

2009 Radical Statistics Annual General Meeting minutes

1.) In attendance: Geoffrey Rendle (chair), Ray Thomas, Russell Ecob, Sue Mallett, Humphrey Southall, Jay Ginn, Janet Shapiro, Lee Williams, Jane Galbraith, Alison Macfarlane, Paul McGill, Eileen Magnello, Robin Rice, Renate Simpson, Ludi Simpson, Bleddyn Davis, David Lamb, Hafiz Khan, Sidney Tyrrell, Alistair Cairns (minutes). Apologies: Shailen Nandy.

2.) 2008 AGM minutes accepted.

3.) Ludi Simpson proposes: admin be asked to create effective manner to communicate with the whole membership, both email & non-email-users, using the 'Announce' list & post respectively, so that all members are provided AGM minutes promptly afterwards; and receive a programme of conference conveniently beforehand (and that date & place of the next conference should be included in the first newsletter after they are known). Accepted.

4.) Janet Shapiro gives Treasurer's Report (see reports). Expenses continue to be in excess of income – a problem that occurs regularly but with dwindling balances in reserve the problem becomes more critical each year.

There are still members who need to update Standing Orders to the current level.

Edina, at Edinburgh University, generously provided the printing for RS journal #97 (Devolution issue), a donation worth £1,430.

For now, the Health Subgroup's funds are ring-fenced in a separate account. Alison is discussing with the subgroup what this balance might be used for.

Accounts, although yet to be audited, are agreed upon.

5.) Alistair speaks briefly on membership (see reports).

6.) Future Finances. Several years ago RadStats had quite a large balance, especially compared to annual expenses. Decisions were taken to accept spending beyond income to promote RadStats' goals and its visibility. The essay competition (with prize money) is one example.

However, on an ongoing basis, with income & expenses continuing not to match and reserves having been greatly reduced, this practice is unsustainable.

Recruitment of new members, while essential, will not solve things since membership rates just cover the cost of putting out journals. Also, past efforts to attract new members (including the essay competition, design & distribution of a new brochure, paying to design the journal covers to look more contemporary) have not been terribly effective - although costing money - so

pinning hopes on bringing in significant new membership is probably optimistic.

Some members may prefer not to receive a paper copy, and they could opt out, slightly reducing printing costs. Perhaps they could instead receive a password -protected version of each current journal, but we are not equipped to do so at the moment.

Efforts have been made to solicit donations during the past year but future ones cannot be counted upon. Publishing a RadStats book (in the past a profitable venture) is a desirable goal, but will not be achievable this year.

At the 2008 AGM the Troika was asked to produce a projected budget and monitor expenses throughout the year to ensure expenses were affordable. Meetings and subsequent discussions were held to try to accomplish this. Working with such a small budget is a challenge. Reducing the number of (recently larger) journals from 3 to 2 per year could bring income into line with expenses.

However, it was considered important not just to reduce expenses but to increase income. A vote was called to raise (waged) subscriptions from £15 to £25. This passed unanimously.

7.) Editors report was omitted due to time.

8.) Website report was omitted due to time.

9.) Essay Competition. The 2008 Essay Competition cost approximately £1000, mainly for the winners' prizes. This biennial event was conceived when RS' bank balances were much larger. The amount of prize money may likely need to be reviewed, but this decision was postponed till 2010 AGM. Donations could be pursued to cover some of the prize money, but lacking this some other significant changes will be required.

10.) RadStats 'Fringe' meeting at the RSS 2008 Conference. David Byrne was the speaker. It was well received & others should be encouraged to give talks on behalf of RadStats at these – and other - conferences. Brochures are available to bring along to conferences – requests to be sent to administrator.

The website could perhaps be better used to promote the group. If topical issues appear regularly and the site is visited by more people more frequently, interested people might join.

11.) Troika elections. Eileen Magnello, an Essay Competition judge, offers to stand. Ludi Simpson offers to stand. Colin continues to be non-responsive to communications and requests for help with Troika, so has effectively removed himself. Lee Williamson has offered to stay on for a fourth year on the Troika.

All seconded, accepted & thanked. Geoffrey was particularly thanked for his role in keeping Radstats going over the past year and for serving four years on the Troika.

12.) We have no concrete offers for a conference in 2010. It will be held late February or early March and further decisions are left to the Troika.

Oxford Institute of Ageing has covered the cost of the room for 2009 Conference, which is gratefully acknowledged, and Geoffrey will reiterate this in writing to the Director.

Radical Statistics

Treasurers' Report for 2008-2009

The trends observed in previous years have not changed this year. Our net assets continue to fall as costs exceed income; decisions need to be made at the AGM.

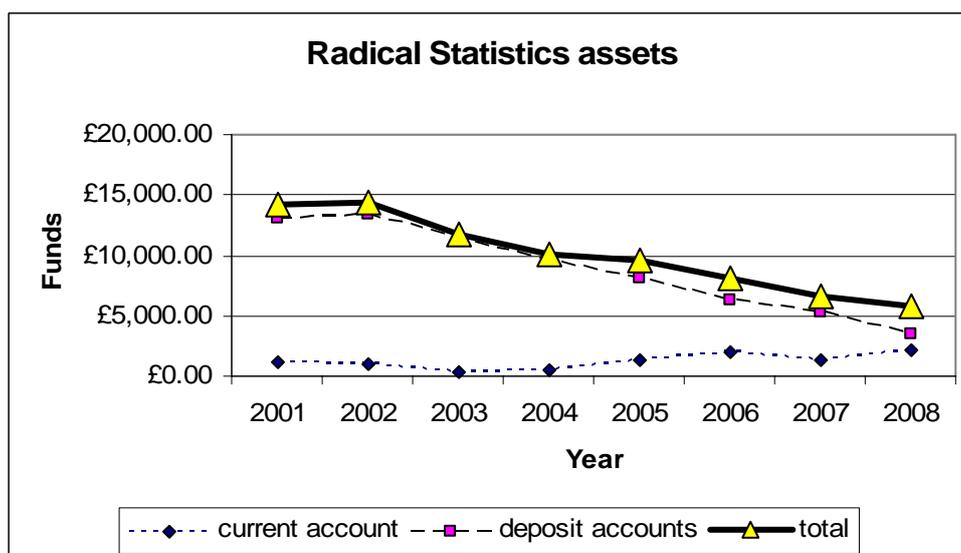
The subscription of £15 is set quite low and barely covers two newsletters per year. The website announces that we publish three newsletters per year, a target not met at present, so this needs editing. Institutional subscriptions are also low at £25 but having copies in libraries helps publicise the group and contributes about 10% of members' total subscriptions. Institutions will need to be informed of any decision.

Many members default on paying their full subscription. Banks statements are littered with odd payments – even from active RadStats people. Action is needed to correct this. At the last AGM it was suggested that members be asked to make extra donations. We are grateful to Adam Molivar and Walter Barker for their donations of £350 and £25 respectively. Some others have paid £20 instead of £15.

Sponsors were also called for. We are grateful to Edina, who paid for the printing costs of the over-sized publication of the AGM 2008 Conference #97. We should encourage more sponsors and donors to come forward.

Total assets were boosted by the receipt of the Health Group's funds; this money is kept in a separate 14 day account while Health Group members decide how it should be used. Possibilities for further Radical Statistics publications or alternative projects should be discussed at the AGM.

The Biennial Critical Essay Competition was run successfully in 2008 and produced five essays for the current newsletter #98. The AGM will need to decide whether the competition will be organised for 2010, and if so, what budget will be allocated. The essay competition served to publicise the group and the AGM may prefer alternative less expensive ways of doing this.



Deposit accounts do not include the Health Group Account

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
ACCOUNT
for the year ending
31 December 2008**

	2008	2007 £	2006 £	2005 £	2004 £
GENERAL INCOME					
subscriptions	£2,989.00	£3,997.80	£2,269.00	£2,179.00	£2,659.00
Conference Fees	£458.00	£583.00	£1,002.00	£705.02	£1,125.00
Publications	£81.50				
library subs	£295.00				
donation*	£375.00				
Health account	£4,819.36				
other			£633.00	£224.00	£302.00
subtotal	£9,017.86	£4,580.80	£3,904.00	£3,108.02	£4,086.00
INTEREST RECEIVED	£76.39	£78.05	£46.44	£91.02	£173.45
TOTAL INCOME	£9,094.25	£4,658.85	£3,950.44	£3,199.04	£4,259.45
EXPENDITURE					
Conference costs	£100.00	£840.66	£571.93	£700.33	£839.79
Radstats Newsletter	£3,057.62	£3,340.18	£2,034.64	£1,178.45	£3,104.76
Administrative costs	£793.35	£1,279.48	£1,969.28	£943.10	£1,547.44
Central publications			£0.00		
Bank charges	£24.83	£38.44	£28.77	£27.18	£33.62
Other	£99.70	£721.57	£0.00	£178.75	£400.00
Essay	£1,021.00		£731.14	£730.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£5,096.50	£6,220.33	£5,335.76	£3,757.81	£5,925.61
NET INCOME	£3,997.75	-£1,561.48	-£1,385.32	-£558.77	-£1,666.16

* Radical Statistics Group acknowledges a large donation of £1430 from Edina for print costs for #97

**RADICAL STATISTICS
GROUP**

**NET WORTH
As at 31st December
2008**

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
BANK BALANCES					
Current Account	£2,181.55	£1,285.19	£1,924.72	£1,356.48	£506.27
14 Day Deposit	£3,543.61	£5,286.58	£6,208.53	£8,162.09	£9,569.07
14 Day Deposit (Health)	£4,844.36				
TOTAL	£10,569.52	£6,571.77	£8,133.25	£9,518.57	£10,075.34
INCREASE IN NET WORTH					
bank balances at 1st Jan 2008	£6,571.77	£8,133.25	£9,518.57	£10,075.34	£11,741.50
bank balances at 31st Dec 2008	£10,569.52	£6,571.77	£8,133.25	£9,518.57	£10,075.34
Net Income for Year	£3,997.75	-£1,561.48	-£1,385.32	-£556.77	-£1,666.16

The final net income of £3,997.75 appears much better than the previous year, but it includes the transfer from the Health Group. There would have been a deficit of £821.61 without that money and that deficit would have been worse without the Edina sponsorship of the #97 newsletter. However the costs (£1021) of the essay competition were met this year.

Janet Shapiro
Treasurer
March 3rd 2009

Membership Report for 2009 AGM

Alistair Cairns, Administrator

As of March 2009, breakdown of membership within Radical Statistics Group is:

	2009	08	07
Unwaged/student	11	16	15
Low waged	16	18	10
Waged	204	229	233
Institutional	25	24	24
Overseas	10	12	11
Gratis *	8	6	16
Total	274	305	309

** An additional four copies are sent for the Legal Deposits Libraries. Editors, authors & essay competition winners each receive two copies.*

18 new members joined in 2008.