

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE BRITISH SOCIETY OF ANIMAL SCIENCE HELD VIRTUALLY  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 | 13:00 – 13:35**

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The President, Elizabeth Magowan, welcomed members to the meeting. 24 persons attended the virtual meeting; 22 members were eligible to vote.

Members in attendance:

Jude Capper, J Dunne, Daniel Enriques, Henry Greathead, Kate Hore, Nicholas Jonsson, David Kenny, Francis Lively, Oswald Matika, Elizabeth Magowan (President), Kim Matthews, Steven Morrison, Jordana Rivero, Howard Simmins, Georgina Smith, Sokratis Stergiadis, Helen Warren, Claire Wathes, Nick Wheelhouse, Omar Cristobal Carballo, Lucy Ross, Heather McCalman

Non-members in attendance:

Maggie Mitchell (CEO), Karen Morris (Admin)

Apologies received from:

Paul Cheng, Richard Dewhurst, Frank Dunshea, Yasser Mohmmad, Aidan Moloney, Paul Smith, Anne Stevenson

Those who sent in their apologies appointed either the President or Jordana Rivero as proxy to vote in their absence.

**2. To vote on the proposal from BSAS Trustees to increase the society's annual membership fee**

At the BSAS 2023 AGM, attendees encouraged trustees to review the membership fee with the outlook of increasing it due to inflation. A small Working Group of Trustees was established to review a number of options on how to increase Society membership; these were tested against a number of scenarios. Based on the results of this review, and the fact that the Society is experiencing a rise in expenses, the Trustees recommended an increase in membership as outlined below. This is the first increase in membership fees since 2018.

Members were asked to consider the proposal from Trustees to increase the annual membership fees, as shown in the table below, from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

Membership Type		Current Fee	Proposed Fee
a.	Individual	£90	£120
b.	Graduate (up to 3 years post full-time education)	£45	£60
c.	Retired	£45	£60
d.	Student (full-time education)	£15	£25
e.	LMIC (low to middle income countries)	£20	£25

Members were asked if they had any comments or queries on the above proposal:

- Concern was raised that the proposed individual membership fee is too high

The CEO commented that the pricing structure presented at the AGM was thought, by some members, to be too low
- Q: How does the new BSAS membership fee compare to other learned societies? A lot of the members are likely to also be on the BSAS Certified Register of Animal Scientists & Animal Technologists so will see a total rise of £55 in fees.

The CEO explained that a number of 'like' society fee structures were reviewed; the new BSAS fees were found to be comparable.

The President reported that BSAS also had privileged access to RSB reports which had gone out to charities to understand how they were dealing with the increase in costs; some 60-70% of the charities that were surveyed were increasing their membership fees to try and buffer the extra costs.
- Q: Is it better to increase membership numbers by having a lower membership fee than to risk increasing membership fees which could result in reduced membership?

The President stressed that BSAS has come through a volatile period, so both an increase in membership numbers and the membership fee is needed in order to have a viable Society for animal scientists across the UK and Ireland.
- Q: What difference is the Society hoping, if membership does not increase; that this will make in terms of revenue for the Society?

Some modelling has been undertaken to ascertain the ramifications of increasing membership fees; if there is a small reduction in membership numbers there will still be an increase in revenue of ~£7,000 / annum.
- Q: Are there other aspects of income generation being reviewed?

The annual BSAS Conference resulted in a net loss this year. At the AGM, BSAS reported a forecast of £35,000 deficit in income / expenditure for 2023/24. BSAS is working hard with events, membership, corporate membership and membership of other organisations, and global contacts. All avenues of income generation are being explored.
- Members were reminded that the new membership fee would still be lower than the discounted rate available to members attending the annual conference, so this would affectively be cost-neutral.

Registrants are also able to pay for membership as part of the conference payment process; useful for those who are able to claim for conference fees from their employer.

Members were asked to vote on the proposal from Trustees to increase the annual membership fees, as below, from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 to:

Membership Type		Fee from 01/12/2023
a.	Individual	£120
b.	Graduate (up to 3 years post full-time education)	£60
c.	Retired	£60
d.	Student (full-time education)	£25
e.	LMIC (low to middle income countries)	£25

Voting was as follows:

For	24
Abstained	3
Against	0

It was agreed that the above proposal to increase the society's annual membership fees be adopted from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

The President thanked members for their comments. Trustees will continue to monitor membership numbers and will update members as appropriate.

### 3. To vote on the proposal from BSAS Trustees to make charges for applying to and maintaining registration on the BSAS Register of Animal Scientists and Technologists

BSAS needs to cover the costs that are generated by providing / maintaining the Accreditation Register and as such Trustees proposed an increase in the BSAS Register non-member joining fee (application to the register remains free of charge to BSAS members) and the introduction, from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023, of an annual renewal fee for both members and non-members.

Members were invited to comment on the following proposals:

- a. that non-member register application fees are increased to £150
  - b. that non-member register renewal / maintenance fees are charged at £150 / annum
  - c. that member register renewal / maintenance fees are charged at £25 / annum
- Q: Could you make the non-member registration fee £120 the same as the membership fee, so it is more affordable?  
Trustees were keen to set the level at £150 for non-members to encourage people to register. This also gives capacity to offer some packaged deals to some of the societies with which BSAS is developing partnerships; it is important to have a starting point for negotiations.
  - Q: Accreditation has had a long time to get going; how is Accreditation now, and how confident are you that you are not going to rock the boat by introducing these fees?  
Accreditation has been much more valued by the industry and our industry members than our academic members; as such we are keen to get Accreditation to work especially for our industry members. This is a test. The Register cannot lose money; it has to bring in revenue to cover the costs. There is a drive to try to recruit people to the Accreditation space. If it does not bring in enough money to cover the costs of running it, then we will have to consider whether to continue with it or not.

- Kim Matthews mentioned that he personally would have preferred that the member register renewal fee of £25 be added to the individual membership fee and then you chose if you wanted to go on the Register or not. Kim clarified; the fee has been set at a level of £25 so that the current Register membership would cover the cost of running the Register. If member registration drops as a result of this, then we would have to review. If membership grows, then there would be a surplus of monies which would help to stabilise membership fees for future years.
- Helen Warren stressed that this has been in discussion for some time and various options had been considered. Helen expressed that she sees this as the most viable and agreeable option for the Accreditation community, whilst also covering the costs of running the Register.
- Sokratis Stergiadis suggested that an alternative option is to increase future fees by the rate of inflation, either annually or bi-annually as the increase looks a lot as it has not been raised for some years. BSAS has not raised fees since 2018, so the fee increase looks high. There is no reason that this principle could not be adopted going forward.

Members were asked to vote on the following proposals, to take effect as of 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023:

- a. that non-member register application fees are increased to £150
- b. that non-member register renewal / maintenance fees are charged at £150 / annum
- c. that member register renewal / maintenance fees are charged at £25 / annum

Voting was as follows:

For	25
Abstained	1
Against	0

It was agreed that the above proposal to make charges for applying to and maintaining registration on the BSAS Register of Animal Scientists and Technologists be adopted from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

#### **4. Any Other Business**

The President reiterated that this is part of a portfolio of activity to increase membership, to increase the income from events, to increase income from other activities, to add value to the organisation, and to optimise the impact of the Society.

As there was no other business, the President brought the EGM to a close and thanked all of those who attended for their support and time.

**Prof Elizabeth Magowan**

**BSAS President 2023/24**