

Scarborough 2008

Scarborough really was sunny when BSAS had its Annual Conference back in April and, whilst some people had found it difficult to get there, those who did attend found the town its old friendly self. The Spa Complex has been upgraded and hospitality and food were good. The local Council run venue gave BSAS the rooms 'free of charge' as near enough the anticipated number of delegates attended.

From the feedback the real stars of the conference were the session on Bio-fuels (joint with WPSA), the workshop on Knowledge Transfer and Mike Goddard's Hammond Lecture (*Molecular genetics for livestock improvement – brave new world or false dawn?*)



President Prize winners for 2007 receive their awards from Professor Geoff Simm

The mini presentations were less popular than 2007, and delegates would like less themes and parallel sessions in future so as not to miss presentations, and the organisers felt that there was still room for improvement with posters. The general decline in numbers attending our general conference from the sectors of agri-business and academics continues, although student numbers and overseas delegates have held up better. This decline parallels the recent decline in investment in the animal sciences and agriculture R&D in the UK and Europe.

Wednesday at Scarborough was Equine day. It went very well, boosted by a bus full of students and lecturers from Bishop Burton college. The afternoon workshop was really good and participants went off wanting more next year in Southport. BSAS has been working hard to provide a platform for equine scientists to present work and network so 2008 was a big step forward in this process.

Other invited sessions included; The Value of Animal Science, Global Climate Change and Global Livestock Production, Qualitative Assessment of Animal Health,

The Student day programme covered statistics, farmer communications, how not to murder your supervisor, relaxation techniques, travel funds and on the Monday a workshop on animal nutrition. Genesis-Faraday also gave a popular workshop on Genomics.

The delegates were well fed at the Conference Dinner on Monday evening and then enjoyed a fun evening on Tuesday with a ghost tour, yummy buffet and a Student Council run quiz (with lots of prizes).



Student helpers enjoying a well earned break

Annual Conference	1
Future Conferences	2
Honorary Members	
Scholarships	
Animal Committees	3
Global Climate Change Conference, Tunisia	4

2009 Annual Conference
 Deadline for summary submissions
 24 October 2008

BSAS,
PO Box 3,
Penicuik,
Midlothian EH26 ORZ. UK
Tel: 00 44 (0)131-445-4508,
Fax: 00 44 (0)131-535-3120,
Email: bsas@sac.ac.uk
Website <http://www.bsas.org.uk>

Future Annual Conferences

Southport 2009

The Annual meeting goes back to Southport's Floral Hall Complex in 2009 (30 March- 1 April). The main theme is likely to be – Food Security. (As part of this theme authors of submitted summaries will be encouraged to think about what the implications of their work might have on food security).

Ideas for Sessions in 2009 include:

- President's session: What the funders want (*workshop format*)
- Equine session - health, behaviour and welfare
- The Hammond Memorial Lecture will probably be a fairly controversial paper, presented by a journalist. Watch this space!
- Impact of climate change on food supply, feed supply and animal health Conflict with consumer desires (joint WPSA) - extensification of pig and poultry systems; role of GM plants and animals.
- Conflicts in resources for extensive ruminant production - Strategic use of supplements, grassland use and utilisation, conservation and biodiversity; alternative land use; mitigating environmental impact.
- Non-farmed animal species

Belfast 2010

We are going to Queen's University Belfast in 2010 where we plan to run a joint meeting with colleagues from Ireland's IGAPA which normally meets in the Irish Midlands in March each year and covers crops and soils as well as animals.

Scholarships

T&E group were pleased with the number of applications presented at its May meeting but a little disappointed with the standard. They agreed the following:

Andrew Clempson, RVC	£750 Summer Institute, USA, in Statistical Genetics
Georgina Crossman, Exeter University	£700 Equine study tour, Europe
Matt Bell, SAC	£225 Global Climate change conference, Tunisia
Craig Lewis, Roslin Institute	£625 20th International Pig Vet congress, Durban
Jennifer Coltherd, SAC	£639 Xth European Multicolloquium of Parasitology, Paris
Kathryn Kemper, Roslin Institute	£705 Travel to the European Association for Animal Production 59 th conference, Vilnius Lithuania

Honorary Members

The AGM unanimously agreed three awards of Honorary membership of BSAS under the terms of the BSAS Constitution - *Such Honorary life members shall have distinguished themselves in the field of animal science and its application to animal production or have rendered signal service to the Society. Honorary life members shall have, without payment, all privileges of membership.*

Dr Ian Lean proposed by Dr Geoff Pollott

Ian's award was to recognise his research contribution, centered around the interactions between animal production and animal science and his positive effect on the lives and careers of many Wye students over a remarkable 38 year period. For BSAS he was cited for his stewardship of *Animal Science* as both an editor and a Chairman of Editors.

Dr David Garwes proposed by Prof Geoff Simm

David was recognised for his major impression made on the UK animal science community, as a result of enthusiasm for high quality science that makes a real practical difference to agriculture, and his vision for a cohesive, innovative, government-funded programme at the core of UK livestock science research. In particular acknowledgement was given for his ability to create formal and informal partnerships and as a principal architect and long-term 'minder' of the LINK Sustainable Livestock Production Programme.

Dr Bob Mayes proposed by Prof Dr Bob Orskov

Bob's award was to recognise his significant contribution to animal science including that of estimating intake of grazing animals using n-alkanes as internal markers and his expertise on the transfer of radionuclides to ruminants through food. They also acknowledged his mentoring and commitment to training of hundreds of students at both honour and MSc levels, many from overseas.

Future Conferences

- Lithuania, EAAP, August 2008
- Guadeloupe, Sustainable Production in the Humid Tropics, March 2009
- Edinburgh, Modelling Farming systems, June 2009, with AAB.
- Nepal, Indigenous Knowledge, September 2009
- Liverpool, Positive Husbandry for Young Animals, September 2009 (*contact Jamie Robertson or John Rooke*)
- Cirencester, European Workshop on Equine Nutrition, EWEN 2010, September 2010
- Greece, a joint meeting with the Hellenic Society on the effects of Globalisation on Animal Production, planned May/June 2011
- Aberystwyth, International Herbivore Symposium, September 2011

The editors and board members of Animal met in Tunisia as part of their regular schedule to discuss strategy and direction of your journal. Many of them were involved in the Tunisian Conference as co-organisers or sponsors. This is one of the additional benefits of BSAS having a joint journal with INRA and EAAP as networking and collaboration has spread beyond the original project to benefit all the partners.

BSAS is producing its next two publications under the Cambridge University Press banner. These come from the conferences on Ethno-veterinary Issues and Dairy Cattle Fertility. Selected papers from both conferences have also been published in Animal. This format is one that is likely to be followed in the future.

Animal has its own website at www.animal-journal.eu/ and is published by Cambridge University Press. Papers can be submitted through www.editorialmanager.com/animal

Restructuring Committees and Groups - AGM agrees

The April AGM agreed to changes to the committee or group structure of BSAS. If you are interested in participating in any of the activities then please either contact the chairpersons direct or let the BSAS office know.

Publications Committee

This will no longer exist but become part of Programme Committee.

Programme Committee Chair - Caroline Rymer c.rymer@reading.ac.uk

Continues to oversee all conferences and especially the Annual Conference. Encompassing a publications function, Programme will try to identify hot topics that would make popular conferences and sessions and therefore yield high quality papers that would enhance the journal Animal.

Technical and Ethical Committee Chair - Alistair Carson Alistair.carson@afbini.gov.uk

This group will concentrate on its core activities of consultations, scholarships, liaison with Bio-Sciences Federation and the EAAP link as well as ethics, welfare and vision.

The EAAP liaison role will be widened so that Geoff Pollott, our current representative, has a role in identifying collaborative opportunities within EAAP member countries.

Education and Information Chair - Liam Sinclair lsinclair@harper-adams.ac.uk

Liam Sinclair, now leads the new E&C group. He has identified a number of participants who had agreed to join this group. These include Pinder Gill (Industry), Jonathan Long (Farmers Weekly), Bevis Millar (Education) and Henry Greathead (Leeds University). The group are keen to take information to a wider audience in an exciting and fresh form through magazines like Animal Bytes.

Council agreed that a BSAS educational input is an important part of the BSAS strategy document but, that an audit of relevant information and providers is initially needed before deciding how to proceed.

Marketing and Recruitment Group Chair - Melissa Royal mdroyal@liverpool.ac.uk

Our newest group is looking at how marketing can become a core activity of the Society.

This group will also cover sponsorship, some of the PR & public profile issues and recruitment.

International Group Chair - Peter Rowlinson peter.rowlinson@newcastle.ac.uk

This group covers issues outside of Europe and runs regular overseas conferences and workshops on topical issues that also help strengthen sister organizations in developing countries. They are very keen to attract fresh input.

Student Council

Carol-Anne Duthie is the new chair of SC and recently attended the T&E group meeting in Edinburgh to report on student activities past and those planned for 2008 and the 2009 Annual Conference. A student event is being planned at Reading University this autumn.

Carol-Anne is studying for her PhD at SAC in Edinburgh and took over the reins from Ryan Law at AFBI in Northern Ireland. Ryan recently completed his PhD successfully so congratulations to him. Maybe the SC is becoming a successful springboard for career options.

Livestock and Global Climate Change - Tunisia, May 2008

Over 130 delegates from 36 countries covering 6 continents attended a really thought provoking conference and workshops in Tunisia late last month confirming the timeliness and global importance of the subject. Key players from emerging and developed countries in the animal science and related fields attended. Further information including the proceedings, powerpoint presentations and full workshop outputs are available at www.bsas.org.uk.

The selection of Tunisia couldn't have been better. Not only were our hosts kindness themselves, but the proposition that Tunisia was in the front line for climate change impact was spot on. This was very evident during the day long visits undertaken by delegates to look at arid and semi arid landscapes and their farming systems and to see some of the early research work that the Tunisians were undertaking.



This followed two days of interactive presentations covering setting the scene; food for thought; mitigation; adaptation, animal health and coping strategies for nutritional and management tools and socio-economic impacts. The visit and programme were well timed and gave everyone ample networking time.



The last day contained workshops on

1. Identifying stakeholder priorities (mitigation/adaptation),
2. Identifying research priorities,
3. Getting information and results into practice.

The discussions within these groups, based their discussions around four questions that aimed to distil the main messages from the conference and to help formulate future activities in this area.

1. What are the current gaps in knowledge?
2. What areas and/or stakeholders were missing from the meeting?
3. What options are available to mitigate?
4. What options are available to adapt?

The stakeholder group identified a lack of baseline information to provide a point of reference from a local to a global level. They wanted better methods for standardising impacts, adaptation and mitigation measures and better information flows between disciplines, groups and regions.



The research priority group agreed that solutions to mitigation and adaptation are likely to be fundamentally different for "developed" and "developing" countries. They wanted baseline figures to enable fair comparisons between species, systems, regions and countries and a common "currency": to value all aspects of a system (including economic, biological, environmental and social aspects).

The dissemination group felt that the problem of Climate Change was a global one but the solutions are sub-regional and the application local. As such knowledge and information should have a local relevance, be evidence based and accept past experience.

Look at www.bsas.org.uk for the proceedings, powerpoint presentations (pdfs) and full workshop outputs.

BSAS was pleased to work with partners INRA, ICARDA, FAO, EAAP, ILRI, and very grateful for the assistance of the Tunisian Ministries of Agriculture and the Environment and OEP and IRESA locally, as well as generous support from CIHEAM, CIRAD, the Scottish Government, DFID/RIU, ESF and IFS.



Organisers Ali Nefazoui, Mike Steele, Mohammed El Mourid and Geoff Simm enjoy the photoshoot.