

MINUTES
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2002
BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR APPLIED LINGUISTICS

Cardiff University
13 September 2002

45 members present

Executive Committee attending: David Barton, Mike Baynham, Gabrielle Hogan-Brun, Constant Leung, Deirdre Martin, Greg Myers, Ben Rampton, Frances Rock, Srikant Sarangi, James Simpson, Paul Thompson, Eddie Williams, Virpi Ylanne-McEwen

1. Mike Baynham and the members of the Executive Committee introduced themselves.
2. It was suggested that the minutes of the 2001 meeting be amended to include the number of members attending. Subject to this amendment, the minutes were approved.
3. Matters arising: One minuted point was not acted on during the year, and remained for the next EC: 'Martin Edwardes pointed out that BAAL would need to register under the Data Protection Act. **(Action: MB and GM)**'
4. Reports
 - Chair – Mike Baynham reported that BAAL's nominations to the Academy for Social Sciences, Ron Carter and Mike Byram, had been successful. It was pointed out that Gunther Kress and Debbie Cameron were also fellows of the AfSS.
 - Secretary – see attached written report [not included in this PDF document]
 - Treasurer – Constant Leung presented the accounts for 2001-2002 (see attached report). Paul Meara objected that the report must cover the financial year, not the year to date, and that it must be audited by the time of the meeting. The accounts would be examined by an auditor, and the results presented in the next issue of the BAAL Newsletter.
(Action: CL)
Martin Bygate asked for the breakdown of payments to Dovetail. CL said that payments came to £9221 – £6000 fees and £3221 expenses. CL noted that on current figures, the Reading annual meeting had shown a profit.
 - Meetings Secretary – Deidre Martin thanked the organisers of the Cardiff meeting (Srikant Sarangi and Theo van Leeuwen). She asked members to propose a site for the 2004 meeting. Martin Bygate asked the EC to set a deadline for bids to host the meeting, since a long period would be needed for preparation. It was asked if the end of the contract with Dovetail meant that

local organisers would have to do all the work Dovetail had been doing. Mike Baynham responded that a sum of money equal to the payment to Dovetail would be available to local organisers to contract out conference services.

Guy Cook asked if the date of the conference had been fixed; DM noted that dates had been fixed for ten years into the future by her predecessor, Susan Hunston. He also asked if consideration had been given to holding it at a site other than a university. Chris Brumfit noted that in the past, criteria for the site of the meeting had included geographical distribution, from meeting to meeting, and period since the meeting had last been in this site. He suggested that an added criterion be proximity to the meeting of the British Educational Research Association.

There was a discussion of whether the EC should seek a new meetings administrator to replace Dovetail. Ros Mitchell said that organising the meeting in house at a university was probably only a one-year solution. Marilyn Martin-Jones noted that a smaller university could not offer to hold the meeting if there were no conference office to which to contract the organisation. The feeling of the meeting was that the EC should look into conference organisers with whom to make extended contracts.

(Action: MB and DM)

Membership Secretary – see attached report. Gabrielle Hogan-Brun reported on the new category of Supporting Member (see the minutes of the 2001 AGM).

A request was made to allow payment of membership fees by standing order or direct debit. Ros Mitchell noted (based on previous experience of BAAL) that standing orders were the problem, and direct debit might be okay. Goodith White suggested a prize for the best research student's talk. Others argued that any money should go to the current student bursaries.

- Postgraduate Liaison and Development Officer – James Simpson reminded members of the PG e-mail list. He pointed out that it cost only £15 to be a student member of BAAL.

It was suggested that, in addition to bursaries for student members, there could be a scholarship for overseas participants. Mike Baynham reported that the EC had been discussing ways of offering support to participants from countries where they might be isolated from international scholarly exchanges.

- Publications – see attached report [not included in this PDF document]. Srikant Sarangi thanked those who had assisted with the Book Prize.
- Newsletter Editor – see attached report. Virpi Ylänne-McEwen proposed a closer relationship between the Newsletter and the information on the web. She also announced that the EC had chosen Sarah Lawson as the new Book Reviews Editor.

Guy Cook asked whether the paper version of the Newsletter could be replaced by an electronic version. Theo van Leeuwen said that the issue had been discussed in previous years, and that it was felt that the paper version was justified by its archival function and its convenience. Ros Mitchell praised the new look Newsletter.

- Web Editor – Paul Thompson noted that the conversion of abstracts for the conference took a considerable amount of time. As the first BAAL Web Editor, he had continued practices from his previous stint as PD Liaison and Development Officer. Chris Brumfit commented that the site looked good.

5. Reports from BAAL delegates on outside bodies

AILA – Ros Mitchell said that the AGM needed a report of AILA activities and an account for the money BAAL contributed to AILA. Barbara Seidlhofer noted that the Austrian applied linguistics organisation has a similar problem getting information about AILA.

There was a discussion of regionalisation, the effort by AILA to achieve a fairer distribution of membership throughout the world.

There would be elections to the new board of AILA Gabrielle Hogan-Brun called for expressions of interest.

- CLIE – Constant Leung reported there had been three meetings this year. Invited speakers included Ron Carter and Jim Anderson. It was active and lively, under the chair of Roz Ivanic.
- University Committee for Modern Languages – Ros Mitchell drew attention to Anne Ife's report (attached). Mike Baynham noted that BAAL had contributed to the discussion on the Green Paper on the teaching of Modern Languages. It was suggested that CLIE might take an interest in this issue, perhaps by having a speaker. It was also suggested that the new EC might co-opt a member from a Modern Languages department, since none had been nominated.

6. Applied Linguistics – Martin Bygate noted that his editorship would end in 2004. Claire Kramsch would step down as AAAL-nominated editor in 2003, and be replaced by Gabrielle Kasper. The Reviews editor Kenneth Hyltenstam would be replaced by Stef Slembrouck.

There would be a new 'Forum' section, edited by Stef, reviewed in house, for short papers current issues. In 2003 there would be one special issue, edited by Srikant Sarangi and Chris Candlin, on Language and the Professions.

In 2001 there were 147 submissions; 70 % new and 30% resubmissions. The journal had made 128 decisions; 20% were to accept, and 50% of all decisions were rejections. If one considered new submissions alone, 58% were rejected. For resubmissions, 10 of 22 were rejected. Each paper had three outside reviewers.

He reminded members that the journal welcomes more submissions, with interdisciplinary papers particularly welcome.

7. BAAL/CUP seminars – see written report [not included in this PDF document].

8. Special Interest Groups – David Barton reported that guidelines for the setting up of Special Interest Groups were published in the summer issue of the BAAL Newsletter. Members interested in starting new Special Interest Groups should submit proposals to the EC by the December meeting of the Executive Committee

9. A Constitutional amendment was proposed, as previously published in the summer BAAL News. The proposed change of wording is as follows (new phrases in capitals)

'4(d) The Officers specified in (c), together with SIX ORDINARY members, shall constitute the Executive Committee. THE ORDINARY MEMBERS SHALL SERVE FOR TWO YEARS, WITH THREE ELECTED AT EACH ANNUAL MEETING. No ordinary member of the Executive Committee may serve as such for more than TWO TERMS consecutively. The Executive Committee shall manage the Association's affairs between Annual General Meetings and shall have power to co-opt up to three other members at its discretion to serve until the next Annual Meeting.'

Alison Sealey, supporting the amendment, said that it took two years for an EC member to figure out what was going on. It was asked if the proposal could have the effect of broadening representation of BAAL across sectors of applied linguistics.

The amendment was passed unanimously.

10. Five candidates were nominated for the five places on the Executive Committee, and one candidate each was nominated for Secretary and Publications Secretary, so no elections were necessary. The following candidates were declared elected:

Secretary: Eddie Williams

Publications Secretary: Goodith White

Ordinary Members:

Kate Segall

Karin Tusting

Marilyn Martin-Jones

Esther Daborn

Joan Cutting

These Ordinary Members were elected for one-year posts. Nominations for two-year posts will begin in 2003.

11. There was no AOB.

The next meeting of the AGM will be held at the Annual General Meeting at the University of Leeds, in September 2003.

Greg Myers
BAAL Sec,
Sept 2002

BAAL Officers' Reports for 2002-2003

BAAL Annual General Meeting, Leeds September, 2003

Secretary's Report

My first year as BAAL Secretary has been a learning process, and this will doubtless continue. My work over this last year has included:

- Immediately after taking on the post, establishing lines of communication with the new members of the Executive Committee (EC), with help from Paul Thompson, our Web Editor, and Greg Myers, the outgoing Secretary.
- Liaising with Dovetail on a various matters, including the supply of BAAL headed stationary and distribution to EC members. A particular issue this year has been difficulties with email access to baalmail for new members, or indeed exisiting members who changed their email address. This was caused by problems with the list management at Leeds. After much work on the part of Jeanie Taylor of Dovetail, the BAAL Membership Secretary, and the BAAL Chair, the matter appears to have been resolved, and the management of the baalmail list will hopefully operate on a more professional basis from now on. I would like to apologise to any members who have been inconvenienced through being unable to access baalmail. As I fellow sufferer, I sympathise.
- BAAL Conference Scholarship for non-UK based people: I have with EC colleagues been involved in running this Scholarship intended to assist those who have financial difficulties in attending the annual BAAL conference. The work for the 2003 Leeds Conference proved to be a useful first exercise (this Scholarship has also in past discussion been referred to as a Hardship Scholarship.)
- International solidarity funding for Applied Linguistics: I have contributed the EC committee in the process of establishing a framework for such funding, which is intended to further the cause of applied linguistics in countries where economic conditions are not favourable.
- Setting up and implementing an EC-based process for the selection of three BAAL members to represent our organisation on the CLIE. The three are a Secretary and two Ordinary Members.
- Representing BAAL at the funeral of Mary Wiles, one of my predecessors as BAAL Secretary during the 1970s, who died in February this year. Euan Reid has an obituary in the Summer edition of Baal News (no. 74).
- Heading the BAAL Chair Search Committee to identify a person prepared to be nominated as the new Chair for BAAL for the period 2003-2006.

- Following up the Continuum contract for the publication of the annual BAAL Conference proceedings. This is an issue which is likely to be resolved over the next few days, and the BAAL membership will be informed.

Eddie Williams
August, 2003

BAAL Meetings Secretary's Report

36th Annual Conference at University of Leeds (4th-6th September 2003)
"Applied Linguistics at the Interface"

The plenary speakers were Jim Cummins, University of Toronto, Casimir Rubagumya, University of Dar es Salaam, and the Pit Corder lecture was given by Rosamond Mitchell, University of Southampton.

The conference has attracted national and international participants from around the UK as well as from Australia, Austria, Brazil, Cameroon, Finland, Greece, Hong Kong, Iran, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Taiwan, USA.

There has been a wide range of papers presented across different aspects of applied linguistics. The areas addressed the theme often by identifying interfaces between applied linguistics and other disciplines:

Conversation analysis	Language pedagogy in classrooms
Corpus linguistics	Language testing
Discourse studies, e.g. business, medical, English for academic purposes	Language planning
Education and language learning	Literacy practices
Gender	Metaphor
TEFL	Multi-modality
MFL	Multilingualism
ESOL	Phonology
Language and identity	Specific language impairment
	Translation studies

This year's conference has drawn more submissions of papers, colloquia and workshops than in previous years and a similar number of posters.

Data on abstracts

Abstracts	2000			2001			2002			2003		
	Sbmt	Acpt	W'dr	Sbmt	Acpt	W'd	Sbmt	Acpt	W'dr	Sbmt	Acpt	W'd
Papers	167	84	-	127	87	3	145	80	6	153	88 (99)	11
Colloquia				4	4	0	10	10	0	15	12*	0
Posters				21	21	0	31	21	2	31	17	5
Workshops				1	1	0	2	1	0	4	1	0
SIGs							1	1	0	1	1*	0

* 45 presentations are being made in these events

BAAL Book Prize and publishers

The publishers and BAAL Book Prize were organised by Goodith White, responsible

for publications. We are once again indebted to the generosity of Mike Grover, of Multilingual Matters, who hosted the BAAL Book Prize reception.

BAAL Student Scholarships

There were sixteen applications for the ten BAAL Student Scholarships. Ten students were awarded scholarships because they were student members of BAAL and had papers/posters accepted for BAAL. Four applications could not be considered because they did not meet the criterion of having a paper / poster accepted for BAAL. Four were not members of BAAL and they were contacted to take up membership. One of the awards was made to the Postgraduate Officer, who must attend the conference to organise the PG Colloquium. The Executive Committee will consider establishing a scholarship to the PG Officer to attend the conference.

Financial 'Hardship' award

This year the Executive Committee created an award for financial support to an overseas colleague whose paper was accepted for the BAAL conference and who needed financial assistance to attend. This, the first year, there were fourteen applicants and the award was given to J. Seraphin Kamdem from Cameroon.

Future venues for BAAL conference

2004: 37th Annual Meeting 9th – 11th September 2004

Theme: Applied Linguistics in the New Europe

Venue: Kings College London

BAAL organisers: Mike Baynham, Paul Thompson, Gabrielle Hogan-Brun and King's College representatives (Jenny Jenkins and Constant Leung), are the organising committee. Nick Andon is acting as the link with the King's conference and accommodation office. Kate Segall is acting as conference treasurer. The organisers are liaising with Georges Luedi from Switzerland and Barbara Seidlhofer from Austria

Key note speakers:

Juliane House, Professor of English, University of Hamburg,

Robert Phillipson, Research Professor, Department of English, Copenhagen Business School Denmark

Arturo Tosi, Professor of Italian, Royal Holloway, University of London

2005: 38th Annual Meeting 8th – 10th September 2005

Venue: University of Bristol

Local organiser: Pauline Rea-Dickins

2006: 39th Annual Meeting 7th – 9th September 2006

We would welcome invitations from colleagues to run the conference. Please contact Eddie Williams, BAAL Secretary.

Vote of thanks

I would like to express my gratitude to this year's local organisers, Mike Baynham, Martin Bygate, Alice Deignan and Goodith White, to Susan Lacey, conference

organiser, and to Saira Bejai, School of Education, University of Birmingham, who managed the abstracts and prepared the abstracts booklet, and to Paul Thompson who has managed the conference web pages.

This is my last year as BAAL Meetings Secretary and I have enjoyed the opportunity to contribute to supporting the professional and academic organisation for applied linguists in the UK, and internationally. I am very grateful to my colleagues who have helped me over the three years, particularly those on the Executive Committee and the local conference organisers I have worked with.

Deirdre Martin
Membership and Publicity Secretary's Report for the
36th Annual Conference AGM at Leeds

BAAL Membership Secretary's Report

Membership details currently are as follows:

Category	Sept. 2001-2002	Aug. 2002-2003
Individual, full rate	446 (including 4 Supporting Members)	(including 3 Supporting Members)
Individual, reduced rate	143	155
Total	589	596
Associate Members	21	19
Total	610	615

This year we have received subscriptions of 3 Supporting Members. Money raised in this way is used for Student Scholarships to attend the Annual Meeting (16 scholarships were offered for Leeds). A further financial Hardship Award has been offered to support an overseas colleague to attend the Annual Meeting (for further details see Meetings Secretary's report). It is also planned to start running a BAAL International Links Award Scheme with the aim to extend relationships between UK applied linguists and established colleagues in materially poorer geographical areas where applied linguistics is new or emerging rather than well-established.

It has been decided to carry on supplying the current option to offer a BAAL conference registration that optionally entitles delegates to have BAAL membership, and to monitor how this affects the overall membership rate.

Prompted by a query at the last BAAL AGM in Cardiff, we have reviewed our payment options and decided to retain the credit card facility and the three-year payment option. Members choosing the latter have been reminded to check with Jenny Taylor on the status of their subscription before making their renewal payment in order to avoid inadvertently making dual payments.

Membership list

The membership list in alphabetical order has duly been published this year.

Web site

Paul Thompson, assisted by Martin Edwardes has continued to expertly develop the BAAL website.

BAALmail

The list of BAALmail users continues to grow, and there have been some animated bouts of exchanges this year, on a series of issues. Unfortunately we have also had a computer hacker who posted messages with infected attachments both in Jeanie Taylor's and my names. To remedy this problem it will be necessary to change our password more frequently. Reminders swiftly went out to all BAALmail users, asking them to be vigilant and informing them that genuine BAALmail messages never contain attachments.

Dovetail

Sincere thanks go to Jeanie Taylor of Dovetail for her continued skilled and proactive support with the administration of BAAL membership.

Gabrielle Hogan-Brun
Membership and Publicity Secretary

Web Editor's Report

In the year since the last AGM, the following changes to the BAAL website have happened:

1 The whole website has been overhauled. A new look has been created, based on a template. To help with navigation of the site, the template page has a list of links to parts of the site under the headings of Joining BAAL, BAAL Contacts, Conferences and seminars, BAAL Book Prize, Publications, Special Interest Groups, Links, Recommendations on Good Practice and BAAL Constitution. The pages are created and the site maintained using Macromedia Dreamweaver.

2 Martin Edwardes has volunteered to assist with the maintenance of the website. He updates the 'Conference Diary' page every month, sends the page to me, and I then transfer the page to the BAAL website. I would like, on behalf of BAAL, to thank Martin for the hard work he has put into maintaining this excellent source of information.

3 At last year's AGM, Martin raised the question of whether BAAL was obliged to register under the Data Protection Act its maintenance of a member list. Martin subsequently sent the relevant information booklet to the BAAL EC, and it was decided that BAAL is not required to register. BAAL is a registered charity and maintains the list for the purpose of conducting its business; members' details are not distributed to commercial organisations.

4 With the gradual introduction of Special Interest Groups, a page for SIGs has been created. This page provides links to the individual SIGs home pages which should be maintained by the SIGs themselves. It is recommended that each SIG should have a committee member with responsibility for the web presence of the SIG.

5 In addition to the new SIGs page, other novelties are the publication of the BAAL constitution on the web, and the reports on recent BAAL/Cambridge University Press seminars. The version of the constitution is the most recent, and the date of its revision is indicated. Any future amendments to the constitution must be noted on the web version, in the heading, and it is suggested that the web site should hereafter be referred to in the first instance, as a source of the current version. It should therefore be one of the duties of the Web Editor to ensure that the version on the website is the most current and also that it contains a record of the dates of any amendments to the document.

6 The abstracts for the 2003 Annual Meeting were posted on the web in advance of the meeting, as a single PDF file. In the past, the abstracts were posted after the meeting, in a series of HTML documents. This took a long time to prepare, and I have decided that the PDF option is simpler and adequate.

Paul Thompson

Report from Newsletter Editor

The BAAL newsletter, BAAL News, appeared three times during 2002-03, in the new format adopted last year. In addition to BAAL Executive officer reports, the newsletter has continued to publicise meetings and activities of other relevant organisations, such as AILA, CLIE, UCML, and the Subject Centre for LLAS on matters of interest to BAAL members. A new content area is BAAL Special Interest Group (SIG) meeting reports and these are likely to multiply with the establishment of new SIGs. The BAAL/CUP seminars have also been covered, and there have been Feature and Forum articles (and an Obituary) on prominent BAAL members and on topical issues. I am always happy to receive suggestions for future Features and Forum pieces.

The BAAL web site and the Newsletter continue to complement each other, although there might be some overlap in future when various seminar reports will go on the web. I will continue to liaise with the Web Editor on this.

We now have an effective production and mailing system in place in Cardiff and the preparation of each mailing continues to be supported by Jeanie Taylor of Dovetail Management Consultancy. There has been an unexpected delay in the mailing of the AILA Review this year, which will be included in the autumn mailing.

Sarah Lawson has completed her first year as the Reviews Editor and will continue in that role. I will begin my third and final year as the Newsletter Editor, so during 2003-04 we will need to find a Shadow Editor to succeed me after the AGM in 2004.

Virpi Yläanne-McEwen

Postgraduate Liaison and Development Officer

BAAL continues to support student members by providing ten scholarships to attend the annual meeting. In addition, the two 2002/2003 BAAL/CUP seminars which have taken place so far (System and Corpus at Liverpool, and Multimodality and Applied Linguistics at Reading) have together provided five scholarships for student members to attend the events. Subject to agreement at the EC meeting, and effective from 2004, attendance at the BAAL annual meeting by the PG officer will be automatically funded by the association.

Two of the speakers at the postgraduate colloquium during the annual meeting were postgraduate students in receipt of BAAL student scholarships. A compliment is due to Sabina Sica and Helen Kyratji for contributing to the colloquium in addition to presenting their individual papers.

The BAALPG email list continues to thrive in its established form. It currently has 164 subscribers. This year, the content of the list has included announcements of conferences and workshops, job advertisements, and information on scholarships and bursaries. Members are reminded that messages of particular interest to postgraduate students and their supervisors can be posted on BAALPG by any subscriber.

To join BAALPG, visit the BAALPG page on jiscmail:

<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/baalpg.html>

and follow the instructions for joining the list.

There must be a place for the time-honoured plug for postgraduate membership of BAAL. The reduced rate for student members is still only £15, and benefits of membership include the opportunity to apply for student scholarships to attend the annual meeting and the BAAL/CUP seminars, in addition to membership of BAAL SIGs and – from this year – receipt of AILA Review. Academic colleagues are asked to encourage their students to join BAAL. Today's postgraduate members are the future of the association, and need to be encouraged to join, to take part in BAAL events, and to contribute to the ongoing debates concerning applied linguistics in Britain.

As this is my final report to the AGM as PG officer, I would like to thank my colleagues on the EC for their support, and the PG membership for their continued interest in the association. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to my replacement.

James Simpson

Seminar Programme 2002-3 – Report to the BAAL Annual General Meeting

The BAAL/Cambridge University Press seminars aim to promote in-depth discussion and to encourage research meetings which: investigate emergent, timely or relevant methods or topics; are interdisciplinary; provide opportunities for BAAL members to meet people working in their own discipline and other areas; and are small enough to allow in-depth, informal discussion.

The report below summarises my activities as coordinator of the seminar series, since the last AGM. I am happy to discuss any matters raised below or any other aspect of the seminars at the conference and I can also be contacted by email at the address at the end of this report.

Seminars which took place in 2002

The following seminars received funding in the 2002 competition:

- Conversation Analysis and Applied Linguistics (University of Newcastle, July)
- Linguistic Development in French (University of Southampton, July)
- Researching the Indic Languages Diaspora in Britain (University of York, October)

Informative reports of these seminars have been published in BAAL News and sent to Cambridge University Press.

Programme of seminars for 2003

Nine proposals were received for seminars to take place in 2003. A subgroup of members from the Executive Committee, comprising of Joan Cutting, Paul Thompson and me, reviewed the proposals during November 2002. Most of the proposals were of a very high standard, on interesting and timely topics with focussed and often novel approaches. The subgroup short-listed three proposals and passed a report of their recommendations and comments to the Executive Committee at their December meeting. The Committee accepted the recommendations and the successful organisers were contacted.

All those who had proposed seminars, including those who were not successful, were given feedback. Due to a change in location one seminar has had to postpone until December in 2003.

The seminars funded in 2003 were:

- System and Corpus: exploring the connections (University of Liverpool, April)
- Multimodality and Applied Linguistics (University of Reading, July)

- Language, Education and Economic Development (TBA, December)

A report on the first seminar has already been published in BAAL News and reports on the other two will appear in forthcoming issues.

Call for seminar proposals for 2004

The call for seminar proposals for the 2004 competition, has already been circulated via BAAL News and the BAAL email list and BAAL postgraduate email list. A copy of the call for proposals should also be included in the conference pack which delegates at the Annual Meeting will receive.

As a result of the high level of competition for funding, the BAAL Executive Committee are also awarding two additional grants for organisers. This has been advertised on the call for proposals for 2004. These two new awards are different from the BAAL/Cambridge University Press awards as they are made at the discretion of the Executive Committee and are totally repayable, acting similarly to a loan to help organisers to get an event under way.

Revision of documentation

Due to the high numbers and quality of the proposals submitted in the last few years it was decided to move the date of submission to 15th October. This will allow greater time for the subgroup to review and the discuss proposals in depth.

Information on past seminars

An archive containing details of past seminars is now available on the BAAL website at: www.baal.org.uk/baalcup_record.htm

Thanks

Many thanks to Frances Rock for her help and advice as I took over the role she had so efficiently fulfilled for the past two years.

Kate Segall
k.segall@roehampton.ac.uk
University of Surrey Roehampton, July 2003

Report from Special Interest Groups co-ordinator

BAAL currently has three Special Interest Groups (SIGs), the established UK Linguistic Ethnography Forum, and the Psycholinguistics and Applied Corpus Linguistics SIGs which are in their initial year-long consultation period.

Proposals for SIGs in Psycholinguistics (convened by John Field [jcf1000@dircon.co.uk]) and Applied Corpus Linguistics (convened by Paul Thompson [p.a.thompson@reading.ac.uk]) were accepted at the BAAL Executive Committee meeting in April 2003. They are both currently planning their activities, which will be publicised through the usual BAAL channels.

Over the past year the Linguistic Ethnography SIG has consolidated its activities. As well as continuing with its schedule of events (spring seminar + colloquium at BAAL Annual Meeting) it has developed a constitution and will be electing officers to committee posts at its AGM in Spring. Full information about Linguistic Ethnography Forum activities can be found at

<http://www.ling-ethnog.org.uk/>

Space was set aside at this year's BAAL Annual Meeting for business meetings for SIGs and people considering setting up SIGs and we will also be making a space available on a noticeboard for people interested in particular SIG areas to contact one another.

Over the year we have been developing policies on reviewing processes for SIG colloquia at BAAL Annual Meetings and the decision was taken that in order to maintain quality at the AM, the SIG colloquia would need to go through a review process involving both SIG members and people on the AM organising committee.

I have also been working on a 'SIGs yearly cycle' so that it is clearer to everyone when the deadlines are, for consideration of proposals by the EC and for submission of abstracts for SIG colloquia at BAAL Annual Meetings. This will be posted on the BAAL website when it is finalised.

Karin Tusting