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Animal Science goes on-line

The launch of the electronic version of the journal is now planned for April 2001. During 2001 members will have access to both the e-version and hardcopy of the journal. By January 2002 they will be asked to choose whether they wish to take either on-line or on-line and hard copy. An extra membership fee of £20 will be required for the hard copy.

At its recent meeting in London, Council viewed a very attractive model of the on-line journal for the December 2000 issue and by April members will have both February and April 2001 on screen. The plan is to encourage members who will be opting for the 'electronic version only' in 2002 to give up their hard copies during 2001. The sooner they do this then the more savings on printing and postage BSAS will make which helps keep future membership dues down.

The editorial team of *Animal Science* have a number of ideas that they wish to introduce which will enhance the Journal.

- Once the on-line version is safely launched they want to move to monthly issues for the electronic version whilst retaining the hard copy at its current two monthly frequency.
- A series of review papers will be commissioned by each of the editorial sections so that each two monthly issue will have a review paper. This should help boost the impact factor.
- The inclusion of reviews means slightly less space for submitted papers which means raising the rejection rate and consequently tightening up on the journal's quality.
- An editorial page will be launched after August to discuss topical issues concerning the journal and Animal Science in general.
- A letters page to enable members and others to discuss papers will eventually be available for the electronic version of *Animal Science*.

2001 Scholars

Technical and Ethical committee recently decided on the recipients for scholarships in 2001.

The Sir Kenneth Blaxter Award

The Blaxter was awarded to Jos Houdijk who is taking a study tour to Denmark and giving a paper at the 18th International Conference of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology.

The Murray Black Award

The Black Award was given to Betina Winkler of Plymouth University who is visiting Institutes in the UK to discuss lameness in cattle.

The Alan Robertson Fund

The Alan Robertson was not awarded this year.

Sir John Hammond and the RSPCA/BSAS Welfare Awards

The winners of the Sir John Hammond Memorial and RSPCA/ BSAS Welfare awards will be announced at the Annual Meeting in York in April.

Braude Scholarship

Please note that the Braude Scholarship has been discontinued.

Summer Placement Schemes 2001

BSAS has summer placements available for 2001. Each placement will attract the sum of £500 from BSAS, which is matched by a participating company or academic/research organisation.

Students undertake a piece of research lasting six to eight weeks. This can be part of a larger programme but students must be able to complete a coherent piece of work in the time period.

If you are interested in participating as an organisation offering a research project or as a student wishing to experience research please contact BSAS as soon as possible.

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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@ed.sac.ac.uk
Website <http://www.bsas.org.uk>

AGM 2001 - Constitutional change

BSAS is acting to make its committee structure slimmer, more responsive and more interactive. All committees have been asked to reduce their numbers. The proposed changes should result in a Council of around 16 instead of the current 24. Having smaller committees should make decision-making and delegation of actions swifter and easier to manage. It will also help keep general costs of the Society down.

The changes currently include:

- IOB & EAAP representatives and the Press Officer who sit on Council will now join the T&E committee.
- Council will only meet formally in the Autumn and January. Its meeting at the Annual meeting will now become informal, taken over dinner and an evening reception.
- The post of Junior Vice President will be discontinued*.
- The number of ordinary members elected annually to Council will be reduced from four to three**.

The last two changes require amendments to the constitution and are being proposed to the AGM in April 2001. (If you want to see the current constitution see the BSAS website). If they are accepted at the AGM the electoral procedures will be altered immediately.

Amendment 1*

The post of Junior Vice-President be discontinued

This involves amending clauses 8, 10, 12, and 17 and striking out clause 11. This would take out reference to *Junior Vice-President* and amend the term *Senior Vice-President* to read *Vice-President*.

Amendment 2**

The number of ordinary members elected to Council each year be changed from four to three.

This involves amending clauses 8 & 9 of the constitution.

Membership Subscription

In line with many other societies BSAS is changing the level of subscription for its members to help finance the activities of the society. A proposal will go before the AGM in April that the subscription for members change from 1 January 2002 as follows:

The cost of being an ordinary BSAS member becomes £55 (currently £45). This will include free electronic access, through the website, to the:

- On-line version of *Animal Science*
- BSAS published proceedings of all occasional meetings during the year.
- Annual meeting proceedings

The cost of receiving the hard copy of the journal will be an additional £20 annually (Total =£75)

(Retired members and postgraduate student would continued to receive a 50% discount, undergraduates will get free membership but not access to the journal).

Council Members wanted

We need new members to join Council. If you are interested or know someone, who would benefit from and have a contribution to make to managing the Society, we need them to run for Council at the AGM in April.

The ordinary members of Council serve for three years and would normally join one of the BSAS standing committees (Publications, Programme or Technical & Ethical). Council will in future meet in the Autumn and January and the standing committees meet twice yearly. Meetings are commonly in London.

Each candidate requires a proposer and a seconder both of whom must be members. The proposer will be asked to say a few words to the AGM to introduce the candidate. Names to the Secretary by Monday 26 March please! He will also be happy to discuss relevant matters in confidence - tel: 01848 331437.

Annual Accounts

For full paying members there is a summary of BSAS accounts with this newsletter but if you would like a full set contact Joyce in the office. They will be discussed at the AGM where a financial outlook for the coming 12 months will also be presented. The accounts for the past year reflect a difficult year for the society with a fall in numbers of ordinary members and a deficit on the conferences that we ran. Income from the journal improved. You will be please to note that the prospects for the coming year are brighter. The move towards an electronic journal will save further production costs and boost its surplus. Conferences are being priced to cover central costs and saving are being made within the structure of the Society. We do need more members however and that is where you can help by recruiting someone you already know to join BSAS as a full member.

Co-operation/Sharing Resources

BSAS has, for some time, been thinking about working more closely with similar organisations. Here is the latest

British Grassland Society

BSAS and BGS had discussions in December 2000 to consider future co-operation and pooling resources.

The BGS is a similar organisation to BSAS with a large farmer membership, through a local group structure. Their subscription is currently £30 annually for 1200 members (including over 100 BSAS members). They have a scientific journal published by Blackwells and a practical magazine called *Grass Farmer*. Their meetings are predominantly practical agriculture with one scientific meeting held every two years (Aberdeen 2000). They will be running the UK part of the World Grassland Conference (UK & Ireland) in 2005.

The following topics were discussed:

- The early exchange of all newsletters, leaflets and journals so that information can be distributed within both society networks. This would also avoid clashes over similar meetings.
- The promotion of joint ventures, including meetings.
- Putting information from BSAS in the *Grass Farmer*. This would start with a 'profile of BSAS' and relevant articles from York 2001 to be placed in the August 2001 edition.
- BSAS attendance at BGS stands at events like the Dairy show.
- Sharing software for databases and accounts.
- Investigating joint benefits for members including insurance, car hire and credit cards.

Jan Crichton the BGS Chief -Executive designate is coming to York in April 2001.

Nutrition Society

Informal discussions were also held with the Nutrition Society, at their offices in Hammersmith, between Mike Steele and the Nutrition Society Secretary, Chris Dalby. They currently have around 2000 members (mainly human nutrition people), and produce, through CABI, four publications. Member subscription is £50 per year, which excludes the journal. Currently subscribers to the journal also receive the electronic version free.

NutSoc. is interested in:

- Exchanging information.
- Joint ventures. BSAS will be helping with a one-day animal nutrition session at the Nutrition Society meeting in Leeds in 2002.
- Joint publicity using each other's networks
- Compatible software

American Association of Animal Science

Chris Reynolds and others have been talking with ASAS on a number of matters. ASAS is a partner on the organising committee for the conference in Merida, Mexico in 2002.

Currently ASAS has around 5500 members and is recruiting hard for more. Subscription including on-line journal is \$110. Around 50% of members pay an extra \$50 for a hard copy. One annual meeting is run each year with three or four regional meetings. ASAS does not yet run occasional meetings. The next annual meeting will be jointly with other FASS members and is likely to attract over 4000 delegates. In 2002 the Annual meeting will be run jointly with the Canadians in Quebec. ASAS spends a lot of time each year attracting funding for meetings.

ASAS would like to:

- Explore co-operation opportunities.
- Investigate opportunities to market published material
- See BSAS establish a closer relationship, as a member of the Federation of Animal Science Societies.

Other potential partners: Tropical Agricultural Association, Ecological Society, WPSA, ISAE, Teaching Vets, and Society for the Study of Fertility (SSF).

Do you know of societies with whom we should consider collaboration?

BSAS Annual Meeting

Cheap parking at York - BSAS have negotiated a cheap parking fee for delegates coming to York at £1 per day if you book in advance through the BSAS Office. Monday - Wednesday is only £3 (cheaper than Scarborough).

If you wish to attend the Annual Meeting and require a programme and application form then please visit our website www.bsas.org.uk

Future meetings - BSAS

- see www.bsas.org.uk for all details of meetings

- 9-11 April 2001 **BSAS Annual Meeting**, York University. - visit BSAS website or telephone 0131 445 4508 for details.
- 25-26 June 2001 **What price cheap food?** University of Edinburgh.
A joint SCAWS/BSAS Workshop
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 Whittemore 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. There will be a debate on 'this house believes in the free market'.
- 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, efficient 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 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, Profs L Louloudis & 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.

- 12-15 Nov 2002 **Responding to the increasing global demand for animal products**, Merida, Mexico. see enclosed leaflet.

Other meetings

- 24-28 July 2001 ASAS Annual Meeting Indianapolis, USA. Jointly with FASS this is a large meeting with more than 40 parallel sessions. Info: ellenb@assoqh.org

British Grassland Society Meetings (see www.britishgrass.com or tel Jan on 01189 666941)

- 8-10 July 2001 BGS Summer Meeting, Bangor University, Wales. 'Hafod a Hendre' - the traditional way of farming. Visits to a variety of farms will give an insight into the current state of Welsh farming.
- 15-17 April 2002 'Conservation Pays' University of Lancaster call for offered papers by 9 March 2001 please.

26-29 August

EAAP 2001 Hungary

The programme for this meeting is enclosed with this newsletter. The format is new with a Sunday start! There are a number of satellites before the meeting including: Endangered Native Animal Breeds, Preparing and Presenting Scientific Papers and Teaching of Animal Sciences in Central and Eastern European Countries. A Ph.D course on Computation of Random and Fixed Effects in Animal breeding with the Pest Package will be held after the meeting. If you wish to submit a paper to the EAAP meeting in the Budapest 26-29 August you must send an abstract form (available from www.Wageningenpers.nl/eaap/eaap2001) to EAAP2001@Wageningenpers.nl by 1st March 2001.

For the Web site address of EAAP go via the links on the BSAS website.

EAAP 2002 Cairo (Sept 1-4)

EAAP 2003 Israel

EAAP 2004 Italy

11-13 Sept 2002

XIII International Silage Conference

SAC, Auchencruive, UK. Please contact c.thomas@au.sac.ac.uk for further details. Suggestions for session topics will be gratefully received.

Useful websites

An American site for agric. information and a calendar of interesting conferences www.agnic.org (the agnic is not a misspelling!)

Animal Science

Set of journals (1966-2000) available free of charge. Can be collected at York or from Reading.

Workers wanted!!

The Chairman of the Science & Technology Select Committee at Westminster is writing a paper on the use of GM products in animal production and is seeking assistance from suitably experienced and qualified people to help. Sabbaticals of up to 6 months are being offered in London with payment for time and travel. If you are interested please contact Geoff Simm, T & E Chairman. Email: g.simm@ed.sac.ac.uk

We need new full members!

We have been very successful in recruiting new student members to BSAS and are currently writing to those who have now graduated to persuade them to join us full time! We are happy to have more students on board if you know some who would enjoy being involved. We are also writing to all non-members who attended our meetings last year or who submitted a paper to *Animal Science*.

Cast your eyes around your workplace. Can you see one individual who should be a full BSAS member? Can you encourage them to join?

Jobs.... Scholarships... Courses..... Books

Why not advertise in the Newsletter or on the BSAS website free of charge to members.

University of York, April 2001

**We look forward to seeing you at the BSAS Annual Meeting, 9-11 April
World Poultry Science Association (UK Branch) Annual Meeting 9-11 April
and International Society of Applied Ethology Meeting 10-11 April**