

## BSAS MEETINGS

- ◆ **8-10 July 1997**  
***In vitro* Techniques for Measuring Nutrient Supply to Ruminants, Reading**  
A detailed programme for the Reading symposium is enclosed. We have had an overwhelming response and now have an additional 20 submitted theatre presentations and 48 posters. as well as the 10 invited papers. We are very pleased with the response. It is not too late to book your place. If you would like an application form then please get in touch with the office. If you wish to display the programme on a relevant notice board then please do so.
- ◆ **November 1997**  
**A workshop on the adaption of rare breeds to their environment, Appleby in Cumbria.**  
Details in separate leaflet
- ◆ **November 1997**  
**BSAS Meeting on Statistics.** Thoughts for developing a programme for this meeting should be forwarded to Stephen James at IACR - Rothamsted, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 5JQ. Email: Stephen.James@bbsrc.ac.uk.
- ◆ **27-30 January 1998**  
**Foods Lands and Livelihoods - setting research agendas.**  
**Nairobi, Kenya.** We now have a travel and accommodation package from the UK for the meeting. We have reserved 30 places and if you are seriously interested in coming we need you to let us know as a matter of urgency so that we can hold these places. The sooner you book the cheaper it is. See separate leaflet.

## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- 7-9 July 1997** **A Sport Horse for the Future.** An international symposium organised by RASE at Cambridge, UK  
Papers include threats and opportunities; improving genetic potential; the influence of the thoroughbred; modern breeding technologies; application of science; - promoting welfare and limiting stress; feeding the improved sport horse; training to win; marketing the sport. Full details from Victoria Brook, RASE National Agric Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, UK CV8 2LZ.  
tel: 01203 696969 or fax 01203 535732.
- 13-16 Aug '97** **31st International Congress of the ISAE, Prague, Czech Republic**  
Full details from the Research Institute of Animal Production in Prague, telephone 420 2 6771073, Fax 420 6771448; Email:spinka@novell.vuzv.cz.
- 25-28 Aug '97** **EAAP, 48th Annual Meeting of the European Association for Animal Production** Austria Center Vienna. Organising Committee, Federation of Austrian Cattle breeders, Universumstrasse 33/8, A-1200 Vienna. Tel: 431334 1721, Fax: 431334 1713. Travel package available from Eyas tel:01243 775561, fax: 01243 776738.
- 29 Sept-  
1 Oct 97** **32nd International Symposium on Animal Production** Milan, Italy  
Advances in technology, accuracy and management . Sessions on dairy cattle, pigs, beef and other animals. Organising Secretariat Società Italiana per il Progresso della Zootecnica, via Capolago 16, 20133 Milano-Italy. Tel: 39-2-76111101, Fax: 39-2-7611108, Email:GREPS@imiucca.csi, unimi.it
- 7-10 Dec '97** **The 6th Biennial Conference of the Australasian Pig Science Association, Canberra, ACT Australia.**  
Submission of one page paper by 2 June 1997. Contact Dr Neil Gannon, Victorian Inst of Animal Science, Private Bag 7, Werribee, Victoria 3030, Australia. Tel: 61 3 97420407, Fax: 61 3 97420400. Email gannonn@hari.agvic.gov.au.
- 18-20 Jan '98** **XXIV Annual Meeting of the International Embryo Transfer Society**  
Boston Marriott Copley Place, Massachusetts, USA. Invited sessions include practical considerations for in vitro embryo production; fertilisation and the first cell cycle; embryo metabolism : implications for in vitro culture; genetic modification of animals: methods and applications. There will be poster presentations, workshops and a post-conference symposium on 'Gamete Biology: fundamental and applied aspects in animal reproduction. Deadline for abstracts is 15 August 1997. Students may enter a competition for three \$500 scholarship. Details from Ms Vicki Smith, International Embryo Transfer Society, 1111 N Dunlap Ave, Savoy, IL 61874 USA.Tel: 001 217 356 3182, Fax: 001 217 398 4119
- 28 June-  
4 July '98** **8th World Congress on Animal Production will be held at Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea**  
Korean Air the official carrier are offering a discount for flight reservations. Details from Dr Jong K Ha, Chairman, Organising Committee 8th WCAP. Fax: 82-331 292 3801. Email: jongha@plaza.snu.ac.kr.
- 5-9 July '98** **The 15th International Pig Veterinary Society Congress, Birmingham, England.** An up to date review of pig science, with a strong emphasis on clinical and practical applications. Programme includes Bacteriology, enteric diseases, environment and pollution, epidemiology, genetics, medication, meat quality, notifiable diseases, pathology etc.. Details from PIVS Scientific Secretariat, IPVS, PO Box 1998, Yeadon, Leeds, LS19 7FP, UK

## Presidential theme 1997/98:

### *Setting research agendas for Animal Science in a global context.*

Margaret Gill

Most of you will be aware that in 1995 BSAS commissioned a strategic Planning Committee to consult widely and produce a report identifying and elaborating key directions which the Society should pursue over the next 5 to 7 years, to strengthen its impact in the Animal Science community and beyond. A summary of the recommendations is presented elsewhere in this newsletter, one of which was that the President should select a theme for her/his year. As the first President under the new regime, I would like to use the medium of the newsletter to outline the activities which will contribute to the theme and to refer to key literature relating to the development of the theme. The theme is *Setting research agendas for Animal Science in a global context* and the aim of the planned activities is to raise the awareness of BSAS members to international co-ordination of agricultural research.

I would like to start by explaining why the need for a global context. Who better to quote from than Sir Kenneth Blaxter, in this context? In his book co-authored with Noel Robertson (From *'Dearth to Plenty. The modern revolution in food production'*), he reminded us that:

*'During the 50 year period from 1936 to 1986 the modern agricultural revolution occurred, in which for the first time, science was properly harnessed to the improvement in agricultural productivity.'*

However, despite this success in increasing food production, 34% of children under 5 years old in developing countries were still malnourished in 1990 and the world population is predicted to increase by 50% to 8 billion in the 30 years between 1990 and 2020. There is therefore much left to do. Blaxter and Robertson saw the future challenge thus:

*'The problem for the immediate future is a global one and one shared with other industries. How does the world organise its production so that the world-wide population is gainfully employed and adequately fed while the rural population is maintained at a desirable level in each country?.'*

This focus was recently endorsed by the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), who are promoting the concept of a global forum to integrate agricultural research. The CGIAR can be regarded as the international equivalent of the UK's Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC). There are 16 CGIAR centres, including the International Livestock research Institute (ILRI) based in Nairobi and Addis Ababa and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) based in Washington. I plan to refer to the findings of major studies commissioned by these two institutes in subsequent issues of the newsletter.

In addition to highlighting relevant information in the newsletter, proposed activities for the year include a conference to be held in Kenya in January 1998. The title is *'Food, Lands and Livelihoods, Setting Research Agendas for Animal Science'* and it is being jointly organised with the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute and ILRI. The objectives of the conference are to: (i) strengthen the impact of livestock research globally; (ii) to demonstrate how consulting users of research outputs and the adoption of a systems approach can help in the setting of research agendas; and (iii) to foster interactions between livestock scientists in developed and developing countries. Further details on the cost and programme can be found elsewhere in the newsletter or details can be obtained from the BSAS Office. Finally, my year ends at the Annual conference in Scarborough. Lessons learnt in Nairobi will be related to UK and European research agendas and the global context of livestock production will be described.

### **Well done!!**

Brownie points for GABS, SAC Edinburgh, for noticing the deliberate mistake in the February Newsletter, **1997/8 Presidential Theme**, *'Feeding the World in the 2nd Millennium'* should read *'Feeding the World in the 3rd Millennium'*

### **New Travel Scholarship**

Council are keen to promote further good works within the animal science industry. Accordingly it has asked Technical & Ethical Committee, to look at how we might develop a new annual travel scholarship, that had a very wide remit to promote opportunities for scientists to travel and study a variety of topics.

### **Professorships**

Our congratulations to Cled Thomas and John Oldham for elevation to the highest order in the land, notable professorships!

### **Book of summaries**

Did you get your free copy of the Proceedings of the Annual Meeting in Scarborough. This was given to all delegates at the meeting and was sent to all members in April, who did not attend the meeting, and all the libraries who subscribe to the journal. The Proceedings replaces the abstracts that were previously put in the June edition of our journal *Animal Science*. We would be pleased to hear your reaction to the new publication. If you have not received your copy please tell us.

## ALL CHANGE: BUT WHERE ARE WE GOING NOW?

### Researching, Teaching & Using Animal Science

#### Structures and Processes required by the UK for the delivery of Research, Consultancy & Higher Education

The beneficiaries of an optimum strategy for research, education and consultancy are not only ourselves as providers, and our immediate sponsors and clients, but also the community at large who receive high-quality and safe food at affordable prices provided from a sustainable and environmentally acceptable production base.

BSAS Members have an interest in the way their science business is structured, and the Society may be expected to represent its members by presenting a view as to how an optimum structure may be achieved. Our scientific businesses include primary production, the allied industries, research, higher education, and consultancy.

The “*organisations*” to which we belong all derive from origins hugely different from their present positions. The farming industry now requires to provide market-place-competitive products, with quality and safety as primary objectives, rather than quantity and efficiency as heretofore. The consultancy services are no longer seen to be of public interest and benefit. Higher education is striving to accommodate a target of educating 30-40% of the population (previously 5-15%) on shrinking budgets. Research must adjust to a new environment where it is no longer seen as the essential foundation for a Government-backed scheme for efficient provision of a plentiful supply of food.

***All change then; but what should we change to? How should our research, education and consultancy businesses be set up, and how should they interface?***

The Society aims to study this matter and to try to represent the views of its members. Your views, in brief, positive, negative, or balanced, would be greatly welcomed by your current Vice-President, Colin Whittemore, University of Edinburgh, School of Agriculture, West Mains Road, Edinburgh EH9 3JG. Your responses will form the foundation for subsequent more focused discussion and workshops. We need your many and varied contributions, and we are looking forward to receiving them. If requested anonymity will be maintained in any documentation that emanates.

### Royal Society Travel Grants

The Royal Society has a policy of encouraging scientific links within the UK and other countries and can help with both study visits and fellowships and collaborative research projects between the UK and (1) Australia, New Zealand and Canada (2) Eastern Europe (3) Central and South America, the Indian Subcontinent, Africa and Middle East. For joint projects with Eastern Europe, the Society has grants available to cover airfares and subsistence of post-graduates who have reached at least post-doctorial status. Closing dates each year are 15 June and 15 November. For Australia, New Zealand and Canada, the Society supports short 2 weeks-3 months visits for post-docs to exchange information and longer 6-12 months stays for British fellowships. For those interested in South America and the Indian Sub-continent, South Africa or the Middle East the Royal Society supports study visits and fellowships. For full details please contact the International Exchanges Section, Royal Society, 6 Carlton Terrace, London SW1 5AG, 0171 8395561. Fax 0171 930271. Email: ezmb016@mailbox.ulcc.ac.uk.

### FISHMEAL INFORMATION

The Fishmeal Information Network has been launched to promote the benefits of fishmeal in animal feed. It is an initiative by the Grain and Feed Trade Association which is being funded by the Sea Fish Industry Authority.

A series of fact sheets have been produced which covers the value of fishmeal in animal feed, the sustainability of the fish stocks used to produce fishmeal and essential background details on production and safety.

Copies of all of these and further information on the campaign are available from The Chamberlain Partnership, 4 The Forum, Minerva Business Park, Peterborough, Cambs PE2 6FT, Tel: 01733 231133; Fax: 01733 32969

### EAAP Membership

We are grateful to

- *Alltech (UK) Ltd*
- *BOCM Pauls Ltd*
- *Dalgety Agriculture Ltd*
- *Ecosyl Products Ltd*
- *Frank Wright (Feed Supplements) Ltd*
- *Genus Ltd*
- *Meat & Livestock Commission*
- *PIC Europe*
- *Rhone Poulenc Animal Nutrition*

for support of British membership of the European Association for Animal Production

## BSAS President for 1997/98

Professor Maggie Gill has become our President for the next 12 months, and is Director of Natural Resources International, Kent, which is the commercial arm that has developed from the old NRI. Maggie's interest are very much international, and to that end her theme for the 12 months is one that is looking beyond the UK. She is a major player in the organisation of the Nairobi Conference 'Lands, Livelihoods and Livestock - setting research agendas'.

### The new Council is outlined below :

Prof	E M	Gill	President
Prof	C T	Whittemore	Senior Vice-President
Prof	W G	Hill	Junior Vice-President
Dr	W J M	Black	Hon Treasurer
Mr	M A	Steele	Secretary
Dr	J P	Chadwick	Programme Chairman
Dr	I A	Wright	Publications Chairman
Dr	B R	Cottrill	Technical & Ethical Chairman
Dr	P C	Garnsworthy	EAAP Liaison Officer
Dr	M A	Varley	IOB Representative
Dr	J I	Harland	Press Officer
Miss	S	Corning	Elected 1995
Dr	S A	Edwards	Elected 1995
Dr	J D	Wood	Elected 1995
Prof	D E	Beever	Elected 1996
Mr	M J	Hazzeldine	Elected 1996
Dr	I	Kyriazakis	Elected 1996
Dr	P H	Simmins	Elected 1996
Dr	R G	Wilkinson	Elected 1996
Dr	M.G.	Diskin	Elected 1997
Dr	B.	McGuirk	Elected 1997
Dr	J.R.	Scaife	Elected 1997
Dr	C.L.	Thorp	Elected 1997

There was a very healthy number of people wishing to become Council members, which made it a worthwhile election.

## International group set up

Under the Chairmanship of Prof Maggie Gill, a small international group has been set up. It held its first ad hoc meeting at the Annual Meeting in Scarborough, and decided on its terms of reference which were to advise Council on :

- 1) *Publicising BSAS activities more widely;*
- 2) *Creating links with other societies;*
- 3) *raising the profile of international issues within the society;*

It would also be making recommendations to Technical & Ethical Committee on :

- 4) *topics and venues for occasional meetings to be organised in collaboration with overseas organisations and those with an international remit*
- 5) *topics for sessions that could be included in the annual meeting or meetings organised by third parties.*

The group at present consists of Emyr Owen, Arnoud Hameleers, Maggie Gill, Mike Steele and Phil Garnsworthy. If you are interested in international matters and would like to help, then Prof Gill would like to hear from you. The group will be playing an important role in organising the 1998 meeting in Nairobi.

## Strategic Review

At the AGM in Scarborough, Prof David Leaver, gave a presentation on the high priority recommendations that will be targeted from the Wilson Strategic Report. David outlined important elements. Our new mission statement is "to enhance the understanding of animal sciences and their integration into animal production".

### High priority recommendations

#### 1) Membership

The BSAS Council has identified three aspects of membership that require attention. These are (1) to initiate a recruitment campaign for new members (2) to develop information packs for those interested in the society and (3) to develop closer relationships with sister societies, with a view to arranging reciprocal agreements so that members can participate in society activities at preferential rates.

#### 2) Meetings

Specific attention will be given to developing sessions for farmers, advisors, teachers as well as scientists at annual and occasional meetings.

#### 3) Technology transfer

That all authors of papers presented at meetings consider the economic and practical implications of the work they are undertaking.

#### 4) Public relations

A PR Group will be set up to look at developing a BSAS PR strategy with a proactive approach to promoting animal science to decision makers.

#### 5) New technology and biotechnology

Appropriate sessions and meetings will be organised to consider new technologies and biotechnology.

#### 6) Publications

A full business plan will be developed by Publications Committee, and Electronic Publication will be considered in detail for the future publishing of BSAS publications.

#### 7) International, European and Third World

An international group will be set up that would give the Society a specific international view on matters outside of the UK

#### 8) Organisational

The President's Committee will be empowered with implementing these high priorities and individual Presidents will be asked to develop themes for their Presidential year.

## PR Group

A small PR Group, to develop a PR Strategy for the Society is now in the process of being set up under the chairmanship of Dr Sotiris Papasolomontos, and will include Dr Stephen James from IACR and Dr Janice Harland from Dalgety Agriculture, amongst others. If you are interested in PR please get in touch with Sotiris at Dalgety Agriculture, Bristol.

## RSPCA/BSAS Award

### Innovative Developments in Animal Welfare

Miriam Parker, Assistant Director of the Humane Slaughter Association, is this year's winner of the RSPCA/BSAS Award. The award was presented by the Chairman of the RSPCA, Mr Roy Forster, who particularly cited Miriam's work on producing a number of training videos for the humane slaughter of livestock in abattoirs. These have been extremely well received by the industry and interested groups. Miriam received a very attractive engraved crystal bowl, a cheque for £150 and a certificate at the Annual Meeting.

### Highlighting students and young scientists

The Society is making ever increasing efforts to target the younger scientists at the Annual Meeting. Two receptions were held for students, one aimed at overseas students and the other at all students. The first enabled those studying in this country to meet with members and officials of the Society who had a specific interest in overseas and international matters. The second highlighted the summer placement scheme, which is becoming ever more successful and brought together all interested students, including those who had undertaken a summer placement in 1996, and a number of our commercial delegates.

### Summer Placement Scheme

The 1997 Summer Placement Scheme is now open. If you are a student or represent an institute or commercial company which is interested in becoming involved, please get in touch with the BSAS Office. The aim of the scheme is to enable students approaching their final year of undergraduate study, to experience a period of 6-8 weeks in a research environment. BSAS puts up £500 for each student (4 at present), who undertake a research project in a collaborating institute or organisation, often with the backing of a relevant commercial company. A similar matching fund is normally expected from the institute/commercial company. The advantage to the institute/company is that it enables them to undertake a project that might otherwise be missed and gives them the opportunity to assess individuals for future career development.

Four projects in 1996 worked extremely well. These were conducted at the universities of Liverpool, Leeds, Edinburgh and Aberdeen and were extremely well received, although not all managed to conclude all the work in the time allocated.

As we go to press we have a number of organisations who have offered opportunities, and we would thus be very pleased to receive applications from students and other bodies.

#### ***Dr Raphael (Phil) Braude, Reading***

*The Society was very sad to hear of the recent death of Phil Braude. We are pleased that his name will live on in the Braude Travel Scholarship, which gives funds to young scientists to travel and study the production and marketing of pigs.*

## SCHOLARSHIPS

### 1997 BSAS scholarships:

#### **Alan Robertson Fund 1997**

BSAS is part funding Dr Gerald Wiener who is participating in the Second International Congress on Yak Production to be held in Xining, Quinghai in August. Gerald will publicise BSAS in China to see if we can develop links with relevant organisations.

#### **Braude Travel Scholarship 1997**

Mr Hans Spooler from ADAS Terrington will be visiting the Victorian Institute of Animal Science in Australia to study pig handling. Miss Lynette Probert, University of Nottingham, will visit various institutes in the USA to study the role of protein, amino acids and energy in lactating sow diets. Both will be part funded by this scholarship.

#### **EAAP 1997**

BSAS is supporting two young scientists, Alexander Mackenzie of Harper Adams Agricultural College and Michael Hutchings of SAC Edinburgh, to attend 48th Annual Meeting of EAAP in Vienna this year

### EAAP - structure and organisation

BSAS has recently been helping EAAP with ideas on redeveloping the structure and organisation of future meetings. Members of BSAS, President's Committee and EAAP Commission Presidents (Cattle Commission, Prof Cled Thomas, and Sheep & Goats Commission, Mr David Croston) met in February in London to discuss how EAAP might run the future Annual Meetings. Ideas were then put to a combined meeting of EAAP Council members and EAAP Commission Presidents in Vienna. They are thinking along the lines of having a single organising committee for each Annual Meeting, rather than 7 or 8 commission committees running their own respective commission's programme. The meeting, may include themes that run across all commissions for part of each annual meeting.

It is encouraging to see EAAP progressing in this way because this will help it to develop to be an important forum for future scientific communication in Europe.

#### **EAAP Executive Vice-President**

Dr Boyazoglu has been appointed as part-time Executive Vice-President of EAAP (responsible for the general secretariat) for a period of 3 years. Dr Boyazoglu was previously the Secretary General of EAAP before joining FAO, but has now returned to continue the revamping of EAAP for the next millennium.

#### **Dr Maurice Bichard**

This is the final year of Maurice Bichard's 10 year period as a Council member of EAAP, and the search is now on for his replacement. Traditionally there is usually a place on EAAP Council for a member from Ireland/UK. Watch this space to see who is the new EAAP Council member.

# New BSAS Council Presidential Theme for 1997/8

## Annual Meeting, Scarborough, March 1997

Ian Wilmut's explanation of the techniques in cloning Dolly the sheep, was one of many high points at the Scarborough meeting this year. Ian's paper was in fact, the first presentation of the work at a scientific meeting, which as he said "*was very appropriately at BSAS*".

The meeting featured a large number of invited sessions, including the Cloning and Animal Production session, but also sessions on the Immune Function of Animals, Environmental and Socio-economic Aspects of Sustainable Livestock; The Changing Face of Consumer Attitudes to Animal Products (President's Session) and the very successful farmers' session on Segregated Early Weaning.

The meeting being in Easter week, for the first time in many years, was fatter rather than longer. With the Association of Veterinary Teachers and Research Workers meeting in the Grand Hotel, in the same week, there was a steady progression of delegates between the two meetings, on an unofficial but very welcome basis.

There were also many poster sessions, three of which culminated in discussions, those on Milk Production, Pig Meat Quality and Minerals. The standard of posters at the meeting was very good and the Programme Committee were very encouraged that almost all delegates had paid heed to the new guidelines issued. They were particularly pleased that, even where delegates had no access to sophisticated means of production of posters, they had used the BSAS approach.

### **Things do go wrong!**

*The Programme Committee do appreciate that however hard they try, there are gremlins that result in things not quite working exactly to plan! If you have any suggestion on how things might run a little better, then we would be extremely pleased to hear them. Working within the system it is sometimes difficult to see the wood for the trees!*

The format of the Annual Meeting had been slightly altered with the AGM in the middle of the day. In 1998 this will revert to its traditional late afternoon slot. The Tuesday evening was also different with an informal debate between those with a reductionists approach to biological research and those with a holistic view. Whilst there was not a great deal of science in the discussion, there was a very large audience and much interest was stimulated.

## Date of next year's Annual Meeting, 23-25 March 1998.

## President's Prizes

The winners of the President's Prizes at the 1997 Annual Meeting were :

Matthew Witt, Harper Adams Agricultural College, (theatre) 'Effects of synchronising the rate of energy and nitrogen supply to the rumen in diets with two rates of carbohydrate release on growth and metabolism of male lambs', and Sion Richards, University of Nottingham, (Poster) 'Examination of the fatty acid composition and lipogenic enzymes of perirenal adipose tissue in growing lambs'. Commendations were given to Vickie Glasgow and Jennie Pryce for their theatre presentations and Lewis McClinton for his poster presentation.

Our congratulations to the winners. They were awarded £100 and a certificate. The latter will be presented at Scarborough in 1998.

## Sir John Hammond Award

The 1997 Sir John Hammond Award was given to Dr Geoff Simm of GABS, Scottish Agricultural College, Edinburgh, for his "*outstanding contribution to the science and practice of genetic improvement for both sheep and cattle, and his exceptional skills of leadership and communication, applied with unstinting commitment to benefit ruminant livestock production*". Geoff received a cheque for £250 and a scroll.