

Minutes of Radical Statistics Annual General Meeting

26 February, 2011

Attendance: David McNulty, Alistair Greig, Lee Williamson, Bob Sanders, David Lamb, Mary Cooper, Harriet Walsh, Russell Ecob, Stephen Clark, Katy Fone, David Byrne, Christian Brand, Aubrey Blumsohn, Simon Tanner, Sanjay Nayak, John Buttone, *Ellen Gill*, Liz Riley, Sarah Drew, Peter Long, Robin Rice, Jude Towers, Geoffrey Rendle, Alison Macfarlane, Rachel Cohen, Melanie Simms, Fazilat Dar, Pam Ashton, Pete Latache, Val Saunders, Jane Galbraith, Robert Grant, Brian Jackson, Judith Furnace, John Urquhart, Ludi Simpson, Stuart Parkinson, Peter Wilmshurst, Paul Marchant, Susan Mimmelweit, Eileen Magnello, Jay Ginn, Chantal Franco, Alan Franco, Larry Brownstein, Janet Shapiro, Diane Elson, Hafiz Khan, Howard Reed, Nesta Holden, Roger Boyle

David Manley chairs. Alistair Cairns takes minutes.

1. 2010 AGMminutes accepted.
2. Troika Report: by Ludi Simpson (report attached). Blog has been particularly effective in promoting RadStats' goals. New promotional materials will be available very soon.
3. Treasurers Report: by Janet Shapiro (report attached). A gain in income is reported. Geoffrey Rendle audited and has approved the report. There are some outstanding cheques, but still in positive for 2010, as indicated. Problems with erroneously paid Direct Debits have been corrected.

JS to approach Coop to switch to 'paying in only' status for account.

AC to propose to JS tighter method of relaying different income categories.

JS proposes two further signatories be added. Approved.

4. Editors Report: by Janet Shapiro. 3 issues were produced in 2010 which was quite ambitious. Thanks is given to Janet Galbraith, who has stepped down. Since 2004, JS & JG have been Editors, with recent help from Bob Saunders and guest Editors, all of whom are thanked. Despite lack of peer review the quality remains very good. There are, as of now, no themes for future journals but there are plenty of issues which could be addressed. JS calls for guest Editors & for Editors.

Larry Brownstein & Alistair Greig are nominated. Both accepted.

Motions from Jane Galbraith accepted after amendment. Final accepted motion reads: "Radical Statistics will not knowingly publish falsehoods, gross misrepresentations of the work of others or misuses of statistics, except for the purpose of exposing and/or correcting such falsehoods, misrepresentations or misuses. The editors of the Radical Statistics newsletter have the duty to ask authors to correct any identified misuse of statistics, falsehood or gross misrepresentation of the work of others before

an article is accepted for publication. Should disputes be unresolved between editors and authors, editors will refer to the Troika who will liaise and arbitrate.”

The editors agreed to consider policy on liability and rights, and retraction and correction of falsehoods.

5. Web Editor Report: by Robin Rice (report attached). Quite a few changes have taken place recently but journals continue to provide main content of the website. RR suggests statistics on website use/ hits are not absolutely reliable, but they indicate that users are going beyond the home page to specific articles, some quite heavily.

Blog theme is currently ‘Reduced Statistics’ but there are many other topics that could be raised and used. The new interest group should use the blog.

RadStats now has a presence on social networking at Twitter and Facebook; anyone can ‘like’ & blog posts can be re-tweeted. Further information is on website. RR thanks Alastair Grieg for the social network enhancements and together they plan to ‘migrate’ the website to a more contemporary site.

Larry Brownstein’s offer of help on developing the website was accepted.

Troika will be consulted on proposed changes as the website is moved over to Wordpress. RR & AG thanked.

6. Email list report: by Alison Macfarlane. Currently there are 337 subscribers. There are a series of ongoing discussions. There has been less ‘trouble’ on the list this year. There is a members-only Announce RadStats list, which is low volume. There is also a separate, open to members & non-members alike, discussion list which generates significant volume, relating to any number of topics and issues.

7. Membership Report: by Alistair Cairns (report attached). Another year where we see a drop in membership is expected to taper off; that being a result rate increase two year ago rate. There have been an encouraging number of new members in 2010. AC thanked for work.

8. Subgroup activity Report (attached). Spoken to by Ludi Simpson. There is a new subgroup: ‘Population Studies’. It aims to collate its notes on the Optimum Population Trust; contact Sylvie Dubuc if interested in rejuvenated subgroup.

9. Essay Competition: by Lee Williamson. LW & Alan Marshall are coordinating this year’s competition. Flyers are available; please help to promote. Judges have been selected and information is available on the website.

10. Troika elections: by David Manley. All three current Troika intend to remain another year. New members are encouraged to join. JG proposes Troika be encouraged to accept a fourth member. Larry Brownstein self-nominates. Accepted.

11. Conference 2012: by David Manley. Jay Ginn suggests Croydon and her offer to be local coordinator accepted. Offers of help will be greatly appreciated & Troika will support. Topic/theme suggestions include 'Getting out of the cuts' ("*something a bit positive in tone*"), 'Statistical Literacy', 'Are we happier?' and 'Statistics & well being'.

Of course, measuring the effects of the cuts would be possible by that time. Along this line, suggestions include 'Less is more' or 'Measuring the cuts' or, as an activist-oriented theme 'Power to the people'.

At the point the conference is being organised, all offers of help & guidance will be appreciated and incorporated.

12. AOB.

The bank balance from the Health sub-group remains. AM suggests activity may increase in coming times. Although the funds are ring-fenced, if there are pressing issues needing addressed, that money could be made available to help. LS points out, as a general trend, print material are not necessarily going to be as important as has been the case in the past.

Meeting ended.

Radical Statistics Group Accounts 2009-2010

Treasurer's comment

The net gain for 2009 – 2010 is given as £2,920.88, but the expenses for this year should include cheques for administration # 103 newsletter cover - £970.28 and £150 respectively. There was also a printer's bill of £925 that rightly belongs to 2010 activity.

That would still leave us with a net gain of £875.60; this is much better than earlier years. Most members are now paying at the new rate of £25 that covers outgoings better; for this we have to thank our administrator (assisted by Ludi) for chasing up members who failed to update their standing orders.

We can also congratulate ourselves on producing three newsletters this year within this budget.

One problem arose with a rogue set of Direct Debits on our account – the money was reinstated and does not appear in the account above. The bank suggested that our bank details were taken from the web page. Also a few cheques did not arrive. In one case the cheque was stopped – but this turned out to be very expensive. For the other two I have just sent replacement cheques.

The accounts may not make clear whether library subscriptions have gone down. Statements do not give much information about the creditor – and the rate is £25 for both members and libraries. I have not been able to distinguish between them. Also the account does not give a clear picture for the revenue from conference last year. A more fool-proof system is needed to record the proportion of bank credits according to conference and

subscriptions as information sent to me by the administrator tends to get lost. This will be addressed for next year.

We shall arrange for additional signatories and for this the AGM should minute the intention. I would like to thank Mike Quiggin who has second signed cheques very promptly and reliably.

Janet Shapiro

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ending 31 December 2010				
	2010	2009	2008	2007
GENERAL INCOME				
subscriptions	£4,212.00	£4,315.00	£2,989.00	£3,997.80
Conference Fees	£3,134.03	£815.00	£458.00	£583.00
Publications			£81.50	
library subs	£110.00	£435.00	£295.00	
donation*	£15.00	£94.00	£375.00	
			£4,819.36	
other				
subtotal	£7,471.03	£5,659.00	£9,017.86	£4,580.80
Interest Health account	£6.85			
Interest Deposit account	£3.33			
TOTAL INTEREST RECEIVED	£10.18	£12.65	£76.39	£78.05
TOTAL INCOME	£7,481.21	£5,671.65	£9,094.25	£4,658.85
EXPENDITURE				
Conference costs	£878.89	£122.65	£100.00	£840.66
Radstats Newsletter	£2,663.37	£2,167.47	£3,057.62	£3,340.18
Administrative costs	£849.21	£810.00	£793.35	£1,279.48
Miscellaneous	£30.00	£309.29		
Central publications				
Bank charges	£83.86	£17.14	£24.83	£38.44
Other (leaflet)	£55.00	£100.00	£99.70	£721.57
Essay			£1,021.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£4,560.33	£3,526.55	£5,096.50	£6,220.33
NET INCOME	£2,920.88	£2,145.10	£3,997.75	-£1,561.48

NET WORTH				
As at 31st December 2010				
	2010	2009	2008	2007
BANK BALANCES				
Current Account	£7,224.70	£4,314.00	£2,181.55	£1,285.19
14 Day Deposit	£3,555.31	£3,551.98	£3,543.61	£5,286.58
14 Day Deposit (Health)	£4,855.49	£4,848.64	£4,844.36	
TOTAL	£15,635.50	£12,714.62	£10,569.52	£6,571.77
INCREASE IN NET WORTH				
bank balances at 1st Jan 2010	£12,714.62	£10,569.52	£6,571.77	£8,133.25
bank balances at 31st Dec 2010	£15,635.50	£12,714.62	£10,569.52	£6,571.77
Net Income for Year	£2,920.88	£2,145.10	£3,997.75	-£1,561.48
Janet Shapiro, Treasurer				

Membership Report for 2011 AGM

Alistair Cairns, Administrator

As of February 2011, membership within Radical Statistics consists of:

	2011	2010	2009
Unwaged		*	11
Low waged/Student	32	30	16
Standard	180	187	204
Institutional	26	25	25
Overseas	6	7	10
Gratis **	7	8	8
Total	251	257	274

* Following 2009 AGM, unwaged category was combined with low/student.

** Five copies are sent to the Legal Deposits Libraries and two to the cover's graphic artist.

Editors, authors & essay competition winners each receive two copies (one additional if already members).

27 new members joined in 2010.

14 new members joined in 2009.