

**Meeting with Section and Special Interest Group representatives  
Tuesday 7 September 2021  
Minutes**

**In attendance:** Blaise Egan, Alex Cox, Peter Elias, Rhiannon Edge, Ben Swallow, Jane Hutton, Jenny Church, Phil Crook, Sarah Nevitt, Adam Gellatly, David Matz, Shirley Coleman, Rob Mastrodomenico, Elinor Jones, Emily Granger, Maria Skoularidou, Altea Lorenzo-Arribas, Stian Westlake, Paul Gentry, Amirah Chaudry

**1. Welcome and introductions**

Blaise Egan welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**2. RSS newsletter tool for sections and groups – feedback on using the new mailing tool (All)**

Blaise gave representatives the chance to share their feedback on the new mailing tool.

Adam Gellatly mentioned that it is easy to use however it can be confusing when you first log in as you have to use your personal RSS account. It would help to have a group log in because if someone is having trouble logging in, then give your personal log in to help.

Jane Hutton shared their section has not used it much as the section has been very busy.

David Matz shared Official Statistics still use their Gmail as there are a huge number of members on their list outside the RSS.

Blaise clarified that the RSS mailing list allows non-RSS members to join the list and, for GDPR purposes, we would like to use RSS mailing tool.

**Post meeting action – Amaka to look into Adam’s query**

**3. Topics and ideas for the Section and Group Meeting in February 2022**

Blaise asked the committee how the topics idea for annual officers meeting. He is keen to understand how sections have coped during the pandemic and wanted to see if anyone had tips they could share.

Shirley Coleman mentioned that people like to attend online events for a short time whereas a face-to-face meetings, people like to attend longer. Something to think about when structuring the agenda for the annual officers meeting.

BE found that online attendance has done better from compiling the Honorary Officer’s annual report. It could be because there are less barriers to attend meetings.

Sara Nevitt shared that meetings are being recorded therefore people can watch it in their own time.

Jenny Church added that people call in for the committee meetings but understands there are disadvantages to these types of meetings. The section will continue with online committee meetings however will have at least one face to face meeting.

Rob Mastrodomenico shared the Sports Section can reach more speakers because the events are online. In terms of networking, they may organise few events for people to get together.

Altea Lorenzo-Arribas highlighted family friendly aspects as people with caring responsibilities can join and opportunities for international speakers.

Jane added that members of their section had an increased workload therefore may disrupt their work.

Peter Elias mentioned that there is higher attendance with online meetings therefore now they are looking for the outcomes they would like to achieve with each meeting.

David added that a week before an event they focus on the event, sort out the agenda and what they hope to get out of it helps deliver the events.

Stian Westlake shared Data Science have shorter meetings which work well.

Maria Skoularidou mentioned that the Women in Data Science and Statistics have fixed four meetings a year and they all try to commit to the meetings.

Shirley mentioned that she and Blaise volunteered for bitesize chats on time series analysis with the support from the RSS to make it look professional. It would be useful to show at February meeting to show how that is done. Also, someone can give their verdict if they have watched the chats.

Altea suggested that we look at how we can encourage diversity and inclusivity.

David added if there is a way to search up videos online as many presentations are now on the website.

Stian shared that this is something we are planning for next year with it being more editorial work.

Maria added in regard to diversity inclusivity, disability inclusivity, we should have interpreter and supertitles.

Stian shared that we can have supertitles for the next conference. Interpreters can be looked into it however we have to look at the costing.

#### 4. AOB

Altea asked if there is any particular way that sections can share their events as she has tried to ask other sections to share their events. Blaise added that this is a good way to get more catchment.

Jenny shared it is very easy for people to subscribe to mailing lists therefore there is a variety of people on the mailing lists.

David shared it is good to work with other sections and we should encourage it.

Jane added that it is good to have joint meeting with local groups.

Stian would like to thank sections for their hard work and working with the new IT system which we understand is not easy.

## **5. Close**