

**BSAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE
 Southport 2009**

Nearly 300 delegates attended this year's Annual meeting at Southport. The weather wasn't as good as in 2007 but the atmosphere in the newly refurbished and extended conference venue was excellent.

Student Sunday

Over 40 participants turned up for the Student Sunday where they joined in a number of lively sessions in the Scarisbrick Hotel. Jamie Newbold talked about *careers in academia and thesis writing* whilst Nigel Scollan tackled *publishing scientific papers*. Mike Steele, as a late replacement for the real but sadly unwell podcasters, covered *interviewing skills* and ran a hands on workshop. Sessions on Monday morning covered *grants* (Geoff Simm) and *careers* (John Davies).

It's a great tribute to Student Council that this event was very well organised and attended, as well as being very interactive. The theme of investing in young people (part of the BSAS five-year plan) continues to make significant progress. There is likely to be a further Student Event at the Liverpool conference on Positive Husbandry of Young Animals 2-4 September and your ideas for this would be very welcome.



Student Council also organised a very entertaining quiz on the Tuesday evening of the main conference. Lots of prizes and winners – everyone enjoyed the buffet and competition.



New SC Chair is Catherine Hale

now of Hartpury College
 The main BSAS Annual Meeting got underway at Monday lunch time running through until Wednesday midday. The *Equine sessions* were very well received and this discipline now seems to be a regular at the Annual Conference. The Minister for Farming and the Environment was unfortunately hospitalized, but Prof. Maggie Gill stepped in to play a superb substitute's role in the *Food & Feed Security* session which, along with *Climate Change*, was both topical and interactive.

The Hammond Lecture by Professor Ian Givens on '*Milk and meat in our diet - good or bad for health and wealth*' was packed and very interesting, as was the well chaired joint WPSA/ BSAS session on *conflicts between consumer requirements and food security*.

Delegates also enjoyed the sessions in their specific disciplines. This year there were no more than three parallel sessions running at any one time and with the new theatre rooms so close together the audiences could switch about without getting out of breath! The submitted sessions had both full and mini format presentations. Presenters are getting used to the latter so timing is improving. This year's posters were also much better than in the previous two years. Programme committee

Inside this issue...

Annual Conference	1
Prizes and Awards BSAS Diaries and Notebooks	2
President Council Members Hon Membership Commercial group Animal Animal Bytes Belfast 2010	3
Future conferences Obituary	4

**Positive Husbandry
 of the Young
 Animal
 from conception to
 weaning**

3-4 September 2009
 Liverpool

**Call for Papers
 15 May 2009**

**BSAS Diaries and
 Notebooks buy
 yours now -
 see page 2**

Mike Steele's new email
mike.steele@bsas.org.uk

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>

had put a lot of work into weeding out potential 'no-shows' and thus there are relatively few empty spaces on the poster boards. Most authors of posters were also involved in discussion sessions during the extended breaks. Feedback showed that, although not necessarily over subscribed, these session gave most presenters much more profile and exposure.

The BSAS Powerpoint presentations from the 2009 meeting will shortly be on the members area of the BSAS website.

This year both the conference dinner and Tuesday buffet night were held in the conference venue and were both very well attended. Speeches were reduced and prize giving maximized.

Prizes and Awards

Sir John Hammond Prize

Professor Steve Bishop was awarded the 2009 Sir John Hammond Memorial Prize "*in recognition of his outstanding contribution to research in animal disease genetics, particularly to understanding genetic resistance of ruminants to nematode parasites and to exploring opportunities to breed animals for enhanced disease resistance by combining genetic and epidemiological approaches.*" Instead of a speech he gave a very good presentation in the genetics session on '*Animal Disease Genetics: Understanding and Utilising Opportunities.*'

BSAS/RSPCA Award for Innovative Developments in Animal Welfare 2009

This was awarded to Prof Paul McGreevy, Associate Dean for Learning and Teaching, and Associate Professor, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney "*for his significant contributions to research in horse and dog behaviour and welfare.*" In Paul's absence the prize was accepted by Julia Wrathall of the RSPCA and will be given to Paul when he visits the UK later this year.



Professor Jamie Newbold (centre), with President Prize winners 2008 who were highly commended Miss Nicola Blackie Writtle College and Mohammad Khan, University of Newcastle. Julia Wrathall, RSPCA, with the engraved bowl for Professor Paul McGreevy and Professor Steve Bishop with his Hammond scroll.



Presidents Prizes 2009

We are grateful to the judges of these awards; they must remain 'unnamed' but they do an enormous amount of work racing from paper to paper to judge the best – they know who they are – THANKS

Theatre

Winner

Paper No. 120. E Rius-Vilarrasa SAC Edinburgh.
Genetic parameters for carcass dimensional measurements from Video Image Analysis and the association with conformation and fat class scores.

Two Highly Commended awards

Paper No. 31. L. Brunton University of Leeds.
A comparison of the gut microbiota in indoor and outdoor reared pigs.

Paper No. 118. E A. Navajas SAC Edinburgh.
X-ray computed tomography accurately assesses beef carcass composition.

Short theatre presentation

Winner

Paper No. 33. A. Taylor University of Leeds.
The effects of sire genotype and the porcine circovirus type 2 on the growth performance of pigs from weaning to slaughter.

Poster

Winner

Paper No 235 Hanan Al-Khalifa, University of Reading
The effect of increasing levels of fish oil on some immune responses of broiler chickens

Winners and commended get cash prizes and will be presented with certificates at next year's conference dinner.

Diaries and Notebooks - excellent buy

BSAS Diaries (£8.00) and notebooks (£4.00). Contact fiona.ferguson@sac.ac.uk to order your copy.



BSAS President

Dr Sinclair Mayne from Northern Ireland is your new BSAS President. Sinclair is the Scientific Adviser for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Sinclair has worked in research and development for over 25 years, initially at the Grassland Research Institute in England, and then at the Agricultural Research Institute of Northern Ireland, Hillsborough, which became part of the Agri Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) in 2006. His research work has focused on grass production and utilisation and improving the efficiency of milk production systems.

Sinclair is a previous winner of the Hammond Memorial Award (1996) for “research in grassland utilisation under grazing and conservation” and also won the British Grassland Society Award (2001) for “contribution to the understanding and application of grassland and forage crop husbandry and technology.” He was awarded Fellowship of the Royal Agricultural Societies in 2004.

Commercial group

BSAS is keen to improve its delivery to commercial members and has set up an ad hoc group of commercial animal scientists to identify what services they want and how BSAS might provide them.

The number of commercial members had declined at a faster rate than those from academia and BSAS is aware that this is not just a reflection of a smaller commercial sector. The group is meeting (without BSAS) in early May and will feed into the BSAS Presidents meeting that convenes in Edinburgh in Mid May.

ANIMAL on line and searchable

Cambridge University Press (the publisher of ANIMAL) is going to digitalise the whole of the *Animal Science* journal and make it open access to scientists. This will make a whole data base of relevant science available worldwide.

Watch this space!

New Council members

Three new Council members were appointed at the AGM in Southport.

- Violet Beattie is from Northern Ireland where she works in the commercial sector for Devenish Nutrition.
- Richard Dewhurst is with Teagasc in Ireland and is one of the section editors for ANIMAL.
- Mike Rose is a lecturer in animal science at Aberystwyth University

We are very grateful to the outgoing members Angela Wright, Liam Sinclair and David Kenny

Honorary Membership

At the AGM in Southport members unanimously elected Reg Preston an honorary member of the society. This was in recognition of the enormous amount of work that he has undertaken in developing countries and the fact that he is still an active member of BSAS after 52 years' membership. Reg came all the way from Colombia to collect his award and gave a presentation on *climate change, biochar and carbon sequestration* as part of an extended climate change and animal health/ welfare session.

In the AGM Reg talked about his decision to go and work in Cuba at a very early stage in his career. He felt he had been lucky to have had the opportunity to work in animal science at grassroots level and still continued to do so. Reg lives in Colombia but also works on projects in south-east Asia.

Animal Bytes

The Animal Bytes electronic magazine(see www.bsas.org.uk) has received a shot in the financial arm. A number of the levy board organizations including DairyCo, BPEX, EBLEX and AgriSearch have signed up to support AB over at least the next three years. They will have an input into the subject areas appearing in AB and will distribute the links to their clients who are predominately farmers. Thus BSAS will once again be getting back to grass roots with independent sound science that is now much easier to read. There will now be 6 issues per year of 12 articles and a new website is under construction to allow the storage of more and easier to search information. If you haven't seen the magazine please go and have a look – all comments welcome.

Belfast 2010 - Annual Conference

Remember the next annual meeting is **12-14 April 2010 in Belfast**. The theme is “Food, Feed, Energy and Fibre from Land – A Vision for 2020” and will address future challenges and opportunities for land use. The Conference will be held in Queen's University. You'll get a fantastic Irish welcome and if you haven't been to the city recently then its incredibly vibrant and cosmopolitan. Its also real easy to fly either into Belfast City (15 minutes from the venue) or Belfast International on the low cost carriers. There is the ferry option as well from Scotland or Liverpool. If you do come across consider adding time to visit the Island of Ireland – it really is a magical place.

Future Conferences

2009

2-4 June	Integrated Farming Systems, Edinburgh (AAB/BSAS)
24-27 August	EAAP 2009, Barcelona, Spain (EAAP) see www.
3-4 September	Positive Husbandry for Young Animals, from Conception to Weaning, Liverpool (BSAS)
7 October	Life Cycle Analysis, The Motor Cycle Museum, Solihull (Nr Birmingham Airport) BSAS/SFT
December	Climate Change, The Midlands (NUTSOC/BSAS)

2010

12-14 April	Annual Conference, Belfast (BSAS, Irish Agricultural Research Forum, WPSA and AAB)
20-22 September	European Conference on Equine Nutrition (EWEN), RAC, Cirencester
9-13 November	Indigenous Knowledge as a Resource in Developing Livestock Systems, Nepal

AAB Edinburgh, 2-4 June 2009

Integrated Farming Systems. Integrated farming Systems. This conference is a forerunner of future BSAS events in that it will bring together economists, cropping folk and animal scientists so a really integrated approach! There will be a mixture of presentations and workshops. The themes are:

- Tools of the trade
- Lessons to be learnt
- The way forward

There are some Papers and posters from the conference will be reproduced in a volume of *Aspects of Applied Biology*, which will be available to delegates at the conference. Full papers will be encouraged to be submitted for publication in *Annals of Applied Biology*. <http://www.aab.org.uk/>

Positive Husbandry for Young Animals, from Conception to Weaning, Liverpool Hope University, 3-4 September 2009

There is growing scientific evidence that early (pre and post-natal) experiences can have long-term implications for health, welfare and productivity of animals. The exciting potential of this research area can be improved by discussions across species and the sharing of current knowledge. There is also a need to improve the transfer of knowledge from research studies to practical outcomes. The target of the conference is to address the knowledge gap and to bring together existing experience in this area of research www.bsas.org.uk/Meetings_&_Workshops/Meetings/ **CALL FOR PAPERS 15 MAY 2009**

Life cycle analysis of the carbon outputs from ruminant agriculture, 7 October 2009

BSAS is working with the Society of Feed Technologists in running a one day workshop on Life Cycle Analysis at Motor Cycle Museum, NEC Birmingham.

There is both an increasing interest in the use of life cycle analysis to establish the carbon footprint of ruminant products and a lack of consensus on the appropriate methodology, framework and boundaries within which estimates should be made. In this workshop we intend to bring together scientists, policy makers and representatives of the ruminant production industry and the food chain to explore these issues with the aim of stimulating debate and reaching a consensus on the most appropriate methodologies to use within the sector. A morning of presentations and an afternoon of discussion.

Professor Trevor Morris

We regret to announce the death of longstanding member Professor Trevor Morris on 2 February 2009.

Trevor Morris was a Reading man joining the University as a demonstrator in the Department of Agriculture in 1951 and progressing up through Lecturer and Reader in the 1950s and 1960s. He was given the personal title of Reader in Agriculture in 1969 and conferred as Professor of Agriculture in 1981 in the Department of Agriculture and Horticulture. He was Head of the Department from 1984 to 1991 as Professor of Animal Production. He was appointed Director of the Bernard Weitz Centre in April 1992, before taking early retirement later that year when he became an Emeritus Professor.

Trevor was a regular attendee at BSAS annual meetings and an enthusiastic member of the society and will be sadly missed.