ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Charity number: 1195899



AAB Creating Canopies II: Photo; Ted Wilson

President's Report 2025



The AAB continues to deliver on its strategy to support and engage a membership committed to applying high-quality biology to address pressing societal challenges aligned with our mission.

During 2025, the Association saw some significant changes in personnel as we bid a bittersweet retirement to Bernadette Lawson and Carol Millman, who have a combined 70+ years of experience with the AAB.

As part of the staff restructure the AAB employed Dr Jordan Robson as its first 'Membership and Communications Manager'. I have no doubt that you have noticed a change in the quality of AAB communications, so we are grateful to Jordan for having such a successful start to her time with the AAB. Elsewhere with respect to staffing changes, the Editorial Office for Annals of Applied Biology was merged with the publisher, Wiley-Blackwell. This change made both financial and administrative sense and the transition was smooth and successful. I express sincere thanks to the other members of the AAB team, Dr Geraint Parry, Dr John Andrews and Alberto Vitale, who have enabled AAB to achieve outputs reminiscent of a much larger society.

Late in 2025, we switched the submission platform for Annals of Applied Biology journal to the in-house Wiley ReX platform. This has resulted in a significant increase in the number of submissions to the journal and we hope that this results in a concomitant rise in quality and therefore acceptances and ultimately citations. In 2025 Annals saw a slight rise in IF and we are confident that the editorial changes AAB has made will continue an upward trajectory.

Plant Biotechnology Journal (PBJ) is our complementary journal, part-owned by the Society for Experimental Biology. PBJ saw significant growth during 2025, which included a doubling of accepted publications. As PBJ is fully open-access journal, this has resulted in an increase in journal revenue, albeit associated with a small decline in impact factor. Over coming year, we will work with the PBJ editorial team to ensure that we maintain an optimal balance between number of accepted papers and number of citations. Further ahead, continuing revenue increase from PBJ will enable the AAB to expand our activities.

I am pleased to report that by December 2025, the Association had a membership of ~1300, which is an all-time high. This level is enabled by the offer of free annual membership to any of our non-member conference delegates. The significant increase in delegate registrations across our events therefore has resulted in an equivalent increase in membership, demonstrating that many of those non-members who register for AAB events see the value in joining the AAB with its commitment to sustainable futures powered by front-rank research.

In 2025, the AAB organised eleven events, welcoming 1534 delegates, of which 80% attended in-person. These events included the largest conference ever organised by AAB, the 'International Conference on Arabidopsis Research 2025', held in Ghent, Belgium. Another highlight was the 'International Conference on Plant Virology 2025', which welcomed 200+ delegates to Murcia in Spain.

Under the leadership of Jordan Robson, the AAB started a free 'All aabout Applied Biology' webinar series. This proved very successful with 1300+ registrants across the first four events.

AAB conferences are in collaboration with our (now) 14 Specialist Groups, which are the life-blood of the society. In 2025 we were delighted to inaugurate the Early Career Professional Specialist Group (ECPro Group), which will organise activities tailored to the needs of ECPs. Please look out for a first event organised by this group later in October 2026.

The Association's finances remain very healthy, with investments helping secure future growth and development. Revenues from our two journals allows AAB to commit over £160K each year to support events, either by covering staff time or to subsidise delegates fees. As ever, thanks to our event sponsors whose contributions also enable fees to be kept as low as possible.

The AAB's stable income enables us to reinvest in its charitable aims, including supporting our events and the wider membership. We maintain a strong presence within the broader applied biology sector through active engagement with organisations such as the Royal Society of Biology and the Global Plant Council, helping to ensure that the voice of applied biology is heard where it matters.

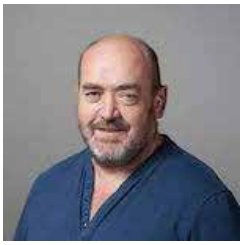
Looking to the future, it is possible that AAB will soon have the capacity to enhance our engagement with the policy areas that are relevant to ensuring improved agricultural productively and sustainability.

Finally, as retiring President of the AAB, I would like to say what an honour it has been to serve this society for the past two years. I have been brilliantly supported by talented staff, and it has been a pleasure to see the AAB extend its links between academia and the commercial sector through the involvement of the talented leads of our specialist groups.

Martin Parry is our incoming President who has had critical roles in shaping a positive future of the AAB, and I convey to him my very best wishes for enabling the remarkable success of the AAB as we continue to develop our activities and engagement

Dale Sanders, April 2026

Treasurer’s report, 2025



Income and expenditure

In 2025 the Association recorded total income of £906,752 and total expenditure of £790,616, resulting in a net operating surplus of £116,136 for the year.

This outcome remains consistent with the Association’s long term objective of operating close to cash neutrality while maintaining sufficient reserves to support its charitable activities and manage financial risk.

Investments

The Association’s investments continued to be managed professionally. During 2025 the portfolio generated investment gains of £99,908, reflecting positive market performance over the year.

These gains contributed significantly to the overall increase in funds and continue to underpin the Association’s financial resilience.

Publications

Publications remained the Association’s principal source of surplus and an essential component of its financial sustainability. Income continued to be driven largely by the strong performance of the Association’s journals, including Plant Biotechnology Journal and Annals of Applied Biology.

As in previous years, the surplus generated from publications provided critical cross subsidy to other charitable activities, particularly conferences and membership support.

Conferences

Conferences continued to represent a core activity of the Association and an important mechanism for delivering its charitable objectives. The programme remained strong in 2025, supporting scientific exchange and early career researchers.

Conference activity, as expected, required financial support from the Association, reflecting the Trustees’ commitment to maintaining high quality scientific meetings and accessibility.

Membership

Membership income remained broadly stable during 2025. The Association continues to prioritise member engagement and growth, including through initiatives such as subsidised or complimentary membership linked to conference participation.
Membership activity is not expected to generate a surplus but is central to the Association’s charitable mission.

Management and administration, including staff costs

Management and administration costs reflect the necessary expenditure required to support the Association's operations, including staffing, governance, professional fees and office costs. Overall costs increased in line with inflationary pressures and the scale of activity across conferences and publications.

Balance sheet

At 31 December 2025 the Association's total funds stood at £1,931,782, an increase from £1,715,738 in 2024.

The Association continues to hold significant investment assets (£1,564,620) and maintains healthy cash balances, with no external borrowing.

This places the Association in a strong financial position, providing a solid platform to continue delivering its charitable aims while managing financial uncertainty.

Outlook and budget 2026

Looking ahead, the Association expects continued strong performance from its publications, alongside sustained investment in conferences and member engagement.

The financial strategy remains focused on balancing prudent reserve management with the delivery of high quality scientific activities.

Future plans

The Trustees remain committed to a sustainable long term financial strategy. Key priorities include:

- maintaining strong publication performance
- careful management of conference costs and activity levels
- continued investment in membership engagement

These priorities will ensure that the Association remains financially resilient while fulfilling its charitable objectives.

Proposed Membership Fees 2027

The Trustees propose no increase in membership fees for 2027.
Fees as follows:

- Full membership: £65.00
- Retired membership: £32.50
- Student/ECP membership: £22.00

Nigel Halford, June 2026

AAB Specialist Group Report for 2025

Authored by Geraint Parry with input from group conveners.

February 2026

APPLIED PLANT PATHOLOGY

Group Membership on 31/12/25
https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/applied-plant-pathology/

Convener: Jon West, Rothamsted Research.

John Clarkson, University of Warwick
James Fortune, VCS
Neil Havis, SRUC
Jennifer Hodgetts, APHA
Rob Jackson, University of Birmingham
Crispus Mbaluto, University of Essex
Rumiana Ray, University of Nottingham
Faye Ritchie, ADAS
Rosa Sanchez-Lucas, University of Birmingham

Event: British Society of Plant Pathology (BSPP) satellite meeting entitled 'Disease Management in Practice: Supporting UK Agriculture'

Location: University of Nottingham, UK
Date: Sept 9th 2025
Group Organiser(s): James Fortune
Attendees: ~50
Invited Speakers: Alistair Wright (BBRO), Faye Ritchie (ADAS) and Xiangming Xu (Niab-EMR).
Talks selected from submitted abstracts: 14
Posters: n/a
ECP Travel Grants: Two
Meeting Sponsors: Corteva
Other Information: AAB membership was offered to all attendees

Group members Rumiana Ray and Rosa Sanchez-Lucas collaborated with the AAB IPM group to organise the '**Advances in Integrated Pest and Pathogen Management'** meeting in Leicester. More details of this meeting are below.

Looking to the Future

Jon West is leading the organisation of a BSPP satellite meeting entitled '**Surveillance and improved disease control**'. This takes places as a full day session on September 11th at the John Innes Centre in Norwich. AAB will arrange registration for single-day attendance but we hope most attendees will attend the full BSPP meeting. All satellite meeting attendees will be offered AAB membership.

Rumiana Ray and Jon West are working with members of the IPM group to organise an event on '**Advances in Integrated Pest and Pathogen Management'** to be held in Leicester in November 2026.

APPLIED TREE AND FOREST BIOLOGY

Group Membership on 31/12/25
https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/applied-tree-and-forest-biology/

Convener: Amanda Rasmussen, University of Nottingham

Nick Covarr, Harper Adams University
Andrew Hirons Myerscough College
Elisabeth Larsen, Forest Research
Elizabeth Orton, John Innes Centre
Sir Harry Studholme, Independent forester
Gareth Thomas, DEFRA
Diana Vinchira-Villarrage, University of Birmingham
Edward 'Ted' Wilson, Independent forester

Event: **Creating Canopies II: Resilience, Adaptation and Regenerative Approaches**'

Location: Crown and Mitre Hotel, Carlisle, UK
Date: Sept 10-11th 2025
Group Organiser(s): Ted Wilson, Amanda Rasmussen
Attendees: 60 in-person, 20 online
Invited Speakers: Chris Quine (FR), Ruth Mitchell (JHI), John Mackay (University of Oxford), Amory Ngan (University of Toronto)
Talks selected from submitted abstracts: 14
Posters: 11
ECP Travel Grants: Six
Meeting Sponsors: The JABBS Foundation, The Scottish Forest Trust, The Tree Council and Forestry Commission.
Other Information: Arranged successful visit to Combs Wood, organised by Ted Wilson and colleagues at Forest Commission.

Looking to the Future

Later in 2026 the group will host an online training session on base skills in tree and forest biology, which will be aimed at early career researchers from across academia, industry and government organisations.

Planning has started for the Creating Canopies III meeting in 2027.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AND INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Group Membership on 31/12/25
https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/biological-control-and-integrated-pest-management/

Convener: Toby Bruce, Keele University

Elysia Bartel, ADAS
Josh Burnstone, Fargro
David Chandler, University of Warwick
Rosemary Collier, University of Warwick
Rachel McGauley, UK Apples and Pears
Joe Roberts, Harper Adams University
Richard Shaw, CABI International
Neal Ward, Biobest
Xiangming Xu, NIAB

Event: **Advances in Integrated Pest and Pathogen Management**

Location: Belmont Hotel, Leicester, UK
Date: November 11t^{h}-12th 2025
Group Organiser(s): Toby Bruce, Rosemary Collier. From APP group, Rumiana Ray and Rosa Sanchez-Lucas
Attendees: 47 in-person, 30 online
Invited Speakers: Martin Lines (NFFN), Joe Helps (Rothamsted Research), Jim Dunwell (University of Reading), Jonathan Jones (TSL), Paul Wilson (University of Nottingham), Amma Simon (University of Nottingham).
Talks selected from submitted abstracts: 18
Posters: 13
ECP Travel Grants: Six
Meeting Sponsors: None

Group members also co-organised with the Pesticide Application Group an event on '**Application of Biopesticides**' held at Syngenta, UK in January 2025, Details of this event are below.

Looking to the Future

The group will repeat the co-organisation of the '**Advances in Integrated Pest and Pathogen Management**' event with the AAB Applied Plant Pathology group. This will return to the Belmont Hotel in Leicester in early November 2026.

CROPPING AND THE ENVIRONMENT (CATE)

Group Membership on 31/12/25
https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/cropping-and-the-environment/

Conveners: William Smith, Gowan and Kate Smith, ADAS

Jake Bishop, University of Reading
Rose Boyko, SRUC
Lucie Buchi, University of Greenwich
Naomi Jones, Fera Science
Henny Lowth, AHDB
Syed Shah, NIAB
Mark Fletcher, Agrovista

Event: Roots to Regenerative Agriculture

Location: Guildhall, University of York, UK
Date: November 18-20th 2025
Group Organiser(s): Kate Smith, Kairsty Topp, *From Soil group*, Charlotte White, Mark Hodson, Amanda Bennett and Harry Henderson.
Attendees: 73 in-person, 88 online
Invited Speakers: Sharon Zytynska (University of Manchester), Tim George (JHI), Maria Hernandez-Soriano (JIC), Patrick Holden (Sustain Food Trust), Ken Giller (Wageningen University),
Talks selected from submitted abstracts: 28
Posters: 13
ECP Travel Grants: 3
Meeting Sponsors: Aurora Trust, Rank Prize, ADAS, AHDB
Other Information: Special Issue of Annals of Applied Biology associated with the event, guest edited by Charlotte White and Mark Hodson.

The group co-organised the '**Legumes in Science and Practice 3'** meeting, held at University of Reading. Details of this meeting are below.

Looking to the Future

In February 2027 Will Smith is leading on a collaboration with BCPC to organise '**Crop Production in Southern Britain'**.

FOOD SYSTEMS

Group Membership on 31/12/25
https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/food-systems/

Convener: Christine Bosch, University of Leeds

Yoselin Benitez-Alfonso, University of Leeds
Emilie Combet, University of Glasgow
Darren Greetham, University of Leeds
Joseph Hubert Galani Yamdeu, Canterbury Christchurch University
Gabriela Toledo-Ortiz, James Hutton Institute

The Food group had a quiet year in 2025. Christine Bosch was involved with inviting speakers for the **Legumes in Science and Practice 3** meeting held in Reading in June 2025.

Looking to the Future

Over the coming months the EO looks forward to working with the group to plan a strategy toward organising new events.

HORTICULTURAL QUALITY AND FOOD LOSS

Group Membership on 31/12/25
https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/horticultural-quality-and-food-loss/

Convener: Natalia Falagan, Cranfield University

MariCarmen Alamor, Cranfield University
Jo Hepworth, Durham University
Ciara O'Brien, Cranfield University
Susan McCallum, James Hutton Institute
Lindsay Williams, University of Edinburgh

Event: Resource Efficiency in Horticulture

Location: East Malling Trust, UK
Date: November 6th 2025
Group Organiser(s): Organisation led by Lori Fisher at East Malling Trust, input from Ciara O'Brien
Attendees: 36 in-person
Invited Speakers: Anna Taylor (The Food Foundation), Jack Ward (British Growers), Karen Covey (UKRI-BBSRC), Cathryn Lambourne (Innovate-UK)
Talks selected from submitted abstracts: 12
Posters: 5
ECP Travel Grants: Two
Meeting Sponsors: East Malling Trust, Growing Kent and Medway, University of Greenwich, National Resources Institute, Fresh Produce Consortium

Other Information: Lori Fisher proposed to work with AAB on this event as part of her role to promote the activities at East Malling.

Looking to the Future

The group will look to again work with Lori Fisher to organise a follow-up meeting at EMT in October 2026 that focusses on Horticulture and Human Nutrition. Lindsay Williams has been involved in early discussions about this event.

NEMATOLOGY

Group Membership on 31/12/25
https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/nematology/

Convener: Steve Edgington, CABI

Richard Binks, Koppert
Keith Davies, University of Hertfordshire
Kasia Dybal, Harper Adams University
Lindy Holden-Dye, University of Southampton
Catherine Lilley, University of Leeds
Valeria Orlando, Fera Science
James Price, James Hutton Institute
Alistair Wright, BBRO

Event: **Advances in Nematology**

Location: The Linnean Society, London, UK
Date: December 4th 2025
Group Organiser(s): Entire Group
Attendees: 37 in-person, 24 online
Invited Speakers: Hans Helder (Wageningen University), Anika Damm (University of Cambridge), Richard Binks (Koppert)
Talks selected from submitted abstracts: 13
Posters: 9
ECP Travel Grants: Two
Meeting Sponsors: CABI-UK
Other Information: The Brian Kerry prize award for Best Student talk: Ronald Manjoro (Harper Adams University); AAB Nematology prize for the favoured poster: Liliana Jeziorska-Clifford (University of Southampton)

Looking to the Future

The Linnean Society remains a popular venue so the 2026 edition of the '**Advances in Nematology**' meeting will return to the venue on December 10th 2026.

PESTICIDE APPLICATION

Group Membership on 31/12/25
https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/pesticide-application/

Convener: Emilio Gil-Moya, Universidad Politécnica de Cataluña, Spain

Paolo Balsari, UNITO, Italy
Clare Butler-Ellis, Silsoe Spray Applications Unit
Richard Glass, CHAP-Solutions
Rena Isemer, Bayer Crop Science
Colin Mountford-Smith, BASF
Ben Magri, Syngenta
David Nuyttens, ILVO Vlaanderen, Belgium
James Thomas, Syngenta

Event: **Challenges in Application of Biological Pesticides**

Location: Syngenta, Jealotts Hill, UK
Date: January 21st 2025
Group Organiser(s): Ben Magri. *From IPM group:* Dave Chandler, Elysia Bartel, Neil Ward
Attendees: 78 in-person
Invited Speakers: Emilie Fritsch (Syngenta), David Chandler (University of Warwick), Clare Butler-Ellis (SSAU)
Talks selected from submitted abstracts: 7
Posters: N/A
ECP Travel Grants: 0
Meeting Sponsors: Syngenta Crop Science, Biobest, ADAS, Oxford Lasers

Looking to the Future.

The IAPA26 meeting was held in Cagliari, Sardinia on January 20th-22nd 2026.

Emilio Gil has agreed to host a theory and practice workshop on Drone application during spring 2027 in Barcelona. IAPA28 will return to the UK in January 2028.

PlantEd- Genome Editing in Plants

Group Membership on 31/12/25
https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/planted/

Convener: Goetz Hensel, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Germany

Sebastien Carpentier, KU Leuven, Belgium
Maria Dellino, University “Aldo Moro” Bari, Italy
Dennis Eriksson, SLU, Sweden
Sadiye Hayta, John Innes Centre, UK
Ankica Kondić Špika, Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad, Serbia
Dragana Miladinovic, Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Serbia
Mladen Petreš, University of Novi Sad, Serbia
Agnes Ricroch, Paris-Saclay University, France
Jeremy Sweet, Sweet Environmental Consultants, UK
Katrijn Van Laere, Ghent University, Belgium
Ewa Woźniak, IBCH PAS, Poland

Goetz Hensel led on the organisation of an **AAB-PlantEd Training School**, which took place in August 4th-8th 2025 in Dusseldorf, Germany.

AAB supported travel of meeting trainers and provided 10 ECP travel grants that supported participants from Poland, Italy, Turkey, Ireland, France and the UK.

This event was extremely well-received by the 16 attending delegates who benefited from hands-on training in plant gene-editing techniques. Trainers supported by AAB were Katrjin Van Leare, Lauren Pauwels, Mark Smedley and Sadiye Hayta.
Further support for the meeting came from KWS and CEPLAS.

Looking Forward

The group aims to restart their webinar series in spring 2026 and is in discussions to organise an in-person meeting in 2027.

SOIL and ROOT BIOLOGY

Group Membership on 31/12/25
https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/soil-biology/

Convener: Charlotte White, ADAS

Amanda Bennett, AHDB
Harry Henderson, BASIS
Mark Hodson, University of York
Felicity Roos, The National Trust

Members of the Soil and Root Biology co-organised the successful Roots to Regenerative Agriculture conference held in York. Details of this meeting are outlined in the CATE group summary.

Event: **Legumes in Science and Practice**

Location: University of Reading
Date: June
Group Organiser(s): Charlotte White and Emily Guest. *From CATE group:* Kairsty Topp.
Attendees: 40 in-person, 28 online
Invited Speakers: Louise Dye (University of Sheffield), Josh Meldrum (Hodmedods), Kato Van Ruymbele (KU Leuven)
Talks selected from submitted abstracts: 18
Posters: 15
ECP Travel Grants: 2
Meeting Sponsors: Hiphen
Other Information: The meeting included a visit to the University of Reading crop research farm. The conference was associated with a special issue of Annals of Applied Biology, for which Charlotte White and Emily Guest were guest-editors

Looking to the Future

Charlotte White is part of the organising team for a proposal session at Groundswell 2026 that is involed with 'IPM in RegenAg'.

The group plans to organise a stand-alone Soil and Root Biology meeting in 2027, since there appeared to be the appetite for this type of meeting in delegate feedbaclk from the 'Roots to RegenAg' meeting.

VIROLOGY

Group Membership on 31/12/25
https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/virology/

Convener: Andrew Love, James Hutton Institute

Miguel Aranda, CEBAS CSIC, Spain
Sabrina Bertin, CREA-DC, Italy
Betty Chung, University of Cambridge, UK
Fabrizio Cillo, CNR, Institute for Sustainable Plant Protection, Italy
Charlotte Nellist, Niab, UK
Jens Tilsner, University of St Andrews, UK
Trisna Tungadi, Keele University, UK
Mireia Uranga Ruiz De Eguino, CSIC, Spain
Mark Varrelmann, University of Goettingham, The Netherlands
Jeanmarie Verchot, Texas A+M University, USA
John Walsh, University of Warwick, UK

Event: **International Advance in Plant Virology 2025**
Location: Murcia, Spain
Date: April
Group Organiser(s): Miguel Aranda, Trisna Tungadi, Betty Chung
Attendees: 200 in-person, 60 online
Invited Speakers: Nataša Mehle (Slovenia), David Baulcombe (UK), Santiago Elena (Spain), Junmin Li (China), Hadrien Peyret (UK), Emanuela Noris (Italy). Sebastien Massart (Belgium), Svetlana Folimonova (USA).
Talks selected from submitted abstracts: 45
Posters: 110
ECP Travel Grants: 20
Meeting Sponsors: Virtigation Project, BSPP, Loewe Plant Diagnostics, Bioreba-Cultek
Other Information: Raymond and Roger Hull for Best Student Poster Presentation: vasileia gavrili, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. Bryan Harrison Award for Best Student Oral Presentation: Carmen Robinson, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madridm, Spain. AAB Virology Award for Best Postdoc Oral Presentation: Gesa Hoffmann, Max Planck Institute of Molecular Plant Physiology, Potsdam, Germany.

Looking to the Future

IAPV27 will take place at the University of Cambridge, UK on April 6-8 2027.

Other AAB events organised that were outside of Specialist group Activities

In January 2025 AAB co-organised a meeting entitled '**Plant Science Education: Creating a Vision for the Future'**. This was held in Lancaster, UK with ~50 in-person and 20 online delegates.

In June 2025 the AAB organised the '**International Conference on Arabidopsis Research**' which brought 600+ in-person delegates to Ghent, Belgium.

AAB also managed 250+ abstract submissions for the conference of the '**International Plant Growth Substances Association**', which took place in Colorado, USA in July 2025.

Membership

As a member of the Association of Applied Biologists, you join a community of over 1000 professionals working across all areas of Applied Biology to improve agricultural productivity, with added benefits...

Fellowship

Long-term continuous members (7+ years) can apply for Fellowship of the AAB (F Appl. Biol.).

Access to Grants

- Eligible to apply for 'AAB Carer & Accessibility Fund' (£500)
- Priority access to Early Career travel grants for all AAB events (£500)
- *New* access to members-only Early Career travel grants for external conferences (£500)

Discounts

- Save on registration fees for our scientific conferences & workshops (up to £100!)
- Two-way membership discount with the Royal Society of Biology (50% off!)
- 30% off Aspects of Applied Biology
- 10% discount in publication fees for Plant Biotechnology Journal
- 10% referral & renewal discount on membership

aab

ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

Become a Member!

Community

- Join an AAB specialist group & steer our society
- Share your news & opportunities in our monthly newsletter, circulated to ~4500 scientists

AAB Wrapped

Our 2025 year in review

1253
AAB members

10
New AAB Fellows (F Appl Bio)

43%
Early Career Members

13
Specialist Groups

11
AAB events

1534
Delegates

Top Event



615 delegates

80%
attended events in person

1315
Registrations for 'All aabout' webinars

Conferences 2025

Title of conference	In Person	Virtual	Total delegates	Date	Organising Group
Plant Biology Education: Creating a Vision for the Future	45	20	65	7/1/2025	External
Challenges for Effective Application of Biopesticides	78	0	78	21/1/2025	Pesticide Application Group and Biocontrol and IPM
International Advances in Plant Virology (IAPV25)	204	71	275	8/4/2025	Virology
Legumes Science and Practice 3	41	28	69	3/6/2025	Soil and Root Biology and CATE
International Conference on Arabidopsis Research 2025 (ICAR2025)	618	28	646	16/6/2025	AAB
1st AAB-PlantEd Training School	16	0	16	4/8/2025	PlantEd
Disease Management in Practice: Supporting UK Agriculture	80	0	80	9/9/2025	Applied Plant Pathology
Creating Canopies II: Resilience, Adaptation and Regenerative Approaches	59	17	76	10/9/2025	Applied Tree and Forest Biology
Resource Efficiency in Horticulture	37	0	37	6/11/2025	Horticultural Quality and Food Loss
Advances in Integrated Pest and Pathogen Management	47	30	77	11/11/2025	Applied Plant Pathology and Biocontrol and IPM
Roots to Regenerative Agriculture	73	88	161	18/11/2025	Soil and Root Biology and CATE
Advances in Nematology 2025	37	27	64	4/12/2025	Nematology
Total delegates	**1335**	**309**	**1644**		

AAB Conference Sponsorships 2025

Plant Biology Education: Creating a Vision for the Future

- Plant education Grant £1,000.00
- Gasby £2,000.00

International Advances in Plant Virology (IAPV25)

- BSPP £2,000.00
- Virtigation Project £1,686.47
- Loewe £610.65
- Cultek £617.18

Legumes Science and Practice 3

- Hiphen £750.00

International Conference on Arabidopsis Research 2025 (ICAR2025)

- BASF £2,547.99
- Plant Science Center £3,898.19
- Labdeers SRO £2,438.43
- CellSense Technologies £2,465.08
- The company of Biologists £410.54
- CLF PlantClimatics £2,452.58
- Phoenix Bioinformatics £1,966.09
- Zealquest AI £2,936.62
- Novogene £1,953.60
- NASC £2,500.00
- The New Phytologist Foundation £2,900.00
- Agrisera £2,435.46
- Conviron Europe Ltd £2.432.30
- Carl Zeiss £971.27
- Yale University £2,916.08
- MobiDrop £4125.08
- Japanese Society of Plant Physiologists £1,977.75
- Journal of Experimental Botany £840.00
- PSI £2,508.99
- 10X GENOMICS £638.00
- Hybrigenenics £1,236.60
- Journal of Integrative Plant Biology £686.48
- SMO £2,467.92
- Intelligent Imagination £2,465.89

AAB Conference Sponsorships 2025

- Molecular Plant £2,442.97
- Frontiers Media £1,258.49
- Gent University £2,140.04

1st AAB-PlantEd Training School

- CRISPR £434.78

Creating Canopies II: Resilience, Adaptation and Regenerative Approaches

- JABBS £2,000.00
- The Scottish Forestry Trust £896.32

Resource Efficiency in Horticulture

- University of Greenwich £500.00
- Growing Kent & Medway £500.00

Roots to Regenerative Agriculture

- Aurora & Mark Leonard Trust £6,000.00
- AHDB £750.00
- ADAS £750.00

FORWARD CONFERENCE PROGRAMME: June 2026

Date	**Title** Location Organiser(s) Website	Specialist Group and Affiliates

2026

July 26-30	**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PHOTOSYNTHESIS RESEARCH (ICPR26**) Venue: ACC LIVERPOOL, UK CHRISTINE FOYER Photosynthesis2026.com	ALL- EXTERNAL
September 8-11	**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON RICE FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS (ISRFG)** Venue: Royal Society, London ERIK MURCHIE https://cvent.me/8VvnrA	EXTERNAL
September 11	**SURVEILLANCE AND IMPROVED DISEASE CONTROL** Venue: John Innes Centre JON WEST https://bspp.bookingmanager.website/conference/registration-and-ticketing-plant-pathology-2026-ppath2026-and-early-careers-plant-pathology-2026-ecpp2026/	APP
October 4-8	**AUXIN 2026** Venue: Portugal LARS OSTERGAARD http://auxin2026.info	EXTERNAL
October 20-21	**ECPRO WORKSHOP** Venue: University of Nottingham ECPRO COMMITTEE https://cvent.me/8o1kkP	ECPro
November 3-4	**TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION FOR INTEGRATION OF PEST, PATHOGEN AND WEED MANAGEMENT** Venue: The Belmont Hotel, Leicester TOBY BRUCE, JON WEST, RUMINANA RAY, SACHA WHITE, DAVID CHANDLER https://cvent.me/EyM7bm	IPM and APP
November 17-18	**AAB PRESIDENTS MEETING: SUSTAINABLE CROP NUTRITION** Venue: Guild Hall, York DALE SANDERS https://cvent.me/Q55K5Q	ALL
November 26	**SUPPORTING HEALTHY DIETS WITH A THRIVING UK HORTICULTURE SECTOR** **Venue:** East Malling Trust LORI FISHER https://cvent.me/9ox5Xn	HORT QUALITY
December 10	**ADVANCES IN NEMATOLOGY 2026** Venue: LINNEAN SOCIETY, LONDON, UK STEVE EDGINGTON https://cvent.me/0EwGbB	NEMATOLOGY

2027

March 22-25	**MONOGRAM 2027** Venue: University of Nottingham NIKKI WALTER, SURBHI GREWAL, STELLA EDWARDS	MONOGRAM
April 4-6	**INTERNATIONAL ADVANCES IN PLANT VIROLOGY (IAPV27)** Venue: Robinson College, University of Cambridge BETTY CHUNG https://cvent.me/LyKeyz	VIROLOGY
April 13-14	**PLANT SCIENCE EDUCATION II: SHAPING THE FUTURE** Venue: Churchill College, University of Cambridge SONJA DUNBAR, CATHERINE MANSFIELD, ANDREA PATERLINI	EXTERNAL
June 2027	**GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR LONG TERM EXPERIENCES** Venue: Stellenbosch University, South Africa	CATE
July 12-15	**EUCARPIA LEAFY VEGETABLE CONFERENCE** Venue: University of Warwick, UK JOHN CLARKSON, JIM MONOGHAN, KATHERINE DENBY	APP, HORT
August 31-Sept 1	**CREATING CANOPIES III** Venue: Harper Adams NICK COVARR, AMANDA RASMUSSEN, TED WILSON, FOREST RESEARCH	TREE
September 28-30	**PRECISION BREEDING FOR FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH AND YIELD SECURITY** (TBC) Venue: John Innes Centre, UK SADIYE HAYTA, GOETZ HENSEL	PLANTED
Autumn 2027	**CROP PRODUCTION IN SOUTHERN BRITAIN 2027** Venue: The East WILL SMITH/ BCPC	CATE/ BCPC

TBC

TBC 2027	**VITICULTURE RESEARCH IN THE UK: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES** Venue: East Malling Trust, UK LUCIE BUCHI	CATE
TBC 2027	**TOWARD SUSTAINABLE CROP PRODUCTION: THE HARPER ADAMS CONNECTION.** Venue: Harper Adams University, UK MATT BACK	ALL
TBC May 2027	**DRONE APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES: THEORY AND PRACTICE** Venue: DroneLab, BARCELONA EMILIO GIL	PAG

Reference and Administrative Details of the CIO, its Trustees and Advisers
For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Trustees	Prof D Sanders, President (appointed President 1 January 2025) Prof M Parry, President Elect (appointed President Elect 1 January 2025) Prof N Halford, Honorary Treasurer Dr G Barker, General Secretary Dr S Edgington, Programme Secretary & Nematology Prof I S Donnison, Honourary Council Member Prof N Spence (resigned 30 June 2025) Prof R Edwards (resigned 30 June 2025) Dr C White
Charity registered number	1195899
Principal office	Warwick Enterprise Park Wellesbourne Warwickshire CV35 9EF
Executive Officer	Dr G Parry
Accountants and Independent examiner	Dains Audit Limited 2 Chamberlain Square Birmingham B3 3AX
Bankers	Barclays Bank plc 150 The Parade Leamington Spa Warwickshire CV32 4A
Solicitors	Harbottle & Lewis LLP 7 Savoy Court London WC2R 0EX

Trustees' Report
For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The CIO also trades under the name AAB.

Objectives and activities

- **Policies and objectives**

The Object of the Charity is to 'promote the study and advancement of all branches of Biology and, in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, to foster the practice, growth and development of applied biology, including the application of biological sciences for the production and preservation of food, fibre and other materials and for the maintenance and improvement of the earth's physical environment'.

We deliver this charitable mission through the publication of scientific journals in applied biology, the organisation of conferences in a range of related subject themes, the formulation and dissemination of policies to promote the discipline, the production of a newsletter and the provision of services for members.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Financial review

- **Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the CIO has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

- **Reserves policy**

To address the need for long-term financial stability we have approved a reserves policy which is set out here. A core purpose of the Association is to promote the study and advancement of Applied Biology. This obligation brings with it the need to ensure that the charity has sufficient funds over the short to medium term to continue to operate. To achieve this, the Association must achieve a sufficient positive annual operating contribution, or have sufficient reserves to call upon, to continue operations. The main features of the Association's reserves policy are as follows:

- they are an inherent part of the Association's risk management process. The amount of reserves needed will vary depending on the Association's financial position and our continuous assessment of the many risks the Association faces at a particular time;
- the need for reserves will be assessed as part of our strategic planning and combined with an annual test of solvency;
- reserves exist either to provide short-term protection against downward fluctuations in annual revenues, or to provide long-term strategic financial support for future projects as has been carried out in the recent past with the establishment of the Food and Energy Security journal;
- the reserves policy balances the need to maintain long-term reserves against the need for short-term spending on our core purpose.

This reserves policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it accurately reflects the circumstances of the Association and the views of the Trustees.

Currently the Trustees believe that the Association holds sufficient reserves.

- **Financial review**

Income and expenditure

Before net gains/(losses) on investments, the total income for 2025 was greater than expenditure by £116,136. The Association continues with the long-term aim of operating with a small positive cash flow, or cash neutrality, as part of a sustainable long term business plan.

Investments
The Association's investments continue to be managed by Evelyn Partners and in 2025 incurred a gain of £99,908. This is due to increased investor confidence and continued market recovery during the year.

Publications
The two journals in the Association's portfolio, Plant Biotechnology Journal and Annals of Applied Biology, both performed very well in 2025, providing a total income of £490,943 to the Association, benefitting as attractive Open Access publications and bringing in new authors, with the market continuing to move towards an open access future and a strong focus on journal development. This includes income from Subscriptions and Royalties.

Management and admin, including staff costs
Management and admin costs increased from £155,414 in the year to 31 December 2024 to £188,041 in the year to 31 December 2025. This can be explained by increased staff costs due to inflationary rises and staff employed at higher grades.

Conferences
Conferences are an important Association activity and the conference programme continued to expand in 2025. As standard the AAB continues to organise hybrid events, using the experience gained in running virtual conferences during the pandemic. The Association subsidised conferences in 2025 by £124,809 (2024 - £86,957). We also received £69,264 in sponsorships (2024 - £26,861).

Membership
Membership income remained steady, from £14,238 in the year to 31 December 2024 to £13,815 in the year to 31 December 2025. Overall membership at year end remained stable at 1,253 members in line with the AAB long-term strategy to increase the member cohort through free registrations offered for conference attendees.

Balance Sheet

The Association's net assets were £1,931,782 at 31 December 2025, compared with £1,715,738 at 31 December 2024. The Association's financial situation is on a very sound footing as a result of a generous legacy bequest and the sale of the Food and Energy Security journal in 2020.

Future Plans

The long-term AAB strategy aims to build the membership through organisation of more and higher quality hybrid events. By offering free membership to meeting attendees we hope to engage a cohort of scientists who value AAB membership. The 2026-27 AAB strategy document outlines this plan in more detail.

- **Principal risks and uncertainties**

The charity's activities expose it to a number of financial risks including credit risk, cash flow risk and liquidity risk. The use of financial derivatives is governed by the charity's policies approved by the board of trustees, which provide written principles on the use of financial derivatives to manage these risks. The charity does not use derivative financial instruments for speculative purposes.

Cash flow risk

The charity's activities expose it primarily to the financial risks of changes in foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates. The charity uses foreign exchange forward contracts and interest rate swap contracts to hedge these exposures. Interest bearing assets and liabilities are held at fixed rate to ensure certainty of cash flows.

Credit risk

The charity's principal financial assets are bank balances and cash, trade and other receivables, and investments. The charity's credit risk is primarily attributable to its trade receivables. The amounts presented in the balance sheet are net of allowances for doubtful receivables. An allowance for impairment is made where there is an identified loss event which, based on previous experience, is evidence of a reduction in the recoverability of the cash flows. The credit risk on liquid funds and derivative financial instruments is limited because the counterparties are banks with high creditratings assigned by international credit-rating agencies. The charity has no significant concentration of credit risk, with exposure spread over a large number of counterparties and customers.

Liquidity risk

In order to maintain liquidity to ensure that sufficient funds are available for ongoing operations and future developments, the charity uses investment funds.

Further details regarding liquidity risk can be found in the Statement of accounting policies in the financial statements.

- **Investment policy**

There are no restrictions on the Association's power to invest. Its investment portfolio is currently managed by Evelyn Investment Management Services Ltd whose performance the Trustees review. It is the Association's policy to avoid high risk investments.

Structure, governance and management

- **Constitution**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The charity is a registered charity under the charity number 1195899.

The trust became a CIO on 31 January 2022 following the signing of a transfer deed to convert it from an unincorporated charity to a CIO. It was previously constituted under Laws of Association revised December 1977 and was registered as a charity under the charity number 275655.

- **Methods of appointment or election of Trustees**

All Trustees of the Association must be members of the Association of Applied Biologists. Trustees of the Association of Applied Biologists include the Honorary Officers of Council (the President, the President-elect, who shall normally succeed the President, the General Treasurer, the Conference Treasurer, the General Secretary, the Programme Secretary, the Membership Officer, the Publications Officer plus any other person designated as an Honorary Officer at the Annual General Meeting) together with the Conveners of the Association's Specialist Groups. The Conveners are notified to the Annual General Meeting. The other Honorary Officers are elected at an Annual General Meeting. In the case of an unfilled position, trustees may be co-opted to office but must be elected at the following Annual General Meeting. The President of the Association of Applied Biologists will serve a maximum period of two years as President. The President-Elect will serve a maximum period of two years as President-elect.

Conveners are elected by members of the Group (at the last meeting of the year preceding the year of office) and may serve for up to six consecutive years, subject to annual re-election (a term of office for Conveners is deemed to be three years).

- **Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees**

Potential Trustees of the Association of Applied Biology will be given copy of Association's Laws and copies of any other key documents relevant to the Charity or post.

The booklet 'Responsibilities of Charity Trustees' published by the Charity Commission gives a complete guide to the responsibilities of Charity Trustees and will be issued to all new Trustees who are expected to read it.

Trustees of the Association of Applied Biologists are expected to read the Laws of the Association of Applied Biologists, additional information provided by the Association and the booklet 'Responsibilities of Charity Trustees'.

A 'job description' of each Trustee post will be given to each new Trustee upon appointment. It is the responsibility of each post holder to review and update their particular job description by the end of October each year. Any changes are to be agreed by Council at its last full meeting of the year.

New trustees will be given an induction session with the Executive Officer and/or a serving Trustee of the Association.

Structure, governance and management (continued)

- **Organisational structure**

The business of the Association is conducted by a Council of Members. Council shall consist of the Honorary Officers; President, President elect, General Secretary, General Treasurer, Publications Officer, Membership Officer, Programme Secretary, Meetings Treasurer and Early Career Scientist Champion, together with Conveners of the AAB Specialist Groups.

Wider network

Affiliations were maintained with the Institute of Biology, the Foundation for Science and Technology and the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers. The Association has a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Society for Agronomy.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

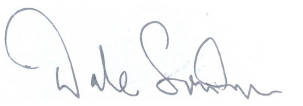
The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the CIO and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the CIO will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the CIO's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the CIO and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Laws of Association. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the CIO and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Professor D Sanders
President

Date: 16/09/26

Independent Examiner's Report
For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Association of Applied Biologists ('the CIO')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the CIO for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the Trustees of the CIO you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the CIO's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the CIO has prepared the accounts in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the CIO as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner's Report (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

This report is made solely to the CIO's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the CIO's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the CIO and the CIO's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed:  Dated: 17 SEPTEMBER 2026

Karen Neilson FCA

Dains Audit Limited
Birmingham

Statement of financial activities
For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	**69,264**	**-**	**69,264**	26,861
Charitable activities	4	**820,646**	**-**	**820,646**	410,935
Investments	5	**16,842**	**-**	**16,842**	15,815
Total income		**906,752**	**-**	**906,752**	453,611
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	**789,337**	**1,279**	**790,616**	421,940
Total expenditure		**789,337**	**1,279**	**790,616**	421,940
Net income/(expenditure) before investments		**117,415**	**(1,279)**	**116,136**	31,671
Net gains on investments		**99,908**	**-**	**99,908**	90,610
Net movement in funds	16	**217,323**	**(1,279)**	**216,044**	122,281
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	16	**1,714,459**	**1,279**	**1,715,738**	1,593,457
Net movement in funds	16	**217,323**	**(1,279)**	**216,044**	122,281
Total funds carried forward	16	**1,931,782**	**-**	**1,931,782**	1,715,738

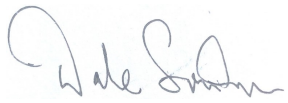
The notes on pages 13 to 30 form part of these financial statements.

The Association of Applied Biologists
Registered number:

Balance Sheet
As at 31 December 2025

	Note		2025 £		2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		**-**		-
Investments	13		**1,564,620**		1,562,125
			1,564,620		1,562,125
Current assets					
Debtors	14	**369,197**		94,298	
Cash at bank and in hand		**164,286**		101,995	
		533,483		196,293	
Current liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	**(166,321)**		(42,680)	
Net current assets			**367,162**		153,613
Total net assets			**1,931,782**		1,715,738
Charity funds					
Restricted funds	16		**-**		1,279
Unrestricted funds	16		**1,931,782**		1,714,459
Total funds	16		**1,931,782**		1,715,738

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Professor D Sanders
President

Date: 17/8/26

Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	19	**(50,615)**	40,550
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interests and rents from investments		**16,842**	15,815
Proceeds from the sale of tangible fixed assets		**-**	100
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		**-**	(299)
Proceeds from sale of investments		**390,487**	356,424
Purchase of investments		**(301,039)**	(453,443)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		**106,290**	**(81,403)**
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		**55,675**	**(40,853)**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		**120,396**	161,249
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	20	**176,071**	120,396

The notes on pages 13 to 30 form part of these financial statements

1. General information

The Association of Applied Biologists is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales under number 1195899.

The principal office address is Warwick Enterprise Park, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, CV35 9EF.

The principal activity of the charitable trust is to organise conferences and support publications, in order to support those working in the area of applied biology, and to promote advances in the field.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The Association of Applied Biologists meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The financial statements are presented in the CIO's functional currency of GBP (Sterling). They are prepared to the nearest £1.

2.2 Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the CIO has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the CIO has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the CIO has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the CIO, can be reliably measured.

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the CIO's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.4 Expenditure (continued)

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the CIO; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.6 Foreign currencies

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at rates of exchange ruling at the reporting date.

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate ruling on the date of the transaction.

Exchange gains and losses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2.7 Taxation

The Association of Applied Biologists has charitable status and is registered with the Charity Commission and is therefore exempt from paying Corporation Tax on charitable activities.

2.8 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £350 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

At each reporting date the CIO assesses whether there is any indication of impairment. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined to be the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. An impairment loss is recognised where the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.8 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation (continued)

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Office equipment	- 4 years straight line

2.9 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2.10 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.11 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.12 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the CIO anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

2.13 Financial instruments

The CIO only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.14 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

2.15 Pensions

The CIO operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge in the Statement of financial activities represents the amounts payable by the CIO to the fund in respect of the year. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the Charity pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the Charity has no further obligations.

Amounts not paid are shown in accruals as a liability in the Balance Sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the Charity in independently administered funds.

2.16 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the CIO and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the CIO for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Donations	69,264	**69,264**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Donations	26,861	26,861

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Conferences	315,888	**315,888**
Publications	490,943	**490,943**
Membership Fees	13,815	**13,815**
	820,646	**820,646**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Conferences	120,280	120,280
Publications	276,417	276,417
Membership Fees	14,238	14,238
	410,935	410,935

5. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Income from listed investments	16,842	**16,842**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income from listed investments	15,793	15,793
Bank interest received	22	22
	15,815	15,815

6. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Conferences	521,941	-	**521,941**
Publications	44,460	-	**44,460**
Membership fees	16,774	-	**16,774**
Early career professional travel grants and career grants	18,121	1,279	**19,400**
Management & administration costs	188,041	-	**188,041**
	789,337	1,279	**790,616**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Conferences	223,062	-	223,062
Publications	33,350	-	33,350
Membership fees	7,168	-	7,168
Early career professional travel grants and career grants	-	2,946	2,946
Management & administration costs	155,414	-	155,414
	418,994	2,946	421,940

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2025 £	**Grant funding of activities 2025 £**	**Support costs 2025 £**	**Total funds 2025 £**
Conferences	521,941	-	-	**521,941**
Publications	44,460	-	-	**44,460**
Membership Fees	16,774	-	-	**16,774**
Early career professional travel grants and career grants	-	19,400	-	**19,400**
Management & administration costs	-	-	188,041	**188,041**
	583,175	19,400	188,041	**790,616**

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	Grant funding of activities 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Conferences	223,062	-	-	223,062
Publications	33,350	-	-	33,350
Membership Fees	7,168	-	-	7,168
Early career professional travel grants and career grants	-	2,946	-	2,946
Management & administration costs	-	-	155,414	155,414
	263,580	2,946	155,414	421,940

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Staff costs	**108,273**	80,782
Depreciation	**-**	299
Staff training and welfare	**10,747**	8,635
Office costs	**3,804**	4,948
Miscellaneous expenses	**17,629**	13,084
Independent examiner fees	**3,700**	3,350
Legal fees	**1,135**	830
Establishment costs	**21,917**	27,563
Travel and accommodation	**648**	813
Governance costs	**20,188**	15,110
	188,041	155,414

8. Analysis of grants

	Grants to Individuals 2025 £	**Total funds 2025 £**
Early career professional travel grants and career grants	19,400	**19,400**

	Grants to Individuals 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Early career professional travel grants and career grants	2,946	2,946

9. Independent examiner's remuneration

	2025	2024
	£	£
Fees payable to the CIO's independent examiner for the independent examination of the CIO's annual financial statements	**3,700**	3,350

10. Staff costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**213,543**	153,120
Social security costs	**18,591**	14,895
Staff pension costs	**14,012**	14,037
	246,146	182,052

During the year, the Charity made redundancy payments of £36,000 to two former members of staff. Payments consisted of a statutory redundancy payment (termination payment) together with a payment in lieu of notice. Termination benefits are recognised only when the CIO is demonstrably committed to terminating employment before the normal retirement date or providing termination benefits to the employee.

The average number of persons employed by the CIO during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
Charitable Activities	**4**	4
Governance	**1**	1
	5	5

10. Staff costs (continued)

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	**1**	-

The key management personnel of the CIO comprise the management team, which includes the Executive Officer, the Finance and Office Manager and the Communications and Membership Manager. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the CIO was £149,896.

11. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2024 - £NIL).

During the period ended 31 December 2025, expenses totalling £1,032 were reimbursed to 5 Trustees (2024 - £ 1,323 to 7 Trustees). The expenses reimbursed primarily related to travel and subsistence costs incurred in attending Council meetings and various other meetings, and general administration costs.

12. Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment £
Cost	
At 1 January 2025	**75,231**
At 31 December 2025	**75,231**
Depreciation	
At 1 January 2025	**75,231**
At 31 December 2025	**75,231**
Net book value	
At 31 December 2025	**-**
At 31 December 2024	-

13. Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £	Cash in portfolio £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2025	**1,562,125**	**18,401**	**1,580,526**
Additions	**301,039**	**(301,039)**	**-**
Disposals	**(377,028)**	**390,487**	**13,459**
Revaluations	**66,699**	**-**	**66,699**
Income net of fees	**-**	**3,936**	**3,936**
Cash transfers out	**-**	**(100,000)**	**(100,000)**
At 31 December 2025	**1,552,835**	**11,785**	**1,564,620**

The historical cost of the listed investments at the period end was £1,365,330.

14. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	**1,836**	4,061
Other debtors	**300,008**	87,655
Prepayments and accrued income	**67,353**	2,582
	369,197	94,298

15. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	**26,062**	15,157
Other creditors	**1,228**	1,228
Accruals and deferred income	**139,031**	26,295
	166,321	42,680

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deferred income at 1 January	**22,275**	40,733
Resources deferred during the year	**135,331**	22,275
Amounts released from previous periods	**(22,275)**	(40,733)
	135,331	22,275

Deferred income relates to membership fees received in advance, sponsorship and fees for conferences and events taking place in the following year and advances receivable on publications in respect of the following year.

16. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds	**1,714,459**	**906,752**	**(789,337)**	**99,908**	**1,931,782**
Restricted funds					
Student travel grants	**1,279**	**-**	**(1,279)**	**-**	**-**
Total of funds	**1,715,738**	**906,752**	**(790,616)**	**99,908**	**1,931,782**

The restricted fund balance constitutes only one restricted fund, historically brought forward to be utilised for providing student travel grants, subject to applications being approved by the Association, and overseas travel grants. The grants are available to all students, whether members of the Association or not, but only available to students attending AAB conferences and meetings. For overseas travel grants, these are primarily for invited speakers and guests travelling from afar to attend conferences.

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds	1,589,232	453,611	(418,994)	90,610	1,714,459
Restricted funds					
Student travel grants	4,225	-	(2,946)	-	1,279
Total of funds	1,593,457	453,611	(421,940)	90,610	1,715,738

17. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2025 £
General funds	**1,714,459**	**906,752**	**(789,337)**	**99,908**	**1,931,782**
Restricted funds	**1,279**	**-**	**(1,279)**	**-**	**-**
	1,715,738	**906,752**	**(790,616)**	**99,908**	**1,931,782**

Summary of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
General funds	1,589,232	453,611	(418,994)	90,610	1,714,459
Restricted funds	4,225	-	(2,946)	-	1,279
	1,593,457	453,611	(421,940)	90,610	1,715,738

18. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Fixed asset investments	1,564,620	**1,564,620**
Current assets	533,483	**533,483**
Creditors due within one year	(166,321)	**(166,321)**
Total	1,931,782	**1,931,782**

18. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Fixed asset investments	1,562,125	-	1,562,125
Current assets	195,014	1,279	196,293
Creditors due within one year	(42,680)	-	(42,680)
Total	1,714,459	1,279	1,715,738

19. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Net income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	**216,044**	122,281
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	**-**	299
Gains on investments	**(98,559)**	(88,056)
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	**(16,842)**	(15,815)
Gain on the sale of fixed assets	**-**	(100)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	**(274,899)**	44,413
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	**123,641**	(22,472)
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	**(50,615)**	40,550

20. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash in hand	**164,286**	101,995
Cash held by investment managers	**11,785**	18,401
Total cash and cash equivalents	**176,071**	120,396

21. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 January 2025	**Cash flows**	**At 31 December 2025**
	£	**£**	**£**
Cash at bank and in hand	**101,995**	**62,291**	**164,286**

22. Pension commitments

The pension cost charge for the period represents contributions payable by the CIO to the scheme and amounted to £14,012 (2024: £14,037). The contributions payable to the fund at the balance sheet date were £Nil (2024: £Nil).

23. Operating lease commitments

The CIO had no commitments under non-cancellable operating leases at 31 December 2025.

24. Related party transactions

During the year, the Charity received sponsorship for a conference of £2,900 from The New Phytologist Foundation, a charity in which Prof D Sanders is also a trustee. At the balance sheet date, The New Phytologist Foundation owed £Nil to the CIO.



Association of Applied Biologists, Warwick Enterprise Park, Wellesbourne, Warwick CV35 9EF, UK
Registered Charity No. 1195899; http://www.aab.org.uk