

SoBRA AGM Chair	Jo Wilding
Date	12 December 2023

Jo Wilding delivered a presentation on behalf of the Executive Committee, acting as Chair during 2023.

See supporting:

- Chairs Report as PowerPoint slides
- Auditors Report

on the SoBRA website at <https://sobra.org.uk/about-us/annual-reporting/>.

The AGM and conference were held virtually by live-streaming and in-person (Royal Society of Chemistry, Burlington House, London).

Total conference attendance = ~170 excluding speakers and SoBRA Executive Committee (~84 in person and ~86 online) :

Approximately 27 members attended during AGM from 13:40 – 13:55.

General:

The presentation covered the seven core objectives of SoBRA.

No change to charitable status and trustees.

Executive Committee: Nominations for four new members took place in September 2023 (to replace those rotating off the Executive Committee). Simon Cole and Aliyssa Glen rotate off the Committee at end of December 2023. Those appointed are: Mel Lyons (Shell) and Sarah Bannon (Ramboll); Tim Rolfe (YES Environmental) and Rachel Dewhurst (Stantec) were re-elected.

SoBRA membership – this has remained fairly consistent over the last 12 months at ~633 members. There are 110 accredited risk assessors (RSOBRA or ASOBRA).

Accreditation:

January – 16 applicants, August – 6 applicants. In 2023 accreditation was awarded to another 24 members, 5 of which achieved ASOBRA.

1 new scrutineer (human health and controlled waters).

Subgroups – specific updates in later part of the conference:

Ongoing – NAPL, Ground Gases (with a new radon working group), Early Careers, Statistics & CSM.

Climate change & controlled waters group delivered and closed during 2022. The group won **two** awards at the 2023 Brownfield Briefing Awards (Best Research Innovation or Advancement of Science in the Brownfield Sector, and Judges' Choice Award).

The VI sub-group was closed having delivered three guidance notes.

Activities / Publications

Six early careers series webinars and a presentation at an IES webinar by subgroup members (VI subgroup about its three guidance notes published in late 2022).

Publications include:

- Top Tips from the Ground Gas sub-group
- The Climate Emergency: Practical Considerations in Brownfield Risk Assessment – Summer 2022 workshop report
- NAPL sub-group – Effective Solubility Calculator and LNAPL Mobility Screening Tool
- Top Tips on conceptualising and characterising contaminant distribution in soil
- See <https://sobra.org.uk/resources/reports/>

Social Media:

LinkedIn accounts remain active, SoBRA has 1450 followers as of December 2023.

Finances:

Accounts have been audited by Sarah Bannon (Ramboll) for the previous financial year. Call for a volunteer auditor for next year (2024) was made.

- Bursary requests – two bursaries were awarded in 2023. 1) Steve Forster to attend CEN TC351/WG5/TG51 Sampling and quantitative determination of asbestos in construction products – April 2023; and 2) Gemma Shaw to attend AquaConSoil (with poster) - September 2023.
- Scholarship requests: None
- Research grants – none awarded in 2023, however, there are ongoing payments to Uni of Greenwich for the 2022 award.

See <https://sobra.org.uk/about-us/funding-options/fundingawarded/>

Accounts:

2022/2023 total income £22469.63 at time of reporting. Sources of income and expenditure were explained, including increases/ decreases to the previous financial reporting year. Current liabilities given. End of Year balance £53797.08.

Financial report - summary

FY 1st October 2022 – 30 September 2023

Financial report - income

Opening / End of 2022/23 Year Balance		£42,623.55
Paypal		£16,161.60
Income		2022/2023
Membership Fees (Not for Profit)		£650.00
Membership Fees (Standard)		£11,010.00
Membership Fees (Accredited)		£3,770.00
Membership Fees (Accredited - Accreditation Fees)		£175.00
Summer Workshop 2022		£3,740.00
Joint December RSC Event (50% of profit)		£2,124.63
Insurance		£1,000.00
Total Income		£22,469.63

Financial report - expenditure

Expenditure		2022/2023
Refunds		£75.00
Paypal Fees		£747.83
Eventbrite Fees		
Website		£4,823.00
Summer Workshop 2023		£143.40
Christmas Conference		£95.09
Insurance		£206.64
Scholarship		£17,572.00
Scrutineering Expenses		£3,630.00
Committee Expenses (marketing, travel to meetings)		£164.74
Support to Specialist Groups		
Total Expenditure		£27,457.70
Current Balance		£53,797.08
Cash in bank at end 30/9/23		£47,586.77
Balance on paypal at end 30/9/23		£6,210.31

Next year – what do we wish to do as a Society?

- Sub-group publications
- Review past sub-group publications to ensure current / relevant
- Further early career webinars
- Continued industry collaboration
- Summer workshop – potentially to be led by the Early Careers sub-group (tbc)
- Winter conference – call out for presentations
- New sub-groups? (see <https://sobra.org.uk/about-us/sub-groups/sub-group-suggestionform/>)

Closing remarks:

A presentation was made to Simon Cole to thank him for his 10-year involvement with SoBRA spanning leading the asbestos sub-group and his six years on the Exec Committee, most recently as outgoing Chair.

Jo thanked other outgoing committee members, Chris and Marlene Taylor for running the Accreditation Scheme, all the EC, Kate and the RSC Tox group for hosting, sub-group volunteers, and all our members.