that short term cash needs are monitored closely. The Treasurer asked if the 2018 Finance report presented by the Trustees after audit by Clere's of Birmingham could be accepted for publication.

Proposed by Guy Barker

Seconded by Jim Monaghan

4) Appointment of Auditors

Council proposed the appointment of Clere's of Birmingham as auditors in 2020 for the 2019 account. The proposal was accepted unanimously

5) Membership Fees

The Council proposed that the membership fees for 2020 will slightly increase, while will remain the same, but with a discounted rate, for students in their first year of membership. The proposed rates were:

Ordinary £62

Retired £31

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

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

6) Subscription for *Annals of Applied Biology*

The Council proposed that the membership fees for 2020 were stay the same with no increase to:

Print on request only £82.00

On-line only £75.55

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

7) Honorary Officers

General Secretary

There was one nomination for General Secretary, Dr Guy Barker. He had introduced himself via a short personal statement. He was elected

Conference Treasurer

There was one nomination for the re-election of Conference Treasurer for a 3rd term, Mr. Richard Glass. He had introduced himself via a short personal statement. He was re-elected.

Publications Officer

There were two nominations for the position of Publications Officer: Prof. Robert Kennedy and Prof. Martin Parry. They had introduced themselves via short personal statements. A ballot was held which resulted in the re-election of Robert Kennedy for his third term.

Early Career Scientist Champion

There was 1 re-election nomination for the position of the ECS Champion: Felicity Crotty. She had introduced herself via a short personal statement. She was re-elected.

Second Early Career Scientist Champion

Council requested permission to create a position on Council for a second early career member. This was needed to encourage greater involvement and participation by people at the start of their career, to widen the early career network and support the existing early career member. There was only one nomination for this position: Philippa Borrill. She had introduced herself via a short personal statement. She was elected.

8) Update to AAB strategic plan

There was a brief discussion of how the association will operate in the following 2 years, focusing on our specialist groups and conferences.

The plan was accepted.

9) Election of new Honorary Members

Council proposed two nominations for Honorary Members of the Association.
Drs Carol Duffus and Elizabeth Stockdale. Both were approved to become Honorary Members.

10) Proposed changes in the AAB Laws

Due to the new GDPR regulation some of the AAB`s laws are not compliance with the new laws. Request to remove the unsuitable law was proposed and accepted.

11) Any other issues raised by members for discussion

No discussions were raised.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

The Association of Applied Biologists

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The Association of Applied Biologists

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers For the year ended 31 December 2019

Trustees	Mr S Knight, President Prof C H Foyer, President Elect Dr. M Parry, General Secretary Mr A Page, Honorary Treasurer Dr R Carlton, Programme Secretary Mr C R Glass, Conferences Treasurer Prof R Kennedy, Publications Officer Dr M Aranda, Virology Dr M Back, Nematology Dr C Bosch, Food Systems Dr G Barker, Plant Plant Physiology & Crop Improvement Dr R Ray, Applied Mycology and Bacteriology Mr T Robinson, Pesticide Application Soil Biology, Vacancy Dr K Topp, Cropping and the Environment Dr K F A Walters, Biological Control Dr F Crotty, Early Career Scientist Dr P Borrill, Early Career Scientist
Charity registered number	275655
Principal office	Warwick Enterprise Park Wellesbourne Warwickshire CV35 9EF
Executive Officer	Mrs C A Millman
Accountants and Independent examiner	Dains LLP 15 Colmore Row Birmingham B3 2BH
Bankers	Barclays Bank plc 150 The Parade Leamington Spa Warwickshire CV32 4A
Solicitors	Shakespeare Martineau LLP Two Colton Square Leicester LE1 1QH

The Association of Applied Biologists

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2019

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

The Association of Applied Biologists

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2019

Food Systems Christine Bosch (Convener) (2021 1st term)
J Cooper (2020)
S Duthie (2020)
B Hanley (2020)

Virology M Aranda (Convener) (2021 1st term)
S Bertin (2022)
G Clover (2020)
A Love (2022)
C Nellist (2022)
J Tilsner (2022)
T Tungadi (2022)
J Walsh (co-opted)
S Bouvaine (2022)
J Verchot (2022)
M Varrelmann (2022)

Nematology S Edgington (Convener) (2022 1st term)
M Back (2022)
K Davie (2021)
K Davies (2022)
L Holden-Dye (2021)
R Lawson (2021)
W Wesemael (2020)

The Association of Applied Biologists

President's Report For the year ended 31 December 2019

The president presents his statement for the year.

At the time of writing (June 2020) we are still in the grip of the coronavirus pandemic, which has impacted on all of us in ways that, barely six months ago, would have seemed unimaginable. Around the world the applied biology community has sought to play its part in overcoming the direct and indirect consequences of COVID-19, as well as maintaining efforts to tackle the ongoing challenges of climate change, food and energy security and soil, plant, animal and human health. We are grateful to our members for their continuing support during these extraordinary times, and we look forward to being able to return to our full programme of conference activities over the next year.

Meanwhile Council remains focused on consolidating AAB's financial position and delivering its 'Fit for the Future' strategy, built upon AAB's specialist groups, conference activities and journal publications. 2019 saw eight meetings going ahead, covering a diversity of interests including sprayer cleaning, potato cyst nematodes and field crop genetic resources. A highlight of the year was the 3-day International Advances of Plant Virology conference, held in conjunction with the EMERAMB (Emergent viruses and virus vectors in Mediterranean Basin crops) consortium. Hosted at CREA-DC in Rome at the end of October, the event attracted 135 delegates from 23 different nationalities. Our conferences are only possible thanks to the enthusiasm and commitment of the organisers. They are supported by the Programme Secretary and Specialist Group Convenors, who are continuing to explore exciting new topics and formats to expand our future programme and increase attendance.

Our three journals remain a vital part of AAB's output and an important source of revenue to support our objectives as a charity. Ensuring that these stay globally competitive is a priority for Council. A new five-year contract for *Annals of Applied Biology* was signed with our publisher Wiley at the end of last year. The journal saw a significant increase in subscription revenue during 2019, following a broadening of its scope. *Annals* Impact Factor for 2019 has increased to over 2, at 2.037. Our open access Plant Biotechnology Journal again performed well in 2019, with a substantial increase in revenue from article publication charges and a 2019 Impact Factor of 8.154. Food and Energy Security (FES) continues to make steady progress, again delivering a small surplus to AAB in 2019, with its Impact Factor rising from 4.781 in 2018 to 5.212 in 2019. The new Editor-in-Chief (EIC) has been working closely with AAB and the publisher to further promote FES and grow the number of submissions. We are very grateful to our editors, editorial staff and reviewers for their hard work, and for the support of our publisher Wiley. We continue to monitor developments around the wider move to Open Access, and their potential implications for the future strategy for our journals.

At the end of December 2019 Martin Parry stepped down as AAB General Secretary, and also as EIC of FES. I would like to thank Martin for his work as Gen Sec and for his key contribution to the great progress made by FES. I am delighted to report that Guy Barker has taken on the role of General Secretary, and Christine Foyer as EIC of FES. We also welcomed Philippa Borrill as our second Early Career Scientist Champion. Within our specialist groups, Christine Bosch took over from Wendy Russell as Food Systems convenor, Keith Walters followed Toby Bruce as convenor of Biological control, Steven Edgington succeeded Matt Back as convenor of Nematology, and Matthew Shepherd stepped down as convenor of Soil Biology. We are grateful to all our convenors, and specialist groups, for their vital contributions to the success of the Association.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of Council for their support, enthusiasm and commitment to AAB, and the office team of Carol, Alberto, John, Bernadette and Hussein for all their hard work.

Stuart Knight
President

Date: 16 September 2020



The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report For the year ended 31 December 2019

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the for the year ended 31 December 2019.

The Charity also trades under the names AAB.

Objectives and activities

a. Policies and objectives

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

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

b. Strategies for achieving objectives

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

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

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

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

Achievements and performance

a. Main achievements of the Charity

Publications

The Association of Applied Biologists has a long history in academic publishing which promotes its charitable objectives. The major changes currently occurring in academic publishing continue to impact on the Association. However the journals, conference papers and abstracts are a notable resource for the members of the Association and in the applied biology research community. There are many journals reporting on the fundamentals aspects of plant science but the translational aspects of plant science will become important in the drive for zero carbon farming. It remains unclear how this will impact on agriculture and horticulture. The commitment to a free flow of information will be essential for scientists in this discipline and remains an important core part of the Association's objectives. The Association's Journals continue to develop with this ever changing background. The Plant Biotechnology Journal moved to full open access within the last three years and is now fully financially secure after this move. The relatively new title Food and Energy Security is also open access and has achieved its target growth for the year with an enhanced impact factor which means it will become established. Annals of Applied Biology is also moving forward and has selected a new editor in chief. All three journals contribute substantially to the income of the Association and continue to deliver high quality peer reviewed publications to the scientific community.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Annals of Applied Biology

There were six issues of *Annals* published during 2019 with a total of 832 pages, containing 75 papers published (60 papers in 2018). The 2019 Impact Factor for *Annals of Applied Biology* rose to 2.027 (1.611 in 2018). The target is to increase the numbers of papers published in 2020 in advance of the new five-year publishing agreement which has been negotiated with Wiley and which delivers a substantially increased amount of revenue. As part of this agreement the print version of *Annals* will be phased out after 2020 but it will be replaced by subsidised access to *Annals* online for a larger number of AAB members. The plans to widen the scope of *Annals* to include agricultural animal science and agricultural ecology have been successfully implemented. These changes have contributed to the improved impact factor. The outgoing editor in chief (Professor Simon Leather) has secured a great legacy for the journal and as Publications Officer I would like to thank him on behalf of the Association for his hard work in securing a good platform from which *Annals* can grow for the future. The journal currently stands at 12th of 58 in the Agriculture & Multidisciplinary area.

Plant Biotechnology Journal

PBJ is fully open access and the total submissions (original and revised manuscripts) for 2016 ended on 735 of which 196 papers were published. The number of published articles decreased to 136 (2017) and 175 (2018). The PBJ impact factor for 2018 was 6.8 but this has increased to 8.154 in 2019, ranking 1st of 320 in Agronomy and Crop Sciences, 9th of 228 in Plant Sciences and 12th of 162 in Biotechnology & Applied Microbiology. A large number of submissions still originate from China, followed by the USA and India. The acceptance rate for PBJ was 17% in 2019 and acceptance rates on PBJ tend to be higher for papers from USA, UK, France and Australia. PBJ is publishing more letters and editorials than in recent years. Rejected manuscripts requiring additional research have been given the option of being submitted as a PBJ letter. A new editorial assistant has been appointed to help with the increasing submission of manuscripts. The editor in chief (Professor Henry Daniell) continues to produce a quality publication which is well respected in plant science research.

Food and Energy Security

The initial impact factor for 2016 was 2.286, awarded in 2017; however, by 2018 the impact factor had risen to 4.781. In 2019 there was another increase in Impact Factor to 5.212, ranking the journal as 9th out of 139 publications in the Food Science & Technology area. The financial target for FES was 20 paid articles in 2019 (13 achieved) and 40 paid articles in 2020, which we hope to achieve. Submissions for FES were 73 in 2019, but expectations for this year will be around 200 submissions. The new editor in chief (Professor Christine Foyer) has replaced Professor Martin Parry. On behalf of the Association I would like to thank Martin for his hard work in successfully achieving the impact factor for FES. Rejected papers from other Journals (cascade journals) can be submitted to FES for consideration. The current cascade journals for FES are *Annals of Applied Biology*, *Global Change Biology*, *GCB Bioenergy*, *Plant, Cell Environment* and there are plans to add more which should help maintain the publication targets.

Descriptions of Plant Viruses

Descriptions of Plant Viruses is published as a CD Rom and online. This is an invaluable information tool for all those involved with the identification of plant viruses but might require constant revision due to the use of new techniques in taxonomy. The resource is useful for students, teachers and researchers. It is unique in the breadth of the information that it covers but it might ideally be delivered in another format in the longer term.

Newsletter

Twelve issues of the Newsletter were produced in 2019 keeping members up to date with progress with conferences and journal, and other items of interest to the members.

Prof Roy Kennedy
Publication Officer

Date: 16/09/2020

Achievements and performance (continued)

Scientific Conferences

A total of 465 delegates attended the conferences in 2019 compared to 483 in 2018, 499 in 2017, 720 2016 and 548 in 2015. The average number of paying delegates was 52 compared with 28 in 2018, 54 in 2017, 91 2016

Details of the full scientific conference programme for 2019 are given below:

Title of conference	No. Delegates	Group
Adding Value to Field Crop Genetic Resource	36	Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement
5th Symposium of Potato Cyst Nematode Management	66	Nematology
Sprayer Cleaning Workshop	46	Pesticide Application
IOBC-WPRS Working Group "Intergrated Protection of Field Vegetables"	49	IOBC/AAB
Advances in Soil-borne Disease Etiology and Control	26	AM&B/BSPP/AHDB
International Advances in Plant Virology	136	Virology
Advances in Biocontrol and IPM 2019: Addressing the innovation crises	51	Biocontrol and IPM
Advances in Nematology 2019	55	Nematology
Total	465	

Plant Physiology & Crop Improvement

Convener – Guy Barker (University of Warwick)

Group members – Luke Bell (University of Reading), Nirit Bernstein (Volcani Centre, Israel), Simon Griffiths (John Innes Centre), Nigel Halford (Rothamsted Research), Jim Monaghan (Harper Adams University)

The conference entitled Adding Value to Field Crop Genetic Resources took place on 25-26 April 2019 at the John Innes Centre in Norwich, home to the National Capability Germplasm Resources Unit which holds major UK strategic genetic reservoirs of field crops.

For decades, the world's genebanks have conserved genetic diversity and supplied stakeholders with the raw materials of basic research and breeding. Recent development of next generation gene discovery tools together with associated phenotypic and genotypic datasets based on genebank foundations and novel information technology capabilities have opened completely new opportunities for the interrogation of genebank resources, for the delivery of new and useful genetic variation to agriculture. This AAB conference highlighted these exciting developments to map out the next steps for the genetic resources' community.

Conferences in the pipeline for the future include Secondary metabolism in cannabis, Abiotic and biotic stress responses in horticultural crops, Resource (Nitrogen use efficiencies and environmental impact), Nutrient management in fresh products and Enhancing photosynthesis.

Watch this space!

Virology Group

Convener – Miguel A. Aranda

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

The conference "International Advances in Plant Virology 2019" was held at CREA-DC, in Rome (Italy), on 29-31 October 2019 in conjunction with the final meeting of the EMERAMB ("Emergent viruses and virus vectors in Mediterranean Basin crops") consortium. The organizers of the symposium were Miguel A. Aranda (CEBAS-CSIC, Murcia, Spain) together with Laura Tomassoli and Sabrina Bertin (CREA-DC, Rome, Italy). The conference was attended by 135 delegates from 23 different nationalities. The conference was structured in two sessions of Molecular plant-virus interactions, two sessions on Epidemiology and evolution and one session on Resistance and control. Each session was opened by a keynote speaker. In addition to keynote lectures, there

The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2019

Achievements and performance (continued)

were 41 others talks, all of them of excellent quality, and 58 posters were on permanent exhibition during the whole conference and visited and explained by presenting authors in two two-hours sessions. On the other hand, the Virology Group has resumed its conversations with the Microbiology Society to re-establish joint meetings; the plan is for the spring meetings to be together with the Microbiology Society, and the autumn meetings to be exclusively organized by us.

Cropping and the Environment

CATE Group: Kairsty Topp (convener, SRUC), Rob Carlton (Private Consultant), Kate Smith (ADAS), Naomi Jones (FERA), Jake Bishop (University of Reading), Syed Shah (NIAB) and Will Smith (NIAB)
Kairsty Topp took over from Rob Carlton as convener in January 2019.

Andy Evans left the group after many years' activity. The group wish Andy well for the future.

The group meets three times a year via SKYPE. At our meetings, we discuss ideas for future conferences as well as wider opportunities for engagement. Currently, we are planning, three conferences for 2020 / early 2021. 1) Advances in Legumes in Practice 2, which will be held in Angers, France on 20-21 May, 2) Shaping the Future for Pollinators Innovations in Farmed Landscapes, which will be held at the Copthorne Hotel, Slough-Windsor on 11-13 November, 3) Intercropping for sustainability, which will be held in Reading on 19-20 January.

AM&B Group Report

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

Last year the group held "Advances in soil-borne disease etiology and control", UK 24th October 2019

This was a one-day meeting held at the University of Nottingham, School of Biosciences, Sutton Bonington, UK and attracted 30 delegates from academic and commercial research sectors to discuss the ecology, biology and management of soil-borne diseases in crops. The programme included presentations from USA, UK and EU invited speakers as well as short talks by PhDs and postdoctoral scientists.

The group would like to thank BSPP, AHDB, Syngenta and AAB for supporting this meeting which brought together plant pathologists focused on research in soil-borne diseases that are often overlooked and notoriously difficult to control. This meeting demonstrated excellent work that has been carried out in UK, EU and USA and identified a willingness in this community to meet again in the future and bring together more scientists interested in pathogenic and beneficial soil microbial communities, diagnostics, disease risk forecasting and novel tools addressing the major challenges in controlling crop diseases.

The next meeting was decided to be held on 5th November 2020 titled "Thinking differently about soil-borne disease management". Discussion were also in progress with the IPM group to have sessions within their focussed meeting on Plant Health in November 2020. However, following the Covid-19 lockdown with consequences for large gatherings it has been discussed to postpone these meetings until 2021 or use Zoom.

Biological Control and IPM Group

Biological Control and IPM Convener: Keith Walters; Group members: Toby Bruce, Joshua Burnstone, Dave Chandler, Rosemary Collier, Philip Morley, Charlotte Rowley, Dick Shaw, Phil Walker, Xiangming Xu

It has been a year of transition for the Biocontrol and IPM Group, commencing with the Convener, Prof. Toby Bruce, reaching the end of his second term in the role. The baton was passed to Keith Walters, who was elected as the new convener during the Groups' committee meeting in April. The group recorded its thanks and appreciation for the many years of work that Toby had undertaken on their behalf and welcomed the news that he would continue as a member.

During the year, problems relating to the gender and age balance of the committee were discussed, together with representation of sectors relevant to the Group's work (industry, policy, funding, academia, etc.). The agreed response was to start progressively addressing the issues raised, initially through strategic nominations for replacements of two members who had left during 2017/18. As a result, we welcomed Charlotte Rowley

Achievements and performance (continued)

(AHDB) who joined us in November 2019, and Joshua Burnstone (Fargro) who will take his seat in January 2020. The committee agreed that further steps will be required, and other approaches and opportunities are under discussion.

During the year the Group responded to several items originating from the AAB Council, details of which are available in the minutes of the Group committee meetings. In particular, it had been suggested that a crop specific conference could be run in which all specialist groups organized sessions, producing a comprehensive overview and discussion of latest developments, issues facing growers and solutions to those issues. The group expressed support for the proposal and look forward to delivering our contribution.

The primary activity delivered by the group in 2019 was the annual "Advances in Biocontrol and IPM". Planning had commenced during 2018 and Toby Bruce continued to serve as the main organizer. The theme was "Addressing the innovation crisis", responding to the take-home message from last year's event that we need to increase the pace of innovation. The event once again offered an opportunity for the industry, policy makers and researchers to report their latest findings and discuss current issues that are challenging all sectors. A more detailed report of the meeting was published in the December issue of the AAB Newsletter. Against the background of resistance to conventional interventions evolving at a faster rate than new interventions are coming on-stream, a simultaneous reduction in the number of conventional crop protection products available to UK growers, and the need to adopt more sustainable approaches to pest and disease management, the conference recognized that we face many and diverse challenges. If the gaps left by loss of conventional measures are to be filled, then further innovation leading to the development of novel, effective and easy to use pest management approaches are urgently required. The event therefore served the useful purpose of identifying some of those gaps, discussing recent advances that may offer generic solutions to multiple problems, and constraints that are limiting progress which need to be overcome. As usual the conference attracted delegates from a broad range of sectors, stimulated valuable exchange of ideas and information, and lively discussion continued between formal sessions and throughout the conference dinner. The committee met during the conference to discuss delegate numbers, declining sponsorship levels, and early delegate responses, and planned a more detailed analysis of data relating to these issues. The issues will be discussed with a view to adjusting (if/where necessary) approaches in the 2020 conference.

Some concern arose during the year regarding the potential impact on the annual "Advances" conference of a new industry led Biopesticide Summit first run in 2019. Ultimately, the committee concluded that the event had complemented rather than competed with our conference. Carol Millman had assisted in the organization of the 2019 Biopesticide Summit to provide a link through which we could avoid unnecessary overlap and it was agreed that Carol Millman could usefully take a similar role in the 2020 event.

Finally, the Group would like to record its appreciation of members of the AAB Office, who under the leadership of Carol Millman has formed the "glue" holding our activities together, and whose "hidden contributions" have underpinned our effective functioning.

Convenor's Report: Pesticide Application Group (PAG)

The PAG committee includes: Tom Robinson (Convenor), Ben Magri, James Thomas, Paolo Balsari, Emilio Gil, Simon Cooper, Richard Glass, Clare Butler Ellis, David Nuyttens, Colin Mountford-Smith, Jan Van de Zande.

Principle Activities have included:

2 committee meetings: April 2 at Stansted UK, and October 2, Bolzano Italy.

Principal activities have included:

- The AAB Sprayer Cleaning Workshop.
- Preparing the 2020 International Advances in Pesticide Application (IAPA) Conference

Sprayer Cleaning Workshop 2-3 October 2019 Haus der Familie, Oberbozen, Italy

A successful workshop. Organised by Paolo Balsari, and Carol Millman. The event was attended by 49 delegates from all over Europe, representing chemical companies, registration, research, trials' and commercial

The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2019

Achievements and performance (continued)

practice. Pesticides identified in ground water and surface water is one of the biggest threats to the continued use of crop protection products. The workshop highlighted best practices, technological developments, and educational needs for preventing water pollution by pesticides.

2020 International Advances in Pesticide Application (IAPA) Conference. Brighton January 27-30 2020:

Preparations nearing completion

Soil Biology Special Interest Group Annual Report

Convener: Matthew Shepherd (Natural England) / Dr Felicity Crotty (Royal Agricultural University)

Group members: Kevin Butt (University of Central Lancashire); Richard Gantlett (University of Reading); Phil Murray (Rothamsted/Retired); Peter Shaw (Roehampton University); Kate Storer (ADAS); Lea Carlesso (Rothamsted); Olaf Schmidt (University College Dublin);

Over the course of 2019, there was a breakdown in relations between the SIG convener – Matthew Shepherd and the AAB, which led to a reduction in activity for the Soil Biology Special Interest Group. Matthew felt the aims and objectives of the AAB were too agribusiness focused to fit in with his aims and objectives of natural history and increasing understanding and education within soil biodiversity. This led to Matthew officially resigning on the 19th November 2019.

The main activity for 2019 was the organisation of a conference entitled “Communicating Soil Biology” – this was discussed in the previous year’s annual report and was to be an AAB organised event. However, due to the aforementioned breakdown in the relationship between Matthew and the AAB, it was held as a standalone event instead. The “Communicating Soil Biology” event was very well attended (around 40-50 people) from a wide range of organisations, academia, farmers and advisors. There were a series of presentation from academics and interesting displays set up to explain soil biodiversity, in the morning and over lunch. In the afternoon, there were a number of parallel workshops held, these were not as well received. The workshops were more of an exchange of ideas rather than attendees gaining information and needed better facilitation. This was likely due to the type of attendee, rather than the workshop session itself. Overall, the meeting was largely a success as a knowledge transfer event; however there was limited networking opportunities for the academic attendees.

Since the breakdown in leadership the Soil biology Special Interest Group convened by teleconference very infrequently. However, their most recent meeting held on Wednesday 24 June focused on the future of the special interest group. A number of names for a new convener were suggested (those who would have a more agri-business focus rather than natural history) but have yet to be contacted. Dr Felicity Crotty has kindly agreed to stand in as the interim convener at this time, to ensure the SIG has some continuity. Possible collaborations with other societies / events was also discussed, including the “Soil Ecology Society”, “Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative” and “International Colloquium on Soil Zoology”.

Future events – due to COVID-19 restrictions, without careful planning there is likely to be no soil biodiversity event held this year. Dr Felicity Crotty is very keen for this not to be the case – and would hope that a webinar event could possibly be held instead. Having recently attended the “Food and Agricultural Organisation of the UN” event on Soil biodiversity which hosted over a 1000 attendees, and also signed up for the British Ecology Society LIVE webinar weekly sessions, there is a plethora of events currently running for free online to continue academic interest and outreach/KE. Hosting a 60-90 minute webinar with invited speakers (made up mainly from the SIG committee), would be an ideal way of increasing interest in the AAB and the Soil Biology Group.

Nematology Group

Convener – Matthew Back (Harper Adams University)

Group members – Steve Edgington (CABI), Kim Davie (SASA), Rebecca Lawson (Fera), Wim Wesemael (University of Ghent), Lindy Holden-Dye (University of Southampton)

The Nematology Group consists of a diverse set of representatives from government, academia, and consultancy. Wim Wesemael serves as our contact for the European Society of Nematologists. The group meets twice a year, with the AGM held at the ‘Advances in Nematology’ meeting in December. Our autumn meeting is used to discuss and plan forthcoming conferences as well as other wider nematology related

The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2019

Achievements and performance (continued)

initiatives. The structure of the group for 2020 is as follows: -

Convener – Steve Edgington (CABI)

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

Conferences arranged during 2019

5th Symposium of Potato Cyst Nematode Management, 10-11th September 2019

The 5th Symposium of PCN Management, held at Harper Adams University (HAU), was attended by 65 delegates from a wide range of countries including Kenya, Indonesia, the US, Holland, Portugal and Belgium. The aim of the conference was to discuss new research and initiatives concerned with the biology and management of PCN.

The programme covered an excellent variety of topics including biology, modelling, distribution, novel control strategies, such as trap cropping, and cultivar resistance. Discussions were lively and engaging, and often continued through coffee breaks and mealtimes. During the conference, we remembered our former colleague, the late Dr Pat Haydock, particularly at the conclusion, where student prizes were awarded in his name. The platform prize was awarded to Ulrike Gartner of the James Hutton Institute for her excellent talk on the identification of resistance from *Solanum spegazzinii*. Morven Anderson, MSc student at HAU was the recipient of the prize for the best poster. I should like to thank the AAB for all their support with the organisation, the Short Course and Conference Office at HAU, Agrico for their sponsorship and CABI for providing a student prize.

Advances in Nematology, SASA, Edinburgh - 10th December 2019

Advances in Nematology is an annual meeting that has previously taken place at the Linnean Society of London. In 2019, the conference moved to Edinburgh in order to allow greater participation from those at Scottish institutes. It is envisaged that we will continue to rotate between London and Edinburgh in the future.

The conference was attended by 52 delegates from a range of backgrounds including academia, industry, farming and government. The programme included a broad range of topics on plant parasitic and entomopathogenic nematodes. Having a good balance between fundamental and applied presentations helped keep the delegates engaged throughout the meeting.

We were fortunate to have three excellent keynote presenters. Nicole Viaene from ILVO (Belgium) gave an overview of a new EU initiative to create an EU Reference Laboratory to support member countries with the diagnosis and identification of plant parasitic nematodes. In the afternoon, Vivian Blok (JHI) gave an excellent presentation on the story of *G. pallida* resistance. This talk will have been undoubtedly beneficial to PhD students who are less familiar with the history of resistance to this pest. Finally, Jon Pickup (SASA), gave a great talk about his early work on nematodes in Antarctica and also the work completed at the institute on the potato cyst nematode directive.

As in previous years, two awards were given to PhD students who presented their work at the meeting. The Brian Kerry Award for the best platform presentation was awarded by Nicole Viaene to James Cutler from Liverpool John Moores University for his presentation on the molluscan parasite *Phasmarhabditis hermaphrodita*. The winner was selected based on the views of the invited speakers. The AAB Poster Prize is determined by a delegate voting system. This year the award went to Mabell Mosquera for her stunning poster, with many micrographs, on native Columbian entomopathogenic nematodes. Thanks go to Lindy Holden Dye for coordinating the poster prize and to Rebecca Lawson-Prior for assisting with the platform prize.

Overall, this was an excellent meeting, which included an array of good science. The programme was dense but the delegates remained interested throughout.

Future Conference Programme

Advances in Nematology, 15 December 2020: London Linnean Society

The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2019

Achievements and performance (continued)

There was one Aspects of Applied Biology published in 2019:

Aspects 142: 5th Symposium of Potato Cyst Nematode Management

Student Travel Grants

Name	Amount	Balance	Conference
	Balance b/f	£676.83	
	+ 2019 Fund	£1,500.00	
Esperanza Cabellero		-£178.37	Advances in Virology
Christina Cabello		-£175.33	Advances in Virology
John Ellis		-£90.00	Advances in Biocontrol and IPM
Ines Vazquez-Iglesias		-£174.63	Advances in Virology
Morven Anderson		-£99.00	5 th Symposium on Potato Cyst Nematode Management
	c/forward	£1,462.50	

Conference Sponsorship

Name of Conference	Sponsor	Sponsorship (£)
Adding value to field crop genetic resources	LGC Biosearch sponsorship	500
	IDNA Genetics Ltd	600
Sprayer Cleaning Workshop	Syngenta	908
	E-Coopera	616
5 th Symp. On Potato Cyst Nematode Management	Agrico	250
IOBC-WPRS Working Group "Integrated Protection of Field Vegetables"	Syngenta	500
	IOBC	2,857
International Advances in Plant Virology	Agritest	672
	Agdia EMEA	687
	Lowew Biochemica	250
	Abiopep SLR	1,078
	E Matsumura	27
Advances in Biocontrol and IPM 2019	Bionema	500
	Fargro	500
	Biobest	500

Financial review

a. Financial overview

Income and expenditure

The Association continues with the long-term aim of operating with a small positive cash flow, or cash neutral, as part of a sustainable long term business plan.

Total income in 2019 exceeded expenditure by £8435, an improvement in performance compared to the deficit of £7,808 in 2018.

Unrealised gains on investments in 2019 were £35,418 comparing favourably to 2018's losses of £32,734, which reflected the fall in the stock market toward the 2018 end of year. As noted in last year's report, the investments

The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2019

Financial review (continued)

of the AAB are now managed by Tilney Investment Management and the risk profile of investments held has been adjusted. It is noteworthy that whilst the value of investments has fallen in 2020, in line with portfolios globally, this fall has been mitigated by the new investment strategy.

Therefore, the total surplus for 2019 was £43,853 (2018: deficit £40,542).

All AAB publications performed well financially in 2019 with total share of publication profits up by around £30,000. PBJ had a strong year with total journal sales up over £100,000 and AAB's share of profits £77,286, considerably higher than 2018 (£56,005).

Food and Energy Security continued its trend toward sustained profitability with its small 2018 profit doubling in 2019 to £4,237. The trend for FES in 2020 is for a much higher income and profit share.

Annals continues to generate a valuable financial contribution. 2019 was around 9% higher than 2018's £80,524, at £87,428. A new publishing contract with Wiley has been agreed for *Annals* which moves the publication from profit share to revenue share from 2020 onwards.

Both *Annals'* and PBJ's ongoing income continues to be affected by the relative weakness of sterling, reducing the pound value of dollar based subscriptions.

Management and Administration costs increased from £120,147 to £136,992. Overall for the AAB, staff costs were up modestly by 2.4% for all activities, some changes being made to the allocation of costs between activities. The cost of renegotiating the new office lease and higher meeting expenses were the main reasons for non-staff management and administration costs exceeding 2018 by £12,772.

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

Membership income has stabilized in 2019 reflecting proactive marketing to and contact with the membership base.

Investment returns (reinvested) declined slightly reflecting the lower risk profile adopted during 2019.

Balance Sheet

The Association's net assets increased in 2019 by £43,835 due to the £35,418 of unrealised investment fund gains together with the cash surplus on current year activities of £8435. I

Cash at bank ended the year strongly due to better payment terms obtained, close cash management and a small transfer from investments which was reinstated in early 2020. A large legacy received in 2020 will ensure that a strong cash position will continue throughout the current year.

b. Going concern

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

Financial review (continued)

c. Reserves policy

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

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

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

d. Investments policy

There are no restrictions on the Association's power to invest. Its investment portfolio is managed by Tilney Investment Management Services Ltd whose performance the trustees review. It is the Association's policy to avoid high risk investments.

e. Principal risks and uncertainties

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

Cash flow risk

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

Credit risk

The charity's principal financial assets are bank balances and cash, trade and other receivables, and investments. The charity's credit risk is primarily attributable to its trade receivables. The amounts presented in the balance sheet are net of allowances for doubtful receivables. An allowance for impairment is made where there is an identified loss event which, based on previous experience, is evidence of a reduction in the recoverability of the cash flows. The credit risk on liquid funds and derivative financial instruments is limited because the counterparties are banks with high creditratings 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.

The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2019

Financial review (continued)

Liquidity risk

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

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

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

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

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

b. Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

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

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

c. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

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

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

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

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

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

The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2019

Structure, governance and management (continued)

d. Organisational structure

The business of the Association is conducted by a Council of Members. Council shall consist of the Honorary Officers; President, President elect, General Secretary, General Treasurer, Publications Officer, Membership Officer, Programme Secretary, Meetings Treasurer and Early Career Scientist Champion, together with Conveners of the AAB Specialist Groups.

Wider network

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

Plans for future periods

The 2020 budget foresaw a small cash deficit of around £2,300. As with many organisations, the Covid 19 pandemic has meant that face to face conference activity has been impossible with many events cancelled or deferred.

The Trustees believe that a small increase in the budgeted cash deficit is possible in 2020, however latest forecasts still indicate a positive outcome for cash flow in 2020.

The Trustees continue to pursue opportunities to reduce central management and administration costs where possible.

Membership Fees

Whilst there has been disruption to AAB's finances this year from the pandemic, publication income is still relatively strong. The impact on AAB's finances should not be great overall. Next year the AAB should see a further publication income increase from FES.

The UK economy is unlikely to see significant inflation in 2021.

The AAB have stabilised membership income in 2019 which is a creditable result and personal finances for AAB members may not be as robust next year due to the pandemic.

In the light of this the Trustees propose freezing AAB membership fees for 2021. This can be used to both retain existing members and to help promote membership growth.

Annals will be published online only from 2020, with online subscriptions frozen for 2021. However, members will be able to obtain print on demand copies of Annals for a couple more years.

The current rate for members based in the UK would be around £82 per print subscription. The current global rates below (all in USD) will apply to Annals.

Member Direct	Americas	UK	Europe	Rest of World
POD Price (USD)	\$149.26	\$104.37	\$117.13	\$174.49

The Association of Applied Biologists

Trustees' Report (continued) For the year ended 31 December 2019

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 16 September 2020 and signed on their behalf by:

Dr G Barker
Trustee

The Association of Applied Biologists

Independent Examiner's Report For the year ended 31 December 2019

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

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2019.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

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

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

The Association of Applied Biologists

**Independent Examiner's Report (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2019**

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

Signed:

Dated: 16 September 2020

Mark Gurney FCCA

**Dains LLP
Birmingham**

The Association of Applied Biologists

Statement of financial activities For the year ended 31 December 2019

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £	Total funds 2018 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	14,050	-	14,050	6,300
Charitable activities	4	271,805	-	271,805	258,435
Investments	5	6,126	-	6,126	7,813
Total income		291,981	-	291,981	272,548
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	282,646	900	283,546	280,356
Total expenditure		282,646	900	283,546	280,356
Net gains/(losses) on investments		35,418	-	35,418	(32,734)
Net movement in funds		44,753	(900)	43,853	(40,542)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		464,569	15,447	480,016	520,558
Net movement in funds		44,753	(900)	43,853	(40,542)
Total funds carried forward		509,322	14,547	523,869	480,016

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 22 to 35 form part of these financial statements.

The Association of Applied Biologists
Registered number:

Balance Sheet
For the year ended 31 December 2019

	Note	2019 £	2018 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	3,456	4,487
Investments	12	392,283	389,269
		395,739	393,756
Current assets			
Debtors	13	115,176	85,796
Cash at bank and in hand		201,896	76,432
		317,072	162,228
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(188,942)	(75,968)
		128,130	86,260
Net current assets		128,130	86,260
Total net assets		523,869	480,016
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	15	14,547	15,447
Unrestricted funds	15	509,322	464,569
Total funds		523,869	480,016

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 16 September 2020 and signed on their behalf by:

Dr. G Barker
Trustee

The notes on pages 22 to 35 form part of these financial statements.

1. General information

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

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

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

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

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

2.2 Going concern

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

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

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Income

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.4 Expenditure

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

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

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 Interest receivable

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

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.6 Foreign currencies

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

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

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

2.7 Taxation

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

2.8 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

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

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

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Office equipment	- 4 years straightline
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2.9 Investments

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

2.10 Debtors

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

2.11 Cash at bank and in hand

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

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.12 Liabilities and provisions

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

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

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

2.13 Financial instruments

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

2.14 Pensions

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

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

2.15 Fund accounting

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

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

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

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2019

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £
Donations	14,050	14,050

	Unrestricted funds 2018 £	Total funds 2018 £
Donations	6,300	6,300

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £
Conferences	78,746	78,746
Publications	172,135	172,135
Membership Fees	20,924	20,924
	271,805	271,805

	Unrestricted funds 2018 £	Total funds 2018 £
Conferences	95,641	95,641
Publications	142,245	142,245
Membership Fees	20,549	20,549
	258,435	258,435

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2019

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £
Income from listed investments	5,990	5,990
Bank interest received	136	136
	6,126	6,126
	Unrestricted funds 2018 £	Total funds 2018 £
Income from listed investments	7,709	7,709
Bank interest received	104	104
	7,813	7,813

6. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

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

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2019

6. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities (continued)

Summary by fund type (continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2018 £	Restricted funds 2018 £	Total funds 2018 £
Conferences	146,555	-	146,555
Publications	1,234	-	1,234
Membership Fees	10,796	-	10,796
Grant funding of activities	800	824	1,624
Management & administration costs	120,147	-	120,147
	279,532	824	280,356

Summary by expenditure type

	Staff costs 2019 £	Depreciation 2019 £	Other costs 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £
Conferences	52,572	-	72,806	125,378
Publications	5,080	-	-	5,080
Membership Fees	11,346	-	3,850	15,196
Grant funding of activities	-	-	900	900
Management & administration costs	66,678	3,272	67,042	136,992
	135,676	3,272	144,598	283,546

	Staff costs 2018 £	Depreciation 2018 £	Other costs 2018 £	Total funds 2018 £
Conferences	59,971	-	86,584	146,555
Publications	1,234	-	-	1,234
Membership Fees	7,996	-	2,800	10,796
Grant funding of activities	-	-	1,624	1,624
Management & administration costs	63,254	2,623	54,270	120,147
	132,455	2,623	145,278	280,356

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2019

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2019 £	Support costs 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £
Conferences	125,378	-	125,378
Publications	5,080	-	5,080
Membership Fees	15,196	-	15,196
Grant funding of activities	900	-	900
Management & administration costs	-	136,992	136,992
	<u>146,554</u>	<u>136,992</u>	<u>283,546</u>

	Activities undertaken directly 2018 £	Support costs 2018 £	Total funds 2018 £
Conferences	146,555	-	146,555
Publications	1,234	-	1,234
Membership Fees	10,796	-	10,796
Grant funding of activities	1,624	-	1,624
Management & administration costs	-	120,147	120,147
	<u>160,209</u>	<u>120,147</u>	<u>280,356</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2019

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2019 £	Total funds 2018 £
Staff costs	66,678	63,254
Staff Training and Welfare	517	975
Travel and accomadtion	1,877	456
Establishment costs	20,842	22,076
Office costs	6,831	5,746
Marketing and publicity	1,404	-
Depreciation	3,272	2,623
Miscellaneous expenses	5,516	3,907
Legal fees	7,080	952
Independent examiner fees	2,470	2,470
Governance costs	20,504	17,688
	136,992	120,147

8. Independent examiner's remuneration

	2019 £	2018 £
Fees payable to the Charity's independent examiner for the independent examination of the Charity's annual accounts	2,470	2,470

9. Staff costs

	2019 £	2018 £
Wages and salaries	111,257	108,907
Social security costs	10,476	10,298
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	13,943	13,250
	135,676	132,455

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2019

9. Staff costs (continued)

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

	2019 No.	2018 No
Charitable Activities	4	4
Governance	1	1
	5	5

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

10. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2018 - £Nil).

During the year ended 31 December 2019, expenses totalling £3,906 were reimbursed to 17 Trustees (2018 - £5,393 to 19 Trustees). The expenses reimbursed primarily related to travel and subsistence costs incurred in attending Council meetings and various other meetings.

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment £
Cost	
At 1 January 2019	70,177
Additions	2,241
	72,418
At 31 December 2019	72,418
Depreciation	
At 1 January 2019	65,690
Charge for the year	3,272
	68,962
At 31 December 2019	68,962
Net book value	
At 31 December 2019	3,456
At 31 December 2018	4,487

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2019

12. Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 January 2019	389,269
Disposals	(32,404)
Revaluations	35,418
At 31 December 2019	392,283
Net book value	
At 31 December 2019	392,283
<i>At 31 December 2018</i>	<i>389,269</i>

13. Debtors

	2019 £	2018 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	686	192
Other debtors	114,490	85,604
	115,176	85,796

14. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2019 £	2018 £
Trade creditors	13,594	12,411
Other taxation and social security	10,956	9,700
Other creditors	79,048	17,693
Accruals and deferred income	85,344	36,164
	188,942	75,968

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2019

15. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

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

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

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 January 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2018 £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds	504,287	272,548	(279,532)	(32,734)	464,569
Restricted funds					
Restricted Funds	16,271	-	(824)	-	15,447
Total of funds	520,558	272,548	(280,356)	(32,734)	480,016

The Association of Applied Biologists

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2019

16. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

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

Summary of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 January 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2018 £
General funds	504,287	272,548	(279,532)	(32,734)	464,569
Restricted funds	16,271	-	(824)	-	15,447
	520,558	272,548	(280,356)	(32,734)	480,016

17. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

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

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2019

17. Analysis of net assets between funds(continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2018 £	Restricted funds 2018 £	Total funds 2018 £
Tangible fixed assets	4,487	-	4,487
Fixed asset investments	389,269	-	389,269
Current assets	146,781	15,447	162,228
Creditors due within one year	(75,968)	-	(75,968)
Total	<u>464,569</u>	<u>15,447</u>	<u>480,016</u>

18. Pension commitments

The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the Charity to the scheme and amounted to £13,943 (2018: £13,250). The contributions payable to the fund at the balance sheet date was £NIL (2018 - £NIL).

19. Operating lease commitments

At 31 December 2019 the Charity had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2019 £	2018 £
Not later than 1 year	13,317	-
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	16,646	-
	<u>29,963</u>	<u>-</u>

AAB FORWARD CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

2020

- 16 September **AAB AGM**
Virtually via ZOOM
- 23 October **Advances in Legume Science and Practice Webinar**
Virtually via ZOOM (Cropping and the Environment group)
- 19-20 November **Advances in Biological Control and IPM 2020**
Olde Barn Hotel, Marston, Lincs, UK (Biocontrol & IPM group)
- 2 December **Tomato brown rugose fruit virus and Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus, two emerging tobamoviruses threatening tomato and cucurbit crops worldwide Webinar**
Virtually via ZOOM (Virology group)
- 15 December **Advances in Nematology 2020**
Virtually via ZOOM (Nematology group)

2021

- 19-20 January **Intercropping for sustainability**
University of Reading, Reading, UK
(Cropping and the Environment Group, DIVERSify and ReMIX)
- 9-10 February **Closed Transfer Systems Workshop**
Wrest Park, Silsoe, Bedford, UK (Pesticide Application Group)
- March: TBC**
Crop production with limited PPPs; challenges and Opportunities
Sophi Taylor Building, Cambridge, UK
(Cropping and the Environment Group, Food Systems Group)
- 27-29 April **International Advances in Plant Virology**
Virtually via ZOOM (Virology group)
- 29 June-01 July **Shaping the Future for Pollinators: Innovations in Farmed Landscapes**
Cophthorne Hotel, Slough, UK (Cropping and the Environment group/University of Reading/British Ecological Society/Royal Entomological Society)
- September: TBC**
Advances in Legume Science and Practice 2
Ecole Supérieure d'Agriculture (ESA) Angers, France
(Cropping and the Environment group)
- 3-4 November **Trees for the Future - Diversity and complexity for resilience and carbon storage**
(AAB Multi Disiplinary, University of Birmingham, Bifor)
- November: TBC**
Thinking Differently about Soil-Borne Disease Management
TBC (Applied Mycology and Bacteriology group)
- 14 December **Advances in Nematology 2021**
Linnean Society, London, UK (Nematology group)

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