

Radical Statistics Annual General Meeting
23 February, 2019
Liverpool

Minutes

Present: Peter Bates, John Bibby, Paul Bivand, David Byrne, Roy Carr-Hill, Sean Demack, Russell Ecob, Jeff Evans, Claire Griffiths, Eileen Magnello, David Lamb, Alison Macfarlane, Maurice Marchant, Phil Newton, Wendy Olsen, Martin Rathfelder, Jim Ridgeway, Janet Shapiro, Humphrey Southall, Alistair Cairns (minutes).

Introductions & welcome.

1. Approval of previous year's AGM minutes.

2. Radical Statistics Editors report – Roy Carr-Hill

Roy is thanked for taking lead on the journal for the year. The journal is in need of submissions. More help also would be helpful in specific areas (see AOB).

The book reviews section is being reviewed. An updated system and invitations to review will appear soon to members.

A redesign of the front covers is underway. The current abacus has lasted 15 or so years and several more contemporary and stimulating designs are being discussed by the Editors.

3. Troika report – Roger Cook [appended]

4. Treasurer's report & Finances – David Lamb [both appended] David is thanked.

There has been another year of overspend. This needs to be corrected. Discussion taken on ways of cutting costs, or increasing revenue.

Conferences must be able to cover their expenses. This has not always been the case.

The colour (graphs) in recent journals have added considerable expense to the printing. There is a split of opinion on the value of print journals. There are strong proposals to eliminate it - and to keep it as is. The compromise – to be explored – is to offer RS membership with e-subscription only; and to offer a membership 'plus' at a premium which would include print copies.

Additionally it is suggested RS could: attempt to increase subscriptions; solicit donations; and circulate information about legacies.

5. Membership report – Alistair Cairns [appended] Membership is stable and increased slightly last year, reversing a previous trend.

Alistair & Wendy will arrange to speak about re-designing or re-issuing RS promotional materials. These have been made available for members to bring to events etc but this practice has slipped.

6. Conference organisers report – Stefanie Doebler – All agree this year's conference exceeded expectations. The inclusion of the Pensioners group might have been integrated a bit better but their presence was welcome. Stefi thanked.

7. 2020 Conference – It is agreed to pursue a London-based conference on a theme incorporating the anniversary of Florence Nightingale. Eileen Magnello will start organising additional themes with an emphasis on contemporary and radical political situations (ie the conference will not be primarily historical in nature). The decision of the AGM was that a working group of three people, John Bibby, Eileen Magnello, and Alison Macfarlane, was set up to take responsibility for all aspects of the conference. (They may decide of course to co-opt others to help.).

Venue will be looked at as soon as possible.

There is interest in re-trying a Friday conference which would allow more working-age practitioners to attend than a Saturday event. It is hoped – as occurred last time – that this might bring in new, younger attendees. This is approved, pending availability.

2021 is tentatively to take place in Newcastle.

2022 is likely to be in Sheffield.

Some feel promotion of conferences could be improved.

8. Essay competition – Dave Byrne – Dave has spoken with, and plans to meet, the previous organiser in the next few days. Dave reports he is interested in exploring a theme of ‘benefits’ for the first competition. Traditionally there have been ‘student’ and ‘open’ categories.

9. Website/social media report – Robin Rice

The website keeps up to date on the journal and conferences. It could be enhanced with short topical pieces, which would appear as blog posts. Support is on offer. Generally, suggestions and help are welcome.

Radstats has 716 followers on Facebook, and 3748 on Twitter. Both are fairly active.

10. JISC mail report – Alison Macfarlane

There was a flair-up on the list in August which Alison attempted to deal with but a complaint was made to jiscmail about racist language and a suggestion was made that the list was changed to a moderated list. It was decided not to do this, the offending list members apologised and the discussion was closed. This incident was followed by a four month period during which the list was virtually dormant.

11. RS2020 book report – Jeff Evans, Sally Ruane and Humphrey Southall [appended]

The newest Radstats book has a publisher in Policy Press and will go to press this summer.

The “Handbook for Statistical Activists” book is not proceeding at this time.

12. The academic institutional boycott of Israel working group – No updates, and this is presumed defunct. If anyone is interested in resuscitating this effort, contact RS Admin.

13. Any other business

Given the lack of participation on the Troika (currently one member), the need to review impact, stability and entire method of producing the journal, and need for financial review it is agreed to create a temporary working committee. This group will discuss and propose ideas, circulate as appropriate and come up with recommendations well before the next AGM so that an appropriate amount of time can be given for discussion and decisions.

Motion approved: that we establish a commission to examine all aspects of RS's organisation (including aims and finance, the journal and all volunteer roles) and suggest what changes are necessary to ensure that RS is fit for purpose for the next two decades.

MEETING CLOSES

-photo from first session-



Troika Report

By necessity this is brief, not least I've had a disrupted working year (even for someone who is self-employed) which has reduced time and level of interaction.

Main issues have been picking up a few press enquiries and passing them on either to other members or providing the journalists with the information they required.

Beyond that, members of the Troika have acted as a sounding board for some queries and/or been involved in organising specific RadStats activities – but more as individuals than a group.

Most practical admin related demands have fallen to Alistair to pick up.

Purely personal view is it might be worth rethinking what the role of the Troika is. I'm happy to carry on but my ability to contribute is often severely curtailed due to variances in my work. In the last year, in addition to some research work (which involved travelling to the more remote, internet challenged, corners of Scotland), I've been working with a community land buyout group setting up a café/bakery (again in the far north). This severely limits any ability to respond or engage.

Roger Cook

Radical Statistics – Treasurer’s report

AGM 23rd February 2019

For the third year in a row RadStats has had an excess of expenditure over income. The group needs to rethink its financial strategy to ensure it does not spend all its funds.

Income

The income from subscriptions is steady, although much lower than it was five years ago.

Historically income from the conference has varied widely. Conference income covers the costs of holding the conference but no longer generates the surplus of a few years ago.

Expenditure

The main item of expenditure for the conference is room hire. This cost varies with the venue.

RadStats’ largest item of expenditure is the journal. The costs of the RadStats journal have increased for two reasons. The first is the number of issues published during the year. In addition the costs of printing have increased with the use of colour to display graphs and charts.

Part of the increase in administrative costs is postage for mailing the newsletter.

To ensure the continuing existence of RadStats the membership and Troika should consider means of increasing the income or reducing the expenditure of the group.

David Lamb

Treasurer

February 2019

Radical Statistics
2017 AGM

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
for the year ending 31 December 2018**

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
GENERAL INCOME										
subscriptions	£3,627.00	£3,429.00	£3,962.00	£4,242.00	£4,058.00	£4,467.00	£4,520.00	£4,812.00	£4,212.00	£4,315.00
Conference Takings	£1,730.00	£1,605.00	£2,040.00	£2,900.00	£765.00	£2,865.00	£2,855.00	£1,400.00	£3,134.03	£815.00
takings:costs			£1.10	£1.55	£0.17	£1.27	£2.69	£4.70	£3.57	£6.64
Publications/sales	£13.35	£56.68		£103.34			£20.00			
library subs	£50.00	£115.00		£50.00	£275.00	£395.00	£187.00	£275.00	£110.00	£435.00
donation*									£15.00	£94.00
paypal				£0.01						
credit in error							£50.00			
refund of debits in error					£1,207.85	£105.00	£65.54			
subtotal	£5,420.35	£5,205.68	£6,003.10	£7,296.90	£6,306.02	£7,833.27	£7,700.23	£6,491.70	£7,474.60	£5,665.64
interest current account		£0.00	£0.00	£11.47	£21.18	£20.21	£13.99			
Interest deposit account (56)		£3.44	£3.39	£1.66	£3.34	£3.34	£3.34	£3.33	£6.85	
Interest Deposit account	£0.77	£3.93	£4.62	£2.27	£4.56	£4.55	£4.57	£4.55	£3.33	
TOTAL INTEREST RECEIVED	£0.77	£7.37	£8.01	£15.40	£29.08	£28.10	£21.90	£7.88	£10.18	£12.65
TOTAL INCOME	£5,421.12	£5,213.05	£6,011.11	£7,312.30	£6,335.10	£7,861.37	£7,722.13	£6,499.58	£7,484.78	£5,678.29
EXPENDITURE										
Conference costs	£1,363.00	£2,667.80	£1,856.60	£1,867.00	£4,629.95	£2,257.02	£1,062.60	£297.68	£878.89	£122.65
Radstats Newsletter	£2,998.10	£2,416.77	£1,474.00	£555.00	£1,020.00	£1,143.75	£1,509.24	£2,484.50	£2,663.37	£2,167.47
Administrative fee	£1,367.10	£1,411.33	£1,124.06	£698.74	£987.35	£1,038.54	£1,265.24	£1,149.12	£849.21	£810.00
Administrative expenses	£1,979.54	£1,792.71	£1,707.02	£945.18	£1,194.33	£812.43	£1,517.14	£285.42		
Miscellaneous							£300.00	£102.35	£30.00	£309.29
Bank charges						£0.00	£3.34	£31.98	£83.86	£17.14
Big Data Project	£379.40		£275.70	£231.20						
Other (leaflet)									£55.00	£100.00
Essay			£268.42	£55.49	£230.00		£33.00	£100.00		
refund (credits in error)						£50.00	£510.00			
debits in error							£266.54			
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£8,087.14	£8,288.61	£6,705.80	£4,352.61	£8,061.63	£5,301.74	£6,467.10	£4,451.05	£4,560.33	£3,526.55
NET INCOME	-£2,666.02	-£3,075.56	-£694.69	£2,959.69	-£1,726.53	£2,559.63	£1,255.03	£2,048.53	£2,924.45	£2,151.74

Membership Report for 2019 AGM

Alistair Cairns, Administrator

As of February 2019, membership within Radical Statistics consists of:

	2018	2017	2016	2015
Low waged/Student	56	50	47	44
Standard	197	186	189	189
Institutional	26	26	26	26
Outside UK	12	12	11	6
Gratis *	11	11	11	3
Total	302	285	284	268

** An additional five copies are sent to the Legal Deposits Libraries.*

Five independent/radical bookshops in UK receive copies to sell, with no payment expected.

Editors, authors & essay competition winners and graphic artist each receive two copies (one additional if already member).