

## University of Groningen

### Report of the Council for the session 2006–2007

Holt, Tim; Lindley, Janet; Goddard, Ivor; Goodall, Gerald; Garratt, Andrew; Kershaw, Chris; Gentry, Paul; Bird, Sheila; Aitken, Colin; Senn, Stephen

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## Report of the Council for the session 2006–2007

### Council report

*For the session ended July 4th, 2007, presented at the One Hundred and Seventy-third Annual General Meeting of the Royal Statistical Society held at the premises of the Society on July 4th, 2007*

**President's foreword.** This year's annual report shows another very successful year for the Society. The range of the Society's new initiatives bears testament to our vigour and to the energy and enthusiasm of Fellows and staff. It is difficult to summarize all of these but I offer a brief overview of some of the highlights.

This year we have awarded the first annual prize for 'Statistical excellence in journalism'. It is too easy to bemoan the general quality of coverage of statistical issues in the press and other media. But simply moaning does not improve the situation. As a positive step, on the instigation of Sheila Bird and Andrew Garratt, the Society decided to initiate an award for the best journalistic coverage of a statistical issue. This year first prize was awarded to Ben Goldacre of *The Guardian*. I hope that these annual awards will offer a positive focus on good coverage and help us to promote best practice.

This year, also, we have set up the Professional Development Centre to act as a focus for statistical training both for statisticians and for others who use statistical methods as part of their work. It thus reflects our support for continuing professional development for our Fellows and at the same time provides outreach to members of the statistical user community who want to improve their statistical skills. We welcome Nicola Bright as the Director of the Centre and wish her every success.

I am pleased to say that it is not just the Society centrally that has taken new activities this year. The Manchester Local Group have initiated a prize for final year undergraduates from any higher education institute in the north-west. At a time when there are concerns about the number of well-qualified graduates coming into the statistics profession this seems an excellent way to attract the attention of final year undergraduates. I wish this initiative every success.

Another development to which the Society has contributed is the Higher Education Funding Council for England project 'more maths grads' which is designed to promote participation in undergraduate degrees in the mathematical sciences. A good supply of mathematically trained graduates is essential to the UK economy in general and to the health of the statistics discipline in particular. It is good that the Society is involved in practical developments that are aimed at increasing participation.

The final new initiative that I shall draw attention to is the 'first-in-man' report which is concerned with the statistical design of drug trials aimed at testing novel treatment types. The working party was set up as a result of the adverse reactions suffered by healthy volunteers to a first-in-man trial of monoclonal antibodies and who were subsequently admitted to Northwick Park hospital. The report makes a series of recommendations about the design of such trials and will, I hope, contribute to the safety of future trials. I would like to thank Stephen Senn and the members of the working party for their considerable efforts.

As well as these new initiatives there were, of course, many other continuing activities that are noteworthy. The annual conference in Belfast was a great success with many lively sessions and a good number of participants. In particular it was good to see a high number of young statisticians participating in the conference, reflecting the continuing impact of the Young Statisticians Forum on which I commented in the previous annual report.

Another continuing activity for the Society is the statistical legislation going through Parliament as I write. The Society has long campaigned for legislation for official statistics. The issue now is to try to get good legislation which will have the required effect and will help the Government Statistical Service and other statistical producers to produce high quality, authoritative statistics in an environment that commands public confidence. As first published, the Society was disappointed with the Bill but we have worked to build support for amendments that, in our view, are essential. Time alone will tell how effective the final legislation will be in meeting our aims.

I would like to draw attention to the success of the Membership Services team. We, although with other statistical Societies, have experienced a decline in membership in recent years but the team have turned this round. They are helping to recruit new Fellows and to retain the commitment of existing Fellows. This is a fine achievement and I would like to thank Nicola Emmerson, Ed Swires-Hennessy and the whole team.

Finally we have, at last, reached a conclusion in our dealings with the Privy Council and will implement the second phase of constitutional changes. In future our business year, financial year and year for elected appointments will all coincide on a calendar year basis. There will be transitional arrangements but in due course all our administrative arrangements will coincide and will improve efficiency and co-ordination. This has been a long journey, steered effectively by our Director General, Ivor Goddard, and I congratulate him for a successful outcome on your behalf.

As you read this report, I hope that you will share my impression of a Society that is lively and spawning many new programmes. We have a dual commitment: to the well-being of statistics as a discipline and to the promotion of statistical understanding and practice to the benefit of Society at large. In both respects I feel that the Society is in good health. This is due to the unstinting efforts of a large number of individual volunteers, including in particular our Honorary Officers and also, of course, the staff at Errol Street. On behalf of all Fellows, I wish to express my thanks to everyone involved.

*Tim Holt*

## **Strategy and constitution**

### *The Theme structure*

This annual report is arranged largely in terms of the 12 Theme areas which cover the full breadth of the Society's interests and activities. During the session, the Themes have continued to broaden and develop the area in which they operate, taking fresh approaches to new and established activities.

Each Theme is led by an Honorary Officer, identified by Council to take on the role of Theme Director, closely working with a Theme Manager, one of the staff team at Errol Street. This partnership brings together theme knowledge of the given area of statistics and expertise in management disciplines such as marketing, finance and operations.

The Theme Director and Theme Manager together take a strategic overview of the area, putting together a business plan for the Theme which then feeds into the overall business plan of the Society. It is also the responsibility of individual Themes to identify and set up support and consultation structures to facilitate dialogue between the Theme Director and Theme Manager, and the wider Fellowship. The precise nature of the structures varies from Theme to Theme but aims to provide a means by which interested Fellows and members can feed into and contribute to the work of the Society. These more flexible structures are gradually replacing the current standing committees except where these are required to guarantee professional integrity and probity.

A list of Themes, Theme Directors (Honorary Officers) and Theme Managers is given below.

*Janet Lindley and Ivor Goddard*

### *Strategic planning*

Each year, Council agrees a business plan for the following session. This takes into account the resources which are available—financial, staff and volunteer. The business plan for the current session is given below and this annual report reflects many of the activities which have been undertaken in pursuance of that plan. The core activities of the Society are central to the Society's purposes and their completion is essential to the Society's continuing success. But the Society must not stagnate and each year, therefore, Council includes new activities within the business plan which seek to expand the ways in which the discipline is nurtured or promoted,

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Theme Director (Honorary Officer)</i>	<i>Theme Manager</i>
Education, Careers and Recruitment to the Profession	Susan Starkings	Debra Hurcomb
External Affairs	Sheila Bird	Andrew Garratt
Finance	Mark Robson (until April 2007) Tom Grimes (from April 2007)	Ivor Goddard
Honours	Tim Holt	Paul Gentry
Meetings and Conferences	David Spiegelhalter	Paul Gentry
Membership Services and Recruitment to the Society	Ed Swires-Hennessy	Nicola Emmerson
Professional Affairs	Janet Dougharty	Gerald Goodall
Publications	Nicky Best (until April 2007) Robin Henderson (from April 2007)	Nicola Emmerson ( <i>RSS News</i> and <i>Significance</i> ) Martin Owen (the journals)
Sections, Local Groups and Study Groups	Andy Garrett	Paul Gentry
Staffing	Peter Green	Ivor Goddard
Statistics User Community	Keith Dugmore	Andrew Garratt
Strategy and Constitution	Tim Holt	Ivor Goddard

or which provide additional services to Fellows. Developmental items are listed below, immediately before the core activities. Extremely good progress has been made on most of these and details are given throughout the report. In many areas, that progress represents just the first step on a long path.

*Ivor Goddard*

### *Business plan 2006–2007*

#### *Education:*

develop an integrated science–education programme—two science issues events (sixth form or further education) and a National Science Week programme (public awareness) with UK-wide coverage (via Local Groups);  
 seek support for the new Statistics across the Curriculum Roundtable—joint activity;  
 develop statistics across the curriculum materials (contribution in partnership with other bodies or Societies).

#### *External Affairs:*

develop an ‘RSS line’ on the environment;  
 roll out a programme of training sessions for journalists (cross-theme);  
 campaign to support the protection of a viable academic sector in statistics.

#### *Finance:*

introduce payment by the banks automated clearance system.

*Meetings and Conferences:*

- upgrade the audio-visual facilities in the lecture theatre;
- pilot an on-line meetings facility following a scoping exercise.

*Sections, Local Groups and Study Groups:*

- establish a Bioinformatics Study Group.

*Membership:*

- expand and broaden membership of the Society by launching the ‘Linked Associate’ category of membership within the member groups of the Statistics User Forum;
- encourage the recruitment of students and young statisticians to the Society.

*Professional Affairs:*

- develop the Society’s examinations further;
- develop a statistical qualification suitable for those working in the statistics profession who may not be able to aspire to Chartered Statistician;
- develop events for Graduate Statisticians (working within the existing meetings and conferences programme);
- investigate ways of expanding the Society’s influence and activity in Europe;
- develop approaches to mentoring.

*Statistics User Community:*

- develop a long-term funding option for the statistics user community through income generation, sponsorship and membership;
- implement a co-ordinated strategy for establishing new user groups and recruiting these and existing user groups to the Statistics User Forum;
- establish effective communication structures between users and producers of statistics, and with other stakeholders;
- identify and promote two priorities of the user community;
- identify issues of importance which cut across user groups;
- encourage the expansion of user group activities in terms of meetings and information exchange, e.g. via the Web site and electronic forums.

*Strategy and Constitution:*

- develop a courses programme to increase the provision of statistical training to a range of audiences;
- investigate and implement further Web-based or e-mail-based services for members;
- develop initiatives to support career young statisticians.

*Core activities of the Society*

*Maintain* the following core activities of the Society as efficiently and cost effectively as possible:

*Publications*

Annual report  
Journal  
Events supplement in *RSS News*  
*RSS News*  
*Significance*

*Education, careers and recruitment to the profession*

Associate Schools and Colleges  
RSS Schools Lecture series  
Education workshops  
Careers materials  
Education meetings programme  
Student–teacher workshops  
Participation in Council for the Mathematical Sciences and Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education initiatives on careers materials

*Membership services*

Headquarters' facilities  
Historical library and archives  
Membership administration  
Travel grants (International Statistical Institute)

*Statistics user community*

Development of support services and structures for the statistics user community

*Sections, Local Groups and Study Groups*

Section and Local Group meetings

*Meetings, conferences and workshops*

Conferences  
Ordinary Meetings  
Research workshops  
Special lectures  
Graduate training courses  
Conference bursaries

*External affairs*

Press Office  
Council for the Mathematical Sciences  
Links with the National Statistician and the Statistics Commission  
Liaison with research councils  
Web site

*Honours*

Medals; prizes; Fellowships

*Professional affairs*

Accreditation  
Examinations  
Professional status and regulation (code of conduct)

*Support functions*

Administrative support for Council, committees and working parties  
Constitutional processes  
Information technology infrastructure  
Office support function

*Constitutional change*

A Special General Meeting of the Society, held in October 2003, approved amendments to the Bye-laws. All such amendments now have to be allowed by the Privy Council. However, at that time, there were already proposed new Bye-laws before the Privy Council as part of the petition for a Supplementary Charter. In order not to complicate the Charter approval process, it was decided to delay submission of this second tranche of Bye-law amendments.

Once the new Charter and Bye-laws had been approved early in 2006, the way was open to submit this second tranche and the permission of the Privy Council to make the amendments was received in March 2007. The amendments came into effect immediately.

The purpose of the changes is to allow the Society's business year, the session, to run from January to December rather than from June to June as previously. The principal effect is to align the Society's business and financial years. (The financial year runs from January 1st to December 31st.) The previous system had various difficulties in budgeting for and funding the business plan, since the income streams for the greater proportion of the business planning year were

determined before the business plan was formulated. Under the new system the formulation of the business plan and budget will run in parallel so that Council will set subscription levels both for membership and for journal institutional rates, bearing in mind the income streams required to fund the evolving business plan.

The annual general meeting (AGM) will still be held in June or July but it will receive an annual report for the previous calendar year. This will enable some improvements to be made to the report. Previously, the annual report had to be presented at the AGM and yet was meant to cover the session which ended with the AGM. Parts of the report were therefore necessarily speculative. The new schedule will allow an appropriate period after the end of the session for the annual report to be written.

The immediate effect of the amendments is to extend the current session to December 31st, 2007, and the current President, Honorary Officers and members of Council will stay in office until that date. However, membership of Section and Local Group Committees will rotate as usual this June but the new Committees will then serve until December 2008. There are some other consequential changes, including adjustment to the Regulations, which have been agreed by Council.

*Ivor Goddard*

### *International aspect of the Society's activities*

A vision for international policy was approved by the Executive Committee in May 2003. During the governance and structure review, it was decided that the Society should not have a separate Theme for international affairs, as this was thought likely to lead to duplication of effort. Instead, each Theme would be expected to develop those aspects of the Society's vision that are appropriate to it. Theme Directors and Theme Managers have borne this in mind in developing and delivering the business plans for their themes. Reports on the Society's international activities can therefore be found distributed throughout the themes in this annual report.

*Ivor Goddard*

### *Young statisticians*

The young statisticians initiative has made significant progress during the session via a number of ways.

The Young Statisticians Forum (YSF) was established at the beginning of the session. Consisting of a core group and support network of dedicated 'career young statisticians', the forum has been advising the Themes, providing suggestions for future Society activity and organizing specific events for young statisticians. The YSF group met three times during the session and has also been consulted on several issues about the future development of the Society.

The YSF organized three specific events and many joint events with Sections and Local Groups. In September, the Society held its annual conference in Belfast, which was particularly successful in terms of involvement of young statisticians. The YSF held a networking breakfast at the RSS2006 conference in Belfast which drew together 50 young statisticians. Two specific sessions were held at the conference by the General Applications Section of young researchers and another hosted by the forum of the four best presentations from the Young Statisticians Meeting. Overall there was good interaction between the 'career young' and more established statisticians and approximately a quarter of delegates were at the beginning of their careers.

In October, the Leeds Local Group held a careers event followed by a networking wine reception at a local museum. In November, the Edinburgh Local Group organized a series of talks from four young statisticians about their experiences at the start of their careers and from the Society about the young statisticians initiative. In January, the YSF hosted the first Graduate

Statistician awards event, which was kindly sponsored by Quintiles on a very windy night at Errol Street. David Spiegelhalter spoke enthusiastically about experiences of statistics in health care and Tim Holt made presentations to new Graduate Statisticians. These were followed by a networking wine reception. Despite traffic chaos across the country, 70 young statisticians valiantly attended the evening and made the event a great success. In February, the Manchester Local Group held a ‘careers in statistics event’ followed by a networking wine reception. In May, the Avon Local Group consulted young statisticians about the need for events in the locality with a view to offering more specific events in the area.

The activities of the group have led to the establishment of a young statisticians mailing list which has been used to alert those at the beginning of their careers to relevant activities, grants and events organized by the Society. The Web site has been further developed to provide information for career young statisticians about what the Society has to offer and events that are available.

The Society has continued its activities to promote the Society to young statisticians at the RSC2007 and YSM2007 conferences. In addition, the initiative has worked with the Membership Theme to evaluate student membership and has undertaken a recruiting in universities pilot which has seen membership in three universities grow from 20 to 168 in 6 months, which is encouraging (further information can be found within the Membership Theme report).

The Themes continue to consider how best to involve young statisticians and some have become further involved in the Society via committees and working groups. It has been particularly encouraging to see an increase in the number of groups seeking to organize events for young statisticians. Moreover, the large number of ‘career young’ statisticians who continue to see that involvement in the Society can benefit their careers is a continued indicator that this activity is needed and has a place within Society activities.

*Janet Lindley*

### *Outreach to Europe*

The new Charter, which came into effect on April 1st, 2006, gave the Society the right to be recognized under European Union directive 89/48/EEC as the regulatory body for statisticians in the UK. The aim of this directive is to aid the mobility of professionals between member states of the European Union, the European Economic Area and Switzerland.

At an early stage, the Professional Affairs Committee began to consider how it might exploit the opportunities that this would open up, such as the more vigorous promotion of CStat within Europe. Eventually it was decided to adopt a gradual, exploratory approach. The first step was to seek information about the size and activities of other European statistical societies and to ask whether they wished to work co-operatively with our Society in any ways. The Committee was anxious to avoid any accidental ‘stepping on the toes’ of other Societies but thought that there might be several areas in which there could be co-operation to mutual advantage.

A questionnaire was therefore sent, under the signature of the President, to all known statistical Societies and Associations in Europe. Responses were received from Societies in Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, Slovakia and Sweden; there may be others still to come. As well as a general response, the Hungarian Statistical Society invited the President to attend their annual conference on October 12th–13th and to address them on the subject of codes of ethics.

It turned out that the most popular desired areas of co-operation seemed to be in publications, meetings and lobbying. Professional matters such as qualifications and examinations were also of interest, but clearly there was scope for outreach on a more general front than merely the professional field. The Society’s Executive Committee therefore decided to set up a European



Initiative Working Group with members from several of the Society's Themes to consider how an outreach programme to Europe might be developed. This Working Group has just been established. The Executive Committee suggested that there were other organizations both in the UK and in mainland Europe which had existing relevant networks and it might be possible for the Society to key into these. This will be investigated.

*Ivor Goddard and Gerald Goodall*

### *Branding Working Group*

The Branding Working Group of members of staff was formed following a staff marketing training 'away day'. It was chaired by RSS Press and Public Affairs Officer, Andrew Garratt. The Group considered the way in which the Society presented and promoted itself through the Web site, headquarters and literature. Some of the group's suggestions have been implemented.

The front page of the Web site has been slightly redesigned so that news and upcoming events are highlighted more effectively, and that longer-term 'campaigns' can be linked directly from it. This means that the front page is more dynamic and so encourages repeat visits by browsers.

There are more signs at Errol Street to help to direct Fellows and clients around the building. Some fixtures have been moved or removed to provide a less cluttered environment.

A suite of tailored paragraphs and mini-articles is being developed. This will allow standardized text to be incorporated in Society publications.

*Andrew Garratt*

### *Kershaw Working Group*

In the autumn of 2006 Tim Holt asked Chris Kershaw to chair a working party on the Society's outreach and services, with the following terms of reference:

- to investigate the needs of statistical analysts and others who work with or use statistics;
- to review the ways in which the Society currently engages with statistical users and analysts and to consider how these might need to change in order to foster stronger links and to encourage membership in some form;
- to consider ways in which parts of the Society (Sections, Local Groups, conferences, meetings and staff services) can contribute to a stronger and more co-ordinated outreach.

Membership of the working party was set so that it would be well placed to gauge the needs of analysts and to understand what can be successful in attracting a wider public. The membership is as follows: Chris Kershaw (*Chair*); Ross Young (*Secretary*); Paul Allin; Peter Challenor; Janet Dougharty; Nicola Emmerson; Gordon Farquharson; Paul Gentry; Alan Kimber; Martin Orton; Francesco Vivarelli.

The Working Party has questioned many of those in the Society who are closely involved in outreach, including surveys of Local Groups and Sections as well as input from the Statistics User Forum. The report was presented at the June meeting of the Executive Committee, with agreement to set up a standing committee to take recommendations forward.

*Chris Kershaw*

### *2009 Anniversary Group*

A working group of staff members drawn from across the Society's Themes was established in the autumn to consider the ways in which the Society could mark the 175th anniversary of its foundation in 2009. It was chaired by the Meetings and Conferences Theme Manager Paul Gentry.

Group members undertook research into how the Society had marked previous anniversaries and also how other Societies and organizations had celebrated recent anniversaries. The group then produced a long list of activities and initiatives across the Themes that could potentially be organized during the anniversary year, which were then prioritized.

In March 2007 the Executive Committee considered initial recommendations from the working group and agreed to the formation of a planning group of Fellows to take forward some of the ideas proposed for marking the anniversary.

*Paul Gentry*

### *more maths grads*

‘more maths grads’ is a 3-year £3.3-million project funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, designed to increase and widen participation in undergraduate degrees in the mathematical sciences. It operates through four key themes: increasing awareness of career opportunities; helping school students to find more enjoyment and fulfilment in studying mathematics; increasing and developing teachers’ enjoyment and confidence in mathematics; development of aspects of the higher education curriculum. It does this in three areas of the country: East London, with Queen Mary, University of London, as the lead higher education institution for the region; Coventry and Warwickshire, similarly with Coventry University; Yorkshire and Humberside, with Leeds University. Sheffield Hallam University also has a key role in the project, with respect to higher education curriculum development.

General information about the project is available on its Web site: <http://www.more-mathsgrads.org.uk/>.

It is hoped that the project will be in the nature of a 3-year pilot which can be extended to national coverage later.

The project manager is Helen Orr. She is based at the Higher Education Academy Mathematics, Statistics and OR Network office at the University of Birmingham.

The Society is represented on the Advisory Committee of the project by Susan Starkings, Theme Director for Education and Chair of the Education Strategy Group. The Society is represented on the Executive Committee of the project by Gerald Goodall, Director of Education and Professional Affairs.

*Gerald Goodall*

## **External Affairs**

The Society places high importance on developing and communicating its own policies, and on engaging with Parliament, other stakeholders and the media to influence public policy. This year has been particularly busy.

The Statistics and Registration Service Bill was published in December 2006 and has been making its way through Parliament. The Society has strongly promoted its view, guided by its National Statistics Working Party. Many Members of Parliament and Lords have taken up the offer to be briefed, and then cited the Society’s views in Parliamentary debates.

The Society has published a report of its Working Party on Statistical Issues in First-in-Man Studies. This Working Party was established following the TGN1412 drug trial incident in 2006 in which six healthy volunteers suffered a severe immune reaction.

The first awards for statistical excellence in journalism have been made. Among the entries were those from well-known journalists working for national media outlets. The Society was particularly pleased to attract high profile Parliamentarians to join its judging panel.

The Statistics and the Law Working Group has expanded its membership and held its first seminar to explore ways of influencing the teaching of statistics in forensic science courses.

On a lighter note, the Society's profile was boosted by competing in the BBC game show 'University Challenge—the Professionals'. The team, Stephen Senn, Andy Grieve, David Edelman and William Kelsey, lost out to the Bodleian Library in the finals by 230 points to 125.

*Sheila Bird and Andrew Garratt*

#### *Award for statistical excellence in journalism*

*Guardian* writer Ben Goldacre was the first winner of the Royal Statistical Society's award for statistical excellence in journalism for his piece 'When the facts get in the way of the story', published on April 1st, 2006. The second prize has gone to *Times* writer Matthew Parris for his piece 'The truth about those little red lights: a tale of power and poppycock', published on July 22nd, 2006. Third prize went to *Economist* writer Paul Wallace for his piece 'Transatlantic rivals', published on May 6th, 2006. The prizes are to be presented at the annual general meeting in July.

The Society instituted these awards to encourage excellence in journalists' use of statistics to question, analyse and investigate the issues that affect society at large. The Society was greatly encouraged by the strength of journalism shown by all the entrants in reporting on statistical issues.

The final judging panel comprised

Professor Sheila Bird (Principal Statistician at the Medical Research Council Biostatistics Unit and Vice-President of the Royal Statistical Society)

Professor Deborah Ashby (Professor of Medical Statistics at Queen Mary, University of London)

Professor Paul Wiles (Chief Scientific Advisor for the Home Office)

Dr Karen Dunnell (National Statistician)

John Davidson (Press Officer for the Medical Research Council and former journalist)

Richard Alldritt (Chief Executive of the Statistics Commission)

Alex Salmond, MP

Charles Clarke, MP

Lord Tim Garden

In addition, Jamie Angus (BBC World Service), Julian Champkin (Editor, *Significance*), Professor Stephen Senn, Professor Gilbert MacKenzie and Professor Adrian Smith assisted with the first phase of judging.

The process for the awards for 2008 is now under way and is providing an opportunity to promote the Society's work generally and specifically to provide advice on best practice in statistical reporting.

*Sheila Bird and Andrew Garratt*

#### *Statistics and the Law Working Group*

The Statistics and the Law Working Group holds two meetings a year with electronic working between times. Membership brings together representatives from academia, the Law Society of England and Wales, Faculty of Advocates, Bar Council, Crown Office, the judiciary, Centrex, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Forensic Science Service. It is chaired by Professor Colin Aitken.

The Group's particular interests are in the education of forensic scientists and lawyers in the roles that statistics can have in the administration of justice, and the provision of appropriate guidelines for the judiciary. A seminar in December 2006 on a proposed model for teaching statistics in university forensic science courses brought together a range of academics involved in this area. Among the outcomes was a proposal to approach the Forensic Science Society who accredit a number of degree programmes with the intention of strengthening the position of statistics on these programmes.

The group is also liaising with the Crown Prosecution Service, the judiciary and the Faculty of Advocates concerning the provision of courses in continuing professional development and of guidelines for the use of probabilistic reasoning in the evaluation of evidence.

An International Advisory Group has been established to allow the Working Group to draw on international expertise.

*Colin Aitken and Andrew Garratt*

### *National Statistics Working Party and statistical legislation*

The Statistics and Registration Service Bill was published in December 2006 and is nearing completion of its passage through Parliament.

Briefings were sent to many Members of Parliament and Lords throughout the process to highlight the Society's concerns, particularly on the scope of the Bill, the roles of the National Statistician and the proposed Statistics Board, on pre-release access and on confidentiality and data sharing arrangements. In addition, meetings with party spokespeople and other leading Parliamentarians took place to communicate these concerns further. The Society was successful in having many of its suggested amendments taken up by both Members of Parliament and peers, although none were accepted during the Commons stages.

The Working Party has also responded to the Statistics Commission's consultation on a revised code of practice.

*Tim Holt*

### *RSS line on performance monitoring*

The Society's report on performance monitoring in the public services continues to be valuable, e.g. in underpinning responses on consultations, the review of performance indicators for higher education and on Home Office public service agreement targets. It has also been particularly relevant to wider issues, such as assessing casualty rates in Afghanistan and Iraq, and prisoner transport performance in Scotland.

*Sheila Bird*

### *Council for the Mathematical Sciences*

The Council for the Mathematical Sciences (CMS) was delighted that Professor Sir David Wallace CBE, FRS, FREng accepted the position of independent Chair of the Council.

The Council considered a report, written by Nigel Steele, on the regional provision of mathematics departments in the UK. This explained that, whereas areas of heavy population appeared to be well catered for, there were, for example, areas in the east of England and in Wales that were not so well covered. The issue is being explored further, and the concept of 'accessibility' developed to span social as well as geographic and academic factors. The CMS plans to take these and other current issues forward with the relevant bodies, and to seek meetings with policy makers as appropriate.

The Council has expressed on-going concerns regarding the introduction of a two General Certificate of Secondary Education structure for mathematics and has liaised closely with the Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education (ACME) to ensure that a coherent and consistent message is presented. The ACME stated publicly that there should be a national expectation that all students who achieve at least national curriculum level 6 at key stage 3 (currently almost 60%) should be entered for both qualifications. The CMS issued a press release which supported the ACME's statement and went on to stress the importance of ensuring that all schools should offer both certificates, or else risk limiting their pupils' future success in many sectors. It is essential that these changes do not result in fewer pupils being adequately prepared for mathematics post 16, both for the Government to meet its 'Science and innovation framework' targets and to support the economic tower that is built on the UK's outstanding mathematical achievements.

The CMS responded to several consultations including ones from the Government on a 'metrics-based' research assessment exercise and on 'Science and innovation investment framework 2004–2014: next step', one from Research Councils UK on the effectiveness and efficiency of the peer review of grant applications and one from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council on doctoral training grants.

The Council received a final report from its Bologna Working Group which indicated that resolving the issue of second-cycle funding was critical to the successful implementation of the process; however, a response to a letter sent to Bill Rammell (Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education, Department for Education and Skills) stated that the Minister 'did not think that now was the right time to review the current funding arrangements'. This was disappointing. The CMS is now looking at how it can work with other bodies in the science community to press this issue further, and to present a stronger and more coherent voice on other aspects of the Bologna Process.

With the matter of an independent Chair now completed the CMS looked at other aspects of the planned enhancement, including how the CMS engages with stakeholder organizations and other bodies in the wider mathematical community. In the first instance, invitations were issued to the Operational Research Society and the Edinburgh Mathematical Society to send a representative to the next two CMS meetings, with the intention that the CMS would discuss the issue of membership after that. In the meantime, a model that would allow the CMS to inform, and be informed by, other bodies in the wider community is to be prepared for consideration.

*Ivor Goddard*

### *Science Council*

The principal activity of the Science Council is the promotion of the advancement and dissemination of knowledge of and education in science pure and applied. The Society joined the Council last session. It is represented on the Council by the President and the Director General and on the Board by the Director General.

Over the past year the Council has worked on the development of an education policy and has also initiated a governance review. The Board has received a presentation on science and sustainability.

The Council has received funding of £0.5 million from the Department for Education and Skills for a 'Careers from science' project. A new Web site will be developed which will showcase not just careers that are available in science and mathematics, but also how these disciplines are essential to careers in many other areas.

Sir Gareth Roberts retired as Chair of the Science Council at the end of 2006 and has been succeeded by Sir Tom McKillop. Sadly Sir Gareth died in February after a short illness. He had

been instrumental in setting up and establishing the Science Council and the Council has lost a good friend.

Ivor Goddard

### *Promotion at other events*

Staff members have promoted the Society at various external events throughout the session. These events included the Research Students' Conference in Durham, the Young Statisticians' Meeting in Bristol, the annual Government Statistical Service Methodology Conference, the British Urban and Regional Information Systems Associations conference and a Data Management and Analysis Group conference at the Greater London Authority.

Paul Gentry

### *The Bologna Process*

The Bologna Process is an attempt to create a 'European higher education area' by mutual agreement by the year 2010. Over 40 European countries are signatories. General information about the Process is available on the Society's Web site, at page 2642 (<http://www.rss.org.uk/main.asp?page=2642>). The Society continued to work with its partners in the Council for the Mathematical Sciences in respect of the implementation of the Process.

Although much of what is intended appears, *prima facie*, quite well attuned with the existing system in the UK, the possibility of serious implications for UK Masters level programmes continues to be of concern. Within the mathematics area, this refers both to taught Master of Science programmes and to 'enhanced undergraduate' or 'integrated Masters' programmes of Master of Mathematics type.

A Working Group of the Council for the Mathematical Sciences is looking in detail at these possible implications. The Group issued a major report in October 2006; this can be downloaded from the Web site address given above. The Group is now looking for convenient ways to co-operate with corresponding bodies in other disciplines where there are concerns of a similar nature.

The membership of the Working Group includes Gerald Goodall, Director of Education and Professional Affairs, and Jane Hutton of the University of Warwick.

Gerald Goodall

### *Society representatives on university courts*

The following people represent the Society on various university courts:

University of Bristol	Dr Frank Duckworth
University of Bradford	Ms M. Woo
University of Bath	Professor Chris Jennison
University of Cardiff	Mr Ed Swires-Hennessy
University of Surrey	Professor Steve Brooks
University of Essex	Professor David Bartholomew
University of Wales Swansea	Professor Alan Hawkes

### *Engagement with the media*

Although still a low number per month, the number of media enquiries has grown. The Statistics and Registration Service Bill and the report of the Working Party on Statistical Issues in First-in-Man Studies have resulted in coverage in national newspapers, radio and television.

The award for statistical excellence in journalism is expected to provide a vehicle for further promoting the Society's work and its availability for expert comment.

*Andrew Garratt*

### *Engineering and Physical Sciences Council consultation network*

The Society, together with representatives of other Societies in the Council for the Mathematical Sciences, meets four times a year with representatives of the Mathematical Sciences Programme of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. The meetings provide a useful two-way channel for information and advice.

In June 2006, the President set up a small network of Fellows, co-ordinated by Professor Jon Forster, to make inputs into the preparation for these meetings and to advise the President on consultations concerning the mathematical sciences research community and higher education more generally. Another function of the group is to keep under review higher education issues and to identify strategic issues that ought to be discussed by the Society's Council.

The Society's contribution to consultations in this area over the last year has generally been in the form of a joint response with our partner organizations in the Council for the Mathematical Sciences. Recent consultations to which we have contributed include 'Reform of higher education research assessment and funding' (Higher Education Funding Council for England), 'The effectiveness and efficiency of peer review' (Research Councils UK) and the 'Review of the doctoral training grant allocation process' (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council).

*Jonathan Forster*

### *First-in-Man Working Party*

The Working Party on Statistical Issues in First-in-Man Studies was established following last year's TGN1412 drug trial incident in which six healthy volunteers suffered a severe immune reaction.

The report concluded that many features of design of the TGN1412 trial could have been improved and that there was a lack of clarity regarding intended analysis and the way that this would satisfy its objectives of testing safety and tolerability of the drug. In addition, a Freedom of Information request lodged by the Working Party highlighted deficiencies in the linkage of the databases that are held by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency on first-in-man trials and associated serious adverse events.

The Working Party's report makes 21 recommendations for improvement, in three key areas:

- (a) risk assessment and communication;
- (b) preparatory preclinical work;
- (c) experimental design, with particular attention to dosing.

The report gained coverage on Radio 4's *More or Less* programme, in *The Times*, *British Medical Journal* and *The Financial Times*, as well as on Web sites aimed at professionals in the pharmaceutical industry. Its findings have been presented to the Statisticians in the Pharmaceutical Industry (PSI) conference.

*Stephen Senn and Sheila Bird*

## **Meetings and Conferences**

The Meetings and Conferences Theme has continued to oversee an active and varied programme of Society meetings and events, as well as maintaining a strong focus on the annual international conference and starting out on a new initiative of recording discussion meetings.

A report on the 2006 annual conference held in Belfast follows. The 2007 conference will be held in July at the University of York on the theme of ‘Statistics and public policy-making: hope vs. reality’ and initial plans have already been made for the 2008 conference which will be held in September at the East Midlands Conference Centre in Nottingham.

The number of Society Ordinary Meetings being held has remained at the same level and there is continuing concern at the level of submissions for consideration as papers for reading at non-Research-Section meetings. The Theme continues to seek solutions to this problem.

Discussion meetings are now being filmed and edited for future on-line viewing.

In March a special one-day conference was held to celebrate the sesquicentenary of Karl Pearson, organized by Eileen Magnello, with over 60 people participating. Plans are also in place for the 2007 Beveridge Lecture which will be given by Julian Le Grand (London School of Economics and Political Science) on October 15th.

*David Spiegelhalter (Theme Director) and Paul Gentry (Theme Manager)*

### *Ordinary and Special Meetings*

#### *2006*

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| September 12th | R. Taplin: Enhancing statistical education by using role-plays of consultations   |
| October 11th   | M. S. Handcock, A. E. Raftery and J. M. Tantrum: Model-based clustering for social networks   |
| November 29th  | P. G. Ridall, A. N. Pettitt, N. Friel, P. A. McCombe and R. D. Henderson: Motor unit number estimation using reversible jump Markov chain Monte Carlo methods |

#### *2007*

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| January 31st | D. Zeng and D. Y. Lin: Maximum likelihood estimation in semiparametric models with censored data                                   |
| March 23rd   | E. Magnello and S. Stigler: Karl Pearson sesquicentenary conference  |
| April 18th   | P. Diggle, D. Farewell and R. Henderson: Analysis of longitudinal data with drop-out: objectives, assumptions and a proposal       |
| May 9th      | J. O. Ramsay, G. Hooker, D. Campbell and J. Cao: Parameter estimation for differential equations: a generalized smoothing approach |

### *Pilot courses project*

The pilot programme to run short courses was successfully concluded in December 2006 with the establishment of the RSS Professional Development Centre. The final pilot courses were held as follows.

*Paul Gentry*

#### *2006*

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| July 26th | Roland Caulcutt, Lynsey Womersley and Julie Bullen: Consultancy skills |
|-----------|--|

#### *2007*

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| November 14th–<br>15th | James Carpenter and Mike Kenward: Missing data |
| November 30th          | Ed Swires-Hennessy: Presenting data            |

### *RSS 2006*

The Society’s 2006 annual international conference was hosted by Queen’s University Belfast and attracted over 280 participants from a wide range of sectors and from over 30 different countries.



Plenary talks were given by Stephen Fienberg, Lord Robert May, Adrian Raftery and Trevor Hastie with a further 130 invited and contributed papers and 40 posters being presented. In addition for the first time in many years an Ordinary Meeting was held at the annual conference with Ross Taplin speaking on an education theme.

Other sessions of particular interest included a special *Significance* session based around topical and thought provoking articles from recent issues of the Society's quarterly magazine.

The conference was preceded by a one-day short course 'An introduction to bioinformatics' presented by Wally Gilks. On the morning before the opening of the conference a breakfast meeting for young statisticians was held, which was very well attended.

When not participating in conference sessions delegates had an opportunity to experience Belfast hospitality with a visit to the Stormont Parliament buildings and the conference dinner held at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum. The latter event saw dinner guests journey to and from the venue on a steam train!

Overall feed-back from delegates at the conference was very positive, with both the programme and the local organization praised.

Our thanks go to Colin Aitken and the members of the Conference Programme Committee, and also to Adele Marshall, Jillian Dean and the other members of the local organizing team at Queen's University Belfast.

*Paul Gentry*

### *Graduate Training Programme*

The Graduate Training Programme was established in 2001 as a joint venture supported by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and the Royal Statistical Society. The purpose of the programme is to strengthen the mathematical foundations of tomorrow's statistical researchers and is aimed primarily at first- and second-year doctoral students. It runs week-long residential courses, each consisting of two modules, given concurrently.

Another set of modules was successfully held at Queen Mary College, University of London, in June 2006. The two fields covered were 'The theory of designed experiments', presented by Steve Gilmour, and 'Statistical methods for financial risk modelling', presented by Alexander McNeil. The second 2006 course was held at Lancaster University in September and comprised modules in 'Wavelet methods for time series analysis', which was presented by Don Percival and Andrew Walden, and 'Event history methodology', which was presented by Ørnulf Borgan and Robin Henderson. The courses were both well received.

Two more courses will run during the summer of 2007: in July, 'Multiscale methods and statistical modelling of non-stationary phenomena' and 'Fundamentals of statistical theory'; and in September 'Fundamentals of statistical causality' and 'Bayesian statistics'.

These two courses conclude the Society's initial contract with the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council during which 10 courses have been organized. Discussions are under way about the future of the training programme with the hope that further courses will be organized.

*Paul Gentry*

### *Professional Development Centre*

A new Professional Development Centre was established in January with the target of offering at least 50 days of statistical training annually throughout the UK by the second year of operation.

It is part of the Society's long-term strategy to support those learning and using statistics at every stage of their development. There is already a continuing professional development policy in place which encourages on-going continuing professional development for all Fellows of the

Society. Training and development opportunities which underpin this policy will be welcomed. The Society would also like to provide similar opportunities to those who work with or use statistics but who may not describe themselves as statisticians. This could include people working, for instance, in Government, financial services, the pharmaceutical industry, teaching or in other disciplines.

During the last session, a training initiative was piloted and successful courses have been run on topics as diverse as multilevel modelling and presentation of data. But these courses were organized within the margins of current staff resources and the Society was rapidly reaching the limit of what could be achieved. The Finance Committee therefore commissioned Trevor Lewis of TLWise Consulting to investigate the viability of a fully fledged courses unit and to prepare a business plan. His report convinced first the Finance Committee and then Council that there was a market which we were well positioned to meet. The establishment of a standalone Centre was therefore agreed.

The new training and development initiative has the potential to be of enormous benefit to the discipline and is firmly within the Society's mission and long-term objectives. The Centre will be in a unique position to access knowledge and expertise and to take a broad view of the requirements of the various audiences in terms of training needs. Nicola Bright, a Chartered Statistician with experience in medical statistics training, has been appointed Director. She is responsible particularly for investigating potential markets in academia, Government, industry and commerce, identifying training needs and then establishing courses to meet those needs. She will tap into the various specialist branches of the Society, harnessing their knowledge and expertise about training needs and their potential as course presenters.

The administration of the Centre itself has been outsourced to Resources for Associations. This is a leading association management company, based in Macclesfield, established for 13 years and working throughout Europe and with international membership organizations. The organization will bring expertise in such areas as training needs analysis, course design, venue identification, marketing and evaluation, which will complement extremely well the Society's statistical expertise.

Council has established a Professional Development Centre Committee to support Nicola in her work, but also to ensure that all courses that are mounted by the Centre are fit for purpose and meet quality standards. The Committee is chaired by Trevor Lewis.

It is intended that the Centre should be commercially viable. Course fees will be in line with those normally charged for statistical training, with discounts for Chartered Statisticians and other Fellows. In return presenters will receive appropriate preparation and presentation fees. It is intended that the Centre should at least break even in the first year and in due course it is hoped that a significant income stream can be provided for the Society.

*Ivor Goddard*

## **Membership**

The Membership Services Theme has continued the task of recruiting sufficient members to balance the numbers of deaths (24) and resignations (414) during the course of the year. This has been achieved with a good increase in the overall membership as we have gained 551 members by both election and reinstatement. The main focus of the group has continued to be on the recruitment of students as student members, which has been both encouraging and successful. This is for the long-term good of the Society as we hope to convert student members into full Fellows of the Society on graduation.

*Ed Swires-Hennessy (Theme Director) and Nicola Emmerson (Theme Manager)*

*Fellowship numbers (over the past 10 years)*

<i>Calendar year</i>	<i>Losses by death</i>	<i>Losses by resignation or default</i>	<i>Gains: elected or restored to the roll</i>	<i>On the roll at December 31st</i>
1997	33	251	287	6408
1998	27	288	281	6374
1999	33	284	324	6381
2000	35	326	262	6282
2001	18	310	290	6244
2002	25	262	281	6238
2003	27	321	371	6261
2004	27	319	357	6272
2005	33	338	396	6297
2006	25	414	551	6409

*Professional membership*

On the relevant register at December 31st, 2006 (2005):

CStat,           1412   (1403);  
GradStat,       367     (318).

The figures for FIS and MIS are now included in the total CStat figure as this is how it has been set up in the membership database.

*Nicola Emmerson*

*Deaths reported in 2006*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Year of election</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Year of election</i>
Alleyne, Charles G.	1992	Northcote, Edward Frederic	1993
Chandler, Kenneth Norman	1952	Omaboe, Emmanuel Noi	1956
Curran, Anthony	1972	Piller, Gordon James	1953
Davies, John Keith Welwyn	1974	Please, Neil William	1956
Davis, Edwin John	1949	Som, Ranjan K.	2001
Erskine, Stephen	1983	Stevenson, Thomas	1993
Fessey, Mereth Cecil (Martin)	1957	Stott, William Harold	1970
Hayashi, Chikio	1976	Sutherland, Ian	1945
Kemsley, William Frederick Fenn	1938	Weatherall, Josephine	1956
Lau, Yuen Kai	1985	Alice Coreen	
Mann, Paul Henri	1958	Whitfield, Keith	1993
Mosteller, Frederick	1975	Wills, Keith Martin	1997
Naylor, John Charles	1976		

*Fellowship report*

During the last 10 years, membership of the Society has remained static with very slight increases year by year. During 2006, we had an extremely good year in that our retention of members remained high and we attracted a good number of new people into the Society, ending the year with 112 Fellows more than the previous year.

2007 looks set to be another encouraging year, particularly as the Society is now attracting some corporate membership partners—we particularly welcome all the new members from the Home Office during February 2007.

We are also looking to increase, enrich and diversify our membership base, as the Society will launch schemes to attract members of the statistics user groups, which are part of the Statistics User Forum.

There is further good news in the area of student recruitment as the number of student members is on the increase. As this is vital to both the discipline and to the future of statistics, we have been working on a pilot project in three universities to look at new forms of student membership and how the Society can help. It is hoped that this scheme will be rolled out to more institutions in the autumn. In one university in the pilot, the number of student members has increased from eight to 55 in one term—a fantastic result. If you work in a university mathematics or statistics department and would like to take part in the next stage of the project, please contact the membership office.

Another initiative, which has produced good results, is the ‘trusted source’ scheme whereby members can nominate potential members and we send out a letter of invitation to join the Society. The membership team then sends a letter of invitation together with a package of information about the services and benefits. This scheme is still in operation and a nomination form can be found on the Society’s Web site.

We receive a steady number of requests for information and can send out electronic packages of information, as well as the more traditional methods. Our Web site plays an important role in providing information to prospective members and we hope that future Web developments will lead to on-line applications in the not too distant future.

One major improvement in membership administration during the year was the introduction of our on-line payment facility via the Society’s Web site. Over 700 of our members use this facility, which is particularly useful for all our overseas members and helps the membership team to process payments more efficiently.

*Nicola Emmerson*

### *Library services*

The Society has the following arrangements regarding its book collections and the provision of library services to Fellows.

The Albert Sloman Library at the University of Essex houses the ‘Royal Statistical Society collection’ of about 1100 books, 24 metres of tracts and 26 metres of periodicals. For reading access contact Alexander Macmillan on 01206 873181 or e-mail [amacmi@essex.ac.uk](mailto:amacmi@essex.ac.uk).

The Yule collection continues to be housed at Errol Street, together with the Newmarch collection and all books from the historical collection published before 1800. The Society’s Archivist should be contacted for access to these collections.

The Society maintains an arrangement with the University College London Science Library whereby Fellows can purchase discounted borrowing tickets: telephone 020 7679 7795.

*Paul Gentry*

### **Professional Affairs**

The Professional Affairs Theme covers the professional aspects of the Society’s work. Much of the Theme’s activity is conducted through the Professional Affairs Committee.

*Janet Dougharty and Gerald Goodall*

*Professional Affairs Committee*

The core activity of the Professional Affairs Committee (PAC) continued to be consideration of applications for professional membership. In the period from the 2006 annual general meeting to May 2007, the Committee considered 108 applications for Graduate Statistician (GradStat) and 49 for Chartered Statistician (CStat). 88 GradStat and 38 CStat qualifications were awarded. A few applications from professionally qualified fellows for Maintained Professional Certificates under the continuing professional development (CPD) policy were also dealt with; it is expected that the numbers will increase over the next few years as award of a Maintained Professional Certificate requires an acceptable 5-year CPD profile.

Another successful event under the ‘young statisticians’ initiative but including elements aimed at new GradStats was held in January 2007. Several GradStats attended, as did some members of the PAC to assist in the general ‘networking’.

The PAC continued to be responsible, through the Examinations Board, for the Society’s professional examinations. The work this year focused on completion of the modularization of the Higher Certificate level of the examinations. The new modular structure runs in parallel with the previous structure for the 2007 and 2008 examinations; from 2009 only the modular structure will be available. The modular approach allows candidates to study more flexibly and to receive awards as individual modules are completed; thus candidates may readily include the study of individual modules as part of a wider CPD programme. The PAC and the Examinations Board are now moving on to consider whether changes should be made to the syllabus and structure of the Graduate Diploma.

Following the work on the Higher Certificate, the PAC has developed a framework for a new professional qualification aimed at those who have some formal training in statistics and have worked in the discipline for 5 years but do not meet the requirements for CStat status. It is hoped to launch the new scheme next year.

Following feed-back received from GradStats, the PAC has developed proposals for a mentoring scheme to be offered to GradStats. The intention of the scheme is to enable mentees to obtain advice on their professional and career development from experienced CStats. The service will not provide technical statistical advice. It is hoped to launch this scheme also next year.

Discussions continued with the Science Council to establish whether the Society could become a Licensed Body for the award of Chartered Scientist designation.

The PAC continued to accredit universities for their statistics degrees. A small number of accreditations were lost owing to withdrawal of courses by some universities, but there were also some new accreditations. Liaison with Kuwait University continued, and it seems that further accreditations may be requested from other universities in the region, both in respect of the academic content of their degree courses and more broadly in respect of the general nature of their provision. Accreditation of the RSS Centre for Statistical Education course on ‘Teaching statistics in higher education’ also continued.

The PAC collaborated with others in the Society in the establishment of the new RSS Professional Development Centre. The PAC welcomes the setting up of this Centre and looks forward to working with its Director in developing further courses and workshops. In that these will support the professional members of the Society, this strand of work will link well with the focus on CPD and offer opportunities to CStats hoping to obtain Maintained Professional Certificates.

At December 31st, 2006, the number of professionally qualified Fellows was 1412, 22% of the total Fellowship of the Society.

*Janet Dougharty and Gerald Goodall*

### *Examinations Board*

The numbers of candidates who were examined decreased very slightly. Altogether 121 candidates sat the Ordinary Certificate examination in 2006 (130 in 2005). There were 46 (44 in 2005) candidates who sat all three Higher Certificate papers, and there were 54 (50 in 2005) attempts at Graduate Diploma paper combinations. It is good to note that there were five new overseas examination centres, in Katowice, St Michael (Barbados), Seoul, Vienna and Vilnius.

11 (nine in 2005) candidates successfully completed their Graduate Diploma examinations, the largest number for several years; the Society's examinations are far from easy, and these candidates deserve warm congratulations.

Collaboration with the Hong Kong Statistical Society continued. Ordinary and Higher Certificate papers for the Hong Kong Statistical Society were also available in Chinese; we are again grateful to Howell Tong for acting as moderator.

We reported last year that a Working Party of the Board and the Professional Affairs Committee had proposed changes to the Higher Certificate examinations, replacing the current three-paper system by a set of modules. At that time, some details remained to be settled; that has now been done. In 2007 the modular examinations will be phased in, and the current system will be available for the last time in 2008. It is hoped that changing the Higher Certificate in this way will broaden the appeal of the Society's examinations and enable the Society to contribute to staff development in various professions, and in particular in the Government Statistical Service.

We welcomed Jennifer Freeman, Paul Moore, Derek Robinson and Markus Sova to the team of examiners, and Wojtek Krzanowski to the Examinations Board. Stepping down this year as examiners are Robert Kempson, Alan Kimber, John McColl, Chris Sutton and Stephen Walters, and Derek Robinson and Ken Read from the Board. We are most grateful to all these, and to all continuing examiners and Board members, whose hard work is crucial to the success of the examinations.

We acknowledge our gratitude to Gerald Goodall and Sarah Barker, whose efficiency makes the Board's work much easier. In particular, the burden of typesetting papers and solutions has again fallen on Gerald, with assistance from Sarah. The solutions are a valuable resource, and we are grateful to Geoff Clarke for the substantial amount of work undertaken in preparing them.

I shall shortly step down as Chairman, after several years in the role. I am delighted that John McColl has been appointed to this position, and I wish him and the Board every success.

*Eryl Bassett*

As the incoming Chairman of the Examinations Board, I would like to pay tribute to the immense contribution that Eryl Bassett has made to its work. He has served on the Board for many years, in many capacities, most recently as Chairman from 2000 to 2006. Throughout that period, as well as playing a full part in ensuring the continuing high quality of the Society's examinations, Eryl has had a leading role in several strategic initiatives. On behalf of the Examinations Board, I thank Eryl for all that he has done, and I wish him well for the future.

*John McColl*

### **Education, Careers and Recruitment to the Profession**

Three major curriculum-related issues focused much of the Society's Education Strategy Group's (ESG's) efforts to influence decisions by policy makers in 2006–2007.

The first was the announcement of plans to delete General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) mathematics course work by September 2007. The second was the planned introduction

of a double-award GCSE mathematics from 2009. The third was the announcement of plans to phase in up to 15 new specialist diplomas from 2008 onwards in all schools as a third option for students wanting to specialize from the age of 14 years onwards (this, alongside the current system of GCSEs and A-levels and the International Baccalaureate).

Concerned that, once course work has been deleted, the skills developed by data handling course work should continue to be assessed (and, therefore, taught), the Society has taken every opportunity to place the value of teaching the full data handling cycle and what will replace it at the heart of debate around course work. It has also sought funding for a proposed project to look at different means of the assessment of statistics. ‘Mind the gap’, a Society–RSS Centre for Statistical Education co-ordinated event at the Mathematics in Education and Industry conference in July 2007, is set to report to teachers on alternative strategies for teaching and assessing skills relating to the full data handling cycle.

ESG members have been consulted at various points concerning both the mathematics programmes of study at key stages 3 and 4, and the new double award. The Society has joined forces with Council for the Mathematical Sciences partners to campaign for as many students as possible to take both parts of the double award.

The positioning of statistics within each of the relevant new diplomas, e.g. engineering and health, is also important particularly as students will be able to study different diplomas at each of the three different levels as they progress and the mathematics or statistics content of the courses must not be compromised to facilitate greater choice.

Other examples of in-year contributions to consultations include, at GCSE level, a response to the Department for Education and Skills’s ‘Making good progress’ project: a critique of the proposed ‘single-level tests’ at GCSE and support for greater use of open-ended tasks and for a stronger interdisciplinary approach, and, at A-level, a contribution to consultations concerning the 2-year pilot of the ‘Extended level AS and A-level project’.

*Susan Starkings (Theme Director) and Debra Hurcomb (Theme Manager)*

### *RSS Centre for Statistical Education*

As usual, two versions of the phase 7 CensusAtSchool on-line questionnaire were developed for September 2006–August 2007 for primary and secondary pupils. Numbers participating in the project dropped for the first time during the year—evidence appears to be that this is due to the abolition of General Certificate of Secondary Education mathematics course work, with teachers now seeing much less of a need to involve pupils with real data. The Australian Bureau of Statistics hosted an international workshop on the future of the project in March. The Nottingham Trent University Centre for Effective Learning in Science completed its first year of operation and the associated ExperimentsAtSchool Web site now contains 14 live experiments. As well as the Centre for Effective Learning in Science, the Centre was involved with the strategic development of two other Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at Coventry–Loughborough and Lancaster universities.

The project that was funded by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority on the positioning of handling data and statistics in General Certificate of Secondary Education mathematics was completed. Teaching and learning materials, together with an assessment regime, were produced that use the problem solving approach to teaching and learning. They draw on different subject areas for the contexts and use real data. Several key recommendations were made related to the future of teaching, learning and assessing within the English national curriculum.

The Centre continued to develop its relationship with the National Centre for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics with a view to helping with its professional development programme. Progress was made with writing material for the professional development course ‘Teaching

statistics at secondary level' and later this year an application will be made for it to become accredited by the Society. Three higher education 'Day-break' courses were run during the year on behalf of the Higher Education Academy Mathematics, Statistics and OR Network.

The review of teaching statistics in UK universities was completed by Fred Smith in December. The full report, which was published in Series A, can be downloaded from the Teaching Statistics Trust Web pages, which are hosted by the Centre. New higher education level projects were started on plagiarism in statistics assessment and creating dynamic worksheets using interesting data.

Following the award of a contract to deliver materials for Gambian Government statistical clerks to study for the RSS Certificate in Key Statistical Skills and the RSS Ordinary Certificate examinations, a train-the-trainers course for trainers selected from the University of The Gambia and the Gambia Bureau of Statistics was delivered in the autumn. These trainers taught the Ordinary Certificate and Key Statistical Skills material to 17 trainees between December and March, and these, in turn, were due to sit the Society's examinations in May.

As usual a large number of presentations, seminars and workshops were made in the year nationally and internationally, including at the Seventh International Conference on Teaching Statistics and the International Conference on Applied Statistics for Development in Africa.

Fuller details of the RSS Centre's work can now be found in the Director's 6-monthly reports that are published at <http://www.rsscse.org.uk/about/directorsreports.asp>.

*Neville Davies*

### *Higher education level reviews and consultations*

At the higher education level, the Education Strategy Group responded to the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education's plans to review the wider discipline's bench-mark in 2007, making the case for minimal revision to the existing bench-mark. The Society has also participated in the related Working Group.

On completion of the 1-year review of statistics teaching in higher education, the Society organized a meeting at its offices in mid-December 2006 at which over 70 academics heard the review's authors, Professor Fred Smith and Dr Laura Staetsky, share their findings. Follow-on meetings and exchanges have ensured that the review was placed in the public domain and action taken to draw the report to decision makers' attention. A map highlighting the deserts of statistics (i.e. regions where statistics is not offered by local universities) has been developed and some further research into meeting the needs of employers is being undertaken. The proceedings of the meeting in December were published in part 3 of Series A of the Society's journal.

*Susan Starkings and Debra Hurcomb*

### *Partnerships*

The Education Strategy Group's partnership with a key player in the promotion of the sciences—the Royal Institution—has been strengthened by the success of the first joint Statistics Open Day which went ahead on October 18th, 2006, with an audience of just under 200 students and teachers. The programme comprised talks, workshops, including an optional lunch-time session which achieved a full house, and a very popular quiz. Plans exist for this type of event to be repeated in the autumn of 2007.

An important feature of 2006–2007 was the launch of the new National Centre for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics in June 2006. A close association with colleagues at the Centre has been developed and three new on-line communities have been established within the portal. These include an active statistics teacher network which has facilitated discussion around



important statistics teaching issues and which has the potential to achieve a still stronger profile in 2007–2008.

*Susan Starkings and Debra Hurcomb*

### *Representation*

The Group has continued to be represented on bodies such as the Joint Mathematical Council and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority's Subject Associations Committee. Involvement with the work of the Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education has also been maintained.

Communications with members of the Statistics across the Curriculum Roundtable have continued; however, turnover of staff at the Institute of Biology and the Royal Geographical Society has delayed the fourth meeting of the Roundtable forum to July 2007.

*Susan Starkings and Debra Hurcomb*

### *RSS Schools Lecture*

Demand for the Schools Lecture has continued. 12 have been delivered by the current year's lecturer (including three lectures overseas, in Canada, Australia and New Zealand funded by overseas contacts) with audiences of up to 250 students and teachers. This year's host venues included the Royal Institution's masterclass series, university-based talks and the traditional venues, e.g. host schools. Additionally, the Guy Lecturer in 2004 has given five lectures in the Midlands and Yorkshire during the year. Marketing of the lectures—to up to 50 local schools for city-based talks—has continued to offer a good opportunity for communication with schools about other forthcoming activities, schemes and publications of the Society.

*Susan Starkings and Debra Hurcomb*

### *Other services and activities for teachers*

Also contributing to the 'statistics across the curriculum' subtheme was a meeting for teachers entitled 'Building reasoning skills for the future' at the Mathematics in Education and Industry Conference in July 2006. It was well attended by participants at the conference and has been thoroughly reported on via the education pages on the Web site and meeting outcomes proactively shared with numerous contacts.

A Society-initiated materials development project has raised new teaching materials focused on the manufacturing sector which are being quality assured by RSS Centre for Statistical Education colleagues. They are due to be ready for use in the classroom by September 2007.

*Susan Starkings and Debra Hurcomb*

### *Associate Schools and Colleges Scheme*

Scheme membership remained 'static' and promotion of the scheme continued via marketing of other events, with the main emphasis on offering current members a better service and improving the resubscription rate as the turnover of teaching staff in schools takes place.

*Susan Starkings and Debra Hurcomb*

### *Education workshops*

Nine education workshops took place between July 2006 and June 2007: one in each of Derbyshire, Cornwall and Cheshire, three in different schools across wider Essex and two in West Yorkshire based on the new partnership with Education Leeds. All were for teachers and their

students (the latter mainly in years 10–12). The ninth and final workshop of the year took place in Nottinghamshire for primary school students (our first primary-school-focused workshop).

*Susan Starkings and Debra Hurcomb*

#### *Issues-based events and student conferences*

Following the success of last year's 'What becomes of the broken hearted?' student conference at Cadbury College, there were detailed plans to run a similar event at a further education college in Cornwall in November 2006. Although, for administrative reasons, the college concerned had to withdraw at the 11th hour, planning is still under way for the same event to be drawn together in November 2007 in Cornwall at another college, also with the local Business–Education partnership's support. Two templates for new student conferences on issues around climate change are also under development with a school in the Midlands and a university on the south coast keen to host future events.

*Susan Starkings and Debra Hurcomb*

#### *Science education activities*

The Education Strategy Group worked with the Society's Environmental Statistics Section to develop a public-audience-focused event on the toxicity of chemicals and their effect on our health and our environment during the British Association's National Science and Engineering Week in March 2007. The successful meeting 'Living in Toxic-City' went ahead on March 14th, 2007, as did an important evening public lecture 'Defence against biological weapons', which was delivered by the eminent epidemiologist Professor Sir Roy Anderson FRS, Chief Scientific Advisor at the Ministry of Defence. The latter lecture was followed by a reception at which the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory ran a stand. Both events were reported on in a timely fashion and these reports offered the opportunity for proactive information provision to some of the high level contacts who could not attend, with follow-up news of the events and of forthcoming activities of the Society. The events also generated articles and interviews for a later issue of the Society's magazine *Significance*. The Society's Manchester Local Group also organized a successful event on the UK Biobank during this year's National Science and Engineering Week.

Members of the Education Strategy Group took up further opportunities for representation on the British Association for the Advancement of Science's Mathematics Section and prepared a full portfolio of potential Liverpool Festival of Science events in September 2008 for the Association to consider.

*Susan Starkings and Debra Hurcomb*

#### *Careers promotion*

The Education Strategy Group ran a second Careers Open Day for mainly final year undergraduates with the Operational Research Society in Birmingham in November 2006. We were grateful to Pfizer, GlaxoSmithKline, Quintiles, the Government Statistical Service, RSA Consulting, National Air Traffic Services, the University of Bristol and the University of West of England, all of which responded positively to the Society's invitation to run stands. The event attracted nearly 300 participants and a very high calibre of speakers and break-out session leaders from Statisticians in the Pharmaceutical Industry, the Government Statistical Service, the Medical Research Council, Shell Research Ltd, GlaxoSmithKline, Making More of Research,

the Risk Initiative and Statistical Consultancy Unit, Warwick, and the University of Bristol. Usable materials—including real data sets—were produced as an outcome and posted on our Web pages. For the first time ever, this event was sound recorded by careers promotion colleagues at the University of Cambridge and the sound files were made accessible via the Society's Web pages. There are plans to run the event again in November 2007 and perhaps to expand the programme to more than one fair in 2008.

There was an on-going programme of updating the discipline's contributions to careers Web pages, guides and annual magazines alongside taking up for the second consecutive year a full page, colour 'May 2007' insert in *The Independent's* careers calendar which reached all secondary schools and colleges in the UK.

A new careers register was developed in the year and, after careful matching of speakers and schools based on interests and experience *inter alia*, preparations are in place for the first speaker from this register to deliver a talk.

The Society also began to provide more substantial support to the 3-year 'more maths grads' project funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, which was launched in late April 2007—the Society ran a stand at the launch event for the entire mathematics community. Existing projects include activities for the Festival of Science; students conference templates *inter alia* have been redesigned to enable the Society to provide this wider discipline and careers promotion project with its support.

*Susan Starkings and Debra Hurcomb*

### *Education Strategy Group*

Under the continued chairmanship of Susan Starkings, the Education Strategy Group has continued to meet four times per year, breaking into smaller working groups to tackle key issues as they arise. The Group has attracted two new members: Dr Richard Gadsden of Loughborough University and Stella Dudzic of Mathematics in Education and Industry. The Group's support and consultation structure has been expanded and members continue to be actively encouraged to help to set its agenda.

*Susan Starkings and Debra Hurcomb*

### *Continuing professional development conference for teachers*

The Society, in conjunction with Education Leeds, organized a continuing professional development working conference—'Crime data solutions for the classroom'—for mathematics and statistics teachers (key stage 4+) on February 28th, 2007. The event, which was hosted by the West Yorkshire Police at the Bishopgarth Police Training Centre, was focused on how crime data could be used in the classroom. Just under 40 teachers and advisors in West Yorkshire and Humberside attended. Data resources were shared electronically before the event and via dedicated Web pages. A new on-line working community site has since been developed on the National Centre for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics site to enable participants who attended the event to continue to work together on the development of new resources and to be updated about some of the new initiatives proposed during the day.

*Susan Starkings and Debra Hurcomb*

### *Continuing professional development training and examination*

Since the first cohort joined the course 2 years ago, a total of seven RSS Centre for Statistical Education Certificates in Teaching Statistics in Higher Education (a certificate accredited

by the Society) have been awarded to those who successfully completed the programme. The course continued to be highly regarded in 2006–2007 and the Society was a party to a definitive agreement reached with Sheffield Hallam University to embed the certificate course material into its Master of Science programme, thereby enabling students to submit their portfolios for consideration for award of the certificate as well.

The development of a version of the RSS Centre for Statistical Education Certificate in Teaching Statistics in Higher Education for school level teachers went into a stage of advanced planning and should be ready for consideration by the Society's Professional Affairs Committee during the course of the year.

*Susan Starkings and Debra Hurcomb*

## **Publications**

At the end of the 2005–2006 session, Sylvia Richardson retired as Theme Director for the Publications Theme. Sylvia was the driving force behind the review of the Society's publications which reported to Council in October 2002 and led to, among other things, the launch of the highly popular and successful magazine in 2004. During the time of transition she therefore made an important and significant contribution to how the Society promotes its image. She was succeeded initially by Nicky Best, who stood down to take maternity leave in March 2007; Robin Henderson then took up the position. The Theme is supported by Nicola Emmerson, who oversees the magazine and newsletter, and Martin Owen, who is responsible for the production of Series A, B and C. The main activities in the 2006–2007 session involved the monitoring of and acting on developments in open access to publications arising from publicly funded research work and investigations into Web-based on-line manuscript submission and peer review systems.

*Robin Henderson (Theme Director), Nicola Emmerson (Theme Manager—Significance and RSS News) and Martin Owen (Theme Manager—The Journals)*

### *Publications Network of Advisors*

The quick succession in Theme Directors broke the continuity of the business of the Publications Network of Advisors during the session. Nevertheless, the Network held a meeting in October to identify the aims of publications strategy with publishers Blackwells. Part of the Network's duties include involvement in the process for appointing successors for retiring journal Editors. Thus, at the beginning of 2007 we welcomed Chris Skinner as new Joint Editor for Series C. He succeeded Chris Glasbey, who had not long previously finished a stint as an Associate Editor for Series B and earlier duties on Council before he started his 4 years as an Editor. The Society is therefore particularly grateful to him for his length of service.

Of major concern to the Network, and to the Meetings and Conferences Theme, is the lack of submissions for non-Research-Section Ordinary Meetings. The Theme Director for Meetings, David Spiegelhalter, therefore presented the results of his review of discussion papers over the last 25 years in the form of an editorial in the December 2006 issue of *RSS News*. His conclusion was that review-type papers with several authors from several institutions tend to make the most successful Ordinary Meetings (in terms of subsequent citations) and he mused on what possibilities there might be if the meetings could be opened up to the world via the Web in the future. However, we first need to receive good quality papers that would stimulate lively discussion to be able to exploit this potential, and this is where members can actively help by submitting them.

October 1st, 2006, was a significant date in the UK for new holders of grants from some of the UK research councils in terms of publishing their work. These developments are summarized briefly in a separate subsection.

*Robin Henderson and Martin Owen*

### *RSS News*

*RSS News* continues to keep Fellows informed on what is going on within both the Society and the discipline. Events within the Society which have featured prominently in articles have included the Belfast conference, the upgrading of our lecture theatre and the establishment of the Professional Development Centre. Within the discipline, reports have been published on the progress through Parliament of the Statistics and Registration Service Bill, the launch of the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics, the replacement of the research assessment exercise and the review of statistics teaching in higher education.

*Frank Duckworth*

### *Significance*

Feed-back, by letter and e-mail, shows that *Significance* continues to remain popular with its readers, the variety and range of tone of its topics seeming to please. There has been no shortage of topics to cover. These have ranged from the serious and important—Iraq casualties figures; weight-for-age charts for babies; biodiversity—to whether modern art is a product of genius or mass suggestion, bias in football referees and the statistics of collecting World Cup stickers. It is the last which produced the greatest batch of letters in response. Judging again by reader feed-back, biographies of major figures in statistics, such as Lord Moser, also proved popular. The lectures given by *Significance* authors at the Society's Belfast conference attracted a full house and further reassurance that we are generally hitting the right note.

We were happy to publish the article which won the Society's newly established competition for mainstream journalists, a piece by *The Guardian* columnist Ben Goldacre. In return, he gave the magazine a welcome and complimentary mention on his Web site.

A loyal core of regular or frequent contributors continue to provide core articles such as the toolkit, and we depend on their generous efforts to a perhaps unhealthy extent. Others promised articles which despite promptings failed to materialize. We appreciate that statisticians, including academic statisticians, are busy people, and we can offer no incentive save their name in print and a warm feeling inside. The solution would seem to be to commission as much as possible, as far ahead as possible, from as many sources as possible. Unsolicited articles have been offered, and welcomed; some have proved to be of very high quality. However, writers are still needed for slots such as the historically based 'data mine', which brings lesser-known statistical works of the past to light. Researching these might prove valuable and appealing to, for example, research students; should any such, or their supervisors, read this, please consider it as an invitation.

Keeping up with routine administration has been a problem, owing to pressure of other work. The current Editor, unlike his predecessor, has no editorial assistant on the masthead. However, secretarial assistance from Errol Street has helped considerably with this. Statistical opinion and expertise from board members have been extremely useful on several occasions in judging the statistical worth of articles beyond the Editor's competence; the statistics behind an article on bats caused dissent, which recourse to the board members might have avoided.

*Significance* seems a successful magazine. It is still, however, talking largely to the converted, namely statisticians. If its brief is to spread knowledge and interest in statistics it must reach a

wider audience. To fulfil what I believe was the intention of the Society in founding the magazine it should be available, easily and affordably, to a general audience. I would submit that discussions on how to achieve this end be begun.

Selling excess copies, which currently languish in Errol Street cellars, to the public, perhaps through small advertisements in such publications as *Private Eye* or *The Spectator*, might be one possibility. For this a reasonable cover price would have to be agreed.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the great help and inspiration that Martin Owen has given. His suggestions for topics and authors, eagle-eyed proof-reading and inexhaustible knowledge on all aspects of statisticians and the Society have been supplied always with patience and good humour, and their assistance to the Editor has been invaluable.

*Julian Champkin*

### *The journals*

Submission to the journal reached a new record high in 2006. Most of the increase came to Series B, which has consistently received around 25 more papers each year since 2001. Likewise, Series C has about 1.5 times as many new papers as it did in 2001 but is levelling off after a large step between 2002 and 2003. Series A also seems to be settling down after a step change, but further growth would be welcome here.

Although there were fewer papers that had been presented to the Society for discussion than normally, volume 169 of Series A, for the first time in many years, contained over 1000 pages. This was partly due to part 3, which comprised mainly 11 papers on the theme of attrition and non-response in sample surveys. Otherwise, the journal maintained its broad coverage of statistical papers in areas of everyday life, e.g. modelling categorical data from a social survey, time series studies of air pollution and mortality, estimating the prevalence of fraud in social security claims and methodology in the one-number census. Sport (leg before wicket decisions in test cricket) and religion (which gospel came first?) also featured.

Like Series A, Series B had fewer discussion papers than usual, so its volume was steady rather than spectacular, although its submission rate might have suggested that it would be otherwise. Nevertheless, on average each of its five issues produced eight high quality papers on subjects in the range of functional principal components analysis, latent Markov models, sequential Monte Carlo samplers, free-knot spline smoothing and communications network delay tomography. Wavelet-based methods were represented particularly frequently.

The beneficiary of the Ordinary Meetings papers was Series C. However, having cleared its backlog in the previous year, the volume was a more modest size, though still containing almost as many papers as Series B. Some of the topics included shape analysis, and applications to facial modelling, micronutrient supplementation, birth weight and infant mortality, detecting differential gene expression, generalized estimation equations in a horticultural research application and modifying central composite designs.

*Martin Owen*

### *Open access publication*

Towards the end of 2004, the Wellcome Trust announced that a condition of its funding to researchers was that they should put their publications in a publicly accessible electronic archive within 6 months of publication. Following suit, four of the eight research councils (including the Economic and Social Research Council and the Medical Research Council) now have similar policies for grants awarded from October 2006. Unlike the research councils (so far), however, the Wellcome Trust is willing to allocate money specifically to cover publication costs, as it

is keen that the versions of papers that are archived should be the definitive versions that are accepted for publication after peer review, and it is working with publishers to realize this aim.

Such prestigious journals as the Society's will always have an important part to play in providing a mark of quality, but the increasing use of preprint repositories and decreasing library funding are bound to have an effect on traditional subscription income. Following discussion within the Publications Network, the Society agreed to a proposal that the journals should join Blackwell's 'Online Open' trial from 2007. Briefly, after acceptance for publication, authors can pay a fee of £1300 (or \$2600) which would make the final copy-edited and proof-read versions of their papers immediately and permanently available on line to subscribers and non-subscribers alike. After 3 months in the trial, the journals received their first entrant to the scheme.

*Martin Owen*

#### *On-line submission and peer review*

To investigate whether a Web-based system for automating the process for manuscript submission and refereeing will aid the Editors of the journals by removing some of the administration and centralizing information about the process in a single database, a working group was set up during the session. The members comprised volunteers from the Publications Network of Advisors and the editorial panels, representing each of the series.

Firstly, the requirements for any such system were identified and a specification was drawn up. The possibilities were that either the Society could adapt a freely available open source system to the specification itself or sign up to a reliable commercial system that could be configured most closely to match its process. Demonstrations of both types were arranged and subsequently two test systems were tried out by the group at the beginning of 2007.

The experiences of the group are now being collated and the conclusions are being drawn up to formulate a recommendation.

*Martin Owen*

### **Honours**

The Honours Committee, which is chaired by the President, held its annual meeting in November 2006 to consider the nominations for awards to be made in 2007. The awards are listed below.

The Committee also considered ways to improve the submissions process so that more nominations were received for all awards under consideration in future years.

In January 2007 Council agreed to refocus the J. H. West bursary fund to assist Fellows in economically developing areas with their travel costs in attending the annual Society conference and in April 2007 Council agreed to amend the criteria for the Chambers Medal so that Past-Presidents of the Society would not be eligible to receive the medal.

*Paul Gentry*

#### *Society medals and prizes*

The Guy Medal in Silver for 2007 is awarded to Professor Howell Tong for his many important contributions to time series analysis over a distinguished career, and in particular for his fundamental and highly influential paper 'Threshold autoregression, limit cycles and cyclical data', which was read to the Society in 1980, which paved the way for a major body of work in non-linear time series modelling.

The Guy Medal in Bronze for 2007 is awarded to Dr Paul Fearnhead for his papers read to the Society on ‘Approximate likelihood methods for estimating local recombination rates’ (with P. Donnelly) in 2002 and ‘Exact and efficient likelihood-based inference for discretely observed diffusion processes’ (with A. Beskos, O. Papaspiliopoulos and G. O. Roberts) in 2006, for the papers published in the Society’s journals ‘On-line inference for hidden Markov models’ (with P. Clifford, *J. R. Statist. Soc. B*, **65** (2003), 887–899) and ‘Exact filtering for partially observed continuous time models’ (with L. Meligkotsidou, *J. R. Statist. Soc. B*, **66** (2004), 771–789) and also taking into account his crucial methodological advances in the estimation of genetic recombination rates, his important contributions to sequential Monte Carlo methods and his wider significant work in computational statistics.

The Bradford Hill Medal for 2007 is awarded to Professor Scott Zeger, for his outstanding contributions to the development and application of statistical methods in the public health sciences, including the development, with his colleague Kung-Yee Liang, of the highly influential method of generalized estimating equations for analysing longitudinal data, and the application, with his colleagues John Samet and Francesca Dominici, of state of the art statistical methods to the investigation of the links between air pollution and human health.

The Greenfield Industrial Medal for 2007 is awarded to Jim (S. J.) Morrison for his dedicated commitment to the promotion of statistical methods in education and practice in engineering and manufacturing, and for his fundamental contribution to quality improvement through his seminal work on minimizing variation transmission.

*Paul Gentry*

#### *Honours Review Working Party*

The Honours Review Working Party has met twice during the year, conducting most of its business by e-mail. Council agreed to our request to add Professor Chris Skinner to the membership of the Working Party.

We have considered several names, including those suggested by members of Council. The first cohort of four recommendations has been submitted and comments on the proposals have been received from the Cabinet Office. The second cohort of four proposals is in an advanced stage of preparation and work has started on the third cohort. Decisions are likely to take at least 18 months and so we have as yet no news of the recommendations that have so far been submitted.

*Robert Curnow*

#### **Finance**

Mark Robson retired as Honorary Treasurer in April, having served since June 2003. Mark brought a wide range of expertise to the table and the Society is in a much stronger position in various areas, not just financial, than it was 4 years ago, due largely to Mark’s input. He is succeeded by Tom Grimes.

The full audited accounts for the year ending December 31st, 2006, together with the Honorary Treasurer’s report, can be found at the end of the annual report. Once again the results for the year were generally favourable. Although the value of the Society’s investments was only slightly higher at the year end, this masks the exceptional additional contribution of £144,000 to the pension fund to eliminate the deficit on the fund reported at the last triennial actuarial valuation. Total funds increased by £255,000 (+9.2%), to exceed £3 million for the first time. The welcome gains on investments of £164,000 in 2003, £106,000 in 2004 and £163,000 in 2005 were followed by an increase of £154,000 this year.



Total incoming resources were up by a modest £34,000 (+2.4%), whereas total resources expended increased by £153,000 (+11.9%). The result is a modest surplus of income over expenditure of £31,000. The Society continues to aim for a broadly balanced budget, over a short run of years, and for the time being at least that appears to be achievable at the current level of activities. As a result of the strong financial results of the last few years, Council is again proposing only modest increases in subscriptions and charges to Fellows for 2008, in line with retail price inflation. Council has decided that a policy of annual modest increases in subscriptions is preferable to several years of no change followed by a large rise.

In addition to its on-going responsibility to oversee the Society's finances, the Finance Committee has also given attention this session to the following matters:

- (a) the requirement for the Society's accounts and Trustees' report to be fully compliant with the Statement of Recommended Practice 2005;
- (b) the tendering of the audit function for the Society;
- (c) the insured risks to the Society and risk management more generally;
- (d) the business case for establishing the Professional Development Centre.

*Ivor Goddard*

### *Investments*

The Society's investments are managed by the Investments Sub-Committee which comprises four Fellows who are considered to have particularly relevant professional experience and skills plus the current President and the President-Elect. As well as Mark Robson, James Clunie also retired from the Sub-Committee in April. We are particularly grateful to him for establishing the bench-mark system which the Society now uses to monitor the performance of its investments. John Crombie and David Elis-Williams have been appointed to the Sub-Committee.

The performance of the Society's investments are monitored against external bench-marks for each investment type. In 2006, the overall return on investments was 13.4%, a little lower than the overall bench-mark return of 14.2%. However, historically, the Society's conservative approach to investment has led to slight underperformance against the bench-mark in rising markets, compensated by slight overperformance in falling markets. The Sub-Committee is satisfied that the Society's investment policy is currently resulting in a satisfactory rate of return on investments.

*Ivor Goddard*

## **Staffing**

### *Staff*

The Remuneration and Staffing Committee has met twice since the report for 2005–2006 was written. The Committee now has significant delegated powers from Council including the following:

- (a) determination of the staffing pay level structure within budgets determined by Council;
- (b) determination of the remuneration levels of permanent members of staff, other than the Director General;
- (c) appointment and dismissal of permanent members of staff on pay levels 2–5;
- (d) determination of terms of employment and conditions of service for staff, including superannuation.

The staff team has seen just one change during the year—Ursula Yeboah-Afari, Assistant to the Facilities Manager, resigned to undertake further study. She was replaced by Osmith Vides on a short-term basis but Toni Young joined the staff as a permanent replacement on April 1st.

Council and the Committee have continued to keep staff workloads under active review to ensure that staffing capacity is in balance with the programme of work determined by Council. To relieve pressure on the Membership Services team, the part-time position of Teresa Dewane, Assistant to the Facilities Manager, was made full time, the additional hours being spent in the Membership Department. This will not only increase the resource that is available to the Director of Membership Services but will also provide cover for absences or vacancies in the team and thus reduce the risk of disruption to this vital function. A part-time Webmaster is to be appointed to support the development and maintenance of the Society's Web site.

The Society is too small to justify the employment of a dedicated human resource manager or a health and safety officer. These are nevertheless areas where it is important that the Society has access to up-to-date professional advice and support. A contract has therefore been agreed with an external organization to provide such advice to the Trustees and the senior staff of the Society.

A complete list of staff is set out below.

*Peter Green (Theme Director) and Ivor Goddard (Theme Manager)*

*Staff at May 1st, 2007*

Ivor Goddard	Director General
<i>Director General's Office</i>	
Janet Lindley	Administrative Officer
Andrew Garratt	Press and Public Affairs Officer
Sarah Simpson	Administrative Assistant
<i>Professional Affairs Office</i>	
Gerald Goodall	Director of Education and Professional Affairs
Debra Hurcomb	Administrative Officer—Education and Continuing Professional Development
Sarah Barker	Administrative Officer—Examinations and Professional Affairs
<i>Membership Services</i>	
Nicola Emmerson	Director of Membership Services
Paul Gentry	Administrative Officer—Meetings and Conferences
Anna Mair	Membership Administrator
<i>Journal</i>	
Martin Owen	Executive Editor
Charlotte Stovell	Editorial Assistant and Finance Office Assistant
<i>Support Services and Resources</i>	
Christine Sivers	Finance Manager (part time)
Jonelle Lewis Chamberlain	Facilities Manager
Teresa Dewane	Facilities Assistant (part time)
Toni Young	Facilities Assistant (part time)

## **Facilities and RSS Services**

### *Venue hire*

There has been another successful price increase for room hire and food. The rooms have been advertised in the Squaremeal guide, LondonLaunch and on the Society's Web site, generating more room bookings. We have changed the names of the two smaller meeting rooms to make the rooms more marketable and to remind people of some of our more notable Fellows. The marketing materials and Web page for facilities have been updated and improved.

*Jonelle Lewis Chamberlain*

### *Advertising*

The advertising for all of our publications is handled internally. An advertising campaign for *RSS News*, *Significance* and the Web site has been launched. We hope to attract more job, course and software adverts for these mediums. This will also provide more income for the Society.

*Jonelle Lewis Chamberlain*

### *Web site*

During the 2006–2007 session the redevelopment of the Society's Web site has continued to build on the progress of the last session and 'phase 1' of development has now been completed.

Highlights for the year include the following.

- (a) The 2007 subscriptions renewal process has seen over 10% of the membership make payments on line, which has provided a much needed service to Fellows outside the UK as well as creating time savings for staff.
- (b) A review of the Society's homepage was undertaken by a staff working group and the content updated to enable more current topics, issues or meetings to be drawn to members' and the public's attention.
- (c) A new events system went live in April 2007 to include on-line registration for Society meetings. The system also effected a streamlining of processes to produce the Society's events listings for the Web site and for *RSS News*.
- (d) Fellows can now update their entries in the on-line Fellows Directory via the 'My RSS' members' enclosure.
- (e) The Directory of Statistical Consultants was launched on June 4th, 2007, enabling professionally qualified members to offer statistical consultancy to the general public.
- (f) There is on-going training and consultation with Sections and Local Groups to encourage wider usage throughout the Society's groups.
- (g) Moving forwards, the Director General has been granted permission to appoint a part-time Webmaster or Information Manager to harness the Web site more fully and to support those who wish to drive the Society's Web presence. In addition, a number of Fellows are being drawn together to provide an advisory group for the Society's Web site, utilization and further development.

As the Society has expanded its Web provision, demand has increased. Further development and functionality are very much needed, particularly in the development of on-line meetings, a Web site facility for peer reviewing journals and enabling members to pay for events on line. In addition, the increasing outward focus of activity and the wish to influence society puts a greater pressure on the existing information architecture. As a result of this increased demand,

the Society has advertised for a dedicated member of staff to take this forward. A review of current development and identifying potential new development will be undertaken when the new staff member has been appointed.

*Janet Lindley*

### *Development and maintenance*

The Royal Statistical Society headquarters provide an excellent meeting environment in central London, which maximizes the usage of the lecture theatre, Council Chamber, Nightingale Room and Campion Room. Both Fellows and members of the public enjoy use of the Errol Street building. Our facilities not only offer a quality venue to hold events but also provide the Society with additional income. During the past year the following work has been done to maintain and improve the building:

- (a) external decoration of the Errol Street building;
- (b) portable appliance testing;
- (c) health and safety audit and update of the Society's policy;
- (d) door installed to cordon off the main reception desk;
- (e) decoration of the lecture theatre;
- (f) new plants in meeting rooms and public spaces.

Upcoming work includes the following:

- (a) internal decoration of the Errol Street building;
- (b) artwork on lower ground refreshment area walls;
- (c) new flooring in the lower ground refreshment area;
- (d) new carpeting and repair of carpeting in public areas and meeting rooms.

*Jonelle Lewis Chamberlain*

### *Audio-visual upgrade*

We have completed the first phase of our audio-visual upgrade. The new equipment has been installed in the lecture theatre and is working wonderfully:

- (a) a high resolution projector in a fixed location;
- (b) a plasma screen for the balcony area;
- (c) a motorized projection screen;
- (d) a touch screen presentation control panel;
- (e) a removable lectern;
- (f) laptop connection points;
- (g) a visualizer or document camera (to replace the overhead projector);
- (h) a digital video disc recorder–player and video cassette recorder;
- (i) specialist loudspeakers and new radio microphones;
- (j) hearing impairment system;
- (k) an auto-mixing system (to eliminate the need for manual mixing during most presentations).

Upcoming work includes the following:

- (a) a plasma screen in the reception area;
- (b) upgrading of the audio-visual equipment in selected meeting rooms;
- (c) video conferencing.

*Jonelle Lewis Chamberlain*

## **Statistics User Community**

As a Professional as well as a Learned Society, the Royal Statistical Society has an important role in supporting the community of people who are users of statistics.

The work of this Theme is delivered through the Statistics User Forum and the Statistics User Executive. The Forum brings together representatives of statistics users. The Forum was set up with support from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and is the successor to the long-established Statistics User Council. It works to make sure that the needs and views of the statistical user community are taken into account by statistics producers and policy makers.

The Statistics User Forum has had another successful year. Its membership has expanded, with the co-option of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations and the affiliation of the newly formed Output Area Classification User Group. It has been able to advance its priorities for change in producer policies and practices through a series of workshops and seminars, through engagement with the National Statistician and the Office for National Statistics and with Government and Parliament (particularly with regard to statistical legislation). The second conference under the Statistics User Forum label was held in November 2006, on ‘New statistics from administrative and customer files’. The conference was widely recognized as a success.

The Forum and Executive have given extensive consideration to its business planning and long-term funding support. The Forum’s work is now planned against three strategic headings:

- (a) securing benefits for users through changes in policy and practice;
- (b) engaging with, and representing, the statistics user community;
- (c) strengthening the capacity of the Forum and user groups.

The Society submitted a report on the Forum’s work to the ESRC on completion of its 2-year funding award. The ESRC referee concluded comments on the report saying that ‘Statistics User Forum has delivered impressively over the two years of ESRC funding’. The ESRC encouraged an application for further funding and this was submitted in late March. Following an invitation to do so, the Forum has submitted preliminary proposals on user engagement in the post-legislative system to the Treasury. It is hoped that user interests will be clearly represented by appointments to the new Statistics Board and that the Board will prioritize user involvement (including funding for the Forum or a similar body).

*Keith Dugmore (Theme Director) and Andrew Garratt (Theme Manager)*

### *Promoting user priorities*

The Forum adopted the following five priorities for change in 2005.

- (a) Statistics access teams: Government departments should create ‘statistics access teams’ to help users, particularly by packaging data in convenient formats, and moving to simple ‘click–use’ licensing. The Government should help non-experts to find and use data that have been published and be alert to how the movement of offices and staff risk leading to a loss of ‘institutional memory’ and to problems in maintaining contacts.
- (b) UK-wide data: the main Government departments should address the need for UK-wide consistent statistics, starting with an assessment of the need for UK consistent data in each subject area.
- (c) Geographic coding: identify an approach to geographic coding which overcomes data confidentiality concerns, and code all records accordingly. Accelerate development of neighbourhood statistics in consultation with users.

- (d) Income statistics: improve statistics on income, in particular but not restricted to on low pay, and do whatever is necessary to provide richer statistical information from existing Inland Revenue sources.
- (e) Confidentiality and disclosure: ensure sensible restrictions that protect confidentiality but that allow information to be used appropriately. This includes sharing data across different agencies. Updating of the Statistics of Trade Act 1947 should be considered in this context.

Action on all of these has been the subject of three meetings so far with the National Statistician and senior Office for National Statistics staff. A route for user involvement on the I-dissemination project has been established and Office for National Statistics funding support was secured for a one-day workshop on access to Government data sets. Commitments have also been secured on reinvigorating the Neighbourhood Statistics user engagement group and on providing vital statistics data on the Neighbourhood Statistics Web site.

Partnership working has been a particular aspect of the work to promote its priorities. An Official Statistics Section conference on UK-wide statistics was co-sponsored by the Forum. A conference on access to UK Government data sets was organized with the UK Data Archive and sponsored by the Office for National Statistics. A conference on the census and statistical geographies was held jointly with the Census Study Group.

*Keith Dugmore and Andrew Garratt*

### *Supporting the user groups*

The Society provides support to user groups in the following ways:

- (a) helping with organizing and publicizing meetings;
- (b) facilitating the provision of user group information on the Society's Web site, including maintaining a diary of meetings and events;
- (c) maintaining an alerting system which identifies and alerts the relevant user community to publications, consultation documents, deadlines etc.;
- (d) co-ordinating and sharing responses to consultation exercises.

The membership databases of three user groups are now managed by the Society. The Web pages have been restructured to provide more of a Web-based library resource of meetings and documents. All user groups are being encouraged to take up the facility for Web pages, and to advertise their events through the Web event management system. Society staff have also provided event management and administration support for the British Urban and Regional Information Systems Association and the Health Statistics User Group.

*Keith Dugmore and Andrew Garratt*

### *Statistics User Forum conference*

The second conference under the Statistics User Forum label was held in November 2006 on 'New statistics from administrative and customer files'.

The day long conference was opened by a lively and thought provoking presentation by Andrew Dilnot who discussed the policy need for better information. Other contributions included a fascinating insight into how Tesco use their clubcard data to target customer groups with appropriate offers, a comparison of business records using the Office for National Statistics's administrative register and Yell's business lists, and the development and use of registers in Finland by Riitta Harala of Statistics Finland. About 170 delegates attended (an increase of 30 on the previous year) with feed-back forms showing high levels of satisfaction. The

Economic and Social Research Council referee noted the value to the wider user community of the contributed materials that are now part of the Statistics User Forum Web library of resources. The Forum was again grateful to receive a grant from the Statistics Commission which helped, in part, to provide free and discounted places to user group representatives on the Forum and user group members.

The next conference is now scheduled for November 15th, 2007, on the broad topic of income statistics.

*Keith Dugmore and Andrew Garratt*

#### *Promoting the user perspective on statistics legislation*

The Statistics User Forum has been active in lobbying Parliamentarians during the passage of the Statistics and Registration Service Bill. The report of the House of Commons Treasury Committee published before the Bill's introduction into Parliament had quoted many of the Forum's views and responded to them positively.

In its briefing for Members of Parliament the Forum called for the Bill to provide adequately for the independence of those statistics which are produced by Government outside the Office for National Statistics, for the Statistics Board to be able to cover issues of pre-release access in the code of practice, a greater role for the National Statistician to promote the co-ordination of statistics UK wide and for clearer separation of the production and scrutiny roles. Members of Parliament from all sides highlighted various of these concerns during the Second Reading debate, and those in subsequent stages of the Bill's passage. A revised briefing was sent to members of the House of Lords, with similar positive response.

*Keith Dugmore and Andrew Garratt*

#### *List of user groups*

- Association of Census Distributors
- British Society of Criminology
- British Urban and Regional Information Systems Association
- Business Statistics User Group
- Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals
- Demographic User Group
- Finance Statistics User Group
- Fire and Rescue Services User Group
- Gender Statistics User Group
- Health Statistics User Group
- International Trade Statistics User Group
- Labour Market Statistics User Group
- Local Authority Research and Intelligence Association
- Market Research Society
- National Accounts User Group
- National Council for Voluntary Organisations
- Output Area Classification User Group
- Society of Business Economists
- Transport Statistics User Group

The Forum is further strengthened by the involvement of the following 15 organizations or individuals (both producers and users) as formal observers:

Economic and Social Research Council  
Office for National Statistics  
Statistics Commission  
Peter Elias  
House of Commons Library  
Joseph Rowntree Foundation  
National Audit Office  
Royal Economic Society  
UK Data Archive  
Economic and Social Data Service  
Trades Union Congress  
Bank of England  
Confederation of British Industry  
Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy  
National Institute of Economic and Social Research

*Keith Dugmore and Andrew Garratt*

### **Sections, Local Groups and Study Groups**

The Sections and Local Groups of the Society have once again provided a diverse and interesting programme of over 100 meetings during the session.

The nine Sections of the Society have remained active during the session and have engaged in a wide variety of Society activities and initiatives. During the session the existing three Study Groups were joined by a fourth with the formation of the Bioinformatics Study Group.

In January representatives of the Sections and Study Groups met with the President, Theme Directors and Theme Managers to discuss organizational issues and current Society initiatives.

18 Local Groups were active during the session. Unfortunately the Sussex Group has gone into abeyance because of falling attendances at meetings and changes in circumstances of Group officers. The Tanzania Local Group and the Lancashire Local Group have also not been active recently but hope to become more active in the next year. The Reading Local Group has gone through a period of inactivity but intends to start holding meetings again later in the summer. The Society has been investigating the possibility of establishing a Hampshire and Dorset Local Group.

Local Group representatives held their annual meeting with the Theme Director and Theme Managers in May.

*Andy Garrett (Theme Director) and Paul Gentry (Theme Manager)*

### ***Business and Industrial Section***

The activities of the Business and Industrial Section were as follows.

A Section meeting and presentations were held on June 26th, 2006, at Errol Street. There were three presenters: Kirsty Bryan, Mark Dixon and Maria Ouseph. All three were recent graduates and embarking on careers in statistics. They spoke about how and why they had become interested in statistics and whether their choice was the right one. All touched on their job roles and the challenges that they faced on an everyday basis. Communicating statistical ideas to a non-statistical audience was also discussed, as was putting forward complex statistical ideas in simple statistical terms.

There was a Section meeting on November 29th, 2006, at the Cass Business School.



Finally there was a Section meeting on the March 21st, 2007. Unfortunately, the presentations had to be cancelled because the speakers at Procter & Gamble had other urgent business commitments.

*Khalid Malek*

2006

June 26th

*Meeting on 'New statisticians in business and industry'*  
Kirsty Bryan, Mark Dixon and Maria Ouseph

### *Environmental Statistics Section*

The main activities of the Environmental Statistics Section (ESS) have been the organization of a programme of meetings, in London and elsewhere. The meetings are designed to reach out both to statisticians and to environmental scientists working in a variety of application areas, to promote the existence of the Society and to highlight the contributions that modern statistical methods can make to environmental science. For this, meetings are often held jointly with other organizations. Attendance has been generally good, with one income-generating event held so far, and another sponsored event (with all costs covered by the RAINMAP network) in April.

An additional meeting, which had been planned for April 25th and was to be organized jointly with the Royal Meteorological Society, had to be cancelled because the Royal Meteorological Society failed to provide any speakers.

The income target for the Section is £1,125, with expenditure budgeted at £3,000. Income from the October meeting was around £1,150, and at this stage expenditure looks to be under budget. The main reason for this is that Committee members from Scotland and Wales have not been able to attend many meetings and so have not incurred travelling expenses.

Planning is well under way for the 2007–2008 session. The Section will be reinstating its policy of running themed meeting series in addition to occasional meetings on other topics. Two themes have been identified for the next couple of sessions: these are veterinary science and human health, and data acquisition. The first meeting of the next session will be on September 26th at Errol Street and is being run jointly with the British and Irish Regions of the International Biometric Society.

In addition to running meetings, the Section maintains the ENVSTAT mailing list (<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/files/ENVSTAT/>) and, working alongside the Society's 'environment line', aims to provide a statistical viewpoint on matters of environmental interest. One such matter in the current session has been the publication by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) of a draft strategy for 2007–2012. Following an open request from the NERC for input into this strategy, the ESS collated views from environmental statisticians and submitted them to the Society so that an official response could be prepared. Unfortunately, this does not seem to have been taken very seriously; the response that was submitted by the Society (which can be seen on the Web site) is little more than the unstructured collation that had originally been provided by the ESS. Unsurprisingly, there is no evidence that the NERC had taken on board any of the comments in the draft strategy that has recently been published. The Committee are concerned that the Society needs to treat such matters much more seriously if it is to be seen as a credible and influential professional body.

Finally, at the meeting between the Sections and the Theme Officers on January 24th, 2007, it was noticed that the current rules governing membership of the ESS Committee are mutually inconsistent. This needs to be resolved.

*Richard Chandler*

2006

October 24th *Meeting on ‘Spatial resolution enhancement for environmental data’*  
 December 6th *Meeting on ‘Environment and health’*

2007

January 11th–12th *Workshop and meeting on ‘Statistics and computer models’*  
 February 7th *Joint meeting with the West Midlands Local Group on ‘Environmental hazards—volcanoes’*  
 Heidi Mader, David Pyle and Jenny Barclay  
 March 14th *National Science Week meeting on ‘Living in Toxic-City’*  
 April 16th *Joint meeting with the RAINMAP Network on ‘Handling uncertainty in the measurement of rainfall’*  
 June 6th *Meeting on ‘Renewable energy’*

### *General Applications Section*

The General Applications Section (GAS) has had another extremely active year.

Our first session took place in Belfast at RSS2006 in September and was entitled ‘Research by young statisticians’. There were four exciting talks by career young statisticians. This proved a successful outreach event and was the subject of a favourable comment in *RSS News*: ‘The young statisticians session organised by the General Applications section, was very constructive and worthwhile’ (November 2006).

Our next session in November was entitled ‘Statistics and gambling’. This meeting provided an overview of recent work in a topical area commanding considerable public interest.

The next meeting in December was a joint one with the Education Strategy Group. An audience of over 80 people heard the presentation of a ‘Review of statistics teaching in higher education’ by Fred Smith and Laura Staetsky. This was followed by discussion initiated by Andy Grieve and John Copas. The proceedings of this meeting were published in Series A.

February’s meeting discussed epidemics and pandemics. 40 people heard engaging talks about an issue that had recently been in the national news.

March found the GAS joining with the Medical Section to discuss ‘Statistics in mental health research’. The many Fellows and non-Fellows who attended this meeting heard five excellent talks which provided overviews of theoretical and applied work in this area, including the statistical analysis of functional magnetic resonance imaging data.

In April, the GAS ran a meeting on ‘Data mining’ which was sponsored by the Southampton Statistical Sciences Research Institute. There were three interesting talks which gave a state of the art summary of issues in this heavily computational area, followed by a panel discussion.

The final meeting of the session discussed ‘Genetic epidemiology’. Again this meeting attracted a good audience, the members of which enjoyed three top rate presentations on topics ranging from multiple testing to Bayesian partition models.

We are pleased to have been able to present such a wide-ranging programme once again.

*Julian Stander and Vic Barnett*

2006

September 12th *Meeting on ‘Research by young statisticians’*  
 Mark Gittoes: Higher education admissions: assessment of bias  
 Ruth Salway: A hybrid model for reducing ecological bias  
 Paul Hewson: Smoothed models for multivariate count and proportion data: an application concerning cycle helmets  
 Peter Neal: Efficient MCMC—the curse of dimensionality for the random walk Metropolis algorithm

- November 7th *Meeting on ‘Statistics and gambling’*  
 David Forrest: Modelling sales of lotto and similar games  
 Johnnie Johnson, Ray O’Brien and Jean-Francis Bozetto: The impact of evolving and sporadically changing information on subjective probability judgments in a financial market  
 Oliver Johnson: Gambling and information theory
- December 13th *Joint meeting with the Education Strategy Group on ‘A review of statistics teaching in higher education’*  
 Fred Smith and Laura Staetsky: The findings of the review  
 Andy Grieve: Commentary on the findings, implications for future action  
 John Copas: Commentary on the findings, implications for future action
- 2007
- February 14th *Meeting on ‘Epidemics and pandemics’*  
 Simon Cauchemez: Should we close schools during a flu pandemic?: estimating school-based transmission from sentinel surveillance data  
 Matthew Keeling: Disease transmission across networks  
 Phil O’Neill: Bayesian inference for stochastic epidemic models  
 Ayoub Saei: Small area estimation of mandatory surveillance for methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)
- March 21st *Joint meeting with the Medical Section on ‘Statistics in mental health research’*  
 Graham Dunn: Modelling treatment-effect heterogeneity in RCTs of psychological treatments  
 Morven Leese: Aggregate scores as psychiatric outcomes  
 Tim Croudace: “Latent Goldberg”—psychometric statistics and the General Health Questionnaire  
 Mick Brammer: Some issues arising in the statistical analysis of fMRI data  
 Chris Roberts: The design and analysis of clinical trials of non-pharmacological therapies

### *Medical Section*

The Medical Section organized seven meetings for the 2006–2007 session on a variety of medical- and health-related topics.

The series of meetings started, in October 2006, with a joint meeting between the Leeds/Bradford Local Group and the Medical Section at the University of Leeds on nutrition, health and obesity. The four talks included Darren Greenwood (Leeds University) on measurement error in dietary research, Jonathan Sterne (Bristol University) on the use of instrumental variable approaches to estimate the causal effect of body mass index on mortality, Tim Cole (University College London) on the assessment of growth by using Z-scores, distance and velocity and Robert West (Leeds University) on adipose tissue and metabolic inflexibility.

The November meeting, at Errol Street, was on health economics, evidence synthesis and decision science in health care resource allocation. The three talks were by Simon Thompson (Medical Research Council Biostatistics Unit, Cambridge) on ‘Aortic aneurysms: from randomised trials to a national screening programme’, Nicky Welton and Tony Ades (Bristol University) on ‘Expected Value of Information calculations in practice’ and Norman Waugh (Aberdeen University) on ‘Health technology assessment for UK policy makers’.

The first meeting of the New Year, January 2007, at Errol Street was on modelling issues associated with pandemic flu. The two speakers were Neil Ferguson (Imperial College London)

on the use of mathematical models in preparing for a flu pandemic and Ben Cooper (Health Protection Authority, London) on Health Protection Authority work in preparation for an influenza pandemic.

The February meeting was on statistical issues in analysing health-related quality-of-life data and included Stephen Walters (Sheffield University) speaking about the use of bootstrap methods in analysing quality-of-life outcome data and Lucinda Billingham (Birmingham University) on the application of the integrated quality–survival product in clinical trials.

In the middle of March 2007, during National Science Week, there was a joint meeting with the Manchester Local Group on the UK Biobank at Manchester Metropolitan University. Hilary Newiss (UK Biobank) described the ethics and governance of UK Biobank; Bill Ollier (Manchester University) talked about ‘UK Biobank: a study of genes and environment’ and Elio Riboli (Imperial College London) spoke about the ‘EPIC network bio-repositories for gene–environment interaction studies’.

The end of March included another joint meeting, this time with the General Applications Section, at Errol Street, on statistics and mental health. The five speakers included Graham Dunn (Manchester University), Morven Leese (Kings College London), Tim Croudace (Cambridge University), Mick Brammer (Kings College London) and Chris Roberts (Manchester University).

The April meeting was a joint meeting with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, who organized and hosted the 16th Bradford Hill Memorial Lecture on ‘Randomisation, observation and two views of medical science’ by Jan Vandenbroucke of Leiden University, the Netherlands. The final meeting of the session, in June 2007, was again at Errol Street on the topics of the human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immune deficiency syndrome, with three speakers: Fiona Lampe (University College London), Liz Bailes (Nottingham University) and Sarah Walker (Medical Research Council Clinical Trials, London).

*Stephen Walters*

2006

October 31st *Joint meeting with the Leeds/Bradford Local Group on ‘Nutrition, health and obesity’*

Darren Greenwood: Measurement error in dietary research

Jonathan Sterne: Instrumental variable approaches to estimate the causal effect of body mass index on mortality

Tim Cole: The assessment of growth using Z-scores, distance and velocity

Robert West: Adipose tissue and metabolic inflexibility

November 28th *Meeting on ‘Health economics, evidence synthesis and decision science in health care resource allocation’*

Simon Thompson: Aortic aneurysms: from randomised trials to a national screening programme

Nicky Welton and Tony Ades: Expected Value of Information calculations in practice

Norman Waugh: Health technology assessment for UK policy makers

2007

January 23rd Neil Ferguson and Ben Cooper

February 27th *Meeting on ‘Statistical issues in analysing health-related quality of life data’*

- Cindy Billingham: Application of the integrated quality-survival product in clinical trials  
 Stephen Walters: The use of bootstrap methods in analysing quality of life outcome data
- March 14th *Joint meeting with the Manchester Local Group on the 'UK Biobank'*  
 Hilary Newiss: Ethics and governance of UK Biobank  
 Bill Ollier: UK Biobank: a study of genes and environment  
 Elio Riboli: EPIC network bio-repositories for gene–environment interaction studies
- March 21st *Joint Meeting with the General Applications Section on 'Statistics in mental health research'*  
 Graham Dunn: Modelling treatment-effect heterogeneity in RCTs of psychological treatments  
 Morven Leese: Aggregate scores as psychiatric outcomes  
 Tim Croudace: “Latent Goldberg”—psychometric statistics and the General Health Questionnaire  
 Mick Brammer: Some issues arising in the statistical analysis of fMRI data  
 Chris Roberts: The design and analysis of clinical trials of non-pharmacological therapies
- April 24th *16th Bradford Hill Memorial Lecture—joint meeting with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine*  
 Jan Vandenbroucke: Randomisation, observation and two views of medical science
- June 26th *Meeting on 'HIV/AIDs'*  
 Fiona Lampe: An overview of HIV natural history and the effect of anti-retroviral therapy  
 Liz Bailes: The origins of HIV  
 Sarah Walker: When are factorial designs not the answer?: experience from the DART trial of strategies for antiretroviral therapy in Africa

### *Official Statistics Section*

The new committee of the Official Statistics Section was elected at the Section's annual general meeting that was held on July 13th, 2006. Philip Turnbull was re-elected as Chair. Ross Young joined the Committee as Secretary following the retirement of Catherine Heffernan. Catherine remained on the Committee as an ordinary member. Seven ordinary members of the committee were re-elected for a further year: Ray Godfrey, Paula Hammond, Alison Macfarlane, Julian Mund, Frank Nolan, Sylvia Walby and Peg Young. Ray Thomas continued as a co-opted member. The Committee welcomed two new ordinary members: Richard Alldritt and Michael Baxter. The Committee thanked Ruth Studley (ordinary member), Simon Briscoe and Glenn Everett (co-opted members) who retired from the Committee at the annual general meeting.

In September, the Committee also welcomed John Fox as the Council nominee.

Between July 2006 and April 2007, the Section held eight meetings, of which two were held jointly with User Groups. The attendance at meetings has varied considerably, but meetings continue to be attended by the Society's members as well as some non-members, and are lively and informative.

*Ross Young*

2006

- July 13th Philip Lee and Martin Weale: Measuring Government output and productivity
- October 12th Nick Longford: House price inflation in New Zealand 1996-2002
- October 27th *Joint meeting with the Health Statistics User Group on 'Health information'*
- November 20th *Meeting on '100 Years of the Census of Production'*
- November 23rd Stephen Penneck and Paul Smith
- Joint meeting with the Health and Education Statistics User Groups on 'Difficulties in compiling statistics for the UK and beyond: education and health'*
- Dave Walton and Steve Lehman, Myer Glickman and Alison Macfarlane

2007

- March 22nd David Blunt: Recent developments in labour market statistics
- April 12th *Meeting on 'Indicators and statistics on gender equality'*
- Sylvia Walby: Developing the indicators and official statistics needed to monitor the new duty to promote gender equality placed on public bodies
- Janneke Plantenga: Developing gender equality indicators in the EU
- Ester Breitenbach: Statistics for gender equality
- Andrea Murray: The implementation of the gender duty: progress and challenges
- Shehla Husain: The development of the equalities scheme in the Crown Prosecution Service
- Jeff Turner and Kerry Hamilton: Gender equality in transport
- April 19th Rosamund McDougall and Martin Desvaux: Environmentally sustainable population—why the statistics matter

### *Quality Improvement Section*

At the Committee meeting on October 12th, 2006, new Chair Marta Haworth paid tribute to the work of the previous Chair, Shirley Coleman. At the meeting on January 11th, 2007, the Committee welcomed Kirsty Macleod, a 'career young' statistician who is involved in lean manufacturing and six sigma activities in the pharmaceutical industry. The meeting was followed by a Quality Forum titled 'Desperately seeking statistics: the challenge for NGOs of finding quantitative support for qualitative research', with speakers James Welsh (Amnesty International), Stephen Joseph (Transport 2000) and John Micklewright (University of Southampton). The interest generated has led the Committee to arrange a session at RSS2007 in York on the topic with the same three speakers. The defined affiliation of the Six Sigma Study Group to the Quality Improvement Section since the beginning of 2007 has led to the joint organization of a half-day chargeable event, titled 'Six Sigma, the What and the How', following the Committee meeting in June 2007. Professor Tony Bendell, formerly of the University of Leicester Centre for Quality Excellence, and Alan Harrison, of Weir Group PLC, will provide an overview. Other speakers will present case-studies of the successful applications in health care and finance. Marta Haworth and John Disney represented the Quality Improvement Section at the launch of the Chartered Quality Institute. This led to Marta, John and Shirley Coleman having a successful exploratory meeting with Frank Steer, its Director General, in April. Shirley will report to Council on the potential for more formalized future collaboration.

*Robin Henderson*

2007

- January 11th *Quality Forum on ‘Desperately seeking statistics—the challenge for NGOs of finding quantitative support for qualitative research’*  
 Jim Welsh, Stephen Joseph and John Micklewright
- June 7th *Joint meeting with the Six Sigma Study Group on ‘Six Sigma—the What and the How’*  
 Tony Bendell, Alan Harrison, Paul Muir, Barry Pullen, Jill Long and Mary Hickey

### *Research Section*

New members appointed this year were Ian Dryden, Anders Skrondal and Darren Wilkinson. During the session, Ernst Wit succeeded Chris Holmes as Honorary Secretary of the Committee.

The Section’s main activity continues to be the organization of Ordinary Meetings, based on high quality papers. The Committee handles the review of methodological papers submitted for reading before the Society.

In this session the Research Section has organized four Ordinary Meetings of the Society covering the range of topics listed below.

Another set of courses of the ‘Graduate training programme in mathematical statistics and applied probability’ was successfully held at Queen Mary College, University of London, June 26th–30th, 2006. The two fields covered were ‘Time series analysis’ and ‘Statistical design’. The courses were well received and two more courses are soon to run during the summer of 2007, to wit in July (‘Multiscale methods and statistical modelling of non-stationary phenomena’, run by E. McCoy and S. Olhede, Imperial College London, and ‘Fundamentals of statistical theory’, run by A. Young, Imperial College London) and in September (‘Fundamentals of statistical causality’, to be run by P. Dawid, University College London, and ‘Bayesian statistics’, to be run by A. O’Hagan, University of Sheffield).

The Section continues to sponsor research workshops. In particular it has supported in the past year student attendance at a workshop on ‘New developments in MCMC: diffusions, images and other challenges’ (August 2006), which was organized by the University of Warwick.

*Ernst Wit*

2006

- October 11th M. S. Handcock, A. E. Raftery and J. M. Tantrum: Model-based clustering for social networks

2007

- January 31st D. Zeng and D. Y. Lin: Semiparametric regression models with censored data
- April 18th P. Diggle, D. Farewell and R. Henderson: Analysis of longitudinal data with drop-out: objectives, assumptions and a proposal
- May 9th J. O. Ramsay, G. Hooker, D. Campbell and J. Cao: Parameter estimation for differential equations: a generalized smoothing approach

### *Social Statistics Section*

Our programme began in October with a very interesting presentation on the Citizenship Survey with speakers Jenny King (CLG), James Brown (University of Southampton), Kaite Emmer-son (CLG) and Angela Ellis Paine (Institute for Volunteering Research). They discussed the wide use of the survey and the large ethnic boost which enables much more detailed analysis of ethnicity and faith.

In November a joint half-day meeting was held with the Statistics User Forum that discussed the Office for National Statistics's output area classification (this popular event was also repeated in April). Speakers were Dan Vickers (Sheffield), Martin Callingham (Birkbeck College) and Samantha Poole, Sheena Gordon and Alistair Calder (Office for National Statistics). The seminar discussed the use of output area classification for profiling populations, structuring other data or targeting resources and concluded with a discussion on the future, and on setting up an output area classification user group under the Statistics User Forum.

Also in November a very well-attended Cathie Marsh Memorial Lecture (joint with the Social Research Association, sponsored by the National Centre) was on use of randomized control trials (RCTs) in policy evaluation. This was very timely given the increased use of RCTs in social research. The speakers were Chloe Chitty (Research Development and Statistics Directorate, Home Office), who discussed use of RCTs within the Home Office, Carol Torgerson (University of York), who discussed use of RCTs in education research, and Phil Davies (Executive Director, Campbell Collaboration), who focused on why public policy needs RCTs.

In December Arnaud Chevalier (Royal Holloway College) gave an interesting presentation on gender inequalities in the labour market. The career expectations and lifetime values among the 1995 graduate cohort were discussed, indicating that women are more altruistic and less career oriented than men.

In January a meeting was held that focused on the wide range of Home Office statistical modelling that is used to project the prison population, to develop reconviction measures and to estimate numbers of active offenders. Speakers were Paul Cowell, Lucy Cuppleditch, Adrian Shepherd, Vincent Chinegwundoh and Martin Kelly (Research Development and Statistics, Home Office). This was a very well-attended event, having been preceded by a reception to welcome new members of the Society who had joined under a new corporate membership scheme.

In February a lively joint meeting with the Census Study Group was held. Phil Rees (Leeds University) discussed the priority for census questions and John Hollis (Greater London Authority) what local government gains by getting the population counts 'right'. Ian Cope (Office for National Statistics) described the challenges that were faced in agreeing the 2011 questions.

In March there was an interesting meeting on analysis of administrative data with speakers David McLennan and Roxana Gutierrez-Romero (Social Disadvantage Research Centre, University of Oxford). The presentation focused on the practical application of key administrative data sets for targeting, monitoring and evaluating area-based interventions to tackle social and economic deprivation and included some preliminary results of the evaluation of the 'New deal for communities programme'.

In April there was a meeting on the GREG-based calibration weighting that is due to be rolled out across many Government surveys, with speakers Paul Smith and Peter Brodie (Office for National Statistics) and Chris Skinner (Southampton University).

In May there will be a half-day event on statistical training for social scientists with speakers Chris Skinner (Southampton University), Malcolm Williams (Plymouth University), Damon Berridge (Lancaster University) and Fiona Steele and Sacha Brostoff (Bristol University). This important meeting is being held jointly with the Economic and Social Research Council National Centre for Research Methods and is sponsored by them. The session will conclude in June with a meeting on the longitudinal survey of young people in England, with speakers Ian Noble (Department for Education and Skills), John Fletcher (Department for Education and Skills) and Lorraine Dearden (Institute of Education).

The Social Statistics Section also surveyed members of its JISMAIL distribution list in December before starting on plans for the next session. If you would like to join this e-mail



distribution list, to receive details of meetings organized by the Social Statistics Section, please register at <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/wa.exe?SUBED1=rss-social-stats&A=1>.

*Chris Kershaw*

*2006*

- October 10th *Meeting on ‘Citizenship Survey: what can it tell us?’*  
Jenny King, James Brown, Kaite Emmerson and Angela Ellis Paine
- November 2nd *Meeting on ‘Exploring the use and value of the ONS output area classification’*  
Dan Vickers: Open geodemographics: the creation of the Output Area classification  
Martin Callingham: The application and development of OAC  
Samantha Poole: Commissioning and using OAC  
Alistair Calder: Visualising area classifications
- November 9th *Cathie Marsh Memorial Lecture—joint meeting with the Social Research Association on ‘Randomized control trials in policy evaluation’*  
Chloe Chitty, Carol Torgerson and Phil Davies

*2007*

- January 30th *Meeting on ‘Offending and reconviction: where are we heading?’*  
Paul Cowell: Projecting the prison population  
Lucy Cuppleditch and Adrian Shepherd: Developments in measuring reconvictions  
Martin Kelly: Estimating active offenders
- February 20th *Joint meeting with the Census Study Group on ‘Census counts and characteristics: getting the best of both worlds’*  
Phil Rees, John Hollis and Ian Cope
- March 13th *Meeting on ‘Administrative data: targeting, monitoring and evaluating neighbourhood renewal’*  
David McLennan and Roxana Gutierrez-Romero
- April 24th *Paul Smith and Peter Brodie: ONS investigation of GREG based calibration weighting for non-response: case study using the Labour Force Survey*
- May 22nd *Meeting on ‘Statistics training for Social Scientists’*  
Chris Skinner: Statistics training and ESRC  
Malcolm Williams: Can’t Count, Won’t Count?: some results from a national survey of student attitudes to quantitative methods  
Damon Berridge: The development of web-based training resources  
Fiona Steele and Sacha Brostoff: A virtual learning environment for multi-level modelling

***Statistical Computing Section***

The Statistical Computing Section had a relatively quiet year. There has been difficulty co-ordinating the Committee and arranging meetings. Recently, effort has been made to attract fresh blood to the Committee.

The Section continues with the policy of half-day and full day formats for all its meetings. We had a diverse range of topics and speakers. Overall audiences have been adequate and questions in the meetings plentiful. We could not organize a fundraising meeting this year.

The following table describes the list of Section meetings for the period from June 2006 to May 2007. All meetings were held at Errol Street. One highlight was the ‘Representation and

generalisation’ meeting, which was conducted in conjunction with the British Classification Society.

Niall Adams

2006

October 6th R. P. W. Duin, D. M. J. Tax, D. de Ridder and E. Pekalska: Representation and generalisation in pattern recognition

2007

March 28th A. Boothroyd, J. Oxley and D. J. Weston: Plastic card fraud detection

May 2nd P. Angelov, J. S. Aguliar-Ruiz and D. K. Tasoulis: Analysing streaming data

### *Primary Health Care Study Group*

The aims of the Study Group are to support, develop and improve the statistics and statistical methods that are used in primary care and to learn more about the primary care environment.

The Group held three open half-day meetings this year: one in Manchester and two in London. The first focused on establishing what is appropriate evidence for improving primary care, the second on measuring and improving the quality of care in primary health care and the third on developing the methodological mind in primary care research where the invited speakers were young statisticians. Each meeting involved three speakers followed by group discussions. In November 2006 we jointly organized the Primary Care Epidemiology and Organisation of Care conference with the Society for Academic Primary Care Epidemiology Group and the Scottish Society for Primary Care. We are also organizing a parallel session devoted to modelling complex interventions in primary care for the RSS2007 conference in July.

As well as assisting with methodological assessment of abstracts, the Group has continued to lobby the Society for Academic Primary Care for methodological sessions at their 2007 conference and pursued links with the Royal College of General Practitioners. We have also recruited two new young statistician committee members.

Gillian Lancaster

2006

July 3rd *Meeting on ‘What is appropriate evidence for improving primary care?’*

Jonathan Mant: Transfer of evidence into primary care

Gene Feder: What do primary care guideline developers want from research and what do they get?

Rafael Perera: Implementing evidence obtained from systematic reviews

December 6th *Joint meeting with the Manchester Local Group on ‘Measuring and improving the quality of care in primary health care’*

2007

March 27th *Meeting on ‘Developing the methodological mind in primary care research’*

Rebecca Cannings: Examining the relationship between antibiotic prescribing and complications from respiratory tract infections: moving away from simple correlations

Sara Mottram: The use of ordinal regression models: an example from a study of mobility limitation

Paul Hewson: Spatial multivariate multilevel analysis of selected QoF indicators at the PCT level

### *Six Sigma Study Group*

The Six Sigma Study Group (SSSG) was established in 2006 to promote discussion of ‘six sigma’ methods within the Society and to assist collaboration between statisticians and six sigma practitioners. 1 year on, and, given the common ground with the Quality Improvement Section (QIS), it has been decided to affiliate the SSSG to the QIS. With characteristic enthusiasm and dedication, Robin Henderson has taken on the secretarial duties of both groups. John Shrouder is Chair of the SSSG.

A joint meeting with the QIS has been organized for June 2007, titled ‘Six Sigma, the What and the How’. This chargeable event is detailed in the QIS annual report.

One original consideration of the Group was involvement with the proposed British Standard for Six Sigma. The British Standards Institution has abandoned the idea of a separate British Standard, preferring to adopt an international standard being prepared by the International Standards Institution. The SSSG will track progress of the International Standards Institution’s work.

To align with the broader objectives of the Society the SSSG will focus on, where appropriate, activities that promote

- (a) the Young Statisticians Forum,
- (b) the Professional Development Centre,
- (c) income growth and
- (d) strategic alliances.

For example, a joint meeting with the Young Management Consultants’ Association is in discussion. Six sigma training courses are being considered as is a survey of Society membership to understand training needs better. The Group intends to prepare six sigma material for the Society’s Web site.

The Group has decided to expand its scope to include ‘lean six sigma’. Whereas six sigma is an approach to quality improvement focused on reducing variation, lean six sigma removes activities that do not add value. The meeting in June will compare and contrast these approaches.

One feature of the SSSG which has proved very successful is the use of teleconferencing, both as stand alone and as an adjunct to face-to-face meetings. Convenience, wider participation and reduced travel have been achieved without compromising the effectiveness of meetings.

Members are urged to contact John Shrouder or Robin Henderson with their views on the development of the SSSG.

*John Shrouder*

2007

June 7th

*Joint meeting with the Quality Improvement Section on ‘Six Sigma—the What and the How’*

Tony Bendell, Alan Harrison, Paul Muir, Barry Pullen, Jill Long and Mary Hickey

### *Census Study Group*

The Census Study Group was formed in 2006. Interest in the forthcoming 2011 censuses cuts across many sectors and academic disciplines and the Group has been actively working with other groups within the Society where these interests intersect. The Study Group’s first major event was a one-day seminar at the Society on December 4th, 2006, exploring the likely effect of ‘hard-to-count’ issues in the 2011 censuses, which was very favourably received and attended by about 80 people. This event exemplifies the Group’s focus on promoting debate on method-

ological issues which do not form part of the formal census consultation processes. An evening meeting was held on February 20th, 2007, jointly with the Social Statistics Section, dealing with the difficult balance between the effort that is devoted to population coverage and attribute detail in the census form. The Group also have been proactive in expressing concerns to the census organizations and in responding to consultations, helping to facilitate a key meeting between census organizations and census data providers (which was held at the Society in March) and planning for a further one-day seminar jointly with the Statistics User Forum on census and statistical geography issues to be held in May.

David Martin

2006

December 4th *One-day seminar exploring enumeration challenges in the UK censuses: ‘Hard to count?’*

John Bradley: Reflections on 2001: what made Manchester so hard to count?

Bob Barr: Achieving the geographic base for enumeration

Heather Laurie: Lessons for census enumeration from survey research

Peter Scrimgeour: Lessons from the GROS Census Test 2006

Denise Williams and Peter Benton: 2001 enumeration intelligence strategy

2007

February 20th *Joint meeting with the Social Statistics Section on ‘Census counts and characteristics: getting the best of both worlds’*

Phil Rees, John Hollis and Ian Cope

### *Bioinformatics Study Group*

The Steering Committee of the Bioinformatics Study Group of the Society, under the responsibility of Carlo Berzuini and Luisa Bernardinelli, first met at the Society’s headquarters in London on December 12th, 2006. The meeting was attended by

Carlo Berzuini (Bioinformatics Study Group representative on the Medical Section Committee) (Medical Research Council Biostatistics Unit, Cambridge),

Luisa Bernardinelli (Medical Research Council Biostatistics Unit, Cambridge),

Arief Gusnanto (Medical Research Council Biostatistics Unit, Cambridge),

Christine Hackett (Biomathematics and Statistics Scotland, Dundee),

Frank Dudbridge (Medical Research Council Biostatistics Unit, Cambridge) and

Cindy Billingham (Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit, University of Birmingham).

The Committee decided to organize three meetings during 2007, as follows.

A one-day meeting on ‘Analysis of high-dimensional data in bioinformatics’ will take place at Pollock Halls, Edinburgh University, on July 13th, 2007. The talks are expected to cover both theoretical and more applied aspects, with six speakers. The confirmed speakers are Phil Brown (University of Kent) and Arief Gusnanto. The meeting will address methodological issues such as classification and feature selection and regression analysis in the presence of functional covariates, applied in various fields including proteomics, microarray data analysis and expression quantitative trait loci data analysis.

Secondly, a meeting entitled ‘Genetic association studies and public health: design, analysis and research translation’ will be held at the Park Inn, York, on September 10th, 2007. This will immediately follow the annual meeting of the International Genetic Epidemiology Society, which is taking place at the same venue on September 8th–9th. The day will include

presentations ranging from discussion of the design, setting up and justification of large population-based biobanks (both cohort and case–control), harmonization of biobanks, approaches to association analysis focusing on genomewide scans and meta-analysis of association studies. The talks will cover the whole spectrum of modern genetic studies, from study design through analysis and review. In addition there will be a debate session in which the public health purpose of these studies will be discussed and, given that purpose, what sort of studies should we be running. The confirmed speakers include George Davey Smith, David Strachan, Isabel Fortier, Julian Higgins, Paul Burton, John Whittaker, John Molitor and Glen Satten. The day is being organized by the Study Group in conjunction with the organizations Promoting Harmonization of Epidemiological Biobanks in Europe and the Public Population Project in Genomics.

Lastly, a half-day meeting on ‘Statistical methods for translational research’ will be organized at a date to be agreed, most likely in November 2007, at the Society’s headquarters in London. The aim of this meeting will be to present statistical methodology that can be applied to laboratory data of any type to aid the clinical management of the patient. Such a theme is potentially a very broad topic as it may incorporate pharmacogenetics, genomics, proteomics etc.

*Carlo Berzuini and Luisa Bernardinelli*

2006

December 12th Meeting of the Steering Committee

*Avon*

The annual general meeting of the Avon Local Group took place on Thursday, February 8th in Bath. The theme of the talks which followed was ‘Statistics in education’ with speakers Harvey Goldstein (University of Bristol) and Mark Gittoes (Higher Education Funding Council for England). The meeting started by announcing the re-election of the serving officers (as above). Brief reports on the group’s 2007 programme and finances were given.

The Avon Local Group has organized two meetings since its revival in October 2006. We consider the Society’s Themes and local expertise in planning the programme of events. Our target audience is applied statisticians but also quantitative researchers. We also expressed our interest in supporting the local universities in hosting one of the Society’s upcoming annual conferences.

The first meeting (our launch) under the theme of ‘Spatial statistics: applications to health and the environment’ with speakers Kelvyn Jones (University of Bristol) and Gavin Shaddick (University of Bath) attracted 54 people. The second meeting attracted 27 people, of whom 14 were first-time attendees, mostly from the Department of Education at the University of Bath.

Details of the forthcoming meetings can be found at <http://www.maths.bath.ac.uk:80/~nha20/RSSAvon.htm>.

At the end of our next meeting, a short presentation will be given by David Leslie on the Society’s ‘young statisticians’ initiative followed by a social event.

*Daphne Kounali*

2006

October 26th Kelvyn Jones and Gavin Shaddick: Spatial statistics: applications to health and the environment

2007

February 8th Harvey Goldstein and Mark Gittoes: Statistics in education

### *East Kent*

During the academic year 2006–2007, the East Kent Local Group held three talks, two of which were hosted by Pfizer and one at the University of Kent. The speakers and abstracts of the talks were as follows.

Nicky Best spoke on ‘Graphical models, evidence synthesis and cutting feedback in complex Bayesian modelling’. Bayesian graphical models provide a coherent framework for linking together multiple submodels in a complex ‘evidence synthesis’. For example, such submodels may represent pharmacokinetic (dose–concentration) and pharmacodynamic (concentration–response) models in drug development, a regression model plus imputation model(s) to predict missing data or a set of (partially) exchangeable submodels describing the same underlying phenomena measured by several different data sources. However, conflict may arise between the information (prior and/or data) from different submodels. Nicky described the use of Bayesian graphical models for various types of evidence synthesis and introduced the concept of ‘cutting feed-back’ between submodels to explore potential conflicts in the model and data.

Sir David Cox spoke on ‘A controversial issue in veterinary epidemiology’. Bovine tuberculosis is a major concern in parts of England and Wales. The causative organism is present also in badgers and the relationship between the epidemics in the two species and its implications for control have been much discussed. The wide-ranging statistical aspects of this issue were outlined and the work of the Independent Scientific Group appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs was reviewed.

Tony O’Hagan spoke on ‘Quantifying uncertainty in the UK carbon flux’. Mathematical models are used in almost every field of science, technology and policy making, to understand and predict complex real world systems. There is a growing interest in understanding the quality of predictions that are made by such models. The talk described modern techniques for efficiently quantifying the uncertainty in model outputs, with particular reference to uncertainty in the extent to which the vegetation in England and Wales acted as a carbon sink in the year 2000.

*Debbie Kraus*

2007

February 15th

Sir David Cox: A controversial issue in veterinary epidemiology

May 17th

Tony O’Hagan: Quantifying uncertainty in the UK carbon flux

### *East Midlands*

Despite a previous restructuring of the Committee the East Midlands Local Group had another extremely difficult year in which it proved difficult both to invigorate the Group as a whole and to organize talks. This was further compounded by Dr Bill Browne’s appointment to a Chair in Biostatistics at the University of Bristol in April 2007. Consequently at the annual general meeting (April 2007) it was decided to reform the Committee with Professor Andy Wood (University of Nottingham) as Chair and Dr Chris Bignall (Medical Research Council Institute for Hearing Research) as Secretary and Treasurer.

*Keith Abrams*

### *Edinburgh*

This year, the Edinburgh Local Group has successfully organized six talks. Particularly noticeable has been the encouraging rise in numbers attending relative to last year.

In November, the Group hosted ‘Young statisticians in Scotland’ (with a total attendance of 48). This meeting was led by Janet Lindley (from the Society). Further speakers were Kate Paton and Denise Hastie (National Health Service Scotland), Mairi MacAskill (Scottish Executive), Alex Cook (Heriot-Watt University) and Sam Bell (Royal Bank of Scotland). These additional speakers provided dynamic *résumés* of their career histories to date as young statisticians and their aspirations for the future, whereas Janet raised the profile of the Society as a body interested in the involvement and career development of young statisticians.

In January 2007, Iain McKendrick (Principal Consultant for Animal Health and Welfare, Biomathematics and Statistics Scotland) attracted a wide audience, amounting to 45. His talk, entitled ‘Collaborators, consultants or technicians: how should professional statisticians interact with scientists?’, stimulated some interesting debate.

In May, Professor David Bell (Head of the Department of Economics, University of Stirling) is expected to deliver a talk entitled ‘What can microsimulation tell us about the costs of free personal care?’. This talk is to be followed by our annual general meeting.

*Margaret MacDougall*

*2006*

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|---------------|--|
| October 10th  | John Norrie: Issues for academic trials units in meeting the expectations of emerging clinical networks: a statistician’s perspective    |
| November 14th | <i>Meeting on ‘Young statisticians in Scotland’</i><br>Kate Paton, Denise Hastie, Mairi MacAskill, Alex Cook, Sam Bell and Janet Lindley |
| December 5th  | Allan Findlay: Escalators, elevators and travelators: occupational mobility of Scots in South East England                               |

*2007*

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| January 9th | Iain McKendrick: Collaborators, consultants or technicians: how should professional statisticians interact with scientists? |
| March 13th  | Denis Mollison: Fair votes in theory and practice   |
| May 1st     | David Bell: What can microsimulation tell us about the costs of free personal care?   |

*Glasgow*

We had a rather dormant time this year but have had a planning meeting for next session and, as a taster, Frank Duckworth, brave man that he is, came up north to speak on cricket on May 29th. He batted, as opposed to battled, well and bowled us over!

*Ben Torsney*

*2007*

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|----------|--|
| May 29th | Frank Duckworth: The Duckworth/Lewis method: 10 years on |
|----------|--|

*Herts/Beds*

The Group will have held five meetings this year, with the annual general meeting and a meeting to come in May.

- (a) On October 26th David Boniface gave a talk at the University of Hertfordshire on the longitudinal uses of two national health surveys: the National Health and Lifestyle Survey and the Health Survey for England.

- (b) On November 16th Paul Mahoney, Emma Alecock and Nelson Kinnersley from Roche Products Ltd gave a presentation called ‘On the pharm’—an insight into the life of a pharmaceutical statistician. We were grateful for the refreshments and hospitality that were supplied to us at Roche, Welwyn Garden City.
- (c) On January 23rd David Edwards from the Beds & Herts Public Health Intelligence Unit gave a talk at Charter House, Welwyn Garden City (Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust’s new headquarters) on an investigation of the very high breast cancer mortality rate in Hertsmere in 2001.
- (d) We held a joint meeting in Bedford with the Chartered Management Institute (Bedford Branch) on February 27th. An interesting talk on ‘Corporate risk management’ was given by Elaine Taylor of Bedfordshire County Council.
- (e) The annual general meeting was held on May 17th at Rothamsted, after which John Croston gave a talk on ‘Improving the forecasting of intermittent time series’.

*Margaret Eames*

*2006*

October 26th David Boniface: Two longitudinal uses of National Health Surveys  
November 16th Paul Mahoney, Emma Alecock and Nelson Kinnersley: On the pharm

*2007*

February 27th *Joint meeting with the Chartered Management Institute*  
Elaine Taylor: Corporate risk management  
May 17th John Croston: Improving the forecasting of intermittent time series

*Highlands*

In May 2006 the Highlands Local Group had its traditional joint annual meeting with St Andrews University. Frank Critchley gave an inspiring talk about principal axis analysis, an interesting alternative to principal components analysis, and Simon Wood demonstrated how complex population dynamic models can sometimes be fitted in a fairly simple way. The Highlands Group travelled to Inverness for its third joint meeting with the local Biostatistics Group there in June. Adrian Bowman and Iain McKendrick gave interesting talks about how statistics and mathematical modelling can be applied in environmental and epidemiological studies. Jonathan Stern’s presentation to the group in October had an educational theme, where the problem of motivating students was familiar to everybody in the audience who ever had to teach, and his thoughts on this topic were very welcome.

In December the Highlands Group had a very special meeting celebrating the centenary of the first lecturer in statistics at the University of Aberdeen (Dr William Robert Macdonell), one of the first in the UK. With David Kerridge, Paul Garthwaite and Peter Fayers we managed to invite distinct speakers who have played (or still play) an important part in Aberdeen statistics. It was a very stimulating afternoon with philosophical and mathematical as well as humorous aspects being covered. The Group thank its former Chairman Ian Jolliffe who originally suggested to have this meeting.

In March 2007 Sue Welham spoke to the Group about aspects of applying mixed models to variety trials. The group is planning to have three more meetings in May and June 2007, which we shall cover in next year’s report.

*Claus Mayer*

*2006*

May 3rd Frank Critchley: Principal axis analysis  
Simon Wood: Calanus in the North Atlantic: a simple approach to fitting a complex model



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- June 7th Adrian Bowman: The use of additive models in environmental modelling  
Iain McKendrick: E.coli 0157: statistics and mathematical modelling to integrate epidemiology and clinical trials
- October 9th Jonathan Stern: How can we motivate medical students to learn about medical statistics?
- December 5th *Meeting on '100 years of statistics in Aberdeen'*  
David Kerridge: Fog, fear and fury: the unwritten history of Statistics  
Paul Garthwaite: Some applications of Bayesian methods  
Peter Fayers: Assessing patient-reported outcomes: the principles of measurement theory from an historical perspective
- 2007
- March 20th Sue Welham: Evaluation of models for late-stage variety evaluation trials
- May 2nd Chris Jones: Don't mention Stonehenge!  
John Hinde: Random effects, mixtures and NPMLE
- May 24th René Holst: Analysis of clustered binary data using estimating equations with an application to gear selectivity

*Leeds/Bradford*

There will be seven events in this session. The year's meetings started in October at the Department of Statistics, University of Leeds, with a careers and young statisticians event. This was jointly sponsored by the Information Centre for Health and Social Care and the Society, and comprised a set of careers talks by young statisticians, followed by a networking trip to the Thackray Medical Museum. Later in October we held a joint meeting with the Medical Section at the Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of Leeds, on the topical issue of nutrition, obesity and health. This well-attended event featured talks by Janet Cade, Tim Cole, Darren Greenwood, Jonathan Sterne and Robert West. The School of Information Management at Leeds Metropolitan University was the venue for a half-day session on statistics and public policy. This thought provoking meeting featured sessions by Sheila Bird, Aubrey Blumsohn and David Torgerson. The New Year began with a new type of event for the Local Group: a debate (held at Quarry House, Department of Health) on what it means to be a statistician. The meeting was chaired by Andy Sutherland of the Information Centre for Health and Social Care. Panellists included statisticians from academia, health, pharmaceuticals and Government. In early March the organizing committee had an informal lunch with Phil Willis (Member of Parliament for Harrogate and Knaresborough and Chair of the Science and Technology Committee). This represented Phil's first contact with the Society, and we hope that this can be developed further. Later in March, during National Science Week, we held a meeting at the Department of Statistics, University of Leeds, which was aimed at a more general audience. The topic was the probabilistic aspects of fruit machines. Our speaker, Noelia Oses, was a freelance consultant in the industry having previously worked for Barcrest Games. This year's session concludes in late April at the Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of Leeds, with our annual general meeting and a talk by Yu-Kang Tu on how to analyse change from a base-line.

*Paul Baxter*

2006

- October 25th *Careers and Young Statisticians Event*

October 31st	<i>Joint meeting with the Medical Section on 'Nutrition, health and obesity'</i> Darren Greenwood: Measurement error in dietary research Jonathan Sterne: Instrumental variable approaches to estimate the causal effect of body mass index on mortality Tim Cole: The assessment of growth using Z-scores, distance and velocity Robert West: Adipose tissue and metabolic inflexibility
December 11th	<i>Meeting on 'Evidence and policy; how close do they get?'</i>
2007	
February 21st	<i>Meeting on 'What does being a statistician mean to you?'</i>
March 5th	<i>Lunch with Phil Willis, MP</i>
March 14th	Noelia Oses: Slot mathematics: a game of numbers
April 18th	Yu-Kang Tu: Change and repeated errors across statistical disciplines

### Manchester

This year has been dominated by the proposal to mount a prize for final year undergraduates in any north-western higher education institution, using seed-corn profit generated by the RSS2004 conference. We were delighted that Council approved our proposals with enthusiasm and are supporting the project. We have the beginnings of business and industry financial support and of course plenty of support (in spirit) from the various universities. We hope that this will be a regular event and will play its part in spreading good statistical practice among all our undergraduates that they will take with them into their careers.

The Manchester Local Group has had a year with six meetings and 13 speakers. The session started in October, with Manchester University's Biostatistics Group, on screening for identification. The talks by Nicole Augustin, Fiona Matthews and Roseanne McNamee included much on survival, missing data and longitudinal analyses.

The December meeting, which was joint with the Primary Health Care Study Group, was on measuring and improving quality in primary health care. This had been our usual industrial statistics spot and a semicomatose visitor would really not have noticed as many of the techniques were straight out of Deming's approach.

The February young statisticians meeting included presentations from colleagues from Shell UK on their worldwide activities which contrasted with an enthusiastic talk on the benefits and freedoms that are enjoyed in academia.

The March meeting with the Medical Section dealt with various aspects of the UK Biobank. We had interesting talks by Hilary Newiss on the ethical aspects, Bill Ollier on the history and Elio Riboli on the lessons learned from the pan-European 'European prospective investigation into cancer and nutrition' project.

Peter Diggle presented his paper in May on model-based geostatistics to investigate disease epidemiology in a tropical context and June was the inaugural presentation of the Society's Manchester Student Prize, at which we were delighted to see the President, Tim Holt.

*John Logsdon*

### 2006

October 11th	<i>Meeting on 'Screening for identification, efficiency and prediction'</i> Nicole Augustin: Incorporating model selection uncertainty into prognostic models for survival data
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- Fiona Matthews: Estimating measures of disease incidence from longitudinal two-phase designs in the presence of missing data, do we lose more than we gain?  
Roseanne McNamee: Efficient designs for evaluation of screening tests  
December 6th *Joint meeting with the Primary Health Care Study Group on 'Measuring and improving the quality of care in primary health care'*
- 2007  
February 7th *Young Statisticians Meeting*  
March 14th *Meeting on 'UK Biobank'*  
Hilary Newiss: Ethics and governance of UK Biobank  
Bill Ollier: UK Biobank: a study of genes and environment  
Elio Riboli: EPIC network bio-repositories for gene-environment interaction studies  
May 16th Peter Diggle: Model-based geostatistics for tropical disease epidemiology

### *Merseyside*

The Merseyside Local Group held two meetings during the 2006–2007 session.

In November 2006 Professor Peter Diggle from Lancaster University spoke about geostatistics, preferential sampling and environmental monitoring, describing the methods that are used. He also gave examples of how these methods have been applied to analyse data.

In February 2007 Sally Hollis from AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals spoke of her experiences of being a medical statistician in academia and in the pharmaceutical industry and described the similarities and differences in working in these two environments.

*Ashley Jones*

### *2006*

- November 22nd Peter Diggle: Geostatistics, preferential sampling and environmental monitoring

### *2007*

- February 7th Sally Hollis: Experiences of a Medical Statistician in academia and the pharmaceutical industry

### *North Eastern*

This year's activity consisted of seminars held exclusively at Durham and Newcastle. The change in start time to 4 p.m. seems to have been well received, with over 20 people per meeting attending. Predictably, the majority of attendees were academics from the statistics departments at Durham and Newcastle, although more students seem to be recognizing the benefits of listening to talks by leading academics, which is encouraging. The December meeting was followed, as usual, by Christmas nibbles and mulled wine.

We have managed to stay financially solvent during the year, although expenses were somewhat less than in other years, with only four speakers attending from outside the region.

Apart from meeting to plan the programme, the Committee's main communications were via e-mail.

*Tony Hildreth*

### *Northern Ireland*

To date the Northern Ireland Local Group has held only one meeting during this session, with no plans for any other meetings.

The meeting that was held was on ‘The design and analysis of taste panel studies’. Peter Avery gave an informative talk to the assembled audience that included both statisticians and sensory scientists. The presentation amounted to a personal history of his experience with the analysis of such studies. This type of study involves analysis of data where assessors score samples on a discrete ordinal scale, typically four or eight point. The speaker considered design issues when the treatment structure was fairly complex, such as factorial designs. He also explained how to analyse the data by using analysis of variance and ordinal logistic regression, considering ease of explanation, analysis and power issues in each case. How chosen models can be assessed through ‘goodness-of-fit’ types of test and how outliers can be detected were also discussed.

The Committee thank the speaker for giving his time to address the Local Group.

The Local Group also hosted the RSS2006 Conference between September 10th and 14th, 2006, at the Queen’s University Belfast.

*Alan Gordon*

2007

January 24th Peter Avery: The design and analysis of taste panel studies

*Oxford*

The Oxford Local Group has held four meetings this year and has one upcoming, and one more is planned during the summer term. Talks were held around the University of Oxford campus as many of them were held jointly with other seminar series. This usually resulted in an excellent attendance of 50 or more people. The topics that were presented were diverse, from economics to genetics. There will be a talk for the first time in the field of cosmology. The Local Group hopes to hold further talks in other subject areas which have thus far not been as often represented as others. Social activity includes tea before the meeting, sometimes a trip to the local pub after the meeting and taking the speaker for dinner if they were available.

*Paul McGale*

2006

October 18th Andrew Morris: The Wellcome Trust Case Control Consortium

November 29th Tom Snijders: Statistical inference for social networks dynamics

2007

January 16th Sheila Bird: Aftermath to Royal Statistical Society’s report on performance monitoring in the public services

March 6th Stephen Nickell: Statistical problems associated with the conduct of monetary policy

May 8th Roberto Trotta: Statistical challenges in cosmology

June 13th Colin Aitken: Probabilistic reasoning in the Law

*Sheffield*

The session started with two excellent events. First up was David Forrest, University of Salford, who spoke on the subject of ‘Statistics in sport’. The application of statistical techniques in the analysis of sport has been wide ranging and David’s presentation illustrated the variety of settings in which statistics has been used. It focused on topics such as the following: what determines the size of a crowd at a football game?; can only big city clubs gain sporting success?; how much does ‘luck’ with weather and toss influence the County Cricket Championship final table?

Under the title ‘Learning vs. confirming—a unique paradigm of adaptive design in drug development’, Sue-Jane Wang of the US Food and Drug Administration discussed the high

failure rate that is observed in the conventional well-controlled phase III clinical trials which has prompted critical root cause analyses for seeking possible improvement on the conventional design approaches and analytical tools. In 2004, recognizing the stagnation, the Food and Drug Administration's critical path initiative has called for innovations for clinical drug development programmes including one proposal relating to the role of adaptive or flexible clinical trial designs in the drug development programme. Sue-Jane's talk presented some practical strategies for alternative design considerations and analysis approaches in clinical trials that allow flexible learning *versus* limited learning and confirming while maintaining statistical validity.

As last year, the Local Group hosted the Schools Lecture, in which Susan Starkings of London South Bank University spoke on surveys, sampling, estimation and approximation under the title 'Can you see the wood for the trees?'. Woodland and wood play an important part in our daily lives. The talk considered how the Forestry Commission and other interested organizations assess the value of trees by using statistics.

In January, the Local Group welcomed Professor Wally Gilks to the North, following his recent instalment as Professor of Statistical Bioinformatics in the Department of Statistics in Leeds. He gave a fascinating talk on joint work with Klaudia Walter and Lorenz Wernisch on 'Modelling the boundary of highly conserved non-coding DNA'. He described how some areas of the DNA are identical in puffer fish and humans and when you think that we last shared a common ancestor about 450 million years ago it is amazing that anything could remain unchanged. He mentioned the widely used BLAST algorithm for identifying conserved sequences and then discussed the use of a more refined method based on a probabilistic phylogenetic model which allowed different rates of evolution inside and outside conserved non-coding elements, from which it was estimated that evolution happened six times faster outside a non-coding element than inside. Wally finished with an enthusiastic plea for the young statisticians in the audience to think of going into bioinformatics, since there is a dearth of statistical thinking in the area, and many fascinating problems to be solved.

At the last meeting of the session, Karen Dunnell, the National Statistician, spoke on the subject of 'UK Official Statistics—a time of change', underlining the key challenges and how they are being addressed.

*Marion Rout*

#### *2006*

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|---------------|---|
| October 19th  | David Forrest: Statistics in sport  |
| October 27th  | Sue-Jane Wang: Learning vs. confirming—a unique paradigm of adaptive design in drug development                                 |
| December 15th | <i>Schools Lecture</i><br>Susan Starkings: Can you see the wood for the trees?: surveys, sampling, estimation and approximation |

#### *2007*

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|--------------|--|
| January 25th | Wally Gilks: Modelling the boundary of highly conserved non-coding DNA |
| April 26th   | Karen Dunnell: UK Official Statistics—a time of change                 |

#### *South Wales*

The South Wales Local Group held three meetings in the 2006–2007 session. In November Stephen Marshall (Welsh Assembly Government) gave a talk on the Welsh index of multiple deprivation in Cardiff. In January Kim Bradford Smith (Department for International Development) gave a talk in Newport on her experiences working as a statistical advisor in the Uganda

Bureau of Statistics entitled ‘The last King of Scotland, safaris and statistics on the equator’. Then in February in Cardiff Stephen Penneck and Paul Smith (Office for National Statistics) gave a talk on the centenary of the census of production.

Meetings had attendances between seven and 30 and again covered only Cardiff and Newport, without a meeting in Swansea. This was a rather short programme compared with the normal approach in South Wales, but we are planning a more normal five or six talks for the next season.

*Paul Smith*

*2006*

November 29th      Stephen Marshall: Welsh index of multiple deprivation

*2007*

January 16th      Kim Bradford Smith: The last King of Scotland, safaris and statistics on the equator (snippets from a UK Government Statistician’s experiences whilst working in Uganda)

February 21st      Paul Smith and Stephen Penneck: 100 years of the Census of Production  
June 27th      *Joint meeting with the Association for Geographical Information (AGI Cymru) on ‘Geographical information systems and statistics’*

July 2nd      Stuart Neil, Mike Smith and Katie Medcalf  
*Joint meeting with the Office for National Statistics and Operational Research Society*

Andrea Staggemeier, Jeff Griffiths, Lyn Carey Thomas, Michael Pidd and Tony O’Connor

*South West*

During the 2006–2007 session, the South West Local Group organized five talks, all of which were attended by a good mix of Fellows and visitors, with 14 being the average audience.

The session opened with Rodney Edmondson and Nick Parsons (Warwick HRI) giving a beautifully illustrated presentation about designing a design-of-experiments Web site. This was followed by a talk by Laura Ferracuti (University of Perugia, Italy), who spoke about geostatistical non-Gaussian factor models for multivariate spatial data. The first talk of the New Year was given by Trevor Bailey (University of Exeter) on spatial survival modelling and the 2001 UK foot-and-mouth epidemic. The audience, including guest biologists, was impressed by the way forward that is offered by modern statistical methods for the analysis and interpretation of such topical data sets. William Henley (University of Plymouth) then gave a fascinating overview of his recent work about dynamic latent trait models in studies of multiple sclerosis. We were delighted to welcome medics and medical researchers to our meeting. The final event of the session was given by Bill Browne (School of Clinical Veterinary Science, University of Bristol). Bill gave an excellent and well-received presentation on using complex random-effect models in epidemiology and ecology. As there were several people with related experience in the audience a lively discussion followed, so rounding off another very successful year for the South West Local Group.

*John Eales*

*2006*

October 4th      Rodney Edmondson and Nick Parsons: Designing a design of experiments Website

2007

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| January 8th  | Laura Ferracuti: Geostatistical non-Gaussian factor models for multivariate spatial data |
| January 24th | Trevor Bailey: Spatial survival modelling and the 2001 UK foot-and-mouth epidemic        |
| March 28th   | William Henley: Dynamic latent trait models in studies of multiple sclerosis             |
| May 23rd     | Bill Browne: Using complex random effect models in epidemiology and ecology              |

### *Three Country Corner*

During the session 2006–2007, the Three Country Corner Local Group organized or co-organized the following events.

First, the Local Group organized a special afternoon on ‘Regularization methods in functional estimation’. The afternoon took place at the Institute of Statistics of the Université catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, and the two invited speakers were Olivier Scaillet (Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales de l’Université de Genève, Switzerland) and Christine De Mol (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium).

The Local Group also organized a session during the annual meeting of the Belgian Statistical Society, on October 12th–13th in Houffalize. During the session, Jean Opsomer from Iowa State University was invited to give a talk on the applications of non-parametric regression in survey estimation. The session also included five contributed talks by Delphine Cassart and David Veredas (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium), Dean S. Barron (California State University), Julia Dony (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium) and Huijuan Ding (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium).

The Local Group also organized a seminar on tolerance limits at Janssen Pharmaceutica on April 17th. The speakers at the session were Helena Geys (Universiteit Hasselt), Bruno Boulanger (UCB Brussels, Belgium) and Dhammika Amaratunga (Johnson&Johnson Pharmaceutical Research and Development).

*Sébastien Van Bellegem*

2006

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| September 22nd | Olivier Scaillet and Christine De Mol: Regularization methods in functional estimation |
| October 12th   | Jean Opsomer: Advances in nonparametric statistics                                     |

2007

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| April 17th | <i>Meeting on ‘Tolerance limits’</i><br>Helena Geys, Bruno Boulanger and Dhammika Amaratunga |
|------------|--|

### *West Midlands*

This year the Birmingham and District Group formally took on the name of the West Midlands Group to reflect the change in base to the University of Warwick. We held three meetings there this year, with our usual audience of around 32 academic, student and retired statisticians. At these meetings we enjoyed talks on fuel poverty statistics, model selection on multiply imputed data and a Bayesian perspective on why people believe weird things. We held two other meetings that attracted a rather different audience. The first was a talk on organ transplantation that was held at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, which was well attended by clinicians from the Birmingham hospitals. The second was a joint meeting with the Environmental Statistics Section on vulcanology. This meeting was held at Coventry University and naturally

attracted people working in the geosciences as well as statistics, from a range of universities and research centres. We had planned a further meeting, but this was replaced by a talk that had been postponed from earlier in the session. Next year we hope to return to our usual six-meeting programme, during which we hope to strengthen links with medical statisticians at Birmingham and Warwick Universities.

Heather Turner

2006

October 5th Peter Matejic: Methodology for deriving the official fuel poverty statistics  
 November 2nd Angela Wood: Using multiply imputed data: how to perform model selection?

2007

January 11th Dave Collett: Some statistical issues in organ transplantation  
 February 7th *Joint meeting with the Environmental Statistics Section on ‘Statistics applied to environmental hazards—volcanoes’*  
 Heidy Mader, David Pyle and Jenny Barclay  
 March 8th Robert Matthews: Why people believe weird things: a Bayesian perspective

Local Group finance

	2005–2006 £	2006–2007 £
Avon	0	459
East Kent	189	53
East Midlands	0	0
Edinburgh	705	673
Glasgow	325	368
Herts/Beds	135	110
Highlands	—	—
Lancashire/Cumbria	—	—
Leeds/Bradford	673	1234
Manchester	531	1276
Merseyside	146	268
North Eastern	930	418
Northern Ireland	203	145
Oxford	50	258
Reading	0	0
Sheffield	257	134
South Wales	55	110
South West	401	411
Sussex	341	0
Three Country Corner	—	—
Tanzania	—	—
West Midlands	653	384
Total	5594	6301

Committee membership

Council

President: Professor Tim Holt  
 Past-President: Professor Andy Grieve



## 1142 *Report of the Council—Session 2006–2007*

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*December 30th, 2006*)

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Medical Section	Professor Janet Peacock
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Quality Improvement Section	Professor Shirley Coleman
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J. Ahn

C. G. G. Aitken

R. van den Akker

J. Albert

P. Albert

Z. Al-Rawi

M. Amacho

G. Ambler

A. Ambrosi

T. An

T. Anders

C. Anderson

J. Anderson

M. Andrews

C. Andrieu

D. Ashby

A. C. Atkinson

A. Aue

K. Ayres

R. A. Bailey

V. Baladandayuthapani

A. Banerjee

S. Banerjee

S. Barber

B. M. Barceló

T. Barmby

D. J. Bartholomew

M. Bartley

A. Basu

M. Baxter

J. Beath

C. Beckmann

D. Bell

R. Bellio

O. Bembon

A. Benito

Y. Ben-Shlomo

Y. Berger

P. Bertail

C. Berzuini

N. G. Best

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P. Bidgood

Y. Biliass

D. Bingham

S. Bisgaard

A. Biswas

F. Bjerke

M. Black

D. Blei

B. Bogacka

D. Böhning

J. Booth

D. Borchers

A. Borgan

G. Borisjuk

C. Borrell

A. W. Bowman

P. Boyle

R. J. Boys

R. Braekers

F. Bravo

R. Breen

N. Breslow

M. Brewer

T. Britton

S. Brooks

E. Brown

G. Brown

J. Brown

P. Brown

W. Browne

M. Bryan

P. Bühlmann

F. Bunea

E. Bura

T. Burzykowski

N. Butler

R. Butler

Z. Cai

M. Camacho

M. J. Campbell

A. Canepa

O. Cappé

J.-F. Cardoso

H. Cardot

J. Carpenter

R. Carroll

G. Casella

P. Catalano

R. Caulcutt

G. Celeux

R. Chaganty

R. Chambers

R. E. Chandler

S.-H. Chang

K. Chen

J. Chen

B. Cheng

K. Cheung

A. Chevalier

M. Chiogna

J.-M. Chiou

N. Chopin

T. Christofides

G. Claeskens

P. Clarke

E. Cobo

G. Coender

S. Coleman

S. Coles

A. Cook

A. Copas

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D. R. Cox

A. Coxon

P. Craig

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R. Dickens

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P. Dolton

D. Dorling

A. Doucet

I. L. Dryden

K. Dugmore

W. DuMouchel

G. Dunn

D. Dunson

D. Dupuis

M. Durban

A. S. Dwivedi

B. Efron

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 B. Evans  
  
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 R. Flowerdew  
 D. Forrest  
 J. J. Forster  
 A. L. Fougere  
 C. Frangakis  
 D. Fraser  
 S. Freeman  
 A. Frigessi  
 P. Fryzlewicz  
 R. Furlan  
 R. Furrer  
 A. Futschik  
  
 M. Gannon  
 P. García-Gómez  
 P. Garthwaite  
 T. Gasser  
 E. Gassiat  
 N. Gay  
 A. Gelman  
 D. Gelman  
 C. Gennings  
 D. Gervini  
 D. Ghosh  
 S. Ghosh  
 G. Gibson  
 A. Gilmour  
 S. G. Gilmour  
 L. Giraitis  
 J. Gittins  
 M. Gittoes  
 C. Glas  
 C. A. Glasbey  
 G. Glasgow  
 T. Gneiting  
 J. Goddard  
 E. Godolphin  
 J. Goeman  
 H. Goldstein  
 L. Goodman  
 P. Goos

K. Graddy  
 P. Grambsch  
 S. Graves  
 M. Gasparini  
 A. Green  
 P. J. Green  
 S. Gregoir  
 J. Griffin  
 A. Grilli  
 B. Grund  
 E. Grundy  
 P. Guidici  
 M. Guo  
 W. Guo  
 P. Guttorp  
  
 G. Haesbroeck  
 C. Hafner  
 J. Haigh  
 R. Harris  
 T. Hastie  
 A. Hayen  
 X. He  
 J. Head  
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 A. Heathcote  
 D. Hedeker  
 D. Heitjan  
 L. Held  
 R. Henderson  
 C. Hennig  
 C. Heuchenne  
 D. Hguyen  
 C. Hicks  
 G. Higgs  
 G. Hillier  
 J. Hinde  
 P. R. A. Hinde  
 D. Hirst  
 J. P. Hobert  
 D. G. Hoel  
 P. Hoff  
 J. Hogan  
 C. J. Holmes  
 G. Holtrop  
 J. Horowitz  
 N. Horton  
 J. Hox  
 A. Hsing  
 L. Hsu  
 B. I. Hudson  
 R. Hudson  
 J. Hughes  
 N. Hunt  
 M. Hurn  
 D. Huson  
 J. L. Hutton  
 S. Hyde  
 R. Hyndman  
  
 G. Imbens  
 M. de Iorio  
  
 C. Jackson

C. Jagger  
 G. James  
 W. Jank  
 P. Janssen  
 S. Jenkins  
 C. Jennison  
 H. Jiang  
 H. Joe  
 G. Johnes  
 D. Johnson  
 S. Johnson  
 I. T. Jolliffe  
 P. de Jong  
 S. A. Julious  
 P. Jupp  
  
 W. Kalsbeek  
 D. Karlis  
 G. Kauermann  
 N. Keiding  
 P. Kelly  
 R. Kenett  
 J. T. Kent  
 M. J. Kenward  
 C. Kershaw  
 F. Kerssemakers  
 B. Kessler  
 J.-M. Kim  
 A. Kimber  
 R. King  
 J. Klein  
 A. Kneip  
 K. Knight  
 P. Knott  
 R. Kohn  
 O. Kolbjørnsen  
 A. Komarek  
 R. H. Koning  
 P. Korhonen  
 A. Kottas  
 A. Kovacs  
 F. Kramarz  
 F. Kreuter  
 W. J. Krzanowski  
 J. Kuha  
 A. Y. Kuk  
 A. Kume  
 H. Kunsch  
  
 M. de Laan  
 P. Lambert  
 K. Land  
 C. Lantuejoul  
 M. Lasperance  
 S. Lassarre  
 S. L. Lauritzen  
 M. Lavine  
 J. Lawless  
 A. Lawson  
 N. Lazar  
 H. Le  
 J. Le  
 J. Ledet Jensen



A. Ledford  
 E. de Leeuw  
 R. Lehtonen  
 S. Leonov  
 B. Levin  
 B. Li  
 G. Li  
 Q. Li  
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 G. Liang  
 H. Liero  
 H. Lin  
 X. Lin  
 M. Lindsey  
 F. Lindskog  
 S. Ling  
 S. Lipsitz  
 M. Little  
 R. J. A. Little  
 W. Liu  
 J. Loepky  
 N. T. Longford  
 P. Longley  
 A. López-Casnovas  
 A. Lovett  
 D. Lucy  
 J. Lunceford  
 P. Lynn  
  
 Y. Ma  
 M. MacKenzie  
 Y. Macnab  
 D. Madigan  
 A. Majumdar  
 G. Makepeace  
 D. Malec  
 E. Mammen  
 W. G. Manning  
 C. F. Manski  
 D. Marchette  
 J. M. Marin  
 G. N. Marks  
 D. Martin  
 T. Martinussen  
 P. Massell  
 A. Maydeu-Olivares  
 M. Mazzocchi  
 B. McCabe  
 B. McNeny  
 D. Mease  
 N. Medhani  
 N. Meinshausen  
 A. Meister  
 G. Meland  
 M. Mesbah  
 A. Militino  
 T. Mills  
 E. Mise  
 M. Moerbeek  
 G. Molenberghs  
 D. Morales  
 C. Morell  
 B. J. T. Morgan

A. Morris  
 J. S. Morris  
 I. Moustaki  
 P. Mueller  
 H. G. Müller  
 M. Murphy  
 S. Murphy  
  
 G. Nadarajsundaram  
 G. P. Nason  
 T. Nayak  
 D. Nettleton  
 J. Neuhaus  
 M. Neumann  
 A. Nic Daéid  
 C. Nicoletti  
 B. Nielsen  
 S. F. Nielsen  
 D. Nietzsche  
 P. Norman  
 D. Nott  
 V. Núñez-Antón  
  
 D. Oakes  
 A. O'Hagan  
 D. Ohlssen  
 E. Oja  
 S. Olhede  
 I. Olsen  
 C. O'Muircheartaigh  
 M. Osborne  
 C.-O. Ottosen  
  
 M. Padula  
 R. Paige  
 S. Pal  
 I. Palacios-Huerta  
 O. Papaspiliopoulos  
 B. Y. Park  
 P. Park  
 E. Parmer  
 D. Paul  
 C. Peach  
 J. Pearl  
 L. Peng  
 M. Pensky  
 A. Penttinen  
 D. Percival  
 D. Percy  
 M. Peterson  
 A. N. Pettitt  
 I. F. Plewis  
 M. Plumbley  
 K. Pollard  
 B. Presnell  
 K. Prewitt  
 M. Proschan  
 T. Prvan  
 V. Purutcuoglu  
  
 J. Qin  
 A. Qu  
 P. Qui

G. M. Raab  
 Y. Raanan  
 S. Rabe-Hesketh  
 T. Rakow  
 C. Rampichini  
 J. Ramsay  
 J. Rasbash  
 S. Ratcliffe  
 P. Rathouz  
 M. Rattray  
 S. Raudenbush  
 P. Rees  
 N. Reid  
 J. Rigby  
 T. Ringrose  
 C. P. Robert  
 J. Robins  
 A. Robinson  
 M. Robson  
 M. Rockinger  
 S. Rodriguez-Zas  
 G. Rosa  
 S. Rosset  
 A. Rotnitzky  
 J. Roy  
 H. Rue  
 D. Ruppert  
 K. Rust  
 T. Ryden  
  
 R. von Sachs  
 M. Saez  
 S. K. Sahu  
 R. J. Samworth  
 T. Santner  
 A. Sarkka  
 P. Sasieni  
 S. Schennach  
 F. Scheuren  
 M. Schlater  
 M. Schluchter  
 F. P. Schoberg  
 R. Schoenberg  
 M. Schonlau  
 J. Schott  
 B. Schouten  
 A. Schwartzman  
 S. Scott  
 J. Segers  
 S. Senn  
 N. Serban  
 G. Shaddick  
 M. Shanahan  
 Y. Shao  
 S. Shaw  
 J. Shen  
 N. Shephard  
 H. Shimodaira  
 K. Shimotsu  
 N. Shlomo  
 G. Shmueli  
 J. Silber  
 O. Silva

P. Silva	E. Thanassoulis	A. Wells
M. Silver	T. Therneau	A. Welsh
M. Simmonds	Y. Thibaudeau	B. Whitcher
H. Singh	U. Thissen	I. White
S. Sisson	D. D. Thomakos	J. Whitehead
A. Skrondal	B. Torsney	P. A. Whitehead
E. Slud	M. Tranmer	J. Whittaker
A. M. Small	A. Tremayne	D. Wiens
C. Small	K. Triantafyllopoulos	C. Wikle
J. Q. Smith	A. Troxel	D. Wilkinson
M. Smith	K. Truong	R. Williams
P. Smith	R. Tsay	P. Williamson
R. Smith	Y. K. Tse	D. Willmack
T. A. Snijders	B. Turlach	S. Wilson
A. van Soest	D. E. Tyler	F. Windmeijer
R. Sollis		L. Winner
A. Solow	M. D. Ugarte	E. Wit
X. Song	G. J. Upton	A. T. Wood
M. Sørensen	N. Ushakov	S. Wood
R. Spady		
D. J. Spiegelhalter	D. Van Dyk	W. Yancey
D. Spitzner	I. Van Keilegom	L. Yang
N. Stallard	S. Vansteelandt	M. Yang
B. de Stavola	A. Vanstraelen	Y. Yang
D. Steel	V. Vasdekis	Z. Yang
M. Steel	A. Vehtari	F. Yao
F. Steele	M. Vera	Q. Yao
L. Stefanski	N. Veraverbeke	K. Ye
M. Stein	G. Verbeke	T. Yee
I. Steinsland	J. Vermunt	G. Yin
D. Stephens	A. Vignoles	Z. Ying
M. Stephens	Q. Vuong	G. A. Young
M. Stewart		P. Yu
I. Stoop	R. Waagepetersen	Y. Yu
G. Storvik	H. Wackernagel	M. Yuan
A. Stuart	G. Walther	
D. Stukel	D. Wand	
J. Sun	M. Wand	P. Zaffaroni
O. Surridge	J.-L. Wang	M. Zakoian
H. Sutherland	Y. Wang	A. Zaslavsky
M. Sutherland	D. Warton	S. Zeger
E. Sutton	J. Warwick	H. H. Zhang
M. Sverchkov	H. R. Waters	W. Zhang
T. J. Sweeting	M. Watts	Y. Zhang
	L. J. Wei	H. Zhao
T. Tarpey	C. Weinberg	J. Zhu
J. Tawn	S. Weisberg	L. Zhu
C. C. Taylor	R. Weiss	X. Zhu
T. Ten Have	S. J. Welham	H. Zou

## Report and accounts at December 31st, 2006

### *Report of the Trustees*

The Trustees present their report together with the accounts of the Society for the year ended December 31st, 2006.

#### *1. Reference and administrative details, Trustees and advisors*

1.1. The Royal Statistical Society is a charity established by Royal Charter, charity registration number 306096.

1.2. The principal address of the Society is 12 Errol Street, London, EC1Y 8LX.

1.3. The Trustees of the charity are Council members for the time being. The following have served as Council members from January 1st, 2006, to date:

*President*

Professor David (Tim) Holt

*Past-President*

Professor Andrew Grieve

*Vice-President and Honorary Secretary*

Ms Janet Dougharty

*Vice-President*

Professor Sheila Bird

*Honorary Treasurer*

Mr Mark Robson

*Honorary Officers*

Professor Nicky Best  
(resigned March 1st, 2007)

Mr Keith Dugmore

Dr Andrew Garrett

Professor Peter Green

Professor David Spiegelhalter

Ms Susan Starkings

Mr Ed Swires-Hennessy

*Ordinary members*

Professor Richard Boys

Ms Audrey Brown

Professor Stephen Buckland

Professor Shirley Coleman

Dr James Currall

Professor Jonathan Forster

Dr David Hall

Mr J. Michael Haslam

Professor John Kent

Mr Robert Lewis

Professor Guy Nason

Professor Janet Peacock

Mr Neil Sheldon

Professor Christopher Skinner

Mr Rognvald Smith

Professor Mark Steel

Dr Fiona Steele

The following persons served as Council members from January 1st, 2006, until June 14th, 2006:

Mr Peter Holmes

Professor Frank Kelly

Professor Denise Lievesley

Professor Sylvia Richardson

Professor Peter Smith

The following persons have served as Council members from June 14th, 2006, to date:

Dr Penny Bidgood

Professor John Fox

Professor Robin Henderson

Ms Sara Hughes

Dr Chris Kershaw

The following person has served as a Council member from October 1st, 2006, to date:

*President-Elect*

Professor David Hand

- 1.4. The Director General of the Society is Mr Ivor J. Goddard, to whom the Council has delegated the Society's day-to-day management.
- 1.5. The Society's professional advisors are as follows:

<i>Bankers</i>	The Royal Bank of Scotland Drummonds 49 Charing Cross London, SW1A 2DX
<i>Solicitors</i>	Manches LLP 9400 Garsington Road Oxford Business Park Oxford, OX4 2HN
<i>Auditors</i>	Griffin Stone, Moscrop & Co. 41 Welbeck Street London, W1G 8EA

## 2. *Structure, governance and management*

- 2.1. The Society is incorporated by Royal Charter. Its governing documents are the Charter and Bye-laws. During the year, a new supplemental charter with associated Bye-laws was granted by the Privy Council and these came into effect on April 1st.
- 2.2. The trustees of the Society are the members of Council for the time being. Only Fellows of the Society qualify to serve on Council. The President and ordinary members of Council are elected by the Fellowship. Where there are more nominations than vacant places on Council, a ballot of the Fellowship is held. Honorary Officers are appointed by Council following a transparent recruitment process. If not already members of Council, Honorary Officers are co-opted to membership of Council.
- 2.3. Members of Council are normally expert in one or more branches of statistical science and its applications, and they bring that expertise and their knowledge of the statistical profession to the strategic management of the Society. With respect to their duties and responsibilities as Trustees of the Society, members of Council receive a briefing at the first meeting of Council in each business year, including drawing their attention to the requirements and guidance of the Charity Commission. This is supplemented by a Council folder issued annually which contains within it copies of all documents pertaining to the governance, regulation and management of the Society. New Trustees are given the opportunity to meet with the President and Director General at the end of the first meeting of Council in the business year for a fuller briefing.
- 2.4. Council has a formal and detailed scheme of delegation which is reviewed and renewed annually by Council. In summary, responsibilities are delegated to the following committees or officers in the areas specified:

Executive Committee—development and implementation of the business plan; drafting of regulations; publications;

Finance Committee—financial systems and procedures and oversight of financial affairs;

Investments Sub-Committee—investment of the non-fixed assets of the Society in accordance with the Society's investments policy; the monitoring of performance;

Remuneration and Staffing Committee—pay structure and levels; appointment and remuneration of staff and conditions of service, other than for the Director General;

President—authority to speak for and to represent the Society, and to take urgent decisions between meetings of Council and the Executive Committee;

Honorary Treasurer—overseeing the financial conduct of the Society;

Director General—day-to-day management of the Society, its staff and facilities; authority to enter into contracts on behalf of the Society.

- 2.5. During the course of the past 2 years, the major risks to which the charity is exposed have been identified and Council is satisfied that adequate systems are in place to mitigate those risks. The Finance Committee has been charged by Council with implementing a rolling programme to review risks. It had previously reviewed financial procedures to minimize the risk of fraud. In the course of 2006 it established a review of the scale and scope of cover for the Society's insurable risks and considered how those risks that are not readily insurable (such as to reputation) might be best mitigated and/or controlled. Procedures are now being put in place to develop a fully documented risk management strategy appropriate to the Society and its activities.

### 3. *Objectives and activities*

- 3.1. The Charter sets out the Society's objects as follows:

The advancement for the benefit of the public of the science of statistics and its application, and the promotion of the use and awareness of statistics; in particular by

- (i) fostering and encouraging the growth, development and application of such science in all areas of activity which can benefit from it,
- (ii) establishing, upholding and advancing high standards of statistical competence,
- (iii) fostering the production and publication of statistics on aspects of society,
- (iv) serving the public interest by acting in an advisory, consultative or representative capacity in matters relating to the science of statistics and its application,
- (v) promoting the public understanding of statistics and the competent use and interpretation of statistics.

- 3.2. The Society seeks to do the following:

*nurture the discipline*—by publishing an internationally renowned journal in which leading edge statistical methodology and its applications are expounded; by arranging an extensive programme of conferences and meetings in the different branches of the discipline and at varying levels of expertise to expound and explain methodology and applications; by offering examinations and professional qualifications to establish and maintain standards; by awarding prizes and honours to those demonstrating statistical excellence;

*promote the discipline*—by promoting statistical education and careers in statistics to ensure the flow of new recruits into the discipline and the profession; by establishing a framework for users of statistics in which their activities are co-ordinated and their interests promoted; by seeking to influence Government, central and local, its agencies, business, industry and commerce with respect to best practice in the use of statistical methodology and the production and use of statistics; by seeking to influence Government and its agencies about statistical education at all levels;

*support statisticians*—by providing publications, conferences, meetings and professional development courses to develop, maintain and refresh statisticians' expertise; by providing professional qualifications and examinations; by seeking to influence

Government, funding councils and research councils about the flow and operation of research funding.

3.3. The Society's main objectives for the year were as follows:

- the expansion of the membership of the Society through effective recruitment campaigns and the provision of services that meet the needs of existing and potential members;
- the consolidation and further development of the statistics user community support structures and services;
- the identification and satisfaction of the needs and aspirations of student statisticians and those in the early years of their careers either through existing structures and services or by the development of new where appropriate;
- the promotion of the discipline of statistics and its uses and understanding in society, within the Society, within the profession more broadly and via outreach to the wider world through statistical education and other means;
- the encouragement of measures to ensure the future flow of people into the discipline and the profession as well as other disciplines that depend heavily on statistical skills and expertise.

3.4. A detailed business plan was developed based on the agreed strategic objectives for the business year. The business plan was specified in terms of projects and other activities. Detailed plans for each were approved by the Executive Committee and their implementation during the year was monitored by Council.

3.5. The Society had a programme of activities in the following core areas:

- publications;
- meetings and conferences;
- Sections and Local Groups;
- membership services;
- professional affairs and examinations;
- education and careers promotion;
- statistics user community;
- award of honours;
- public affairs.

In addition, the Society undertook the following significant activities:

- devised new regulations in the light of the granting of a new Charter and Bye-laws;
- commenced the development of a new qualification in statistics;
- developed the examination system;
- developed the service to and recruitment of younger statisticians;
- developed and expanded the student membership category (undergraduate and post-graduate levels);
- reviewed, planned and expanded the services offered via the Web site;
- developed support services and structures for the statistics user community.

3.6. The Society has an investment policy approved by Council for implementation by the Investments Sub-Committee. The objectives of the policy are as follows.

The long-term investment assets of the Society are not generally expected to be used to cover expenditure incurred in the normal management and operation of the Society.

However, at least 10% of the long-term investment assets should be invested in highly liquid assets, such as cash equivalents or Government bonds, in case they are needed to cover unexpected shortfalls in the Society's working capital. Any surplus working capital generated by the Society in the course of the year should be invested in money market assets until they are required. Temporary surplus working capital should not be considered as part of the long-term investment assets of the Society. The Society should retain adequate funds in liquid (cash) form to cover its day-to-day expenditure, and the Treasurer should report to the Investments Sub-Committee on the adequacy of liquid funds.

The long-term assets of the Society should be invested in a manner that a reasonable person would consider prudent. The primary objective should be preservation of assets in real terms. The secondary objective should be enhancement of assets in real terms. Total return (i.e. capital gains plus income) shall be measured to monitor progress relative to these objectives.

The Council, on the recommendations of the Investments Sub-Committee, has adopted a statement of investment principles that is reviewed annually. Given the limited resources of the Investments Sub-Committee, the lack of a uniformly recognized set of ethical goals and the policy of investing primarily in pooled vehicles and Government securities, it is not currently felt appropriate to set ethical constraints on security selection.

3.7. The Society has only a small permanent staff and is therefore heavily dependent on the input of volunteers in the whole range of its activities, including the following:

- the overall strategic management of the Society (Council, Honorary Officers, Statistics User Forum and standing committees);
- conferences and meetings (scientific organization, speakers and reportage);
- publications (Editors, contributors and referees);
- organization of Sections, Study Groups, Local Groups and statistics user groups;
- public affairs (national statistics, special working parties and external representation of the Society).

#### 4. *Achievements and performance*

4.1. As explained in Section 3.4 above, a detailed business plan is developed based on the agreed strategic objectives for the business year. The business plan is specified in terms of projects and other activities. These are monitored quarterly by Council. At the end of the business year 2005–2006, Council judged the year to have been successful and the majority of its planned activities to have been completed or to have reached the expected stage of development.

A full report on the Society's activities is prepared by Council and published to the Fellowship.

4.2. The Investments Sub-Committee monitors the performance of the Society's investments against external bench-marks for each investment type. In 2006, the overall return on investments was 13.4%, a little lower than the overall bench-mark return of 14.2%. However, historically, the Society's conservative approach to investment has led to slight under-performance against the bench-mark in rising markets, compensated by slight over-performance in falling markets. The Trustees are satisfied that the Society's investment policy is currently resulting in a satisfactory rate of return on investments.

4.3. There are no factors within or outside the charity's control which have impacted unfavourably on the Society's ability to achieve its objectives.

5. *Financial review*

- 5.1. Mark Robson reports to the Society as Honorary Treasurer for his fourth and final year, before handing over to Tom Grimes.

It is noted that once again the results for the year are generally favourable.

As seen from the consolidated balance-sheet on page 1163, the value of the Society's investments was only slightly higher at the year end, but this masks the exceptional additional contribution of £144,000 to the pension fund, which contributed to the increase in its surplus from £30,000 to £282,000 over the year. Staff can be confident in the Society's commitment to their current final salary pension arrangements. Total funds increased by £255,000 (+9.2%), to exceed £3 million for the first time.

The welcome gains on investments of £164,000 in 2003, £106,000 in 2004 and £163,000 in 2005 were followed by an increase of £154,000 this year (see page 1161). Again, no contribution from the balance of income and expenditure to reserves needs to be made in 2007.

Total incoming resources, as shown on page 1161 were up by a modest £34,000 (+2.4%), whereas total resources expended increased by £153,000 (+11.9%). The result is a modest surplus of income over expenditure of £31,000. The Society continues to aim for a broadly balanced budget, over a short run of years, and for the time being at least that appears to be achievable at the current level of activities.

Income from annual subscriptions continued to increase slightly in 2006, from £504,000 to £516,000 (+2.4%). Council has decided that a policy of annual modest increases in subscriptions is preferable to several years of no change followed by a large rise, and membership numbers are stable. The contribution from sales of journals again rose very significantly, from £397,000 to £471,000 (+18.6%), although Council remains concerned about long-term sustainability given the pace of change in academic electronic publishing generally.

Financial Reporting Standard No. 18 prescribes the regular consideration of accounting policies: the best accounting policy should be adopted at all times. The Director General and I have again reviewed the Society's accounting policies with our auditors and, as last year, have found no reason to propose any further changes at the present time.

- 5.2. It is the policy of the Society to keep income and expenditure broadly in balance over each financial year. The Society has a number of income sources, most of which have maintained or improved their flow over the past few years. Nevertheless, the Society recognizes that it could be vulnerable if one or more of these income sources decreased significantly or failed. The Trustees have therefore approved a reserves policy which establishes, in terms of a proportion of the normal annual expenditure of the Society, the size of the general reserve which is to be maintained. The proportion is currently 0.69 of normal annual expenditure. Should the Society's income fall unexpectedly, this general reserve would be used to enable the Society to plan and execute in good order either a reduction in its activities or an improvement in its income stream. Reserves are also used to fund capital expenditure undertaken to support the activities of the Society. Reserves expended in this way are normally replenished over an agreed period.
- 5.3. Total unrestricted funds as shown in the accounts include a notional funding surplus of £282,000 (2005—£30,000) calculated under Financial Reporting Standard No. 17 in respect of the Society's defined benefit pension plan. Council believes that, since the notional funding calculation can vary considerably between surplus and deficit according to the assumptions made at the year end and has no material effect on the Society's cash flows in the short term, it should be disregarded for reserves policy purposes.



- 5.4. The Society receives income from subscriptions paid by its Fellows, from subscriptions to its journal, from advertising, from gift aid from its subsidiary company RSS (Services) Ltd and from other sources. Most income is utilized in current expenditure, in support of the objectives and activities of the Society. Any surpluses are invested for the future of the Society and its Fellows, or in the promotion of the science of statistics.
- 5.5. Council confirms that, as a result of the above review of developments, activities and achievements and of the transactions and financial position of the Society, and in the light of the indicated factors affecting the Society as expressed in the accounts, assets are readily available to fulfil the obligations of the Society in all aspects of its affairs.
- 5.6. So far as Council is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Society's auditors are unaware, and the Trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Society's auditors are aware of that information.

#### 6. *Plans for the future*

- 6.1. The Society has a strategic plan which sets out the Society's long-term ambitions and aspirations. The plan is reviewed annually by Council and a business plan is developed for the coming year. This business plan will have as its basis the core activities identified in Section 3.5 above. Dependent upon the resources available to the Society, the business plan will normally also contain a number of new development projects and activities which will assist the Society in meeting its long-term goals.
- 6.2. The new projects and activities chosen by Council for the immediate future include the following:

- campaign to support the protection of a viable academic sector in statistics;
- establish a Bioinformatics Study Group;
- develop a National Science Week programme (public awareness) with UK-wide coverage (via Local Groups);
- develop initiatives to support career young statisticians;
- encourage the recruitment of students and young statisticians to the Society;
- develop a statistical qualification suitable for those working in the statistics profession who may not be able to aspire to Chartered Statistician;
- develop approaches to mentoring;
- develop a courses programme to increase the provision of statistical training to a range of audiences;
- develop long-term funding options for the statistics user community through income generation, sponsorship and membership;
- establish effective communication structures between users and producers of statistics, and with other stakeholders;
- improve the audio-visual facilities for Society meetings and pilot an on-line meetings facility;
- investigate and implement further Web-based or e-mail-based services for members.

#### 7. *Statement of Trustees' responsibilities*

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the report of the Trustees and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and UK generally accepted accounting practice.

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the financial activities

of the group and of the Society during the year and of their financial position at the end of the year. In preparing accounts giving a true and fair view, the Trustees should follow best practice and select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently, make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent, state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the accounts, and prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the group and the Society will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the group and of the Society and which enable them to ascertain the financial position of the group and of the Society and which enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with applicable law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the group and of the Society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on April 18th, 2007, and signed on their behalf by

*D. Holt* Trustee

*Independent auditors' report to the Fellows of the Royal Statistical Society*

We have audited the accounts of the Royal Statistical Society on pages 1161–1174 for the year ended December 31st, 2006. These accounts have been prepared under the accounting policies set out on page 1165.

This report is made solely to the Society's Fellows, as a body, in accordance with regulations made under the Charities Act 1993. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Society's Fellows those matters we are required to state thereto in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Society and the Society's Fellows, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Respective responsibilities of Trustees and auditors*

As described in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities above, the Society's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the report of the Trustees and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and UK accounting standards (UK generally accepted accounting practice).

We have been appointed as auditors under Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 and report in accordance with regulations made under Section 44 of that Act. Our responsibility is to audit the accounts in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and international standards on auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the accounts give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993, and whether in our opinion the information given in the report of the Trustees is consistent with the accounts. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the Society has not kept proper accounting records or if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We read the report of the Trustees and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

*Basis of opinion*

We conducted our audit in accordance with international standards on auditing (UK and

Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the accounts. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the Trustees in the preparation of the accounts, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Society's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the accounts are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the accounts.

*Opinion*

In our opinion the accounts

- (a) give a true and fair view, in accordance with UK generally accepted accounting practice, of the state of the group's and Society's affairs at December 31st, 2006, and of their incoming resources and application of resources in the year then ended,
- (b) are consistent with the information given in the report of the Trustees and
- (c) have been properly prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993.

Griffin Stone, Moscrop & Co.  
Chartered Accountants  
and Registered Auditors  
41 Welbeck Street,  
London, W1G 8EA

April 20th, 2007

*Consolidated statement of financial activities for the year ended December 31st, 2006*

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds, 2006 £	Total funds, 2005 £
<b>Income and expenditure</b>				
<i>Incoming resources</i> (Note 1(e))				
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds</i>				
Voluntary income				
Charitable grants and donations .....	3,302	—	3,302	4,315
Activities for generating funds				
Trading income (Note 2) .....	169,409	—	169,409	199,821
Advertising income .....	69,462	—	69,462	67,718
Other .....	20	—	20	56
Investment income				
Income from fixed asset investments .....	33,684	—	33,684	23,841
Bank interest .....	19,728	—	19,728	11,661
Incoming resources from charitable activities				
Annual subscriptions .....	516,138	—	516,138	503,839
Contributions from sales of journals (Note 1(f)) .....	471,085	—	471,085	397,178
Courses, conferences and meetings .....	112,167	—	112,167	130,428
Examination fees and related income .....	36,800	—	36,800	38,242
Statistics User Group grants .....	—	29,128	29,128	52,559
Careers promotion .....	2,715	—	2,715	5,000
Other incoming resources				
Miscellaneous income .....	9,000	—	9,000	4,450
<b>Total incoming resources .....</b>	<b>1,443,510</b>	<b>29,128</b>	<b>1,472,638</b>	<b>1,439,108</b>
<i>Deduct resources expended</i> (Note 1(g))				
Trading expenses (Note 2) .....	62,453	—	62,453	62,393
Costs of generating funds				
Investment management costs .....	242	—	242	415
Charitable activities (Note 3) .....	1,287,096	32,241	1,319,517	1,178,516
Governance costs (Note 4) .....	59,884	—	59,884	47,326
<b>Total resources expended .....</b>	<b>1,409,675</b>	<b>32,421</b>	<b>1,442,096</b>	<b>1,288,650</b>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before taxation and transfers .....				
	33,835	(3,293)	30,542	150,458
Taxation .....				
	—	—	—	—
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources after taxation but before transfers .....				
	33,835	(3,293)	30,542	150,458
Transfers between funds .....				
	(2,333)	2,333	—	—
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year .....				
	31,502	(960)	30,542	150,458
Gains on investment assets				
Realized .....	7,580	—	7,580	—
Unrealized .....	146,613	—	146,613	163,158
Pension plan actuarial gains/(losses) (Note 16) .....	71,000	—	71,000	(33,000)
Net movement in funds .....				
	256,695	(960)	255,735	280,616
Fund balances brought forward January 1st, 2006 .....	2,707,249	66,009	2,773,258	2,492,642
<b>Fund balances carried forward December 31st, 2006 .....</b>	<b>£2,963,944</b>	<b>£65,049</b>	<b>£3,028,993</b>	<b>£2,773,258</b>

*Continuing operations*

None of the group's activities were acquired or discontinued during the above two financial years.

*Total recognized gains and losses*

The group had no recognized gains or losses other than those shown for the above two financial years.

The notes on pages 1165–1174 form part of these accounts and should be read in conjunction therewith.

*Society statement of financial activities for the year ended December 31st, 2006*

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds, 2006 £	Total funds, 2005 £
<b><i>Income and expenditure</i></b>				
<b><i>Incoming resources</i></b> (Note 1(e))				
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds</i>				
Voluntary income				
Charitable grants and donations .....	3,302	—	3,302	4,315
Activities for generating funds				
Advertising income .....	69,462	—	69,462	67,718
Management and administration fee—RSS (Services) Limited	90,956	—	90,956	92,222
Other .....	20	—	20	56
Investment income				
Income from fixed asset investments .....	33,684	—	33,684	23,841
Bank interest .....	19,728	—	19,728	11,661
Donation from RSS (Services) Limited .....	16,000	—	16,000	45,200
Incoming resources from charitable activities				
Annual subscriptions .....	516,138	—	516,138	503,839
Contributions from sales of journals (Note 1(f)) .....	471,085	—	471,085	397,178
Courses, conferences and meetings .....	112,167	—	112,167	130,428
Examination fees and related income .....	36,800	—	36,800	38,242
Statistics User Group grants .....	—	29,128	29,128	52,559
Careers promotion .....	2,715	—	2,715	5,000
Other incoming resources				
Miscellaneous income .....	9,000	—	9,000	4,450
Total incoming resources .....	1,381,057	29,128	1,410,185	1,376,709
<b><i>Deduct resources expended</i></b> (Note 1(g))				
Costs of generating funds				
Investment management costs .....	242	—	242	415
Charitable activities (Note 3) .....	1,287,096	32,241	1,319,517	1,178,516
Governance costs (Note 4) .....	59,884	—	59,884	47,326
Total resources expended .....	1,347,222	32,421	1,379,643	1,226,257
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before taxation and transfers .....				
	33,835	(3,293)	30,542	150,452
Taxation .....				
	—	—	—	—
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources after taxation but before transfers .....				
	33,835	(3,293)	30,542	150,452
Transfers between funds .....				
	(2,333)	2,333	—	—
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year .....				
	31,502	(960)	30,542	150,452
Gains on investment assets				
Realized .....	7,580	—	7,580	—
Unrealized .....	146,613	—	146,613	163,158
Pension plan actuarial gains/(losses) (Note 16) .....	71,000	—	71,000	(33,000)
Net movement in funds .....				
	256,695	(960)	255,735	280,610
Fund balances brought forward January 1st, 2006 .....	2,707,567	66,009	2,773,576	2,492,966
Fund balances carried forward December 31st, 2006 .....	£2,964,262	£65,049	£3,029,311	£2,773,576

***Continuing operations***

None of the Society's activities were acquired or discontinued during the above two financial years.

***Total recognized gains and losses***

The Society had no recognized gains or losses other than those shown for the above two financial years.

The notes on pages 1165–1174 form part of these accounts and should be read in conjunction therewith.

Consolidated balance-sheet at December 31st, 2006

	2006		2005	
	£	£	£	£
<i>Fixed assets</i>				
Tangible fixed assets (Notes 1(c) and 9) .....		1,104,661		1,050,826
Investments (Notes 1(d) and 10) .....		1,584,012		1,563,923
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		2,688,673		2,614,749
<i>Current assets</i>				
Other debtors and prepayments .....	268,562		255,941	
Cash at banks and in hand .....	75,805		123,071	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	344,367		379,012	
<i>Deduct creditors—amounts falling due within 1 year</i>				
Amounts received in advance .....	106,910		57,039	
Finance lease commitments .....	3,486		3,845	
Other creditors, provisions and accruals .....	173,129		183,613	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	283,525		244,497	
<i>Net current assets</i> .....		60,842		134,515
		<hr/>		<hr/>
<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i> .....		2,749,515		2,749,264
<i>Deduct creditors—amounts falling due after more than 1 year</i>				
Finance lease commitments .....		2,522		6,006
		<hr/>		<hr/>
<i>Net assets excluding pension asset</i> .....		2,746,993		2,743,258
<i>Pension asset</i> (Note 16) .....		282,000		30,000
		<hr/>		<hr/>
<i>Net assets including pension asset</i> .....		£3,028,993		£2,773,258
		<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>
<i>Funds</i>				
Restricted funds (Note 11) .....		65,049		66,009
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Unrestricted funds				
Designated funds (Note 11) .....		377,749		372,286
General fund (Note 12) .....		1,649,693		1,757,417
Non-charitable trading fund (Note 13) .....		654,502		547,546
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Unrestricted funds excluding pension reserve .....		2,681,944		2,677,249
Pension reserve (Note 16) .....		282,000		30,000
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Unrestricted funds including pension reserve .....		2,963,944		2,707,249
		<hr/>		<hr/>
<i>Total funds</i> .....		£3,028,993		£2,773,258
		<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>

Approved and authorized for issue by Council on April 18th, 2007, and signed on its behalf by

D. Holt                      President  
M. H. Robson              Honorary Treasurer

The notes on pages 1165–1174 form part of these accounts and should be read in conjunction therewith.

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*Society balance-sheet at December 31st, 2006*

	2006		2005	
	£	£	£	£
<i>Fixed assets</i>				
Tangible fixed assets (Notes 1(c) and 9) .....		1,104,661		1,050,826
Investments (Notes 1(d) and 10) .....		1,585,012		1,564,923
		<u>2,689,673</u>		<u>2,615,749</u>
<i>Current assets</i>				
Amount owed by subsidiary company .....	61,075		106,070	
Other debtors and prepayments .....	214,887		210,203	
Cash at banks and in hand .....	64,185		57,580	
	<u>340,147</u>		<u>373,853</u>	
<i>Deduct creditors—amounts falling due within 1 year</i>				
Amounts received in advance .....	106,910		57,039	
Finance lease commitments .....	3,486		3,845	
Other creditors, provisions and accruals .....	169,591		179,136	
	<u>279,987</u>		<u>240,020</u>	
<i>Net current assets</i> .....		<u>60,160</u>		<u>133,833</u>
<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i> .....		<u>2,749,833</u>		<u>2,749,582</u>
<i>Deduct creditors—amounts falling due after more than 1 year</i>				
Finance lease commitments .....		2,522		6,006
<i>Net assets excluding pension asset</i> .....		<u>2,747,311</u>		<u>2,743,576</u>
<i>Pension asset</i> (Note 16) .....		282,000		30,000
<i>Net assets including pension asset</i> .....		<u>£3,029,311</u>		<u>£2,773,576</u>
<i>Funds</i>				
Restricted funds (Note 11) .....		<u>65,049</u>		<u>66,009</u>
Unrestricted funds				
Designated funds (Note 11) .....		377,749		372,286
General fund (Note 12) .....		2,304,513		2,305,281
Unrestricted funds excluding pension reserve .....		<u>2,682,262</u>		<u>2,677,567</u>
Pension reserve (Note 13) .....		282,000		30,000
Unrestricted funds including pension reserve .....		<u>2,964,262</u>		<u>2,707,567</u>
		<u>£3,029,311</u>		<u>£2,773,576</u>

Approved and authorized for issue by Council on April 18th, 2007, and signed on its behalf by

*D. Holt* President

*M. H. Robson* Honorary Treasurer

The notes on pages 1165–1174 form part of these accounts and should be read in conjunction therewith.

## Notes to the accounts for the year ended December 31st, 2006

## 1. Accounting policies

- (a) *Basis of accounting.* The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of the Society's listed investments and by the valuation of the Society's book collection, in accordance with the provisions of the *Statement of Recommended Practice—Accounting and Reporting by Charities*, issued in March 2005, the Charities Act 1993 and applicable UK accounting standards.

In accordance with Financial Reporting Standard No. 1, 'Cash flow statements', the group is exempt from the requirement to prepare a cash flow statement by virtue of its size.

- (b) *Basis of consolidation.* The group accounts consolidate the accounts of the Royal Statistical Society and its subsidiary company made up to December 31st, 2006, on a 'line-by-line' basis.
- (c) *Tangible fixed assets.* All tangible fixed assets, other than the books in the Society's collection, are included in the balance-sheet at cost.

Freehold land has not been depreciated. The freehold building has been depreciated at the rate of 1% *per annum* on the straight line basis so as to write off the cost of the building over its estimated useful working life. Furniture, fixtures, fittings and office equipment (except that held under a finance lease (see Note 1(i))) have been depreciated at the rate of 16.66% *per annum* on the straight line basis and computer equipment and conference equipment have been depreciated at the rate of 25% on the straight line basis so as to write off the cost of those assets over their estimated useful working lives.

Council is of the opinion that the current market value of the freehold premises is not less than its book value.

A professional valuation of the books in the Society's collection was undertaken by F. E. Whitehart during 1994 and this valuation is being retained in the accounts in accordance with the transitional provisions of Financial Reporting Standard No. 15, 'Tangible fixed assets'. The book collection is not being depreciated as, in the opinion of Council, the books, which are of historical interest, do not have a finite useful working life. Further, Council is of the opinion that the current market value of the collection is not less than its book value.

No value is attributed to the Society's collection of pictures as the costs were written off on acquisition and significant costs would be involved in obtaining a valuation which would be onerous compared with the additional benefit a user of the accounts would derive therefrom.

- (d) *Investments.* Listed investments are included in fixed assets at their open mid-market values at the balance-sheet date, any increases or decreases in values being dealt with in the statement of financial activities. The Society's investment in its subsidiary company is included in fixed assets at cost.
- (e) *Income.* Income is included in the statement of financial activities before deduction of expenditure. Contributions from sales of journals (see Note 1(f)), donations and income from fixed asset investments are taken into account if the amount has been received. All other income is taken into account in the period to which it relates.
- (f) *Contributions from sales of journals.* Under agreements dated December 7th, 1988, April 16th, 1997, and August 2005 Blackwell Publishing undertook the marketing and distribution of the Society's journals. In consideration for this the Society receives a guaranteed contribution from Blackwell Publishers Limited plus a share in any surplus arising. The accounts reflect only those amounts received during the year. Any additional amounts receivable in respect of the year will be taken into account in the year in which they are received.
- (g) *Expenditure.* Expenditure is taken into account on the accruals basis and includes irrecoverable value-added tax arising from partial exemption. Staff costs, together with appropriate management and administration expenses, are apportioned between charitable activities and governance costs on the basis of the estimated proportion of staff time spent working in these different areas.
- (h) *Stocks.* The Society is a non-profit-making body whose operating expenditure is met from subscriptions, contributions from sales of journals, examination fees, donations and other income. The accounts have been drawn up to reflect this pattern of financing the activities of the Society. Accordingly all costs relating to the publication and printing of journals have been taken into account in the year incurred. No value has therefore been attributed in the accounts to stocks of unsold journals.
- (i) *Finance and operating leases.* An asset held under a finance lease is included in the appropriate category of tangible fixed assets at its fair value and is depreciated on the straight line basis over the primary lease period, that being shorter than the asset's estimated useful working life. The capital element of the future payments is included in creditors. The finance lease charge element of each payment is included within the statement of financial activities in the period to which it relates.

Rentals paid under operating leases are included within the statement of financial activities in the period to which they relate.

- (j) *Pension costs.* The Society contributes to a defined benefit pension plan on behalf of its employees. The regular pension cost is charged to the statement of financial activities and is based on the expected pension costs over the service life of the employees. Contributions to the pension plan are paid according to the advice of the actuary. This plan is accounted for under Financial Reporting Standard No. 17, 'Retirement benefits', with the annually calculated surplus or deficit on the funding of the plan shown in the accounts as a separate fund entitled 'pension reserve' under unrestricted funds in the balance-sheet. Council notes that the calculated notional surplus or deficit calculated under Financial Reporting Standard No. 17 can vary greatly from year to year depending on the assumptions made at the valuation date, but with normally little or no effect on the short-term cash flows.
- (k) *Funds*
- (i) *Restricted funds.* All restricted funds represent grants, donations, bequests, etc. received by the Society, along with interest earned thereon, in order to meet future costs of medals, awards, prizes, careers promotion and the Statistics User Group, as appropriate.
- (ii) *Designated funds.* A bequest received from Sir Harry Campion, deceased, during 1997 was designated by Council. The International and Society Conference Funds have been set up to provide for future expenditure, as appropriate. The C. Oswald George Prize Fund has been set up to meet future costs of awarding the C. Oswald George statistical prize.



2. *Income from subsidiary company's trading activities*

The Society has one wholly owned subsidiary company, RSS (Services) Limited, a company registered in England and Wales. This company was incorporated on April 28th, 2000, and commenced its activity, that of room letting and catering (previously dealt with directly by the Society) on July 1st, 2000. The Society has owned all of the issued share capital of the company since it was incorporated. The company donates its taxable profits to the Society and also pays management and administration fees to the Society. A summary of the company's trading results is shown below. Audited accounts for the company have been filed with the Registrar of Companies.

<i>Profit and loss account</i>	2006		2005	
	£	£	£	£
Turnover.....		169,409		199,821
<i>Deduct</i> cost of sales.....		51,009		56,426
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Gross profit.....		118,400		143,395
<i>Deduct</i>				
Administrative expenses (excluding management and administration fee and charitable donation payable to the Society) ....		11,444		5,967
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		106,956		137,428
<i>Deduct</i>				
Management and administration fee payable to the Society....	90,956		92,222	
Charitable donation payable to the Society.....	16,000		45,200	
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		106,956		137,422
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		£—		£6
		<hr/>		<hr/>

3. *Charitable activities (group and Society)*

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total funds,	Total funds,
	funds	funds	2006	2005
	£	£	£	£
Membership services and recruitment.....	154,058	—	154,058	131,850
Publications.....	273,787	—	273,787	248,291
Sections, Local Groups and Study Groups.....	53,705	—	53,705	46,027
Meetings and conferences.....	120,188	—	120,188	118,737
Honours and medals.....	4,426	988	5,414	14,163
Education, careers and recruitment.....	128,663	1,302	129,965	119,942
Professional affairs.....	170,808	—	170,808	152,903
External affairs.....	86,728	—	86,728	62,519
Statistics user community.....	37,197	30,131	67,328	51,497
Strategy.....	89,738	—	89,738	78,268
Finance.....	94,351	—	94,351	83,175
Staffing.....	73,447	—	73,447	71,144
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£1,287,096	£32,421	£1,319,517	£1,178,516
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Expenditure incurred in accordance with the conditions of the restricted funds is charged directly to those funds.

4. <i>Governance costs</i> (group and Society)				
Council and committee expenses .....	451	—	451	468
Salaries and wages (including employer's national insurance contributions) .....	27,425	—	27,425	26,010
Pension contributions .....	4,072	—	4,072	3,316
Auditor's remuneration (including £970 (2005—£775) in respect of the Staff Pension and Life Assurance Plan) .....	16,070	—	16,070	10,175
Consultancy, legal and professional fees .....	10,228	—	10,228	5,680
Printing .....	110	—	110	117
Postage .....	693	—	693	750
Computer expenses .....	835	—	835	810
	<u>£59,884</u>	<u>£—</u>	<u>£59,884</u>	<u>£47,326</u>

5. (a) <i>Resources expended</i> (group and Society)				
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds, 2006	Total funds, 2005
	£	£	£	£
Resources expended include the following:				
Support costs (Note 6) .....	£1,013,008	£27,688	£1,040,696	£900,094
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets				
Owned .....	65,512	—	65,512	40,784
Held under finance leases .....	3,694	—	3,694	3,694
	<u>69,206</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>69,206</u>	<u>44,478</u>
Loss on disposals of tangible fixed assets .....	—	—	—	1,503
Finance lease charges .....	800	—	800	1,612
Financial support provided to the Centre for Statistical				
Education .....	26,434	—	26,434	26,044
Institutional support .....	<u>8,352</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>8,352</u>	<u>10,575</u>

Financial and institutional support are voluntary payments made to individuals (£1,989 (2005—£1,008)) and institutions (£32,797 (2005—£35,611)) operating in areas similar and complementary to the Society's own objects. This includes £1,350 (2005—£1,300) paid to Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford, an institution in which Mr Mark Robson, the Society's Honorary Treasurer, is Treasurer and Official Fellow.

(b) *Council members' remuneration and expenses* (Society only)

No Council member receives any fee or remuneration from the Society. Council members are, however, reimbursed only necessarily incurred expenses in respect of travel, subsistence, telephone, postage, etc. Such expenses, which are included in the appropriate category of expenses, totalled £11,513 in the year ended December 31st, 2006 (2005—£12,373).

6. <i>Support costs</i> (group and Society)	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds, 2006 £	<i>Total funds</i> , 2005 £
Establishment expenditure				
Rates .....	8,971	—	8,971	8,368
House expenses .....	40,570	—	40,570	36,680
Property repairs and redecoration .....	54,265	—	54,265	31,393
Insurance .....	16,306	—	16,306	16,080
Depreciation of freehold building .....	10,071	—	10,071	10,071
	<u>130,183</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>130,183</u>	<u>102,592</u>
Salaries and wages (including employer's national insurance contributions) .....	524,997	23,688	548,685	520,492
Pension and life insurance contributions .....	88,402	—	88,402	71,308
Stationery and printing .....	17,917	245	18,162	10,773
Postage and telephone .....	20,671	—	20,671	21,254
Computer expenses .....	65,220	755	65,975	54,826
Web site development costs .....	2,094	3,000	5,094	2,440
Archives project expenditure .....	2,200	—	2,200	1,600
Council and committee expenses .....	9,029	—	9,029	9,349
Temporary staff costs and staff recruitment .....	15,372	—	15,372	20,341
Staff training, meetings and welfare .....	19,721	—	19,721	13,176
Consultancy, legal and professional fees .....	7,949	—	7,949	5,079
Miscellaneous expenses .....	13,146	—	13,146	10,637
Bad and doubtful debts .....	632	—	632	380
Input VAT not recoverable .....	36,340	—	36,340	19,937
Depreciation of furniture, fixtures, fittings, computers and office and conference equipment .....	59,135	—	59,135	34,407
Loss on disposals of tangible fixed assets .....	—	—	—	1,503
	<u>£1,013,008</u>	<u>£27,688</u>	<u>£1,040,696</u>	<u>£900,094</u>
Allocated to				
Charitable activities .....	979,422	27,688	1,007,110	868,623
Governance costs .....	33,586	—	33,586	31,471
	<u>£1,013,008</u>	<u>£27,688</u>	<u>£1,040,696</u>	<u>£900,094</u>

Expenditure incurred in accordance with the conditions of the restricted funds is charged directly to those funds.

7. <i>Staff costs and numbers</i> (group and Society)	2006 £	2005 £
Staff costs comprise the following:		
Gross salaries and wages .....	496,370	473,042
Social security costs .....	52,315	47,450
	<u>548,685</u>	<u>520,492</u>
Other pension costs .....	81,449	66,319
	<u>£630,134</u>	<u>£586,811</u>
Staff costs are allocated as follows:		
Charitable activities .....	598,637	557,485
Governance costs .....	31,497	29,326
	<u>£630,134</u>	<u>£586,811</u>
	Number	Number
Average number of persons employed by the Society (including part-time workers) .....	<u>16.9</u>	<u>16.7</u>

During the year ended December 31st, 2006, one employee received emoluments in the £60,001–70,000 band (2005—the same). In addition, the Society paid amounts equivalent to 25.1% (2005—24.7%) of the employee's gross salary in respect of pension contributions for this employee.

8. Changes in resources available for use	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds, 2006	Total funds, 2005
	£	£	£	£
Net movement in funds .....	256,695	(960)	255,735	280,616
Net (increase)/decrease in tangible fixed assets .....	(53,835)	—	(53,835)	3,838
Net movement in funds available for future use .....	<u>£202,860</u>	<u>£(960)</u>	<u>£201,900</u>	<u>£284,454</u>

  

9. Tangible fixed assets (group and Society)	Freehold premises	Furniture, fixtures, fittings, computers and office and conference equipment	Book collection	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost/valuation</b>				
<b>At January 1st, 2006</b>				
At cost .....	1,067,145	349,760	—	1,416,905
At 1994 valuation .....	—	—	22,500	22,500
	<u>1,067,145</u>	<u>349,760</u>	<u>22,500</u>	<u>1,439,405</u>
Additions in the year, at cost .....	—	123,041	—	123,041
Disposals in the year, at cost .....	—	(10,443)	—	(10,443)
	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
<b>At December 31st, 2006</b>				
At cost .....	1,067,145	462,358	—	1,529,503
At 1994 valuation .....	—	—	22,500	22,500
	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>22,500</u>	<u>22,500</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At January 1st, 2006 .....	108,842	279,737	—	388,579
Eliminated on disposals .....	—	(10,443)	—	(10,443)
Charge for the year .....	10,071	59,135	—	69,206
	<u>108,842</u>	<u>279,737</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>388,579</u>
At December 31st, 2006 .....	<u>118,913</u>	<u>328,429</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>447,342</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At December 31st, 2006 .....	<u>£948,232</u>	<u>£133,929</u>	<u>£22,500</u>	<u>£1,104,661</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At December 31st, 2005 .....	<u>£958,303</u>	<u>£70,023</u>	<u>£22,500</u>	<u>£1,050,826</u>

Freehold premises include a freehold building with a cost of £1,007,145 (2005—the same) which is being depreciated.

Furniture, fixtures, fittings, computers and office and conference equipment at December 31st, 2006, include assets with a net book value of £4,921 held under finance leases capitalized in accordance with Statement of Standard Accounting Practice No. 21.

The tangible fixed assets are used both directly in the Society's charitable activities and for support purposes. Owing to the nature of the assets concerned Council does not consider that any apportionment would be meaningful.

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10. <i>Investments</i> (group)	2006 £	2005 £
Stocks listed on a recognized stock exchange		
Market value, January 1st, 2006	1,563,923	1,200,765
Additions in the year, at cost	249,984	200,000
Disposals in the year, at market value, January 1st, 2006 (proceeds, £384,088 (2005—£0); realized gain, £7,580 (2005—£0))	(376,508)	—
	<u>1,437,399</u>	<u>1,400,765</u>
Net unrealized investment gains	146,613	163,158
	<u>£1,584,012</u>	<u>£1,563,923</u>
Market value, December 31st, 2006		
	<u>£1,584,012</u>	<u>£1,563,923</u>
Historical cost, December 31st, 2006	<u>£1,333,387</u>	<u>£1,166,381</u>

All of the investments are within the UK

The market value of the investments comprises the following:

£79,885 2.5% Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2011	215,953	215,394
Allianz Trust p.l.c., 28,550 ordinary shares of 2.5p	104,564	—
Allianz Dresdner Income Growth Investment Trust p.l.c., 60,092 zero dividend preference shares of 25p each	—	103,959
Charities Property Fund, 233,063 (2005—162,536) units	334,585	208,746
Dunedin Income Growth Investment Trust p.l.c., 23,650 ordinary shares of 25p each	61,490	50,138
Edinburgh Investment Trust p.l.c., 15,674 ordinary shares of 25p each	73,198	61,364
Fidelity Special Values p.l.c., 14,190 ordinary shares of 25p each	—	68,963
Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust p.l.c., 61,240 ordinary shares of 25p each	174,228	158,305
Gartmore Investment Funds Series II ICVC, 43,149.78 Cash Fund accumulation shares (Retail)	—	89,031
Investec High Income Securities p.l.c., 45,250 zero dividend preference shares of 25p each	76,359	72,400
JPMorgan Income & Capital Investment Trust p.l.c., 86,926 zero dividend preference shares of 1p each	124,739	118,437
JPMorgan Mid Cap Investment Trust p.l.c., 21,476 ordinary shares of 25p each	151,621	108,508
Legal & General High Income Trust, 148,907.081 accumu- lation units	—	114,554
M & G Income Investment Co. Ltd., 116,775 zero dividend preference shares of 1p each	59,263	55,760
Martin Currie Income & Growth Trust p.l.c., 29,900 zero dividend preference shares of 25p each	64,360	60,099
Merchants Trust p.l.c., 18,138 ordinary shares of 25p each	93,411	78,265
Templeton Emerging Markets Investment Trust p.l.c., 16,365 ordinary shares of 25p	50,241	—
	<u>£1,584,012</u>	<u>£1,563,923</u>

10. <i>Investments (continued) (Society)</i>	2006 £	2005 £
Investment in subsidiary company, at cost		
As at December 31st, 2006.....	1,000	1,000
Listed investments		
As set out above, at market value, December 31st, 2006.....	1,584,012	1,563,923
	<u>£1,585,012</u>	<u>£1,564,923</u>

The investment in subsidiary company represents 100% of the issued share capital of RSS (Services) Limited, a company registered in England and Wales.

11. <i>Restricted and designated funds (group and Society)</i>	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £
Balances, January 1st, 2006.....	66,009	372,286
Total incoming resources.....	29,128	—
Total resources expended.....	(32,421)	(6,149)
Transfers between funds.....	2,333	11,612
Balances, December 31st, 2006.....	<u>£65,049</u>	<u>£377,749</u>

Transfers between funds are wholly in respect of interest received being transferred from the general fund.

	Balance, January 1st, 2006 £	Total incoming resources £	Total resources expended £	Transfers between funds £	Balance, December 31st, 2006 £
<i>Restricted funds</i>					
Frances Wood Memorial Fund.....	5,522	—	—	205	5,727
Chambers Medal Fund.....	7,616	—	—	283	7,899
Guy Medal Fund.....	8,368	—	(585)	290	8,073
Greenfield Medal Fund.....	1,426	—	—	53	1,479
Research Prize Fund.....	9,384	—	—	349	9,733
Bradford Hill Medal Fund.....	4,157	—	—	155	4,312
Cathie Marsh Appeal Fund.....	3,886	—	—	145	4,031
J. H. West Prize Fund.....	23,345	—	(403)	853	23,795
Careers Promotion Fund.....	1,302	—	(1,302)	—	—
Statistical Users Group.....	1,003	29,128	(30,131)	—	—
Total.....	<u>£66,009</u>	<u>£29,128</u>	<u>£(32,421)</u>	<u>£2,333</u>	<u>£65,049</u>
<i>Designated funds</i>					
International Conference Fund.....	17,925	—	—	667	18,592
Society Conference Fund.....	60,000	—	(6,000)	—	54,000
C. Oswald George Prize Fund.....	2,571	—	(149)	90	2,512
Sir Harry Campion Bequest Fund...	291,790	—	—	10,855	302,645
Total.....	<u>£372,286</u>	<u>£—</u>	<u>£(6,149)</u>	<u>£11,612</u>	<u>£377,749</u>

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12. *General fund including pension reserve*

	Group £	Society £
Balance, January 1st, 2006.....	1,787,417	2,335,281
Total incoming resources.....	1,274,101	1,381,057
Total resources expended.....	(1,341,073)	(1,341,073)
Transfers to restricted funds.....	(2,333)	(2,333)
Transfers to designated funds.....	(11,612)	(11,612)
Realized gains on investment assets.....	7,580	7,580
Unrealized gains on investment assets.....	146,613	146,613
Pension plan actuarial gains.....	(71,000)	(71,000)
	<u>£1,931,693</u>	<u>£2,586,513</u>
Balance, December 31st, 2006.....		
The balance at December 31st, 2006, is shown on the balance-sheet as		
General fund.....	1,649,693	2,304,513
Pension reserve.....	282,000	282,000
	<u>£1,931,693</u>	<u>£2,586,513</u>

13. *Non-charitable trading fund (group only)*

	2006 £	2005 £
Balance, January 1st, 2006.....	547,546	410,118
Net income of trading subsidiary (Note 2).....	106,956	137,428
	<u>£654,502</u>	<u>£547,546</u>
Balance, December 31st, 2006.....		

14. *Analysis of group net assets between funds*

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Fund balances at December 31st, 2006, are represented by			
Tangible fixed assets.....	1,104,661	—	1,104,661
Investments.....	1,584,012	—	1,584,012
Current assets.....	279,318	65,049	344,367
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year.....	(283,525)	—	(283,525)
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than 1 year.....	(2,522)	—	(2,522)
Pension asset.....	282,000	—	282,000
	<u>£2,963,944</u>	<u>£65,049</u>	<u>£3,028,993</u>
<i>Unrealized gains included above</i>			
Unrealized gain on valuation of books in the Society's collection.....	22,500	—	22,500
Unrealized gains on investment assets.....	450,625	—	450,625
	<u>£473,125</u>	<u>£—</u>	<u>£473,125</u>
<i>Reconciliation of movements in unrealized gains</i>			
Unrealized gains, January 1st, 2006, brought forward.....	420,042	—	420,042
Unrealized gains, January 1st, 2006, realized during the year... ..	(93,530)	—	(93,530)
Gains arising on revaluation of investment assets at December 31st, 2006.....	146,613	—	146,613
	<u>£473,125</u>	<u>£—</u>	<u>£473,125</u>

15. *Finance lease commitments*

The Society's finance lease commitments included within creditors: amounts falling due after more than 1 year expire within 2–5 years of the balance-sheet date (2005—the same).

16. *Defined benefit pension plan (group and Society)*

The plan is a defined benefit plan and relates to the Staff Pension and Life Assurance Plan of the Royal Statistical Society, which is the only plan of the Society. The most recent actuarial valuation for accounting purpose was at August 1st, 2005. The plan has a number of purchased annuities in respect of past retirements. These are understood to match fully the associated liabilities and so have been excluded from both the assets and the liabilities at each accounting date.

The contributions made during the year ended December 31st, 2006, were at a rate of 25.1% of pensionable salaries for the Society and 7.0% of pensionable salaries for the members. The charge for the year, against which employer contributions paid over to the plan Trustees in the year amounted to £254,000 (2005—£96,000), together with the actuarial gains and losses on the plan for the year, is recognized in the statement of financial activities in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard No. 17. Insurance premiums for death-in-service benefits were payable in addition. The agreed contribution in future are 25.1% of pensionable salaries for the Society and 7.0% of pensionable salaries for the members.

The assumptions used for calculating the liabilities were as follows:

	December 31st, 2006	December 31st, 2005	December 31st, 2004
Inflation .....	3.1%	2.8%	2.8%
Salary escalation .....	5.1%	4.8%	4.8%
Pension increases, where subject to LPI .....	3.1%	2.8%	2.8%
Statutory revaluation in deferment .....	5.1%	2.8%	2.8%
Discount rate (pre and post retirement) .....	5.1%	4.7%	5.2%
Life expectancy for a 65-year-old male .....	87 years	85 years	†

†Information not known.

The assets and liabilities of the plan and the expected rates of return for each asset category are

	December 31st, 2006		December 31st, 2005		December 31st, 2004	
	%	£	%	£	%	£
Cash and other net assets .....	4.5	(2,000)	4.3	3,000	4.8	1,000
Group pension contract .....	5.4	1,412,000	5.0	1,002,000	5.4	748,000
		<u>1,410,000</u>		<u>999,000</u>		<u>749,000</u>
Present value of plan liabilities .....		(1,128,000)		(969,000)		(721,000)
Surplus in plan .....		<u>£282,000</u>		<u>£30,000</u>		<u>£(28,000)</u>

	December 31st, 2006 £	December 31st, 2005 £
The charge to the statement of financial activities for the year comprised		
Current service cost .....	82,000	65,000
The current service cost excludes the cost of insuring the death-in-service benefits.		
Other incoming resources		
Expected return on pension plan assets .....	(57,000)	(44,000)
Interest on pension plan liabilities .....	48,000	40,000
Net return .....	<u>(9,000)</u>	<u>(4,000)</u>
Total charged to expenditure in the statement of financial activities	<u>£73,000</u>	<u>£61,000</u>

The history of experience gains and losses is as follows:

	2006	2005	2004
Actual return less expected return on pension plan assets .....	£85,000	£84,000	£37,000
Percentage of plan assets .....	6.0%	8.4%	4.9%
Experience gains and losses arising on plan liabilities .....	£(2,000)	—	14,000
Percentage of plan assets .....	(0.2)%	0.0%	1.9%
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of plan assets .....	£(12,000)	£(117,000)	£(18,000)
Percentage of plan assets .....	(1.1)%	(12.1)%	(2.5)%
Total .....	<u>£71,000</u>	<u>£(33,000)</u>	<u>£33,000</u>
Percentage of plan assets .....	<u>6.3%</u>	<u>(3.4)%</u>	<u>(4.6)%</u>



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	2006	2005
	£	£
Movement in surplus during the year		
Surplus at the beginning of the year .....	30,000	28,000
Movement in year		
Current service cost .....	(82,000)	(65,000)
Contributions .....	254,000	96,000
Other finance income .....	9,000	4,000
Actuarial gain/(loss) .....	71,000	(33,000)
Surplus at the end of the year .....	<u>£282,000</u>	<u>£30,000</u>

17. *Other matters* (group and Society)

At the balance-sheet date there were no capital commitments, contingent liabilities or contingent assets, and there have been no events after the balance-sheet date requiring adjustments to the accounts or inclusion of a note thereto.

*Proceedings of the 173rd Annual General Meeting of the Royal Statistical Society, held at 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 14th, 2007, in the Lecture Theatre at the Royal Statistical Society, 12 Errol Street, London, UK*

The Chair was taken by the President, Professor Tim Holt. Present were Mr Tom Grimes (Honorary Treasurer) and Ms Janet Dougharty (Honorary Secretary) and Fellows of the Society, with Mr Ivor Goddard (Director General) in attendance.

1. *Minutes of the previous meeting*

The minutes of the 172nd Annual General Meeting were read by the Honorary Secretary and signed by the President as a correct record of the proceedings.

2. *Report of Council for the session 2006–2007*

The President presented the report of the Council for the session 2006–2007.  
The Report of Council was received.

3. *Financial statements for the year ending December 31st, 2006*

The report of the Honorary Treasurer and the financial statements for the year ended December 31st, 2006, were received.

4. *Subscriptions*

The Honorary Treasurer outlined the current financial position of the Society and explained the reasons for Council's recommending that the basic and additional membership subscriptions be increased.

It was resolved that from January 1st, 2008, the basic subscription, as defined in Bye-law 1(c), would be £74.00 *per annum*, and the additional subscription, as defined in Bye-law 1(b), would be £60.00 *per annum*.

5. *Election of the auditors for 2007–2008*

The Honorary Treasurer reported that the audit process had been put out to tender earlier in the year and that as a result Council was recommending that a new firm of auditors be appointed.

Sayer Vincent of 8 Angel Gate, 326 City Road, London, EC1V 2SJ, were appointed auditors to the Society to hold office until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting.

6. *Membership of Council*

The President announced that, as a result of a ballot for ordinary members of Council, the following were declared elected with effect from January 1st, 2008:

Peter Challenor	Steven Gilmour
Jenny Church	Fiona Matthews
Patrick Farrington	John Pullinger

7. *Close of meeting*

The President declared the annual general meeting closed at 5.29 p.m.