



ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

**Trustees' Report and Financial Statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2023**



**Charity number: 1195899**

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*Cover Image of the Rothamsted Broadbalk Field experiment taken during the AAB Long Term Experiments Meeting: June 2023*



ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

## The Association of Applied Biologists

### Reference and administrative details of the CIO, its Trustees and advisers For the year ended 31 December 2023

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**Trustees**

Dr M J Gooding, President  
Prof D Sanders, President Elect (appointed 1 January 2023)  
Prof N Halford, Honorary Treasurer  
Dr G Barker, General Secretary  
Dr M Back, Programme Secretary (term ended 31 December 2023)  
Dr S Edgington, Nematology  
Dr K Topp, Conferences Treasurer (appointed 1 January 2023)  
Prof M Parry, Publications Officer (appointed 1 January 2023)  
Prof I S Donnison  
Prof N Spence  
Prof R Edwards

**Charity registered number** 1195899

**Principal office** Warwick Enterprise Park  
Wellesbourne  
Warwickshire  
CV35 9EF

**Executive Officer** Mr G Parry

**Accountants and Independent examiner** Dains Audit Limited  
2 Chamberlain Square  
Paradise Circus  
Birmingham  
B3 3AX

**Bankers** Barclays Bank plc  
150 The Parade  
Leamington Spa  
Warwickshire  
CV32 4A

**Solicitors** Harbottle & Lewis LLP  
7 Savoy Court  
London  
WC2R 0EX

### President's report

for the period ended 31 December 2023

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The President presents his statement for the period.



The AAB continues to address its strategy to support and engage a membership concerned with the application of excellent biology to address societal challenges relevant to our mission. By December 2023, the AAB had maintained a membership of around 1000; in part facilitated by continuing to offer a free annual membership to non-members paying full registration fees to our conferences. As in the previous year, therefore, membership reflected on a successful and full conference programme which in 2023 addressed key aspects of regenerative agriculture; sustainable intensification; crop protection, quality and storage; tree and woodland establishment; food waste valorisation; and the importance of long-term experiments. The total number of conference delegates for the year was 1068. The conference programme is closely aligned with, and driven by, the specialist groups of the association. It is important to note, therefore, that 2023 saw the addition of a new specialist group of the AAB, namely PlantEd – a group focussing on the technology, regulation, and perceptions of plant genome editing. The first AAB conference organised by PlantEd will be held in October 2024.

In 2023, AAB increased its reputation as a reliable deliverer of effective hybrid (online + in person) events and is committed to continuing and developing the format particularly as it supports the potential involvement of delegates from low and middle income countries (LMICs), and helps to reduce the carbon emissions associated with the conference programme.

Our support for early career scientists and professionals included a subsidized two-day workshop giving them opportunities to present their research and to discuss skills, careers and training. Additional support for this group includes free annual membership with nominal charge for online conference registration, and access to the AAB travel grant scheme.

For those that have demonstrated long-term commitment and achievement in the application of biology, 2023 saw the introduction of the association's fellowship scheme. The first cohort of 24 individuals to be conferred with the title of Fellow of the Association of Applied Biologists (F App Biol) have now been formally approved by AAB Council.

The Association maintains a strong presence in the applied biology sector and throughout 2023 worked with a number of other organisations in allied subject areas. These included the Royal Society of Biology, the Global Plant Council, the Society for Experimental Biology, and the British Society for Plant Pathology.

The journals of AAB (currently Annals of Applied Biology, and Plant Biotechnology Journal), under the leadership of their Editor in Chiefs (Profs Ricardo A. Azevedo and Johnathan Napier) continue to serve the community of applied biologists and plant biotechnologists in publishing and disseminating quality-controlled research articles consistent with AAB's mission. Importantly, the journals have provided a relatively sustainable income stream to support other AAB charitable goals (such as via conferences). The financial surplus generated by the journals, together with the return on investments, resulted in unrestricted balances carried forward increasing to over £1.5M. With annual expenditure running at around £0.4M/annum the trustees consider that AAB finances are in a relatively robust position and will allow some further investment (such as in new journals or in journal development) in the future.

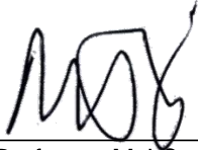
**President's report**

**for the period ended 31 December ;2023**

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As President, I am grateful that the AAB Council assists in providing leadership and development for the association. In particular, since January 2023, we have benefitted from the appointment of Professor Dale Sanders as President Elect and Vice President.

On behalf of AAB Council, I would like to express appreciation for the support the association has received from the staff of the AAB during a successful year: Geraint Parry (Executive Officer); Alberto Vitale (Finance and Office Manager), John Andrews (Conference Administrator), Bernadette Lawson (Financial Administrator), and Carol Millman (Annals of Applied Biology Editorial Office).



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Professor M J Gooding  
President

Date: 25 September 2024



The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The CIO also trades under the name AAB.

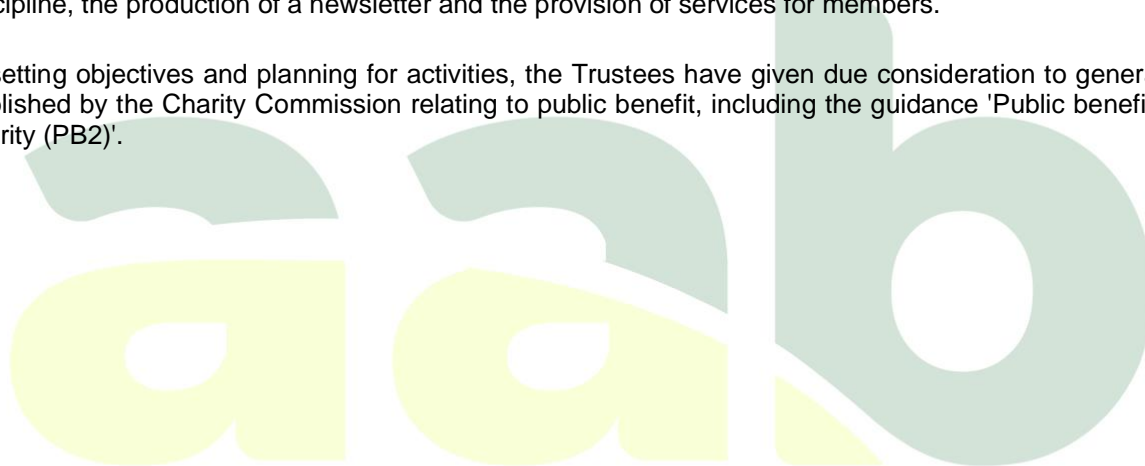
## **Objectives and activities**

### **● Policies and objectives**

The Object of the Charity is to 'promote the study and advancement of all branches of Biology and, in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) to foster the practice, growth and development of applied biology, including the application of biological sciences for the production and preservation of food, fibre and other materials and for the maintenance and improvement of the earth's physical environment'.

We deliver this charitable mission through the publication of scientific journals in applied biology, the organisation of conferences in a range of related subject themes, the formulation and dissemination of policies to promote the discipline, the production of a newsletter and the provision of services for members.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.



ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS



# AAB Specialist Group Report for 2023

Authored by Dr Geraint Parry with input from group conveners.

February 2024

## APPLIED PLANT PATHOLOGY

Group Membership on 31/12/23

<https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/applied-plant-pathology/>

Convener: Rumiana Ray, University of Nottingham

Convener-Elect: Jon West, Rothamsted Research.

John Clarkson, University of Warwick

Neil Havis, SRUC

Jennifer Hodgetts, APHA

Rob Jackson, University of Birmingham

Rachel McGauley, AHDB

Faye Ritchie, ADAS



In 2023 the APP group collaborated with the British Society of Plant Pathology (BSPP) in the organisation of their annual Plant Pathology meeting. AAB staff managed the abstract submission for the event and the AAP group organising a session entitled '**Climate Change-induced patterns of plant pests and pathogens**'. This session included invited speakers Debbie Hemming (The Met Office; *Improving climate data and modelling to inform plant biosecurity*), Dan Bebber (University of Exeter; *Climate Change-induced patterns of plant pests and pathogens*), Jon West and Kevin King (Rothamsted; *The pros and cons of different surveillance and monitoring approaches*).

Group members Jon West and Faye Ritchie worked with IPM-group member Rosemary Collier to organise this session.

This event attracted 180 in-person attendees, which was the highest ever attendance at a BSPP Annual Meeting. Although we have no evidence this is related to the collaboration with AAB, we would like to think this was the case.

### *Looking to the Future*

Jon West submitted a successful application to organise a Satellite meeting at the BSPP Annual Meeting to be held in Oxford 2024. The title of this one-day event is '*Surveillance and Decision Support in Action*'. AAB will work with BSPP to recruit participants for this event that will take place on September 13<sup>th</sup> 2024. AAB staff are again managing the abstract submission for the meeting.

Jon West took over as group Convener on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2024. Thanks to Rumiana Ray for her work in this role.

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## APPLIED TREE AND FOREST BIOLOGY

Group Membership on 31/12/23

<https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/applied-tree-and-forest-biology/>

Convener: Amanda Rasmussen, University of Nottingham

Nick Covarr, Harper Adams University  
Sabrine Dhaouadi, University of Birmingham  
Andrew Hiron Myerscough College  
Elisabeth Larsen, RHS Wisley  
Elizabeth Orton, John Innes Centre  
Sir Harry Studholme, Independent forester  
Gareth Thomas, Rothamsted Research  
Edward 'Ted' Wilson, Independent forester



The groups inaugural event took place on the Jubilee Campus of the University of Nottingham on November 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. This event was called '**Creating Canopy: the biology and practice of planting trees for people and nature**'. The first two days discussed the evidence for different tree-planting strategies whilst the third day hosted a FraxNet Network meeting that specifically looked at the pests and pathogens of Ash trees. The entire group contributed the organisation of the two-day meeting whilst Elizabeth Orton led the FraxNet event. The group organised a special issue of Annals of Applied Biology to coincide with this meeting.

It was gratifying that 97 delegates registered for the in-person event and 90 delegates joined online. DEFRA and the Scottish Forestry Trust funded the travel and accommodation of nine early career professionals. The British Ecological Society, The JABBS Foundation, DEFRA and the BSPP also sponsored the meeting.

The Tree Council organised a panel discussion during the meeting, which demonstrated the value of this event to the wider community.

### *Looking to the Future*

The group discussed repeating this general Tree meeting every two years and in 2025 might be organised in collaboration with the UK Treescapes project.

In 2024 the group will explore the potential to 'sponsor' a session at the main BES conference (Kate Ward from the Forest Ecology special interest group of BES is keen to interact with the AAB group).

Organise a series of online webinar sessions (half-day) 3-4 a year (these can be organised by different individuals – and potentially by other members if people approach us). These are an opportunity to get a high-profile speaker and a few other short talks and have a discussion.

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## BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AND INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Group Membership on 31/12/23

<https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/biological-control-and-integrated-pest-management/>

Convener: Toby Bruce, Keele University

Elysia Bartel, ADAS  
Josh Burnstone, Fargo  
David Chandler, University of Warwick  
Rosemary Collier, University of Warwick  
Kristina Grenz, AHDB  
Hayley Jones, RHS Wisley  
Joe Roberts, Harper Adams University  
Richard Shaw, CABI International  
Neal Ward, Biobest  
Xiangming Xu, NIAB



The annual AAB IPM meeting took place in November 2023 at The Stuart Hotel in Derby entitled '**IPM and Biocontrol 2023: Increasing collaboration across the innovation cycle**'.

This was organised by Toby Bruce, Josh Burnstone, Elysia Bartel and Neal Ward and brought together a varied range of speakers from across academia, industry, NGOs, government and farming sectors.

52 delegates attended in-person with 30 online delegates. This is a slight decline in online participation, which is a general trend that we have seen across other AAB events. Invited speakers were Suzanne Wainwright (Buglady Consulting), James Phillips (UKRI-BBSRC), Sean Loakes (Syngenta) and Amanda Porter (DEFRA), who each provided a great perspective from different parts of the IPM industry. The 'Favoured Talk Award' was won by Isabelle Sims from ADAS and Alex Kelly from University of Warwick won the 'Favoured Poster Award'. Both prizes received prizes from Burleigh-Dodds Publishing.

Although a good location, the reviews of The Stuart hotel were not universally popular. However all delegates said that would like the IPM meeting to continue on an annual-basis.

A Forum article entitled '**Constraints and solutions for development and uptake of integrated pest management in the UK**' was accepted to be published in 'Annals of Applied Biology'. The genesis of this article was the 2022 AAB IPM meeting and was authored by Keith Walters, Elysia Bartel, Josh Burnstone, Rosemary Collier, Kristina Grenz and Geraint Parry.

*Looking to the Future*

The group will organise the Biocontrol and IPM meeting in November 2024 at the University of Leicester. This event is entitled '**Biocontrol and IPM in Uncertain Climatic and Economic Environments**'. The entire IPM group will contribute to selecting invited speakers and preparing the final schedule.

A smaller number of group members will collaborate with the PAG to organise an event on '**Application of Biological Pesticides**' that will take place in January 2025 at Syngenta in the UK.

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## CROPPING AND THE ENVIRONMENT (CATE)

Group Membership on 31/12/23

<https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/cropping-and-the-environment/>

Convener: Kairsty Topp, SRUC

Jake Bishop, University of Reading  
Rose Boyko, SRUC  
Lucie Buchi, University of Greenwich  
Naomi Jones, Fera Science  
Henny Lowth, AHDB  
Syed Shah, NIAB  
William Smith, Gowan Company  
Kate Smith, ADAS  
Mark Fletcher, Agrovista



2023 was a very active year for the CATE group with the organisation of two successful events.

In April the CATE group collaborated with the Soil Biology group to organise an event on '**Regenerative Agriculture – Understanding the opportunities and challenges**' held in York and online. This was led by Kate Smith and Kairsty Topp and included sponsorship from ADAS, CHAP-Solutions and DIAGEO. 73 attendees attended in-person and 97 joined the meeting online. The meeting featured an excellent mix of delegates from academia, industry and farming communities, including a panel session with three prominent farmers who have experience with RegenAg approaches.

In June 2023 the Kairsty Topp worked with colleagues at Rothamsted Research, CGIAR and USDA to organise a meeting entitled '**Long Term Experiments: meeting future challenges**' at Rothamsted. This event was supported by the CGIAR Excellence in Agronomy Project and USDA. The meeting featured plenary, concurrent, workshop and poster sessions and was attended by 124 in-person and 91 online delegates. This event included a tour of Rothamsted Museum, Archive, and a tractor ride out to the Broadbalk experiment.

*Looking to the Future*

The CATE group is involved in the organisation of a session at Groundswell 2024 on the topic on '**On-Farm Experimentation**'. This is in collaboration with the Soil and Root Biology group. Jake Bishop is leading the CATE contribution to this event.

A follow-up to the RegenAg meeting will take place in Autumn 2025. CATE group members will be involved in a follow-up to the LTE experiments meeting, which might be hosted in Southern Africa.

The Biomass and Energy Crops VI event will be organised on behalf of the CATE group by Iain Donnison. This will take place at Aberystwyth University on October 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> 2024. <https://cvent.me/yKqGXw>

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## FOOD SYSTEMS

Group Membership on 31/12/23

<https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/food-systems/>

Convener: Christine Bosch, University of Leeds

Yoselin Benitez-Alfonso, University of Leeds

Emilie Combet, University of Glasgow

Darren Greetham, University of Leeds

Joseph Hubert Galani Yamdeu, Canterbury Christchurch University

Gabriela Toledo-Ortiz, James Hutton Institute



The Food Systems group organised an event in October 2023 hosted at the University of Leeds on '**Plant Food Waste Valorisation- Opportunities and Challenges**'. 34 delegates attended the meeting in-person with a similar number online. The meeting hosted an excellent mix of academic and industrial contributions from experts in this area.

*Looking to the Future*

The group has discussed a potential collaboration with the Hort Quality Group in order to arrange an event that will link upstream and downstream processes with the overall aim of maximising productivity from food crops and their waste products. This event will hopefully be planned for 2025.

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## HORTICULTURAL QUALITY AND FOOD LOSS

Group Membership on 31/12/23

<https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/horticultural-quality-and-food-loss/>

Convener: Natalia Falagan, Cranfield University

MariCarmen Alamor, Cranfield University  
Hassan Bagheri, ADAS  
Luke Bell, University of Reading  
Jo Hepworth, Durham University  
Ciara O'Brien, Cranfield University  
Susan McCallum, James Hutton Institute  
Wasim Siddiqui, Bihar Ag University  
Hazel Smith, Barfoots  
Christina Supramaniam, University of Greenwich  
Lindsay Williams, University of Edinburgh



2023 was the first year of activity of this group, which has emerged from the UKRI-BBSRC funded HortQFL Network (<https://foodlossnetwork.com/>). In March 2023 the group organised the '**HortQFLNet\_AAB Kick-off Meeting**' hosted at Cranfield University. This event was part-funded by the HortQFL network so was free to attend. 50 delegates travelled to Cranfield and 106 joined online. The event featured plenary sessions and a discussion about the current challenges facing the horticultural industry.

### *Looking to the Future*

In March 2024 the group will organise an event at the University of Reading entitled '**Horticultural Science: From Discovery to Application**'. This is a collaboration with the 'Journal of Horticultural Science and Biotechnology' which is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> edition. Day 1 of the event will have an 'applied' focus and day 2 is organised by JHBS to highlight excellence in horticultural science.

## NEMATOTOLOGY

Group Membership on 31/12/23

<https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/nematology/>

Convener: Steve Edgington, CABI

Matt Back, Harper Adams University  
Richard Binks, FreshTec  
Keith Davies, University of Hertfordshire  
Lindy Holden-Dye, University of Southampton  
Catherine Lilley, University of Leeds  
Valeria Orlando, Fera Science  
James Price, James Hutton Institute



Alistair Wright, BBRO

The annual '**Advances in Nematology**' meeting was organised in December 2023 at the Linnean Society in London. 39 in-person and 90 online delegates registered for the event.

The entire group participated in the organisation of the meeting. The meeting featured two invited talks, 8 'standard' talks, 10 'short' talks and a special tribute from Wim Bert to long-time AAB member Professor Rolo Perry. The Brian Kerry prize award for 'Best Student talk' was won by Beth Molly from the University of Cambridge whilst the AAB Nematology prize for the favoured short talk was won by Vongkai Chekanai from Harper Adams University. Both winners won a book kindly donated by CABI Publishing.

### *Looking to the Future*

The Linnean Society remains a popular venue so the 2024 edition of the '**Advances in Nematology**' meeting will take place there on December 5<sup>th</sup> 2024.

Matt Back and Kasia Dybal are leading on the organisation of the '6<sup>th</sup> Potato Cyst Nematode Symposium' (<https://cvent.me/0OKzgB>) which will take place at Harper Adams in September 2024. A special issue of Annals of Applied Biology has been arranged to coincide with this event.

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## PESTICIDE APPLICATION

Group Membership on 31/12/23

<https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/pesticide-application/>

Convener: Emilio Gil-Moya, Universidad Politécnica de Cataluña, Spain

Paolo Balsari, UNITO, Italy

Clare Butler-Ellis, Silsoe Spray Applications Unit

Simon Cooper, Harper Adams University

Richard Glass, CHAP-Solutions

Colin Mountford-Smith, BASF

Ben Magri, Syngenta

David Nuyttens, ILVO Vlaanderen, Belgium

James Thomas, Syngenta

Jan Van De Zande, Wageningen University, The Netherlands



In May 2023 Jan Van De Zande organised a two-day workshop held at Wageningen University on '**Targeted Application, Spray Technology and Authorisation**'. We expected 50 delegates so were pleasantly surprised when 80 people attended the meeting. Jan submitted a paper for Aspects 148 at the IAPA24 meeting that reported on the findings from the meeting.



The IAPA24 meeting took place in Brighton in January 2024 where 80 in-person delegates joined 40 online delegates in a meeting that coincided with the publication of Aspects 148. A special issue of Annals of Applied Biology has been arranged to coincide with this event.

### *Looking to the Future*

Ben Magri will lead the organisation of an event on '**Application of Biological Pesticides**' that will take place in January 2025 at Syngenta in the UK.

The IAPA26 meeting will take place in a Mediterranean location in January 2026.

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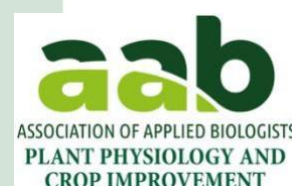
## **PLANT PHYSIOLOGY and CROP IMPROVEMENT**

Group Membership on 31/12/23

<https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/plant-physiology-and-crop-improvement/>

Convener: Guy Barker, University of Warwick

Nirit Bernstein, Volcani Centre Israel  
Nigel Halford, Rothamsted Research  
Jagadis Gupta Kapuganti, NIPGR India  
Jim Monaghan, Harper Adams University  
Mike Gooding, Aberystwyth University



2023 was a quiet year for the PP-CI group although previous member Luke Bell transferred to the 'Hort Quality' group and in that role co-led an event in March 2023 that launched the AAB-HortQFL network.

### *Looking to the Future*

In early September Nigel Halford leads an event co-organised with the ACRYRED COST-Action (<https://acryred.eu/>) which will take place in Brussels. The title of the event is '**Acrylamide and process formed contaminants: A supply chain approach**' (<https://cvent.me/ez5DNo>).

The PP+CI group will organise the AAB Presidential meeting organised by Mike Gooding taking place in Birmingham in September 2024. The title of the event is '**Cereal Quality for sustainable production and human health**' (<https://cvent.me/WPvk5G>). We have received support from the Rank prize for this event.

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## SOIL and ROOT BIOLOGY

Group Membership on 31/12/23

<https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/soil-biology/>

Convener: Charlotte White, ADAS

Lizzie Emmett, Wensum Farmers

Harry Henderson, AHDB

Mark Hodson, University of York

Felicity Roos, The National Trust



Early in 2023 Charlotte White and Harry Henderson were on the organising committee of the CATE-Soil Biology group event on '**Regenerative Agriculture – Understanding the opportunities and challenges**' held in York in April 2023.

At the end of 2023 this group changed name to the Soil and Root Biology Group with Charlotte White as the new Convener.

### *Looking to the Future*

The Soil and Root Biology group is involved in the organisation of a session at Groundswell 2024 on the topic on '**On-Farm Experimentation**'. This is in collaboration with the CATE group. Charlotte White and Felicity Roos are leading the group contribution to this event.

For later in 2024 we are exploring the possibility of organising a general '**Advances in Soil and Root Biology**' meeting.

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## VIROLOGY

Group Membership on 31/12/23

<https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/virology/>

Convener: Andrew Love, James Hutton Institute

Miguel Aranda, CEBAS CSIC, Spain

Sabrina Bertin, CREA-DC, Italy

Betty Chung, University of Cambridge

Fabrizio Cillo, CNR, Institute for Sustainable Plant Protection, Italy

Charlotte Nellist, NIAB

Jens Tilsner, University of St Andrews

Trisna Tungadi, Keele University

Mark Varrelmann, University of Goettingham, The Netherlands

Jeanmarie Verchot, Texas A+M University, USA

John Walsh, University of Warwick



It has been a quiet year for the Virology group in 2023. The planning for the next 'International Advances in Plant Virology (IAPV)' was paused due to potential clashes with other high-profile plant virology events. The group has recruited ~5 new 'Description of Plant Viruses' article submissions to be submitted to Annals of Applied Biology in 2024. These DPV articles are often highly cited and so are important for raising the profile of the journal.

### *Looking to the Future*

The IAPV25 meeting is planned for April 2025 hosted by Miguel Aranda in Murcia, Spain. We look forward to recruiting speakers and collaborators for this meeting during 2024.

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### **Other AAB Specialist Group Activities**

During 2023 the AAB has set up a new specialist group entitled '**PlantEd-Genome Editing in Plants**'. This follows on from the previously funded COST Action PlantEd (<https://plantgenomeediting.eu/>). By moving this group into the AAB we hope to be able to keep together this pan-European community of researchers.

We hosted the inaugural group meeting in January 2024 and are looking to organise webinars and possibly a meeting later in 2024.

### **PlantEd- Genome Editing in Plants**

Group Membership on 31/12/23  
<https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/planted/>

Convener: Goetz Hensel, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Germany

Sebastien Carpentier, KU Leuven, Belgium

Maria Dellino, University "Aldo Moro" Bari, Italy

Dennis Eriksson, SLU, Sweden

Sadiye Hayta, John Innes Centre, UK

Ankica Kondić Špika, Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad, Serbia

Dragana Miladinovic, Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Serbia

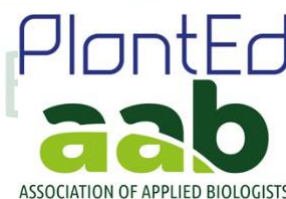
Mladen Petreš, University of Novi Sad, Serbia

Agnes Ricroch, Paris-Saclay University, France

Jeremy Sweet, Sweet Environmental Consultants, UK

Katrijn Van Laere, Ghent University, Belgium

Ewa Woźniak, IBCH PAS, Poland



Trustees' report (continued)  
For the year ended 31 December 2023

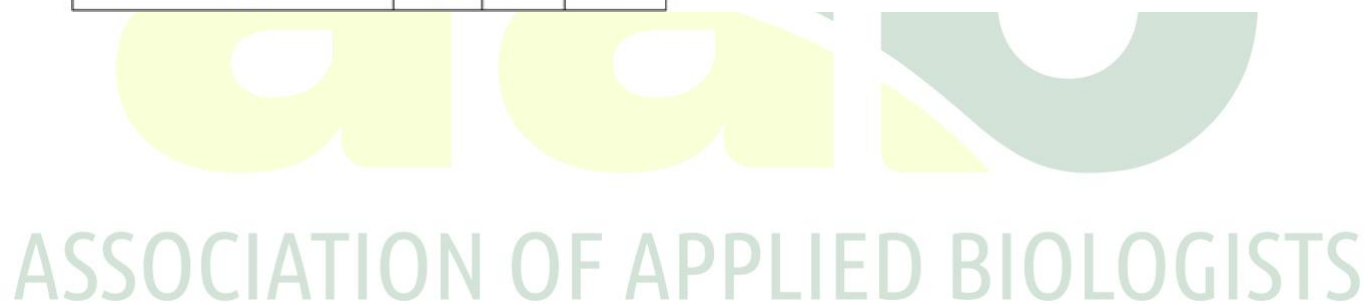
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Objectives and activities (continued)

• Conferences

Details of the scientific conferences held in the year to 31 December 2023:

Title of Conference	In Person	Virtual	No. Delegates	Date	Group
HortQFL-NET kick-off meeting	50	106	156	08/03/23 - 09/03/23	Horticultural Quality and Food Loss
Regenerative Agriculture - Understanding the opportunities and challenges	72	106	178	25/04/23 - 26/04/23	Cropping and the Environment / Soil and Root Biology
Targeted Application - Spray Technology and Authorisation Workshop	79	0	79	10/05/23 - 11/05/23	Pesticide Application
Long Term Experiments - meeting future challenges	124	83	207	20/06/23 - 22/06/23	Cropping and the Environment
Plant Food Waste Valorisation - Opportunities and Challenges	34	29	63	11/09/23 - 12/09/23	Food Systems
Creating Canopy - the biology and practice of establishing trees and woodlands for people and nature	98	93	191	27/11/23 - 29/11/23	Applied Tree and Forest Biology
IPM and Biocontrol 2023 - increasing the collaboration cross the innovation cycle	53	31	84	15/11/23 - 16/11/23	Biological Control and Integrated Pest Management
Advances in Nematology 2023	37	51	88	07/12/2023	Nematology
AAB Early Career Professional Science and Skills Workshop	27	0	27	18/12/23 - 19/12/23	All AAB specialist groups
Totals	574	499	1073		



## Financial review

### • Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the CIO has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

### • Reserves policy

To address the need for long-term financial stability we have approved a reserves policy which is set out here. A core purpose of the Association is to promote the study and advancement of Applied Biology. This obligation brings with it the need to ensure that the charity has sufficient funds over the short to medium term to continue to operate. To achieve this, the Association must achieve a sufficient positive annual operating contribution, or have sufficient reserves to call upon, to continue operations. The main features of the Association's reserves policy are as follows:

- they are an inherent part of the Association's risk management process. The amount of reserves needed will vary depending on the Association's financial position and our continuous assessment of the many risks the Association faces at a particular time;
- the need for reserves will be assessed as part of our strategic planning and combined with an annual test of solvency;
- reserves exist either to provide short-term protection against downward fluctuations in annual revenues, or to provide long-term strategic financial support for future projects as has been carried out in the recent past with the establishment of the Food and Energy Security journal;
- the reserves policy balances the need to maintain long-term reserves against the need for short-term spending on our core purpose.

This reserves policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it accurately reflects the circumstances of the Association and the views of the Trustees.

Currently the Trustees believe that the Association holds sufficient reserves.

ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS



Trustees' report (continued)  
For the year ended 31 December 2023

• Treasurer's report

**Income and expenditure**

Before net gains/(losses) on investments, the total income for 2023 was greater than expenditure by £63,067. The Association continues with the long-term aim of operating with a small positive cash flow, or cash neutrality, as part of a sustainable long term business plan.

*Investments*

The Association's investments continue to be managed by Evelyn Partners and in 2023 incurred a gain of £90,611. This is due to market recovery during the year.

*Publications*

The two journals in the Association's portfolio, Plant Biotechnology Journal and Annals of Applied Biology, both performed well in 2023, providing a total income of £286,629 to the Association. This includes income from Subscriptions and Royalties.

*Management and admin, including staff costs*

Management and admin costs increased from £139,497 in the 11 months to 31 December to £143,412 in the year to 31 December 2023. This can be explained by increased staff costs due to inflationary rises and staff employed at higher grades.

*Conferences*

Conferences are an important Association activity and the conference programme continued to expand in 2023. As standard the AAB continues to organise hybrid events, using the experience gained in running virtual conferences during the pandemic. The Association subsidised conferences in 2023 by £69,452. We also received £29,665 in sponsorships (11 months to 31 December 2022 - £19,129).

*Membership*

Membership income remained steady, from £14,784 in the 11 months to 31 December 2022 to £14,513 in the year to 31 December 2023. Overall membership at year end stayed at 1,000 members in line with the AAB long-term strategy to increase the member cohort through free registrations offered for conference attendees.

**AAB Membership Statistics 2023 - Membership Status**

	Membership Status					2023	2022
	Full	Student	Retired	Life	Honorary	Current Year Total	Previous Year Total
b/f	337	135	56	1	12	1136	541
January	298	116	44	1	12	521	471
February	316	197	44	1	12	535	570
March	366	271	44	1	18	586	700
April	383	322	44	1	18	657	768
May	401	360	44	1	18	686	824
June	409	390	44	1	18	722	862
July	473	411	44	1	21	730	950
August	506	430	47	1	21	758	1005
September	527	471	47	1	21	801	1067
October	530	518	49	1	22	914	1120
November	537	521	49	1	22	959	1130
December	538	526	49	1	22	998	1136

### **Balance Sheet**

The Association's net assets were £1,593,457 at 31 December 2023, compared with £1,439,779 at 31 December 2022. The Association's financial situation is on a very sound footing as a result of a generous legacy bequest and the sale of the Food and Energy Security journal in 2020.

### **Future Plans**

The long-term AAB strategy aims to build the membership through organisation of more and higher quality hybrid events. By offering free membership to meeting attendees we hope to engage a cohort of scientists who value AAB membership. The 2023-24 AAB strategy document outlines this plan in more detail.

#### *Proposed Membership Fees 2025*

The Trustees propose to keep the membership fees for 2025 the same as 2024, as follows: Full membership £65.00, Retired membership £32.50, Student/ECP membership £22.00.

#### **• Sponsorship and donations**

The following were received during the year to 31 December 2023:

#### **Regenerative Agriculture - Understanding the opportunities and challenges**

Digeo	£750
MIRICO	£479
ADAS	£750
CHAP	£1,250

#### **Targeted Application - Spray Technology and Authorisation Workshop**

Oxford Lasers	£750
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#### **Long Term Experiments - meeting future challenges**

USDA	£3,989
IITA	£5,000

#### **IPM and Biocontrol 2023 - increasing the collaboration cross the innovation cycle**

Fargro	£750
Biobest	£750
Bioline	£850

#### **Creating Canopy - the biology and practice of establishing trees and woodlands for people and nature**

DEFRA	£3,750
BES	£750
BSPP	£4,000
JABS	£2,000

#### **AAB Early Career Professional Science and Skills Workshop**

The Gatsby Charitable Foundation	£2,000
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● **Principal risks and uncertainties**

The charity's activities expose it to a number of financial risks including credit risk, cash flow risk and liquidity risk. The use of financial derivatives is governed by the charity's policies approved by the board of trustees, which provide written principles on the use of financial derivatives to manage these risks. The charity does not use derivative financial instruments for speculative purposes.

*Cash flow risk*

The charity's activities expose it primarily to the financial risks of changes in foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates. The charity uses foreign exchange forward contracts and interest rate swap contracts to hedge these exposures. Interest bearing assets and liabilities are held at fixed rate to ensure certainty of cash flows.

*Credit risk*

The charity's principal financial assets are bank balances and cash, trade and other receivables, and investments. The charity's credit risk is primarily attributable to its trade receivables. The amounts presented in the balance sheet are net of allowances for doubtful receivables. An allowance for impairment is made where there is an identified loss event which, based on previous experience, is evidence of a reduction in the recoverability of the cash flows. The credit risk on liquid funds and derivative financial instruments is limited because the counterparties are banks with high credit ratings assigned by international credit-rating agencies. The charity has no significant concentration of credit risk, with exposure spread over a large number of counterparties and customers.

*Liquidity risk*

In order to maintain liquidity to ensure that sufficient funds are available for ongoing operations and future developments, the charity uses investment funds.

Further details regarding liquidity risk can be found in the Statement of accounting policies in the financial statements.

● **Investment policy**

There are no restrictions on the Association's power to invest. Its investment portfolio is currently managed by Evelyn Investment Management Services Ltd whose performance the Trustees review. It is the Association's policy to avoid high risk investments.

ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

## **Structure, governance and management**

### **• Constitution**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The charity is a registered charity under the charity number 1195899.

The trust became a CIO on 31 January 2022 following the signing of a transfer deed to convert it from an unincorporated charity to a CIO. It was previously constituted under Laws of Association revised December 1977 and was registered as a charity under the charity number 275655.

### **• Methods of appointment or election of Trustees**

All Trustees of the Association must be members of the Association of Applied Biologists. Trustees of the Association of Applied Biologists include the Honorary Officers of Council (the President, the President-elect, who shall normally succeed the President, the General Treasurer, the Conference Treasurer, the General Secretary, the Programme Secretary, the Membership Officer, the Publications Officer plus any other person designated as an Honorary Officer at the Annual General Meeting) together with the Conveners of the Association's Specialist Groups. The Conveners are notified to the Annual General Meeting. The other Honorary Officers are elected at an Annual General Meeting. In the case of an unfilled position, trustees may be co-opted to office but must be elected at the following Annual General Meeting. The President of the Association of Applied Biologists will serve a maximum period of two years as President. The President-Elect will serve a maximum period of two years as President-elect.

Conveners are elected by members of the Group (at the last meeting of the year preceding the year of office) and may serve for up to six consecutive years, subject to annual re-election (a term of office for Conveners is deemed to be three years).

### **• Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees**

Potential Trustees of the Association of Applied Biology will be given copy of Association's Laws and copies of any other key documents relevant to the Charity or post.

The booklet 'Responsibilities of Charity Trustees' published by the Charity Commission gives a complete guide to the responsibilities of Charity Trustees and will be issued to all new Trustees who are expected to read it.

Trustees of the Association of Applied Biologists are expected to read the Laws of the Association of Applied Biologists, additional information provided by the Association and the booklet 'Responsibilities of Charity Trustees'.

A 'job description' of each Trustee post will be given to each new Trustee upon appointment. It is the responsibility of each post holder to review and update their particular job description by the end of October each year. Any changes are to be agreed by Council at its last full meeting of the year.

New trustees will be given an induction session with the Executive Officer and/or a serving Trustee of the Association.

**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

• **Organisational structure**

The business of the Association is conducted by a Council of Members. Council shall consist of the Honorary Officers; President, President elect, General Secretary, General Treasurer, Publications Officer, Membership Officer, Programme Secretary, Meetings Treasurer and Early Career Scientist Champion, together with Conveners of the AAB Specialist Groups.

*Wider network*

Affiliations were maintained with the Institute of Biology, the Foundation for Science and Technology and the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers. The Association has a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Society for Agronomy.

**Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

**Statement of Trustees' responsibilities**

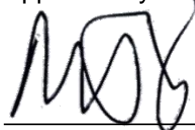
The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the CIO and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the CIO will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the CIO's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the CIO and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Laws of Association. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the CIO and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



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**Professor M J Gooding**  
President

Date: 25 September 2024



**Independent examiner's report  
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

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**Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of The Association of Applied Biologists ('the CIO')**

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the CIO for the year ended 31 December 2023.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the Trustees of the CIO you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

Since the CIO's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the CIO has prepared the accounts in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the CIO as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Independent examiner's report (continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

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This report is made solely to the CIO's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the CIO's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the CIO and the CIO's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.



Signed:

Dated: 25 September 2024

Mark Gurney FCCA

Birmingham



ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

# The Association of Applied Biologists

## Statement of financial activities For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds 12 months ended 31 December 2023 £	Restricted funds 12 months ended 31 December 2023 £	Total funds 12 months ended 31 December 2023 £	Total funds 11 months ended 31 December 2022 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	29,665	-	29,665	19,129
Charitable activities	4	417,840	-	417,840	554,824
Investments	5	11,800	-	11,800	5,743
<b>Total income</b>		<b>459,305</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>459,305</b>	<b>579,696</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities	6	394,964	1,274	396,238	628,554
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>394,964</b>	<b>1,274</b>	<b>396,238</b>	<b>628,554</b>
<b>Net (expenditure)/income before investments</b>		<b>64,341</b>	<b>(1,274)</b>	<b>63,067</b>	<b>(48,858)</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		90,611	-	90,611	(35,386)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	16	<b>154,952</b>	<b>(1,274)</b>	<b>153,678</b>	<b>(84,244)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward	16	1,434,280	5,499	1,439,779	1,524,023
Net movement in funds		154,952	(1,274)	153,678	(84,244)
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	16	<b>1,589,232</b>	<b>4,225</b>	<b>1,593,457</b>	<b>1,439,779</b>

The notes on pages 26 to 41 form part of these financial statements.

**The Association of Applied Biologists**  
**Registered number: 1195899**

**Balance sheet**  
**As at 31 December 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	12	-	913
Investments	13	1,370,103	1,146,190
		<u>1,370,103</u>	<u>1,147,103</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	14	138,711	90,017
Cash at bank and in hand		149,795	294,197
		<u>288,506</u>	<u>384,214</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(65,152)	(91,538)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>223,354</u>	<u>292,676</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u>1,593,457</u>	<u>1,439,779</u>
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Restricted funds	16	4,225	5,499
Unrestricted funds	16	1,589,232	1,434,280
<b>Total funds</b>		<u>1,593,457</u>	<u>1,439,779</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



**Professor M J Gooding**  
President

Date: 25 September 2024

The notes on pages 26 to 41 form part of these financial statements.

**Statement of cash flows**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

		<b>12 months ended 31 December 2023</b>	<b>11 months ended 31 December 2022</b>
	<b>Note</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash used in operating activities	19	<b>(22,900)</b>	(108,235)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Dividends, interests and rents from investments		<b>11,800</b>	5,743
Proceeds from sale of investments		<b>235,507</b>	189,363
Purchase of investments		<b>(357,355)</b>	(185,423)
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities</b>		<b>(110,048)</b>	<b>9,683</b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		<b>(132,948)</b>	<b>(98,552)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		<b>294,197</b>	392,749
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	20	<b>161,249</b>	294,197

The notes on pages 26 to 41 form part of these financial statements

ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS



**Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

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**1. General information**

The Association of Applied Biologists is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales under number 1195899.

The principal office address is Warwick Enterprise Park, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, CV35 9EF.

The principal activity of the charitable trust is to organise conferences and support publications, in order to support those working in the area of applied biology, and to promote advances in the field.

**2. Accounting policies**

**2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The Association of Applied Biologists meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The financial statements are presented for a 12 month period, and therefore, comparative amounts presented in the financial statements, including the related notes, are not entirely comparable. The prior period was a shortened period following the creation of the CIO by virtue of a transfer agreement dated 31 January 2022 to transfer the activities, assets and liabilities of the previous unincorporated charity The Association of Applied Biologists to the new CIO, The Association of Applied Biologists (registered charity number 1195899). Assets and liabilities were transferred to the CIO at their book value in line with the principles of merger accounting.

The financial statements are presented in the CIO's functional currency of GBP (Sterling). They are prepared to the nearest £.

**2.2 Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the CIO has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

## **2. Accounting policies (continued)**

### **2.3 Income**

All income is recognised once the CIO has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the CIO has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the CIO, can be reliably measured.

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

### **2.4 Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the CIO's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

## 2. Accounting policies (continued)

### 2.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the CIO; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

### 2.6 Foreign currencies

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at rates of exchange ruling at the reporting date.

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate ruling on the date of the transaction.

Exchange gains and losses are recognised in the Statement of financial activities.

### 2.7 Taxation

The Association of Applied Biologists has charitable status and is registered with the Charity Commission and is therefore exempt from paying Corporation Tax on charitable activities.

### 2.8 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £350 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

At each reporting date the CIO assesses whether there is any indication of impairment. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined to be the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. An impairment loss is recognised where the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Office equipment	- 4 years straight line
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### 2.9 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Statement of financial activities.

## 2. Accounting policies (continued)

### 2.10 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

### 2.11 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

### 2.12 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the CIO anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of financial activities as a finance cost.

### 2.13 Financial instruments

The CIO only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

### 2.14 Pensions

The CIO operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge in the Statement of financial activities represents the amounts payable by the CIO to the fund in respect of the year. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the Charity pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the Charity has no further obligations.

Amounts not paid are shown in accruals as a liability in the Balance Sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the Charity in independently administered funds.

### 2.15 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the CIO and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the CIO for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2023

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 12 months ended 31 December 2023 £	Total funds 12 months ended 31 December 2023 £
Donations	29,665	29,665

	Unrestricted funds 11 months ended 31 December 2022 £	Total funds 11 months ended 31 December 2022 £
Donations	19,129	19,129

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 12 months ended 31 December 2023 £	Total funds 12 months ended 31 December 2023 £
Conferences	116,698	116,698
Publications	286,629	286,629
Membership Fees	14,513	14,513
	417,840	417,840



Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2023

4. Income from charitable activities (continued)

	Unrestricted funds 11 months ended 31 December 2022 £	Total funds 11 months ended 31 December 2022 £
Conferences	317,324	317,324
Publications	222,716	222,716
Membership Fees	14,784	14,784
	<u>554,824</u>	<u>554,824</u>

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 12 months ended 31 December 2023 £	Total funds 12 months ended 31 December 2023 £
Income from listed investments	11,799	11,799
Bank interest received	1	1
	<u>11,800</u>	<u>11,800</u>

	Unrestricted funds 11 months ended 31 December 2022 £	Total funds 11 months ended 31 December 2022 £
Income from listed investments	5,738	5,738
Bank interest received	5	5
	<u>5,743</u>	<u>5,743</u>

Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2023

6. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 12 months ended 31 December 2023 £	Restricted funds 12 months ended 31 December 2023 £	Total 12 months ended 31 December 2023 £
Conferences	218,411	-	218,411
Publications	24,497	-	24,497
Membership Fees	8,644	-	8,644
Student travel grants	-	1,274	1,274
Management & administration costs	143,412	-	143,412
	<u>394,964</u>	<u>1,274</u>	<u>396,238</u>
	Unrestricted funds 11 months ended 31 December 2022 £	Restricted funds 11 months ended 31 December 2022 £	Total 11 months ended 31 December 2022 £
Conferences	436,773	-	436,773
Publications	36,274	-	36,274
Membership Fees	7,465	-	7,465
Student travel grants	-	8,545	8,545
Management & administration costs	139,497	-	139,497
	<u>620,009</u>	<u>8,545</u>	<u>628,554</u>

Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2023

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 12 months ended 31 December 2023 £	Grant funding of activities 12 months ended 31 December 2023 £	Support costs 12 months ended 31 December 2023 £	Total funds 12 months ended 31 December 2023 £
Conferences	218,411	-	-	218,411
Publications	24,497	-	-	24,497
Membership Fees	8,644	-	-	8,644
Student travel grants	-	1,274	-	1,274
Management & administration costs	-	-	143,412	143,412
	<u>251,552</u>	<u>1,274</u>	<u>143,412</u>	<u>396,238</u>

	Activities undertaken directly 11 months ended 31 December 2022 £	Grant funding of activities 11 months ended 31 December 2022 £	Support costs 11 months ended 31 December 2022 £	Total funds 11 months ended 31 December 2022 £
Conferences	436,773	-	-	436,773
Publications	36,274	-	-	36,274
Membership Fees	7,465	-	-	7,465
Student travel grants	-	8,545	-	8,545
Management & administration costs	-	-	139,497	139,497
	<u>480,512</u>	<u>8,545</u>	<u>139,497</u>	<u>628,554</u>

**Notes to the financial statements**  
For the year ended 31 December 2023

**7. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of support costs**

	Total funds 12 months ended 31 December 2023 £	Total funds 11 months ended 31 December 2022 £
Staff costs	76,004	59,840
Depreciation	913	1,756
Staff training and welfare	4,000	8,000
Office costs	4,816	5,024
Miscellaneous expenses	13,730	14,075
Independent examiner fees	3,100	3,575
Legal fees	830	4,921
Marketing and publicity	-	821
Establishment costs	24,703	25,550
Travel and accommodation	1,312	620
Governance costs	14,004	15,315
	<u>143,412</u>	<u>139,497</u>

**8. Analysis of grants**

	Grants to Individuals 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Student travel grants	<u>1,274</u>	<u>1,274</u>

	Grants to Individuals 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Student travel grants	<u>8,545</u>	<u>8,545</u>

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2023**

**9. Independent examiner's remuneration**

	2023 £	2022 £
Fees payable to the CIO's independent examiner for the independent examination of the CIO's annual accounts	<u>3,100</u>	<u>2,850</u>

**10. Staff costs**

	12 months ended 31 December 2023 £	11 months ended 31 December 2022 £
Wages and salaries	142,232	114,603
Social security costs	13,226	11,619
Staff pension costs	13,484	11,913
	<u>168,942</u>	<u>138,135</u>

The average number of persons employed by the CIO during the year was as follows:

	12 months ended 31 December 2023 No.	11 months ended 31 December 2022 No.
Charitable Activities	4	4
Governance	1	1
	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

**11. Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2022 - £NIL).

During the period ended 31 December 2023, expenses totalling £1,209 were reimbursed to 7 Trustees (2022 - £1,405 to 10 Trustees). The expenses reimbursed primarily related to travel and subsistence costs incurred in attending Council meetings and various other meetings, and general administration costs.



**Notes to the financial statements**  
For the year ended 31 December 2023

**12. Tangible fixed assets**

	Office equipment £
<b>Cost</b>	
At 1 January 2023	75,530
At 31 December 2023	75,530
<b>Depreciation</b>	
At 1 January 2023	74,617
Charge for the year	913
At 31 December 2023	75,530
<b>Net book value</b>	
At 31 December 2023	-
At 31 December 2022	913

**13. Fixed asset investments**

	Listed investments £	Cash in portfolio £	Total £
<b>Market valuation</b>			
At 1 January 2023	1,146,190	34,381	1,180,571
Additions	357,355	(357,355)	-
Disposals	(225,895)	233,752	7,857
Revaluations	80,999	-	80,999
Income net of fees	-	676	676
Cash transfers in/(out)	-	100,000	100,000
At 31 December 2023	1,358,649	11,454	1,370,103

The historical cost of the listed investments at the period end was £1,288,333.

Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2023

14. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	10,082	7,667
Other debtors	124,468	82,350
Prepayments and accrued income	4,161	-
	<u>138,711</u>	<u>90,017</u>

15. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	15,836	11,821
Other taxation and social security	3,635	1,099
Other creditors	1,228	1,228
Accruals and deferred income	44,453	77,390
	<u>65,152</u>	<u>91,538</u>
	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income at 1 January	74,541	103,145
Resources deferred during the year	40,733	74,541
Amounts released from previous periods	(74,541)	(103,145)
	<u>40,733</u>	<u>74,541</u>

Deferred income relates to membership fees received in advance, fees for conferences taking place in the following year and advances receivable on publications in respect of the following year.

Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2023

16. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General Funds	1,434,280	459,305	(394,964)	90,611	1,589,232
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Student travel grants	5,499	-	(1,274)	-	4,225
<b>Total of funds</b>	<b>1,439,779</b>	<b>459,305</b>	<b>(396,238)</b>	<b>90,611</b>	<b>1,593,457</b>

The restricted fund balance constitutes only one restricted fund, historically brought forward to be utilised for providing student travel grants, subject to applications being approved by the Association, and overseas travel grants. The grants are available to all students, whether members of the Association or not, but only available to students attending AAB conferences and meetings. For overseas travel grants, these are primarily for invited speakers and guests travelling from afar to attend conferences.

Statement of funds - prior period

	Balance at 1 February 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General Funds	1,509,979	579,696	(620,009)	(35,386)	1,434,280
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Student travel grants	14,044	-	(8,545)	-	5,499
<b>Total of funds</b>	<b>1,524,023</b>	<b>579,696</b>	<b>(628,554)</b>	<b>(35,386)</b>	<b>1,439,779</b>

Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2023

17. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
General funds	1,434,280	459,305	(394,964)	90,611	1,589,232
Restricted funds	5,499	-	(1,274)	-	4,225
	<u>1,439,779</u>	<u>459,305</u>	<u>(396,238)</u>	<u>90,611</u>	<u>1,593,457</u>

Summary of funds - prior period

	Balance at 1 February 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
General funds	1,509,979	579,696	(620,009)	(35,386)	1,434,280
Restricted funds	14,044	-	(8,545)	-	5,499
	<u>1,524,023</u>	<u>579,696</u>	<u>(628,554)</u>	<u>(35,386)</u>	<u>1,439,779</u>

18. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Fixed asset investments	1,358,649	-	1,358,649
Current assets	296,255	4,225	300,480
Creditors due within one year	(65,672)	-	(65,672)
<b>Total</b>	<u>1,589,232</u>	<u>4,225</u>	<u>1,593,457</u>

Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2023

18. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	913	-	913
Fixed asset investments	1,146,190	-	1,146,190
Current assets	378,715	5,499	384,214
Creditors due within one year	(91,538)	-	(91,538)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,434,280</b>	<b>5,499</b>	<b>1,439,779</b>

19. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	12 months ended 31 December 2023 £	11 months ended 31 December 2022 £
Net income/expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<b>153,678</b>	(84,244)
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	<b>913</b>	1,756
(Gains)/losses on investments	<b>(90,611)</b>	35,386
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	<b>(11,800)</b>	(5,743)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	<b>(48,694)</b>	(28,638)
(Decrease) in creditors	<b>(26,386)</b>	(26,752)
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>	<b>(22,900)</b>	(108,235)

20. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand	<b>149,795</b>	259,816
Cash held by investment managers	<b>11,454</b>	34,381
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>161,249</b>	294,197



**Notes to the financial statements**  
For the year ended 31 December 2023

**21. Analysis of changes in net debt**

	At 1 January 2023	Cash flows	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>294,197</u>	<u>(144,402)</u>	<u>149,795</u>

**22. Pension commitments**

The pension cost charge for the period represents contributions payable by the Charity to the scheme and amounted to £13,484 (11 months to 31 December 2022: £11,913). The contributions payable to the fund at the balance sheet date were £Nil (2022 - £Nil).

**23. Operating lease commitments**

At 31 December 2023 the CIO had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Not later than 1 year	11,534	11,534
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	-	11,534
	<u>11,534</u>	<u>23,068</u>

**24. Related party transactions**

The CIO has not entered into any related party transaction during the year, nor are there any outstanding balances owing between related parties and the CIO at 31 December 2023.



ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

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