

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE SEVENTY-NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRITISH SOCIETY OF ANIMAL SCIENCE HELD AT THE EAST MIDLANDS CONFERENCE CENTRE, NOTTINGHAM AND BY ZOOM**

**TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022**

**17:00 – 17:45PM (UK)**

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The President, Michael Lee, welcomed members to the meeting. There were sixteen in attendance virtually and twenty-eight in attendance in person.

Apologies received from:

Cassandra Barrett, Christian Scharch, Rex Walters, Danna Emery & Birgit Fuerst-Waltl

**2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021 (79a)**

The minutes of the previous AGM (15<sup>th</sup> April 2021) were accepted

Proposed: by Helen Warren

Seconded: by Jordana Rivero-Viera

**3. REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOR THE YEAR 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2020 – 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER (PAPER 79b – ANNUAL REVIEW)**

Chief Executive, Maggie Mitchell, provided an overview of her report along with the Annual Review.

These documents had been circulated ahead of the AGM to all members. The presentations included an overview of the Society's activities for 2021/2022. Highlights include:

- Introduction of the following:
  - Policy & Procedure Manual
  - Finance & Governance Group
  - Undergraduate Council
  - Membership Booklet
- Membership numbers as shown in the report are continuing to steadily increase, particularly within the Undergraduate and Early Careers.
- The Accreditation process and system has been reviewed and updated and consequently the process time of applications is significantly lower.
- BSAS Global reach has increased with the introduction of LMIC lowered membership fee and partnership with Australian Association of Animal Science (AAAS). BSAS plan on building on this with additional partnerships with other global animal science associations.
- Events:
  - The 2021 Conference was a recognised success with over 500 global attendees. As part of the conference, BSAS held farming webinars in partnership with the Stapledon Memorial Trust.
  - Grill the President Event gave Early Careers Members opportunity to engage with the Society and learn about how they can get involved
  - R-Stats Workshop was once again a great success and had a waiting list for attendees

- Animal Family of Journals; these were launched at the conference in 2021 and are showing steady progress as they gain footing. BSAS carried out a supplementary author survey which indicated that the author experience has improved.
- 7 Awards available for which 8 Prizes were awarded (the Steve Bishop award had a joint winner due to the high standard of applications)
- Freshers and Refresher Campaign: There were 100 undergraduate members recruited because of these campaigns

Looking forward, the Society will be working on:

- Building on existing relationship with partner societies such as British Grassland Society, Nutrition Society, Stapledon Memorial Trust etc. as well as building new relationships with the view of connecting science with application
- BSAS is working with the Stakeholders Committee to create a Career Guide. This will connect stakeholder, industry and academia and show careers available in all elements of animal science
- Generating generic sponsorship packs with the aim of getting more sponsorship for more awards, webinars and newsletters.
- Launching Undergraduate Accreditation Scheme for students and Course Accreditation for Universities and Colleges
- BSAS 2023 will be held in Birmingham
- May 2023 International Ruminant Reproduction Symposium in partnership with UCD and Teagasc will be held in Galway, Ireland

The President thanked Maggie Mitchell, the BSAS committee chairs and committee members for their professionalism and hard work over the last 12 months which has been fundamental to the society's membership growth.

Question from the audience, Nigel Scollan, asked what were the key drivers of membership growth and how should that be continued going forward. The CEO answered there was a renewal campaign aimed at expired members which was successful in attracting membership renewal and the committees, particularly the ECC, worked hard to attract new members. There must be focus from the Society on how to retain "mid-career" members. The CEO encouraged members to submit feedback to her on what the society should be focusing on.

#### **4. REPORT OF THE HON. TREASURER AND ADOPTION OF THE AUFITED ACCOUNTS (PAPER 79c/79d)(NOTE 1)**

BSAS Hon. Treasurer, Cledwyn Thomas, joined the AGM remotely. He gave an overview of the financial report for 2021. The accounts were circulated to members with the AGM papers ahead of the meeting.

It was recognised that for 2021, BSAS will break even on the Income and Expenditure and there was an increase in investment. The main sources of income for 2021 were publications and the 2021 Virtual Conference. The main sources of expenditure were staff costs and management fees. Animal journals are now open access, therefore income is reduced from these. However it is predicted that these will be back to normal levels by 2024/25.

The budget for 2022 is currently showing a deficit in the I&E but it was recognised that investment returns should cover part of the deficit. Conference & strategic planning are the main sources of expenditure for 2022.

Future steps for the society include:

- BSAS must invest in future development. A review was carried out of BSAS investments compared to other similar societies and the society have matched their risk level. It was also recognised that investment provider costs were high and these costs have now been reduced by half
- BSAS will be carrying out an examination of irrecoverable VAT which is currently costing approximately £20k
- Animal income must be improved

There was a question from Kate Dubarry on whether BSAS currently hold any investments in controversial areas like fossil fuels or arms trade. The Treasurer confirmed that there are investments in fossil fuels, but BSAS are working on minimising these, and it is major item which is being addressed actively by the trustees.

The President asked for the accounts to be adopted:

Proposer: Nigel Scollan

Second: David Kenny

#### **5. RE-APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS (NOTE 2)**

The treasurer moved that the auditors, Paterson Boyd be reappointed

Proposer: Helen Warren

Second: Peter Williams

#### **6. RETIREMENT OF TRUSTEES (NOTE 3)**

The President reported that Howard Simmins stepped down as role of BSAS Treasurer on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021. Mel Le Bon also stepped down from the Board of Trustees on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The President thanked both for their hard work.

#### **7. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS (PAPER 79e)(NOTE 4)**

Kim Matthews was elected BSAS President for 2022/23.

Proposed: Jordana Rivero-Viera

Second: Mel Le Bon

Elizabeth Magowan moves her position to Senior vice President

David Kenny was elected Vice President.

Proposed: Helen Warren

Second: Nigel Scollan

Dr Paul Smith was appointed into the Board of Trustees.

Proposed: David Kenny

Second: Lucy Ross

## **8. AOB**

The President welcomed questions from members.

Peter Williams asked whether BSAS had engaged with the **Lancet** in relation to the article published on the GBD2019 analysis. The President confirmed that BSAS had written a letter to the **Lancet**. The letter will be made available via the BSAS membership portal along with the contact details. Members are encouraged as individuals, and as part of their organisations, to submit a letter.

Damilola Kareem asked whether there was a BSAS discount for publishing in *animal*. As *animal* is a consortium of three organisations (EAAP, INRAE & BSAS), the decision was taken to support the open access platform and not, at this stage, offer members discounts.

It was confirmed to Maurice Bichard that sessions from the BSAS Conference will be made available on demand.

Howard Simmins questioned the future format of the BSAS conference and whether the high cost of Hybrid is sustainable going forward. It was confirmed that the conference will make a small profit due to last minute surge of income, therefore the income figures are higher than those presented in the Treasurers report. While it was recognised that the Society must be cost efficient in certain areas of the conference, the format has proven to be invaluable due to the opportunities it has given members and other delegates who may not be able to attend a conference in person.

The president brought the AGM to a close and thanked all those that had attended for their time.

**Professor Michael Lee**  
**BSAS President 2021/2022**