

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 13th December 2023

The 2023 AGM will be held at **13.00** on the **13th December 2023**
in the main lecture theatre at the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
 2. Minutes of the last meeting
 3. Matters arising
 4. Officers' reports
 5. Election of Officers, Council Members and Editors
 6. Any other business
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COUNCIL MEETINGS 2022/23 (Winter 2022-Summer 2023 inclusive)

In accordance with Bye-Law 24, the following information is provided for members. Council has met three times during the last year. The names of Officers and Council Members, together with their attendance at meetings are given below. The first figure is the actual attendance; the second is the number of meetings the member was eligible to attend.

Officers

President:	David Hosken (2/3)
Secretary:	Paula Stockley (3/3) Sasha Dall (1/1)
Treasurer:	Mike Siva Jothy (3/3)
Executive Editor:	Andy Radford (3/3)
Communications Officer:	Kirsty Graham (2/3)
Secretary of the Ethical Committee:	Ines Furtbauer (2/3)
Secretary of the Education Committee:	Julia Myatt (3/3)
Secretary of the Grants Committee:	Kate Lessells (3/3)
European Secretary:	Tereza Petrusková (2/3)
Secretary of the Accreditation Committee:	Lynn Hewison (1/1)
Membership Secretary:	Anna Wilkinson (3/3)
Meetings Secretary:	Joah Madden (3/3)
EDIA Secretary:	Chiara Benvenuto (3/3)

Council Members

Sinead English (1/1)*, Stephanie King (1/2), Elisa Frasnelli (1/1), Friederike Hillemann (3/3), Christos Ioannou (2/3), Harry Marshall (1/2), Jen Perry (1/1)

*Maternity leave

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

There is a vacancy for President of the Society. A candidate for this position will be nominated by Council, for ratification at the AGM. Nominees for this position need to have suitable experience, and Council nominates the following: Professor Melissa Bateson (Newcastle University).

There are vacancies for Secretary of the Society, Communications Officer and Social Media Officer. These positions have been elected by the membership in an online election, to be announced at the AGM:

Secretary: Sasha Dall (University of Exeter)

Communications Officer: Sophia Daoudi-Simison (Newcastle University)

Social Media Officer: Jennifer Colbourne (University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna)

ELECTION OF ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR EDITORS

There are vacancies for *Animal Behaviour* Editors (2024-2026). Nominees for these positions need to have suitable experience, and Council nominates the following:

Emily Burdfield-Steel (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

Daniela Canestrari (University of Oviedo, Spain)

Kavita Isvaran (Indian Institute of Science Bangalore, India)

Jolle Jolles (Center for Ecological Research and Forestry Applications, Spain)

Changku Kang (Seoul National University, South Korea)

Manon Schweinfurth (University of St Andrews, UK)

Sue Anne Zollinger (Manchester Metropolitan University, UK)

Any alternative nominations from the membership must be signed by at least two members, be accompanied by the candidate's signed statement of acceptance, and must reach the Secretary before the start of the AGM.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

MINUTES of THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING –October 2022

The 2022 AGM was held online at 13.00 on the 5th October 2022

Present were Council members David Hosken, Sinead English, Elisa Frasnelli, Freddy Hillemann, Christos Ioannou, Kate Lessells, Chiara Benvenuto, Kirsty Graham, Lynn Hewison, Jen Perry, Tereza Petrusková, Mike Siva-Jothy, Julia Myatt, Andy Radford, Paula Stockley, Anna Wilkinson, and twelve ASAB members.

The President David Hosken took the chair and explained that there was an unavoidable delay in reporting ASAB's financial affairs but these would be presented at the winter conference¹.

1. Apologies were received from: Joah Madden, Ines Fürtbauer
2. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted.
3. Matters arising from the minutes: there were no matters arising.
4. Reports from the following officers were presented:
 - (i) Secretary (PS)
 - (ii) Meetings Secretary (JM) – summarised by DH – upcoming meetings were highlighted and members were requested to register interest online for the forthcoming winter meeting in Edinburgh.
 - (iii) Executive Editor (AR)
 - (iv) Secretary of the Equality, Diversity, Inclusivity and Accessibility Committee (CB) – CB asked members to contact her if they were interested in joining the EDIA committee.
 - (v) Secretary of the Grants Committee (KL)
 - (vi) Communications Officer (KG) – KG noted a new idea to survey members, asking where they get their news about ASAB, and what is the most effective format for them.
 - (vii) Secretary of the Education Committee (JM)
 - (viii) Membership Secretary (AW)
 - (ix) Secretary of the Accreditation Committee (LH)
 - (x) Secretary of the European Committee (TP)
 - (xi) Secretary of the Ethics Committee (IF) – summarised by DH

During the presentation of the reports, the following issues were raised and discussed: A member asked how to register interest for the winter meeting, and DH advised that there would be a link on the conference website. JM reported a new idea for kits to go into schools. DH thanked JM and asked for the idea to be brought to the Winter Council meeting. DH asked AW to explain why some members may

¹ The Treasurer's report for the financial year 2021 was presented by MSJ at the ASAB winter conference in Edinburgh on December 6th 2022, and is included with the AGM reports.

need a fee waiver to join. AW explained there may be a variety of reasons, including that someone can't afford to pay, or there can be difficulties with transferring payment from some countries. A case should be made explaining the motivation for requesting a fee waiver and these will be considered on an individual basis.

DH thanked all Council members.

5. Election of Secretaries, Council Members and Editors

There was a vacancy for Treasurer of the Society. DH reported that a candidate for this position had been nominated and co-opted by Council, for ratification at the AGM. The Nominee for this position was Professor Mike Siva-Jothy (University of Sheffield). Prof Siva-Jothy was duly elected (carried *nem. con.*).

There were vacancies for European Secretary, Secretary of the Grants Committee and up to two Ordinary Members of Council. These positions were elected by the membership in on an online election, and announced at the AGM.

Successful nominees for these positions were:

European Secretary: Tereza Petrusková

Secretary of the Grants Committee: Kate Lessells

Ordinary Council Members: Stephanie King, Harry Marshall

DH congratulated the elected Council members and thanked all the nominees for their participation in this process, which is so vital to ASAB's functioning.

The following Editors were then duly elected (carried *nem. con.*, with each proposed by AR and seconded by DH):

Stephanie King, University of Bristol

James Herbert-Read, University of Cambridge

Wouter Halfwerk, Amsterdam University

Erica van de Waal, University of Lausanne

Meg Crofoot, Max Planck Institute of Animal Behaviour and University of Konstanz

Çağlar Akçay, Anglia Ruskin University

DH thanked AR and the new Animal Behaviour Editors for stepping up for these roles, which are so vitally important to the Society.

6. Any other business.

Vivek Nityananda asked if we can reach out with an open call for the positions appointed. PS explained that regular open calls are made for positions on Council. These are advertised in the ASAB newsletter and on ASAB social media accounts, typically around the Spring meeting. With respect to editorial roles, AR explained that he usually has to approach people, and that this requires some planning as it is important to balance appointments covering different topic areas, as well as geographical areas and genders. Starting as a consulting editor is a good way to

progress to being an editor, for those who are interested in this role, and there are broad opportunities to contribute here (currently 24 consulting editors). CB noted that the EDIA Committee were asking for greater proactivity from members in nominating candidates for ASAB's awards, so that we can choose from a broader pool of candidates.

DH closed the meeting, thanking everyone for participating, especially Mike Siva-Jothy for taking on the Treasurer role.

The meeting closed at 14.00.

Secretary's Annual Report 2023

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to ASAB this year.

As this is my last AGM, I'd like to thank ASAB Council and all our membership for making my role as ASAB Secretary so rewarding. Sasha Dall has been elected by the membership to take over, and I've been shadowing Sasha in the role since the summer when he was co-opted by Council. I'm sure that Sasha will do an excellent job and I will continue to offer my support.

There have been some other changes to ASAB Council that I can also update you on.

Following an online election last year, we have welcomed new ordinary members of Council Stephanie King and Harry Marshall. Kate Lessells was re-elected as Grants Secretary, and Tereza Petruskova as European Secretary.

Special thanks are due to outgoing Council members Elisa Frasnelli and Jen Perry, who completed their terms as ordinary members. We are extremely grateful for their contributions.

We've also had some fantastic conferences this year. Our meetings Secretary Jo Madden will cover these in more detail, however, I would just like to say that ASAB Council is extremely grateful to those members who have put so much work into organizing these excellent meetings and helping with their smooth running.

Our annual awards and Tinbergen Lecture were as follows:

- **The 2022 ASAB Medal** was awarded during our winter meeting to **Prof Nicola Clayton**, for outstanding contributions to animal behaviour, including ground-breaking work on animal intelligence, memory and cognition. We are delighted that Nicky was able to attend our winter meeting to receive this award.
- The **2022 Tinbergen Lecture** was also given by **Prof Nicola Clayton** at our winter meeting. Nicky is a highly deserving recipient of both of these prestigious awards, and gave a fascinating presentation showcasing her innovative and inspiring work.
- The **2023 Chris Barnard Young Investigator Award** went to **Dr David Fisher**, in recognition of outstanding work in the field of animal social behaviour. We were delighted that David was able to attend our spring postgraduate conference in person to receive this award, where he gave an inspiring plenary lecture.

Finally, I would like to thank David Hosken, Mike Siva-Jothy, Andy Radford, Jo Madden and Kirsty Graham for all their help and support in my role, and all of ASAB Council for their tremendous hard work over the past year.

Paula Stockley, November 27th 2023, Liverpool

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

Company Registration #: 01182908
Charity Registration #: 268494 and SC037584
VAT #: 114493035

Treasurer's Report for the financial year **2022**

Edinburgh AGM Dec 2023

Introduction

This is the Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended **31st December 2022**. The complete financial statements document (a separate pdf) - on which this report is based - has been prepared by RSM UK Audit LLP and complies with the Charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS102) and Companies Act 2006.

Report

ASAB is a charitable company whose core financial plan is to balance income and expenditure, while retaining sufficient capital to generate ethical investment income and mitigate financial risk. Our core academic aims are the advancement of the science of animal behaviour through the promotion and support of the study of animal behaviour, the publication and dissemination of the results of such studies and research, and the furtherance of education about animal behaviour.

ASAB's total funds on 31st December 2022 were £3,572,271 (a decrease of -10.7% on 2021 (£3,998,538)).

The net change in total financial resources for the year, before adjusting for net gains/losses on investment assets, was -£426,267 (which is -10.6% of our total funds).

Expenditure

Expenditure on 61 ASAB research, travel and childcare grants was £119,184 in 2022 (-22% on the 44 grants awarded in 2021 (£151,748)). Meetings costs increased by +75% to £13,826, and spend on education increased by +30% to £27,812.

Income

The main source of income for the Association from the net journal surplus was up at £597,061. Gross income from the journal decreased by -3% to £550,181. Membership subscriptions and sundry income increased by +90% to £52,108 and

investment dividend income increased by +80% to £40,719. However (as stated above) the capital value of ASAB's investment portfolio and cash decreased to £3,572,271 (-10.6% (-£426,267) on the 2021 portfolio end-of-year value).

I thank ASAB council for their judicious use of funds, as well as the membership, the *Animal Behaviour* journal team and Elsevier for a healthy journal income stream. Unfortunately market turbulence has impacted our investment capital and I will shortly be talking to our investment company (on behalf of the Trustees) to better understand this loss and implement mitigation strategies.

I am extremely grateful to the ASAB's trustees and all the council members who helped throughout the 2023 audit.

Finally, many thanks to RSM and Brewin Dolphin for managing and auditing our assets.

I propose that RSM UK LLP be re-appointed as auditors of the company for the 2023 accounts and to process our VAT returns for 2024.

Please email me (ASAB.treasurer@proton.me) with any queries you have about either the consolidated or full financial report.

Prof. Mike Siva-Jothy

ASAB Treasurer
50 Crimicar Lane
Fulwood
Sheffield S10 4FB
UK

November 22nd 2023

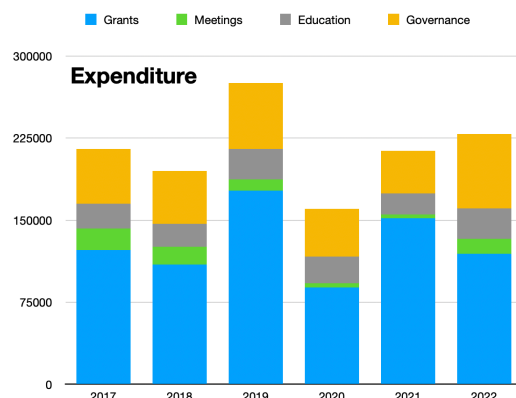
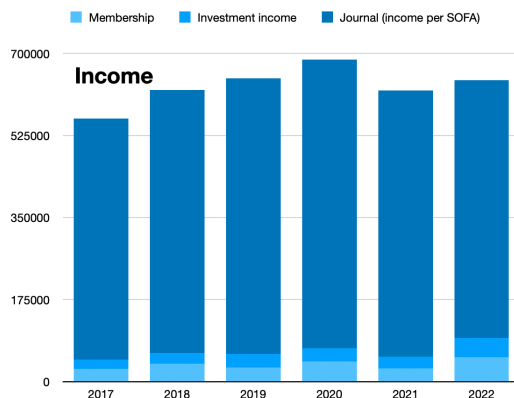
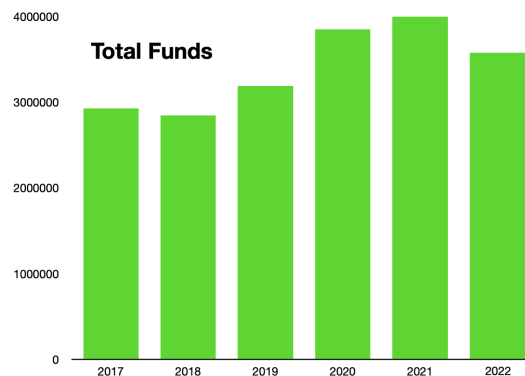
Audit recommendations (from RSM) on controls:

- Resolve the Santander account issue.
- Request supporting documentation for the pension standing order
- Resolve the cut-off errors for expenditure at year end (this is caused by our winter conference grants and the time taken to claim them)

Financial trends - Graphical summary

NB: 'income' and 'expenditure' figures show selected, sometimes compound, components of income / expenditure: please refer to the full report for a detailed breakdown for 2022.

	Total Funds	Expenditure (grants)	Meetings	Education	Governance	Membership	Investment income	Journal (income per SOFA)
2017	2926203	122789	19325	22842	50120	27531	19660	514154
2018	2844390	109283	16427	21015	48124	37994	23199	560428
2019	3187806	177123	10153	27667	60404	29809	29645	587108
2020	3846672	88220	4010	24516	43331	43232	27945	615913
2021	3998538	151748	3377	19473	38667	28137	24814	568188
2022	3572271	119184	13826	27812	67949	52108	40719	550181



Meetings Secretary Report AGM 2023

It's been a busy year for ASAB scientific meetings. ASAB has provided and supported a real mix of formats and themes this year. We have hosted/supported in-person the three "normal" meetings, joined with the Animal Behaviour Society to host an international (free) Twitter conference in early 2023, and funded two plenary speakers at ISSABC. The Winter meeting was made freely accessible online. ASAB is extremely grateful to all the people involved in organising, running and supporting these meetings. Thank you all.

I'd like to remind members that, in contrast to a growing number of other learned societies in ecology and evolution, ASAB meetings are run entirely by very generous volunteers. This ensures that our meetings remain highly accessible to all, grounded within the values of the society with direct links to members, and yet still of the highest scientific quality. I'd like to invite all members to consider how they might contribute to this exciting aspect of our Society. Obviously, participating and presenting is the bedrock of such events and it's been brilliant to see such a wide range of research presented over the past year. We also welcome members who might offer to host networking events at those meetings (e.g. LGBT+ meets, mentor-meets, theme cafes, group jogging, collective karaoke (!!), etc.). The Easter meetings depend on an institution to host them, and this is where PIs can contribute by offering venues and coordinating the event. The Winter meetings depend on a group of members to drive forward the science by proposing a theme and curating the events, while ASAB sorts the venues and logistics. We also welcome approaches for workshops and support them with funding.

As many of us have experienced, pressures on our time are only growing and hence several institutions and groups that I have approached to host future meetings have declined for these reasons. However, future meetings are dependent on this support, so I'd ask specifically for expressions of interest in hosting:

Summer 2025 – this "slot" offers us an opportunity for an ASAB led summer meeting while Behaviour, which we usually support if it falls within Europe, is held in India. I am looking for either an institution or a group of researchers with a shared theme to lead this meeting. It could be in person, or we might use this opportunity to run a fully on-line event to ensure high accessibility to as many members as possible, so as to reduce barriers of cost, time and carbon.

Winter 2025 – this event is themed. The logistics are organised by ASAB and there is no budgetary responsibility for you. Typically, this is organised by a group of 3-5 researchers from multiple institutions with a shared thematic interest.

Spring 2026 – this event focusses on ECRs and is usually hosted in-person by an institution or group of local institutions with a couple of days un-themed research preceded by a day of professional development workshops and peer support.

I have added a revised set of advice notes on running each of these meetings to the ASAB website. The ASAB meeting secretary directly supports the organisation of these meetings, from preliminary discussions, sharing advice and previous best practice, advising on budgets and advertising, facilitating ASAB budget support, and running logistics for the Winter meetings. If you are interested in leading or contributing to any of these meetings, please do contact me directly
j.r.madden@exeter.ac.uk

Reminder of Funding Support

I'd like to remind members of the funding support that ASAB offers to help members travel to, and cover care costs for, ASAB meetings [Grant and Awards Overview — ASAB](#)

As a society, we are keen to support and encourage your attendance so please do make use of this aspect of your membership.

Recent Meetings:

Winter ASAB 2022: Christine Beardsworth (NIOZ), Francesca Cagnacci (FMACH), Ying Chi Chan (NIOZ) and Myles Menzl (AB MPI) organised the meeting entitled Animal Movement on Tuesday 6 & Weds 7 December 2022. Around 300 people attended in person and the meeting was streamed to members and hublets. Lucy Hawkes (University of Exeter) gave a 'public lecture' aimed at School children/6th form in conjunction with ASAB Education. This was very well received and we hope to repeat (and extend) this at future Winter meetings. Plenaries included: Rosie Woodruffe (ZSL), Ran Nathan (Tel Aviv University), Nicky Clayton gave the Tinbergen Lecture and received the ASAB medal, delayed from the Summer 2022 meeting.

Animal Behaviour Twitter Meeting: Joint led by ASAB/ABS (Jess Cusick, Kirsty Graham, Cass Raby). 18-19 Jan 2023 [Twitter conference | Animal Behaviour ABS ASAB \(animbehav2023.com\)](https://twitter.com/animbehav2023). This involved >130 presentations from around the world. There was again a focus on education with talks aimed at School-aged students. Members of the organising team are analysing feedback and intend to write one or two papers documenting the event which may be suitable for inclusion in Animal Behaviour as one of the Society papers.

Spring ASAB 2023: Richard Holland and others (Bangor University) hosted an excellent meeting: 28-30 March 2023. Ines Furtebauer and Stephen Montgomery spoke as plenaries. There will also be the Chris Barnard medal winner, David Fisher spoke as the Chris Barnard winner. There was a well-attended series of workshops covering employability inside and outside academia and on publishing. About 130 people attended in person. There was a social and ceilidh on the second evening of the meeting.

ISSABC 2023: This student led/facing meeting was hosted by Janire Castellana Bueno, Alexandros Vezyrakis, Chris Miller, Alejandra Cespedes Gonzalez, Lucia Yllan and Peter Xu. It ran 21-23 June in Mexico City. ASAB funded two plenaries Sonja Wild and Filipa Abreu (agreed because total travel costs were kept <£1500). I gather from SM posts that it was a successful and well received meeting.

Behaviour/Summer ASAB 2023: This was hosted by a team from Bielefeld University on 14-20 August 2023 in Bielefeld. Plenaries included Zanna Clay, Devi Stuart Fox, Gloriana Chaverri, Melissa Bateson, Mauricio Cantor, Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka, Stotra Chakrabarti, Michael Kasumovic, Julia Saltz and Meg Crofoot. ASAB provided funding to support 2 plenary speakers and for a large number of attendee members. There was good engagement at an ASAB stall. Around 800 delegates attended.

Future Meetings:

Winter ASAB 2023: The RCPE Venue in Edinburgh has been booked for 13 & 14 December 2023. Anna Wilkinson (University of Lincoln), Elisa Frasnelli (University of Trento), Tom Pike (Lincoln) and Tim Simon (Lincoln) will lead a meeting with the theme Animal Cognition: Pure to Applied. They have invited Alice Auersperg, University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna, Austria, Elli Leadbeater, Royal Holloway, University of London, UK and for the Outreach lecture: Gillian Forrester, University of Sussex, UK Giorgio Vallortigara as the Tinbergen Lecturer.

Spring ASAB 2024: Tuesday 23-Thursday 25 April 2024. Lauren Brent, Sam Ellis, Andy Higginson & Lisa Leaver (University of Exeter) have agreed to organise this meeting and plans are well developed. Invited plenaries include: Stephanie King, Tom Tregenza and Sigrunn Eliasunn. The likely theme for the workshops will be "The use of AI in animal behaviour research"

Summer ASAB 2024: Tuesday 16-Friday 19 July, Zurich University (<https://www.ecbb.uzh.ch/>) This is being led by Damien Farine, Anna Lindholm, Lucy Aplin and Marta Manser with the theme “Long-term studies in animal behaviour”.

Winter ASAB 2024: Thursday 12-Friday 13 December 2024, Edinburgh RCPE. Chiara Benvenuto has approached me on behalf of the EDIA committee who have expressed interest in organising this event with a suggested a title of “Risks of bias in studies of animal behaviour” to cover e.g. conceptual biases, methodological biases, statistical biases, publication biases as well as the kinds of biases in researchers composition and experience that the EDIA team highlight as well as some of the recent obvious biases/fabrications that have tainted animal behaviour.

Spring ASAB 2025: A team from LJMU have expressed interest and I am developing ideas with them about this.

Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour
Annual Report of the *Animal Behaviour* Executive Editor
December 2023

Submission rates

In the year ending 30 April 2023, the European Editorial Office received 336 research articles compared to 377 in 2021–2022. This represents a decrease of 11%. The North American Office received 215 research articles compared to 245 in 2021–2022, a decrease of 12%. Across the two offices, the total number of submitted research articles was 551 (622 in 2021–2022), a decrease of 11%. The European (North American) Offices also received 8 (7) Reviews, 9 (6) Commentaries and 0 (1) Forum articles. There were also 0 (10) Special Issue articles. This gives a total of 592 manuscripts submitted to the journal (compared to 655 in 2021–2022). The decline in submissions is almost certainly related to continued fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic; the hope is that there will now be an upturn in submissions moving forward.

Acceptance rates and manuscript processing

Decisions were made on 322 articles in the European Office. Of these, 111 (35%) were accepted for publication. In the North American Office, decisions were made on 231 articles, with 84 (36%) accepted. Over the two offices, therefore, the acceptance rate was 35% (compared to 34% in 2021–2022); this is below, but on the right side, and close to our notional target of 40%. In the European (North American) Office, the acceptance rates according to article category were: Research articles 35% (37%), Reviews 20% (0%), Commentaries 25% (40%) and Forum articles 0% (0%).

In 2022–2023, the mean time from submission to first decision for the European (North American) Office was 52 (47) days, which reflects an increase of 9 (7) days compared to 2021–2022. Over both offices, the mean time from submission to decision was 49 days, an increase from last year (42 days) and 8 days above the target of 41 days that Elsevier suggests for a journal of our size. We are working on ways to try and bring this back down again. Mean time from submission to online publication of accepted articles was 29 weeks compared to 33 weeks in 2021–2022, so represents a good improvement on that front.

Average copy-editing time (which includes author time to revise) for the European Office was 45 days (105 papers) compared to 36 days (126 papers) in 2021–2022. For the North American Office, average copy-editing time (which includes author time to revise) was 43 days (83 papers) compared to 66 days (107 papers) in 2021–2022. Across both offices, average copy-editing time was 44 days compared to 51 days in 2021–2022.

Editors' choice articles

The Executive Editors choose two articles (one from each office) from each volume to receive free promotional access on Science Direct for 6 months (termed Editor's Choice articles).

Personnel and editorial office

European Office

Gareth Arnott, Jackie Chappell, Lucy Aplin, Selvino de Kort, Simone Ciuti formally finished their official term as Editors at the end of 2022; they all kindly continued to handle the last few manuscripts initially assigned to them that were still in the process of being considered during 2023. We welcomed six new members onto the Editorial Board in 2023: Çağlar Akçay, Wouter Halfwerk, James Herbert-Read, Stephanie King and Erica van de Waal as Editors for Research articles, and Alex Thorton as a newly created Review Editor. With Matthew Bell, Lauren Brent, Sarah Collins, Thérésa Jones, Gerlind Lehmann, Zenobia Lewis, Mathieu Lihoreau, Nicholas Newton-Fisher, Bibiana Rojas, Lysanne Snijders, Carl Soulsbury and Toshitaka Suzuki continuing from last year, the European Editorial Board stands at 18 members. I would like to thank them all formally for their hard work, often going above and beyond the call of duty. Similarly, my heartfelt thanks to Angela Turner (Managing Editor), Justine Fox (Editorial Assistant) and Sue Healy (Publishing Ethics Editor), whose fantastic work is so crucial to the running and success of the journal.

North American Office

Two editors formally finished their duties as Editors during 2022–2023: Rindy Anderson and Oscar Ríos-Cárdenas. With Elizabeth Archie, Aimee Dunlap, Luis Ebensperger, Andy Horn, Melissa Hughes, Scott MacDougall-Shackleton, Glauco Machado, Alicia Mathis, Katie McGhee, Ronald Rutowski and Jennifer Elaine Smith continuing from last year, the US Editorial Board stands at 11 members.

New developments

Mandatory data provision at paper submission, unless there is a compelling reason why this is not possible. This has been rolled out successfully, with no major issues to report.

Trialling of two new article types – ‘Methods’ and ‘Datasets’. Both have been successful and so will be rolled out fully in January 2024 (with relevant changes to the Author Guidelines).

Three paper prizes for submissions through each of the European and North American Offices, each worth £2,000 to be spent on animal behaviour research or related activities (e.g., conference attendance). The first of these will be announced in December 2023. For each Office, there is:

- a) A student award - for any first author whose paper was accepted whilst they were still an undergraduate, Masters or PhD student.
- b) An early-career award - for any first or last author whose paper was accepted within 3 years (full-time equivalent) of receiving their PhD (accounting for breaks due to, for example, illness or parental leave).
- c) A geographical award - for any first or last author from an institute in a Low or Middle income country in the World Bank’s classification by the income of countries (<https://data.worldbank.org/income-level/low-and-middle-income>).

Andy Radford
Executive Editor

Secretary for Equality, Diversity, Inclusivity and Accessibility (EDIA)

AGM Report 2023

I am happy to report on the third year of activity of the EDIA Committee, established in September 2020. The role of the Committee is to provide leadership for ASAB and its members, to encourage learning, discussion, and understanding about equality, diversity, inclusivity and accessibility, and provide support and opportunities to underrepresented groups (including women and underrepresented minorities); the EDIA Committee works alongside other ASAB committees and provide guidance on specific issues for other committees, as reported on the terms of Reference (see <https://www.asab.org/edia-overview>).

In the past years the committee has changed part of its membership: from the 19 initial members, we arrived to 28 last year and now we have 25 members (full list and some biographies with photos to show who we are, are available at <https://www.asab.org/edia-committee>). Members can get involved and add their input in the online meetings (before our main conferences) and in person at the conferences themselves. Some members recently left the committee due to academic overcommitment/overload, but anyone can join the committee. We appreciate this dynamic and active exchange of ideas. For this, I am thankful to all members of the EDIA Committee for their participation.

Successful interactions have taken place with all other ASAB Committees (Grants and Awards, Education, Communication, Membership, Meetings). The EDIA success is due to the collaboration within the overall Society, as EDIA is embedded in ASAB, not a separate part of Society. Interactions have included conference etiquette, grants, prizes/awards. I also would like to highlight the successful interaction with the Education committee for valuable campaigns on social media (e.g., #WomenAndGirlsInScience, #PrideMonth). In my role of Secretary for EDIA I have regular meetings with the Diversity and Inclusion Working Group of The Royal Society of Biology and with representatives of the British Ecological Society.

Finally, specific meetings have been organized in the past 4 months to propose and start the organization of the Winter 2024 meeting, which will be dedicate to “Addressing biases in animal behaviour”. We have a core organizing committee, a scientific committee and everyone is invited to participate! We aim to bring together a diverse range of experts to critically reflect on research biases and share best practice to address them (from expectation biases, to geographic biases, to historic biases and more). We want to discuss a system-change approach to improve underlying conditions relating to equity, diversity and inclusion in the field of Animal Behaviour.

I am very grateful to all EDIA Committee members for their commitment and valuable input, to all Council members for their support and contribution, and to all ASAB members, who makes our Society diverse and inclusive.

Chiara Benvenuto

Secretary of the EDIA Committee

**Grants Committee AGM report 2023
(for the calendar year 2022)**

2022 saw the lifting all covid restrictions and the return to in-person conferences and workshops - and hence of Conference Attendance and Childcare Grants. In addition, based on decisions made by Council in December 2021, the value of individual Undergraduate Project Scholarships was increased considerably, a new grant type – Accessibility Grants – was introduced, and the extra funding for individual Undergraduate Project Scholarships and Conference Attendance Grants made available to applicants from Developing Countries.

Six types of grants were offered by Grants Committee in 2024: Research Grants, Undergraduate Project Scholarships, ASAB Conference Attendance Grants, Childcare Grants, Accessibility Grants and Interdisciplinary Workshop Grants.

In 2022 we received 124 requests for funding, of which 115 were eligible. A total of £116,935 was awarded, an increase of 5% compared with £111,694 in 2021. The number of eligible applications, the number awarded and the amount awarded are given below for each grant type:

	N eligible applications (% change from 2021 and/or 2019*)	N (% of eligible) awarded	Amount awarded (% change from 2021 or 2019*)
Research grants	23 (-8%)	7 (30%)	£60,260 (-37%)
Undergraduate project scholarships	7 (-12%)	4 (57%)	£14,880 (+34%)
Interdisciplinary workshop grants	1(0%)	1 (100%)	£5,000 (+2%)
Conference attendance grants	80(-9%*)	71(89%)	£35,902(-2%*)
Childcare grants	4(+33%*)	3(75%)	£893(+28%*)
Accessibility grants†	0	-	£-
Total for grants administered by Grants Committee	115 (+238%, +26%*)	86 (75%)	£116,935 (+5%, +2%*)

*2019 was the most recent earlier year in which in-person conferences were held, and hence Conference Attendance Grants and Childcare Grants awarded.

†2022 was the year that Accessibility grants were first offered.

Research grants: 2022 saw a slight decrease in the number of eligible applications relative to 2021, but a large decrease (37%) in the total value of Research Grants awarded. This resulted from a higher proportion of eligible applications being awarded in 2021 than in 2022. Typically, over a longer run of years, about a third of eligible research grant applications are funded. Grants Committee endeavours to maintain a constant standard for the grants that are funded across grants rounds and years, so the higher percentage of applications funded in 2021 implies a higher standard of applications in that year, with a return to near-average standard in 2022.

Undergraduate project scholarships: 2022 saw changes to the rules relating for Undergraduate Project Scholarships agreed by ASAB Council in December 2021. The maximum amount of the award increased from £2,500 (fixed in 2014) to £3,800, and a mechanism was put in place to increment the amount of the award annually. The range of expenses that can be covered by the scholarships was increased to include travel. In addition, applicants at an Institute in a Developing Country* proposing a project in another country may request up to £1000 more for expenses that are entailed by carrying out the project in another country (eg travel, visas, living costs). (*a 'Developing Country' is defined here as a 'Low' or 'Middle' income country in the [World Bank's classification of the income of countries](#)). Finally, the eligibility rules were changed to exclude those who had previously received an Undergraduate Project Scholarship from applying again. In 2022, 4 students from among 7 eligible applicants were awarded an Undergraduate Project Scholarship, including a student from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali, India to carry out a project at the University of Bielefeld Germany and who benefited from the extra funding available to applicants from developing countries.

Interdisciplinary grants: There was one application for a hybrid in-person/online workshop, which was funded.

Conference attendance grants, Childcare grants and Accessibility Grants: 2022 saw changes in the rules relating to Conference Attendance Grants, and the introduction of Accessibility Grants, both agreed by ASAB Council in December 2021. Developing country applicants - defined as being citizens of, and working within, a Low or Middle Income country as defined by the World Bank - can apply for a higher maximum award (£2,500) compared to other applicants (£500). A total of three such applicants (all from India) were able to attend ASAB conferences (one for each of the conferences held in 2022) as a result of the higher grant available to them. No eligible applications were received for Accessibility Grants.

On behalf of ASAB, I would like to thank Sinead English, Christos Ioannou and Jen Perry for their dedicated service as members of the Committee (which began for all three at the beginning of 2022, and ended for Jen Perry at the end of 2022), and Chiara Benvenuto, Elisa Frasnelli, Dave Hosken and Tereza Petrusková for additional help in assessing grants. I would also like to thank Mike Siva-Jothy, Dave Hosken, Kirsty Graham, Paula Stockley,

Anna Wilkinson and Joah Madden for supporting the functioning of the Committee in various ways.

Kate Lessells
December 2023

ASAB – Communications Report, Winter 2023 & AGM

Mailing List

The ASAB mailing list remains active. This is an opt-in open mailing list hosted by Jisc (<https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/ANIMAL-BEHAVIOUR>). Posting to the list is open to all members. You can unsubscribe from the list by going to the group homepage BEHAVIOUR and choosing the 'Unsubscribe' link from that page. Alternatively, send the following command to listserv@jiscmail.ac.uk: unsubscribe GROUPNAME.

Google Calendar

We have an [ASAB Google Calendar](#), that folks can subscribe to so that they can get reminders of upcoming grant deadlines and events. If you have anything to add to the calendar, please email asabwebeditor@gmail.com

Website

Our website www.asab.org is hosted on SquareSpace, and has information about ASAB committees, grants, events, and more. In 2023 asab.org has received 50K unique visits; 83K unique page and 40K unique visitors. Thank you to all committee chairs and members of council who support the website management.

Completed Action: KG and MS-J have set up direct payment through Active 24 to avoid disruption to web hosting, rather than transferring to SquareSpace so as not to disrupt email hosting. Next Communication Officer to revisit this arrangement in 2024.

Newsletters 2022-23

Since the last AGM we have sent four Newsletters (Autumn 2022, Spring 2023, Summer 2023, Autumn 2023) that can be found on the [Newsletter page of our website](#). ASAB members can contribute to the newsletter with written pieces and photos from ASAB meetings or other news items, please email me at asabwebeditor@gmail.com. Thank you to all committee chairs and council members for contributing to the newsletter content.

Completed Action: KG upgraded SquareSpace to replace MailChimp as our platform for newsletters and email campaigns – the Summer and Autumn 2023 newsletter was sent this way.

Social Media

The Facebook page has 3.8K followers and 3.6K likes, our new Instagram has 171 followers, and we have 9,050 followers on Twitter/X (all accounts: @asab_tweets). We have set up a Mastodon account (@ASAB@ecoevo.social) but are not very active there yet.

Education Committee Report to the ASAB AGM, Dec 2023

The remit of the ASAB Education Committee is to promote and support the teaching of animal behaviour in schools, colleges and institutes of Higher Education.

Summary

This year we have continued to develop and publish new, and maintain existing, education resource packs for teachers and lecturers to use in the teaching of animal behaviour topics and to apply the underlying principles of behaviour to other subjects. In particular we are keen to explore ways to ensure that the importance of animal behaviour in the curriculum is highlighted and are exploring ways to do this through links to climate change and animal welfare in collaboration with the Royal Society of Biology and new qualifications such as the Natural History GCSE.

If you are interested in developing education teaching resources, or are willing to share your existing resources, please get in touch. Please contact education@asab.org if you are interested.

Activities Summary 2022-23

- Dr Lucy Hawkes presented an **Outreach Plenary at the 2022 Winter Meeting** which was also attended by advanced higher biology students from The Royal High School Edinburgh. The students also attended a **careers talk** (led by Julis Myatt and Charlotte Evans) and judged the posters presented to award a '**student's choice prize**'. Thanks also go to Dr Christine Beardsworth for her great enthusiasm and organisational input on behalf of the conference organising team.
- The World's second **international animal behaviour twitter conference** took place in January. The education committee was represented by a plenary speaker Dr Paul Weeks and a section of the talks had an education theme. Our resources were also highlighted.
- **Visit to Easton College** to provide a talk to their Zoology and Animal Science and Welfare students by Dr Eleanor Drinkwater on behalf of ASAB.
- **International Turtle Day** in May was recognised by a social media post supported by Romilly Wolstenholme – Project Student at the University of Birmingham.
- **Pride Twitter Campaign** June 2023: Every day in June we published posters highlighting a range of scientists working in animal behaviour science. These scientists were members of the LGBTQ+ community or their allies and the Tweets were viewed over 47,000 times.
- **Oxford IF** festival in October saw ASAB supporting Alun Anderson (former Editor in Chief of New Scientist, whose PhD and post-doc research was in animal behaviour) and musician Camilla Saunders www.littleweed-music.org. They created a stringed musical instrument, inspired by a spider and its web and were joined by Amber Harper (PhD student at Oxford Brookes) who brought along some real spiders.
- **Big Biology Day** Cambridge in October. This event is always well attended (over 1500 attended the event). Charlotte individually saw over 200 young people who enjoyed the activities offered and the ASAB colouring books.

- We continue to support further engagement through our **public engagement grants**, and we have awarded six awards this year. Importantly the breadth of these awards is global with projects supported in the UK, India, Sweden, Nigeria and Portugal.
- This year has been one of the most successful years in terms of awarding **Undergraduate Prizes** and we now have seven institutions that provide an annual award to one of their undergraduates in the field of animal behaviour.
- Our **social media channels** (managed by Charlotte Evans) are incredibly popular and active. These include Facebook (1114 followers) and X (formerly known as Twitter; 1712 followers).
- ASAB are now content consultants and supporters of the new **Natural History GCSE** (through OCR).
- Working with the **Royal Society of Biology** we are creating a policy brief/lens article to shine a spotlight on the importance of animal behaviour in biology education at school.
- Our **education resources** are widely available on our own website, Vimeo, TES, National STEM Centre and now also via the [National Education Nature Park](#) with the Natural History Museum. For a summary of web links see [here](#).

I would like to particularly thank Charlotte Evans, without whom, this activity and engagement would not be possible, in addition to the other members of the education committee for their enthusiasm and support throughout the year.

Julia Myatt ASAB Education Secretary Email: j.p.myatt@bham.ac.uk

Charlotte Evans ASAB Education Officer Email: Behaviour@asab.org

Membership Secretary Report – Winter Meeting, 2023

The membership website seems to be running smoothly and our annual renewal went well.

Our membership numbers have increased slightly this year. There are currently **1403** active members of ASAB. This year the AGM is later than normal and the membership numbers for the comparable time period to previous years were **1359**.

This compares to...

1341 in 2022

1369 in 2021

1177 in 2020

1203 in 2019

The process involved in members getting online access to Animal appears to be running well.

Members receive a number that is automatically generated by our membership system, after processing, this can be used access Animal Behaviour. Members can check their access number on our system at any time.

Many members have moved to online only access to Animal Behaviour and I expect that this trend will continue.

ASAB appreciates that not everyone who would like to be a member is able to pay membership fees. We have therefore introduced a fee waiver system to support those individuals. We have now awarded 10 fee waivers. Please see website for full details of application.

We ran our online Council elections over the summer. The process went well and I believe that all members who wished to vote were readily able to do so.

ASAB EUROPEAN SECRETARY

AGM REPORT 2023

I have been in contact with Damien Farine, one of the organisers of the ECBB 2024 in Zurich. The website is now active, relevant information is available (but not the registration fees), and the organisers are discussing some details with Jo Madden.

I am also trying to organise an online CESBB meeting in December 2023, where I will start looking for organisers for ECBB 2028.

I met briefly with Jake Dunn, one of the organisers of ECBB 2026 in Sapporo, at the IBAC conference.

With Jo Madden I have been working on updating the guidelines for organisers of ASAB meetings and ECBB, where I have also added an "appendix" with a suggestion for evaluation of student posters (after the experience of ECBB 2022).



Tereza Petrusková

Prague, 27 November 2023

Ethical Committee Report, AGM December 13th 2023

Who we are

The ASAB Ethical Committee currently consists of 17 members with a diverse range of interests and expertise to cover the broad spectrum of research papers received by ASAB's journal *Animal Behaviour*. Over the last year, we welcomed one new committee member – Dr Edwin Louis-Maerten.

What we do

The ASAB Ethical Committee promotes the ethical treatment of animal subjects used in research and teaching.

We advise ASAB Council and members and the scientific and teaching community on ethical issues which affect them in the process of designing and conducting ethological research and communicate and advise on current best practice with respect to the treatment of animals used in research and teaching. The "Guidelines for the ethical treatment of nonhuman animals in behavioural research and teaching" produced by the society are published annually in the January edition of *Animal Behaviour*. The last full revision of the Guidelines was completed in 2022 (published in January 2023).

We also ethically review scientific papers submitted to the *Animal Behaviour*. Note that we do not oversee adherence to the ASAB/ABS ethical guidelines for work submitted to journals other than *Animal Behaviour*. Between 01/05/2022 and 30/04/2023 (i.e. the full journal year) members of the Ethical Committee handled 41 manuscripts submitted to *Animal Behaviour*. This number represents approximately 12.2% of submissions to the journal and 17.7% of papers sent out for review (compared to the previous year, this is an increase of 2.8% and 2.4%, respectively). Five of these papers (incl. two revisions) were referred to the ethics editor (IF) for full ethical review. The average time taken for the office to receiving an ethics review was 12 days (excluding full reviews; range: 1-32). The papers sent for ethical review were distributed across mammals (22.0%), birds (39.0%), fish (19.5%), reptiles (7.3%), amphibians (4.9%) and other (7.3%).

I would like to end by thanking the members of the Ethical Committee for their support and positive contribution to ASAB and *Animal Behaviour*. I would also like to thank the editors of *Animal Behaviour* and Justine Fox and Angela Turner in the Editorial Office for their support and assistance.

Report ends.

Ines Fürtbauer, Secretary of the ASAB Ethical Committee, 20th November 2023

ASAB Council & *Animal Behaviour* Editors 2023 Election Results

Secretary

Dr Sasha Dall
University of Exeter

Communications Officer

Dr Sophia Daoudi-Simison
Newcastle University

Social Media Officer

Jennifer Colbourne
University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna

Animal Behaviour Editors

Dr Emily Burdfield-Steel (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
Dr Daniela Canestrari (University of Oviedo, Spain)
Dr Kavita Isvaran (Indian Institute of Science Bangalore, India)
Dr Jolle Jolles (Center for Ecological Research and Forestry Applications, Spain)
Dr Changku Kang (Seoul National University, South Korea)
Dr Manon Schweinfurth (University of St Andrews, UK)
Dr Sue Anne Zollinger (Manchester Metropolitan University, UK)