

## **Report of the AGM 2009**

This is a brief summary of the decisions made at the 2009 Annual General Meeting with notes on actions that have been taken since. For full papers see the website [www.radstats.org.uk](http://www.radstats.org.uk).

Twenty members attended the AGM that followed a well-attended conference with a full programme of talks. Radical statistics were particularly grateful to The Oxford Institute of Ageing providing free and very comfortable accommodation; our thanks to Hafiz Khan who suggested the venue.

There was anxiety about the level of funding caused by increased costs of postage & newsletter printing that exceeded income. A shortened treasurer's report follows. The AGM decided to raise the annual subscription to £25 (£10 student/low-income) and to launch a membership drive.

Since then our administrator has struggled with the mammoth task of getting members to update their standing orders. Some members are seriously out of date. If you need to update your subscription contact Alistair Cairns at [admin@radstats.org.uk](mailto:admin@radstats.org.uk). A mandate can be downloaded from the website. There have been some generous donations; offers to sponsor expensive initiatives such as colour printings would be gratefully accepted.

A slight decline in membership was reported. It was noted that talks given at RadStats Fringe meetings at conferences events are very effective for recruitment. Since the AGM a new recruitment leaflet has been produced to be available for members to distribute at suitable events. It was suggested that more use be made of the website to comment on topical issues; several papers have since been posted on the site.

Publishing a RadStats book was found profitable in the past. Members who wish to help with such a long-term venture were encouraged to offer their services.

A decision on the Biennial Critical Essay Competition was postponed to the 2010 AGM. The editors reported that the five successful essays were published in *Radical Statistics* #98. The contestants are to be congratulated.

The AGM thanked Geoffrey Rendle, who was standing down after his extended four year period, and Lee Williamson who had also agreed to serve for a fourth year.

Eileen Magnello and Ludi Simpson were welcomed to complete the troika for the next year.

A decision was taken for the 2010 conference to take place in London, with detailed planning left in the hands of the new troika.

*Janet Shapiro*

**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.

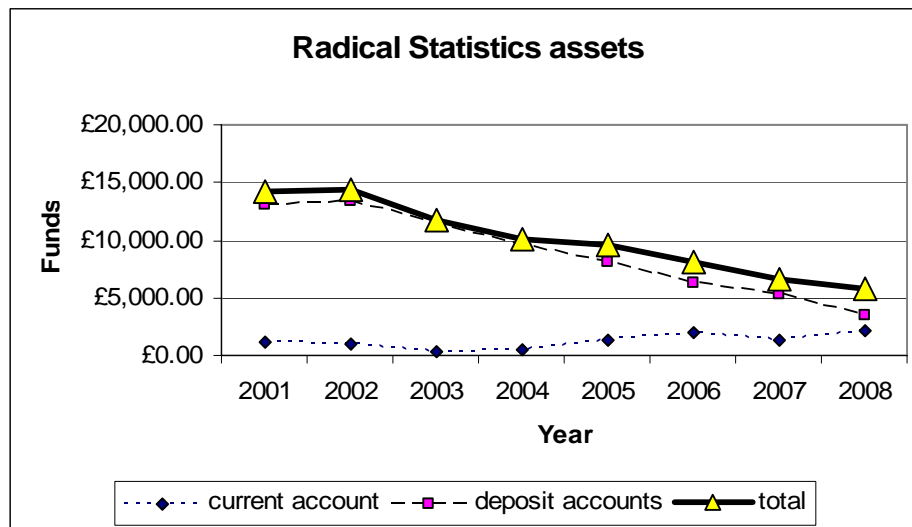
The subscription of £15 is set quite low and barely covers two newsletters per year. The website announces that we publish three newsletters per year, a target not met at present, so this needs editing. Institutional subscriptions are also low at £25 but having copies in libraries helps publicise the 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 and total accounts do not include the Health Group Account of £4,804.36 which was transferred in 2008.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009

**Membership Report for 2009 AGM**

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

	2009	2008	2007
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.

Alistair Cairns, Administrator  
[admin@radstats.org.uk](mailto:admin@radstats.org.uk)

***Urgent: Books looking for Reviewers***

We have review copies available for the following books. We need to find reviewers. You get to keep the book!

1) Published by The Policy Press

Will Somerville (2007) *Immigration under New Labour*.

Tess Ridge & Sharon Wright (2008) *Understanding Inequality, Poverty and Wealth: Policies and prospects*.

*The Peter Townsend Reader* (2010) edited by The Policy Press.

2) Other

David Bartholomew, Fiona Steele, Iirini Moustaki, Jane Galbraith (2008) *Analysis of Multivariate Social Science Data*. CRC.

Mervyn Stone (2009) *Failing to Figure: Whitehall's costly neglect of statistical reasoning*. Civitas.

*Dementia: ethical issues* (2009) Nuffield Council on Bioethics.

Simon Singh & Edzard Ernst (2009) *Trick or Treatment? Alternative medicine on trial*. Corgi. (Also 2008, Bantam Press.)

Ben Goldacre (2009) *Bad Science*. second edition, Fourth Estate.

If you would like to review any of the above or any other book, please email [editors@radstats.org.uk](mailto:editors@radstats.org.uk) .