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Annual Meeting York 2001



The outgoing President Professor Jeff Wood and Dr John Milne, this year's President, view the scientific posters at the Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting went ahead at York, Easter week 9-11 April, with strict Foot and Mouth Disease precautions in place. Nearly 400 delegates attended the BSAS, WPSA and ISAE meetings that ran simultaneously in the new venue. Not everyone was able to come because of the restrictions, but those who did enjoyed a good technical conference and an opportunity to discuss the future for the UK Livestock Industry. A limited number of sessions were postponed including the farmers' session 'Improving Beef Production Systems - The Way Forward'; 'Integrated Pollution, Prevention and Control Regulations'; and 'Ethical Issues in Animal Science'. The latter will be part of the 2002 meeting. Despite not being able to come many members sent their posters for display and all papers submitted were published in the book of summaries.

If you would like a copy of the book or a CD the office has some for sale (£30 to members and £40 to non-members). The publications will be on the website for members (password access). Details of your password will be included with your list of members 2001 (inside front cover) or contact bsasstaff@ed.sac.ac.uk.

Two last minute sessions were introduced. Professor Dave Rowlands from Leeds University gave an excellent technical paper on 'Foot & mouth - the virus and its transmission' and Professor Cled Thomas led a Roundtable discussion on the 'Perception of the UK Livestock Industry'. Both were very well attended as was the Hammond lecture on 'Is food Safe' by Sir John Krebs.

The conference facilities, especially the theatres and exhibition areas were excellent. Powerpoint was again the most popular means of presenting information and technically all went well thanks to the hard work of speakers, chairpeople and technical assistants. There are things we need to improve for next year including better value lunches, a social programme, more bar time, better signs and easier ways to find your bedroom and its key. Next year we may try the Railway Museum for the conference dinner. Given it was a new start and with the industry in turmoil we were pleased the conference went as well as it did.

Unfortunately the meeting will result in a loss to the Society as some 150 -200 delegates were unable to come. However, BSAS Council is confident that going ahead was the most constructive avenue to take.

Next Annual meeting 8-10 April 2002.

Animal science goes on line!

If you click on the BSAS website at www.bsas.org.uk, you will find the February and April 2001 editions of the journal and the October and December 2000 issues. Please do go and have a look and tell us what you think. We will be asking you to choose between having just an electronic version or an electronic version + hardcopy of the journal. Your future subscription will reflect what you decide to do. We appreciate the on-line journal is not for everyone but it does have significant advantages in that you will get it sooner (there is in fact a plan to make it monthly on line) and will be searchable. The abstracts of the journal on the website are open to everyone and we would encourage you to get colleagues to take a look. Shortly we will be issuing everyone with a password so that members of BSAS can access the whole journal. This will come with your membership list in mid-June, if you would like it sooner then send an email request to bsasstaff@ed.sac.ac.uk. An enormous amount of work has been put into producing this on-line version, particularly by the BSAS editorial team and our printer D & J Croal (Ken Whitson). Please go and have a look and tell us what you think. We need to know if you have any difficulties so that we can sort them out as quickly as possible.

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**What Price Cheap Food?
25-26 June 2001
now moved to
York 2002**

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Summer Placement Schemes

BSAS has some interesting summer placements available for 2001*. If you know of undergraduate students (in their penultimate year of study) who would like to undertake a piece of research lasting six to eight weeks then contact us NOW. Each placement attracts £500 from BSAS, which is matched by a participating company or academic/research organisation. The project can be part of a larger programme but students must be able to complete a coherent piece of work in the time period.

If your organisation is interested in participating by offering a research project then we would also like to hear from you. **The Rare breeds Survival Trust is looking for help in completing milk production characteristics for Red Poll and Gloucester cattle.*

BSAS Annual Meeting, 8-10 April 2002 University of York

Following the first meeting of BSAS at York in 2001, the Society and in particular the Programme Committee have learnt a lot on how we might improve the meeting for 2002. These include better provision of sign posting, improved co-ordination between the different society's meetings, better and cheaper lunches and longer bar hours. They will also be looking at how they might identify better value accommodation for students. Despite the fact that the York 2002 Meeting is still some ten months off, Technical & Ethical and Programme Committee have already put their head together with some ideas for invited sessions for next year. In this respect they are very grateful for the large number of people who sent in possible topics. Inevitably it will not be possible to incorporate them all. Below is a list of topics that the Programme Committee will be looking at to see whether invited sessions can be developed. If you work in any of the areas then we would be grateful for contact from you so that we can put you in contact with the organisers of the relevant session. The Ethical issues programme for this year is being held over to 2002. New sessions include :

- Risk Assessment (feed to food, economic consequences, techniques, epidemiology)
- Enhancing Immune Responses
- Enzymes in feed resources
- Leptins
- Implications of World population increase on demand for animal products - a talk by Dr Chrissie Peacock, Farm Africa
- Aquaculture
- Nutritional Standards – feedback session.

Some of these sessions will have two or three invited speakers, but a number will only have one so that research works can be included as submitted papers. If you feel any of these areas are of interest to you and would like to help please contact the office. The New President, Dr John Milne, is working on a President's session that is likely to look at a number of aspects of animal science and how they relate to practical farming systems. The Hammond draft title is 'Has animal science failed society'.

Jon Day and Alistair Lawrence are organising an invited consensus meeting on 'Farrowing Care and the Welfare of Pregnant Sows'. This is likely to be held adjacent to the York 2002 meeting and will be by invitation. If you are interested then please contact us. The aim will be to bring together relevant parties and agree common ground for future progress.

Subscription changes

The AGM agreed that the BSAS membership subscription, would change from January 2002 to the following :

- Ordinary membership including the on-line version of the journal £55 annually
- Ordinary membership including the on-line version of the journal and the hardcopy £75 annually
- Retired members and postgraduates would continue to get half price membership
- Students would get free membership but no access to the journal

The increases in the membership reflect BSAS coming more into line with other societies and involve approximately £10 increase to all members. The additional cost of having the paper version reflects the very expensive production costs and postage. We know everybody does not have access to the internet and are happy to continue to provide hardcopies but this can now only be done at cost. When you look at the on-line journal and decide you are quite happy to accept it, then we would be interested to know whether you would also be happy to forego the remaining paper copies for 2001. It would save the society a great deal of money if you could tell us by August you did not require the remaining issues. Please look at the on-line version and make your decision. Currently there is no plan to produce a CD version of the journal, although we appreciate that those of you who are using telephone links to download information would find a CD much quicker. There are difficulties in up-dating CDs on a regular basis.

AGM 2001 - changes to the Society

The AGM attracted a slightly smaller audience than usual, owing to the Foot and Mouth crisis. They did however agree a number of important changes to the Constitution of BSAS. These include the discontinuation of the post of Junior Vice-President and the reduction in elected members of Council from four to three annually with immediate effect.

These have now been combined with other changes to the management structure of the society. Representatives of EAAP, IOB and the Press Officer now sit on the Technical & Ethical Committee. The size of Council will now come down from 24 to nearer 16 and over the next two years decrease by one person per year. These changes means that the Council will be better able to discuss and make decisions. Council will primarily meet in September and in January each year in London. Publications and Presidents Committee will be held adjacent to these meetings. The Presidents Committee will also meet informally at the York Annual Meeting. As well as making the management structure more efficient this will obviously have cost saving implications for the Society.

Below you will find a list of elected officers of the Society. It is hoped that everyone on Council will also sit on one of the standing committees. The contact addresses of the officers are to be found in the membership list. Please feel free to contact them on any relevant matter relating to the Society.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dr John A Milne	President
Prof Emyr Owen	Senior Vice-President
Dr Brian C Cooke	Honorary Treasurer
Mr Mike A Steele	Secretary
Mrs Joyce Darling	Finance Officer
Prof John C MacRae	Publications Chairman
Prof Steve C Bishop	Programme Chairman
Prof Geoff Simm	T& E Chairman
Dr Rosemary E Agnew	Elected 1999
Mr Mike W Lemmey	1999
Prof Mike A Lomax	1999
Dr Kevin D Sinclair	1999
Dr John O'Doherty	2000
Dr Nigel D Scollan	2000
Dr Peter E V Williams	2000
Dr Alexander (Sandy) M MacKenzie	2001
Dr John C Alliston	2001
Dr Peter Rowlinson	2001

PRESIDENTS COMMITTEE

Dr John A Milne	BSAS President
Prof Emyr Owen	Senior Vice-President
Prof Jeff D Wood	Ex-President
Dr Brian C Cooke	Honorary Treasurer
Prof Steve C Bishop	Programme Committee
Prof John C MacRae	Publications Committee
Prof Geoff Simm	T&E Committee
Mr Mike A Steele	Secretary
Mrs Joyce Darling	Finance Officer

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Prof Steve C Bishop	Chairman
Dr Robert G Wilkinson	Secretary
Dr Michael G Diskin	
Dr Pauline A Lee	
Prof Mike A Lomax	
Dr Jeremy N Marchant	
Dr Caroline Rymer	
Dr J George Perrott	
Dr Peter Rowlinson	
Dr John O'Doherty	
Dr Peter E V Williams	
Dr Paul Rose (co-opted WPSA)	

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Prof John C MacRae	Chairman
Dr Neil D Cameron	Secretary
Mrs Hilary Davies	Executive Editor
Mrs Carol Woolliams	Technical Editor
Dr Brian C Cooke	BSAS Honorary Treasurer
Dr Jes R Scaife	
Dr Alexander (Sandy) M MacKenzie	
Dr Nigel D Scollan	
Mrs Joyce Darling	Finance Officer

TECHNICAL & ETHICAL

Prof Geoff Simm	Chairman
Dr Lindsay Heasman	Secretary
Dr Jean K Margerison	IOB
Dr Phil P Garnsworthy	EAAP Rep/International
Dr Alistair F Carson	PR
Dr Janice I Harland	Press Officer
Dr Kevin D Sinclair	
Dr Jon E L Day	
Dr John R Newbold	
Dr Alan J Duncan	
Dr John C Alliston	

NEW HONORARY MEMBERS

Three new Honorary Members were elected at the AGM in York, Professor J J Robinson, Dr M Bichard and Dr J O'Grady. The Society is very pleased to recognise members in this way for the contribution they have made either to the Society or animal science. John Robinson and Jim O'Grady are past Presidents of the Society and have been very active within the Committee structure over a long period. Maurice Bichard has worked tirelessly and very successfully within EAAP to help improve efficiency and to respond to members needs.

Newsletter goes electronic

This is the first electronic Newsletter sent out to all those members who did not ask to retain a paper version or have not supplied their email address to BSAS. Paper version is being sent to those who requested it. If you contact the office we will send you one. In the future we hope electronic mail will mean getting information quicker and perhaps more often. The Society will also save on printing and postage which will enable us to keep down subscription levels. We would be very interested to hear of any difficulties that you have had in receiving your electronic newsletter or any suggestions you have on how we might improve it. The newsletter will continue to be available on the website.

SCHOLARSHIPS and AWARDS

President Prize

BSAS is always pleased to give awards to young scientists for their presentations. This year the judges awarded the best theatre presentation to Catherine Bertenshaw, University of Newcastle for her paper on *'The influence of positive human-animal interaction during rearing on the welfare and subsequent production of the dairy heifer I'*

The best poster presentation went to Adam Lock, University of Nottingham for his poster on *'Conjugated linoleic acid in cows milk: independent effects of dietary linoleic and linolenic fatty acids'*.

The winners received £100 and a certificate which will be presented at the Annual Meeting Dinner in York 2002.

The judges also commended Caroline Docking, ADAS, Terrington for her presentation on *'The effect of stocking density, group size and boar presence on the behaviour, aggression and skin damage of sows mixed in a specialised mixing pen at weaning'*.

Issue Papers

T&E Committee is keen to produce more 'Issue Papers' and has identified a number of topics which it feels would be important and relevant. These include food safety, transport, risk, animal movements and the use of animals in research. The latter is becoming a very hot topic and of much interest to the general public.

EAAP 2001, 26-29 August 2001 Budapest Hungary

The full programme for this year's EAAP meeting can be found on the EAAP website. Go via the BSAS links or www.eaap.org/events.htm BSAS is not running an organised package this year because the accommodation provided is already good value and there are a number of cheap flights available from the UK, from organisations such as Trail Finders.. There are a number of interesting satellites including 'Endangered Native Animal Breeds'; 'Preparing and Representing Scientific Papers' – contact Phil Garnsworthy for further details phil.garnsworthy@nottingham.ac.uk, 'Teaching of Animal Production Sciences in Central and Eastern European Countries', as well as the Interbull Meeting and a course for PhD students on 'Computation of Random and Fixed Effects in Animal Breeding with the Pest Package'. There is also a satellite workshop on 'Mammary Gland Biotechnology'.

RSPCA/BSAS Award for Innovative Developments in Animal Welfare

This award was presented to Don Broom, University of Cambridge, in recognition of Don's immense contribution to influencing EU regulation, legislation and 'thinking' through his participation in committees in Brussels and elsewhere.

The Sir John Hammond Memorial Award

Christopher Haley, Roslin Institute, Edinburgh, received the award in recognition of his contribution to research in animal genetics, particularly genomic analysis and the identification of genes controlling commercially important traits in pigs. Also for his outstanding ability to communicate genetic principles to the animal science community.

Continuing Professional Development

At its recent meeting Technical and Ethical Committee discussed progress on setting up a CPD scheme for BSAS. Bruce Cottrill has been holding discussions on behalf of BSAS with the Nutrition Society who already run a successful register for nutritionists in the public health field. Whilst there is currently no statutory need to be a registered animal scientist, future legislation from the EU is likely to mean that it would be advantageous for advisors to be registered and thus accredited. A number of consultants in the industry are very keen for such a scheme to be put in place. A CPD Scheme would also help BSAS by encouraging more delegates to attend BSAS meetings.

Books

Linkages, Livestock and Livelihoods

Proceedings of the first interagency meeting on Livestock Production and Animal Health, 6-7 December 2000, Imperial College, Wye, Kent, UK. This is a summary of the meeting that brought together all those interested in livestock research for poor people in an effort to improve co-ordination. Copies are available from the Research, Dissemination and Promotion Manager, NRI International Ltd, Pembroke, Chatham, Kent Telephone 01634 883498. Email: nrinternational@tre.ac.uk website: www.nrinternational.co.uk

Practical Pig Keeping by Paul Smith

This provides up to date information on the pig industry and gives clear advice on how to test the suitability of the would be pig keeper to set up his own unit. Includes technical information needed to obtain successful breeding and correct nutrition as well as the best way to manage finishing pigs. Details on the breeding sow, raising piglets and pig health matters as well as sections on showing pigs, organic farming and how to market and sell produce. Published by Crowood Press, price £18.99. ISBN 1861263880 Crowood Press Ltd, The Stable Block, Crowood Lane, Ramsbury, Marlborough, SN8 2HR www.crowood.com Paul Smith is ex-ADAS and you will find his contact details in the membership list.

ATAA Manual for the Transportation of Live Animals (2nd Edition)

A digest of all regulations concerning legislation (documentation vehicle construction, species requirements, marketing and labelling and handling procedures. Covers road, air and sea (£45 including p&p). Details – Harris Associates Ltd PO Box 251 Redhill, RH1 5FU England, Tel: +44 (0)1737 822249, Fax: +44 (0)1737 822954 Email: 100257.1720@compuserve.com

Future BSAS Meetings

- 11-12 September 2001** **Integrated Management Systems for Livestock**, Cambridge
A joint BSAS/ Institute of Agricultural Engineering meeting which focuses upon sustainable production of livestock using integrated management systems to monitor and control the main production processes. It will deal comprehensively with both biological knowledge and engineering technology needed for successful production to ensure high quality product, efficiently produced with minimum environmental cost.
- 4-6 October 2001** **Organic meat and milk from ruminants**,
BSAS and the Hellenic Society of Animal Production are running this joint meeting in October 2001 in Athens on Organic production from Ruminants. This will take the form of 8 invited keynote papers as well as over 40 submitted theatre and poster papers, discussions and workshops. The keynote papers will include:
The future of the European market for organic produce - opportunities and challenges. *Prof Steen Kristensen & Prof S Milan Thamsborg, Denmark.*
Standards, regulations & legislation. *Prof G Rahman, Germany.*
Animal health and Welfare issues. *Dr G Arsenos, Greece & Drs S Athanasiadou & I Kyriazakis, UK.*
The product quality and health implications for organic production. *Dr M Kouba, France*
The impact of organic agriculture on socio-economic structures. *Prof G Siardos, Greece*
The development of suitable farming systems. *Dr I Wright, UK, Prof L Louloudis & Prof G Zervas, Greece*
Marketing and consumer awareness. *Dr C Brown, UK*
Research in organic animal production. *Dr C Dabbert & A Haring Germany*
- The meeting will be held at a dedicated conference centre in Athens with a Thur-Fri programme and an optional cultural visit to Delphi or workshop on the Saturday. Athens is an easy venue to reach from most other European cities, as well as being very friendly and attractive. EAAP is supporting this meeting. [Cheap registration fee until 30 June 2001.](#)
- From the UK you can currently get schedule airline fares from about £190 plus taxes to Athens through consolidators like Trailfinders (020 7937 1234). BA, Olympic, Virgin & Easyjet* all fly direct. You can also fly from UK regional airports on many European carriers via their hub airports to Athens. (KLM, Sabena, Air France and Lufthansa). The new Athens airport is scheduled to be open by this spring but not the metro system that will eventually connect it to the city centre. If you book a flight please let the office know and we will see if transport can be organised to get you to the venue. * Easyjet currently has returns from £117 (see www.easyjet.co.uk)
- 7/8 April 2002** **What price cheap food?**
A joint SCAWS/BSAS Workshop, University of York
A meeting that brings together farmers, consumer representatives, supermarket managers, legislators, animal welfare groups, environmentalists and animal scientists to discuss the implications of a cheap food policy. Speakers include Jules Pretty from Essex; Nick Hanley from Glasgow; Ben Gill, NFU; Mike Appleby and Colin Whitemore from Edinburgh; John Milne (BSAS President 2001-2002), MLURI; Bridget Drew, ADAS; and Andy Redfern from Traidcraft. They will tackle how food prices are determined, externalities, farm income and security, animal welfare, environmental impact and food safety.
- 8-10 April 2002** **BSAS Annual Meeting**
University of York. Contact BSAS for further details or see page 3.
- 2/3 July 2002** **Nutrition Society/BSAS joint Meeting.**
University of Leeds, July 2002. On Tuesday, 2nd there are joint sessions on 'The nutrition of farm animals outdoors', covering pigs and poultry as well as ruminants. On Wednesday, 3rd there are symposia of two of the Groups within the Nutrition Society of direct relevance to Animal Science: the Nutrition and Behaviour Group's 'Behavioural responses to parasitism' and the Animal Nutrition and Metabolism Group's 'Quality of products from extensive systems'. This will make for a comprehensive 2-day programme for members of BSAS. Further details will be available later in the year.
- 12-15 November 2002** **Responding to the increasing global demand for animal products, Merida, Mexico.**

Other Meetings

- 26-29 August 2001** **EAAP 2001, Budapest Hungary**
See page 4 - www.eaap.org/events.htm
- 19-22 November, 2001** **Sustainable crop-livestock production for improved livelihoods and natural resource management in West Africa**
Ibadan, Nigeria. For further details contact Tim Williams, ILRI/IITA, PMB 5320, Oyo Road, Ibadan, Nigeria. Tel: (00234-2) 241-2626 Fax:(00234-2) 241-2221, Email: t.o.williams@cgjar.org
- 25-28 November 2001** **Australasian Pig Science Association Conference**
Adelaide Festival Centre, King William Road, Adelaide, Australia. Contact: APSA Secretariat, Belinda Rodda, 13 Heston Court, Paralowie, SA 5108, Australia. Tel: +61-8-8250 2559
Fax: +61-8-8524 5188 or bindy@senet.com.au or <http://www.apsa.asn.au>
- 3-4 January 2002** **The 36th Annual University of Nottingham Feed Conference**
This conference will be held on January 3rd/4th 2002. To register interest, please contact: phil.garnsworthy@nottingham.ac.uk
- 15-17 April 2002** **Conservation Pays?**
To be held at the University of Lancaster. Contact Jan Crichton on bgs@patrol.i-way.co.uk or telephone 00 44 (0) 1189 318189, British Grassland Society, 1 Earley Gate, Reading RG6 6AT
- 13-15 June 2002** **RRI-INRA 2002 'Beyond antimicrobials – the future of gut microbiology'**
This is an international conference to be held in Aberdeen Scotland. The conference aims to promote the understanding of the complex microbial ecosystems, which are present in the digestive tract and their interaction with the host. The conference will deal with topical issues and recent findings of relevance to scientists interested in the microbiology of the digestive tracts of man and animals, as well as to others concerned with health aspects relating to gut fermentation. More details can be obtained from the web site at <http://www.rri.sari.ac.uk/RRI-INRA2002/> or by Email to rri-inra2002@rri.sari.ac.uk or from Dr John Wallace Fax (+44)-1224-716687.
- 9 September 2002** **The next conference in the highly successful Nottingham 'Pig Science'**
'Perspectives in Pig Science' will be the fourth such event, to be organised by Dr Julian Wiseman (Nottingham), Dr Mike Varley (SCA) and Prof Bas Kemp (Wageningen). To register interest, please contact: julian.wiseman@nottingham.ac.uk