

International Biometric Society
British and Irish Region
Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 2006

The Annual General Meeting of the British and Irish Region of the International Biometric Society was held at 12.15 pm on Wednesday 15th November at the Rothamsted Conference Centre, Rothamsted Research, Harpenden, Herts., AL5 2JQ. The President, Professor Joe Perry, took the chair. About 25 members were present.

1. The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were approved as read.
2. The Secretary briefly summarised his written report on the activities of the Region during the past year. It had been an active year for the regional committee, with a number of meetings, the development of the Channel Network, and plans being made for two major conferences. At the previous AGM the region had been renamed the British and Irish Region to reflect our potential audience and the planned IBC in Dublin in July 2008. The year had also seen the establishment of the Channel Network, run by a Steering Group and Coordinator (Andrew Mead) and plans for a first network conference in the Netherlands in May 2007. The year had included five meetings, on “Proteomics and Metabolomics” at Hinxton in November 2005, on “Applied Statistics in Animal and Plant Sciences” at Rothamsted Research in January 2006, on “Chemometrics” in York in March 2006, jointly with the RSS-ESS, the French Statistical Society and the IBS French Region on “Biodiversity” in Paris in May 2006, and jointly with PSI on “Safety” in London in June 2006. The IBC in Montreal had been well attended by members of the British and Irish Region, with awards made to Steve Buckland and Andrew Mead, and plenty of publicity for the next IBC in Dublin in July 2008. Plans for meetings during the forthcoming year were presented, and a request for support from the membership, particularly for the IBC in Dublin, was made.

The Secretary was asked about the potential for sponsorship of the IBC in Dublin by Guinness, and the LOC Chair, John Hinde, replied that this possibility was being explored. With no further questions, the Secretary was thanked for his hard work on behalf of the British and Irish Region.

3. The Treasurer briefly summarised the presented accounts and his written report. Although the accounts showed an overall decrease in regional funds, this appeared larger than it really was due to the timings of some financial activities. As previously, a major cost during the year had been meetings – in future the committee will separately review the budget for each organised meeting, and set registration fees so as to aim to cover the costs for each individual meeting. The Region continues to benefit from financial support from the Fisher Memorial Trust, on this occasion provided as bursaries for young biometricians to attend the IBC in Montreal, and also provides support for IBS members from Special Circumstance Countries to attend the IBC. A change of account had been made during the year, to ensure good rates of interest were maintained.

David Cox encouraged the committee to ask the Fisher memorial Trust for more funds in the future, and the Secretary commented that the IBC 2008 LOC were intending to ask for support for various IBC activities for young biometricians. With no further questions, the Treasurer was thanked for his hard work on behalf of the British and Irish Region.

4. The Membership Secretary briefly summarised her written report. She was happy to report a slight reverse to the steady downward trend in membership reported in previous years, with the number of registered members standing at 314, an overall gain of 8. Many of these new members, however, had joined at the November 2005 meeting, where there was an option to turn the non-members registration fee into membership for the following year. The Membership Secretary would be

monitoring whether these new members continued their membership into 2007. The number of members on the “pending” list, due to non-payment of dues, was still large, so that the downward trend in existing members continues.

In the absence of any questions, the Membership Secretary was thanked for her work over the past year.

5. As no other nominations had been received, the following were declared elected:

Secretary:	Mr. Andrew Mead (Warwick HRI, University of Warwick)
Treasurer:	Mr. Peter Rigsby (NIBSC)
Membership Secretary:	Miss Suzanne Clark (Rothamsted Research)
Committee Members: (2006-2009)	Prof. Chris Glasbey (BioSS, Edinburgh) Dr. Bianca de Stavola (LSHTM)

In addition, Mr. Peter Colman was co-opted to the committee, to replace Prof. Sylvia Richardson who had resigned during the year, and to take responsibility for the region’s new web-site

6. Robin Thompson (Rothamsted Research) was thanked for his work as auditor for the past year, and was nominated (proposed Robert Curnow, seconded John Hinde) and elected as auditor for the coming year

There being no matters raised under Any Other Business, the President closed the meeting at 12.36 pm.