

BMS Council Meeting,
Tuesday September 10th 2013, 12:00pm
at Cardiff University Conference Centre

Attendees: Dr Geoff Robson, Prof Geoff M. Gadd, Dr Paul Dyer, Dr Stuart J. Skeates, Prof Nick Read,
Mrs Dinah Griffin, Mr Norman Porrett (BMS Administrator)

ITEM		ACTION
1.0	Apologies: Dr Elaine Bignell, Dr Pieter van West, Prof Bruce Ing, Dr Ali Ashby	
2.0	<p>Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting: With minor amendments the previous minutes were accepted by those present. The list of Council and Committee members proposed for 2014 was presented and accepted by all Council members present. This will be taken forward to AGM for the membership to approve. Action: NP to amend minutes and archive as a PDF document.</p>	NP
3.0	<p>Matters Arising: (carried forward from the previous meeting)</p> <p>From the previous meetings of the FBR committee and Council, it had been proposed to compile a list of 'People of Influence' to contact for support for BMS initiatives. It was agreed that this should, at least initially focus on academics in Universities and research institutes undertaking fungal research. Action: Email message to be composed and submitted to FBR before sending out BMS Facebook Page: Elaine Bignell had offered to look at the current BMS Facebook page and suggest how to exploit it more actively. EB not present at the Council meeting. Action: NP will contact EB for a progress report and feedback to Council. RBG, Kew & FRDBI Hosting: This will be followed up further into this meeting.</p>	NP NP
4.0	<p>Presidents Report:</p> <p>a) Elsevier Publication Contract: A summary of the current state of negotiations and the contract offer had been submitted by Pieter van West (Publications Committee Chair) who was unable to attend. GR had been kept informed as negotiations progressed between the BMS and Elsevier about the proposed new publishing contract. In essence the conditions and income from the journals would remain the same as that currently received through the existing contract. The new offer had been reviewed by Mark Ware, who had advised the BMS in previous negotiations. He had reported back to the BMS trustees that overall the offered contract was a good deal for the BMS. The only issue raised was the joint ownership of Fungal Ecology between Elsevier and the BMS. If a new publisher was chosen instead of Elsevier this could complicate negotiations. To buy out Elsevier's share of this journal, as allowed in the previous contract, would cost around £75K. The new contract offered by Elsevier initially included the creation of a new Fungal Journal in Open Access format. This element had been negotiated out of the contract and would be discussed as a separate issue at a later date. The publishing contract offered will guarantee funding to the BMS until 2019, with a £30K 'signing on' fee as a one-off payment to the Society.</p>	

	<p>GR asked Council to support the signing of the new contract offered by Elsevier. Council agreed. Action: New contract to be reported at the AGM.</p>	
	<p>b) Constitution: GR proposed a number of minor amendments to the BMS Constitution. These were: Section 9 part 3 the date of the AGM will be communicated to the membership with at least Four months' notice, instead of the Eight months required currently. Section 9 part 5 members raising a matter for inclusion in the AGM needs to notify the General Secretary Three months before the AGM, instead of the Four months required currently Section 17 part 6(a)(i) nominations for 'office' to Council need to be made in writing not less than Three months preceding the BMS AGM instead of the Six months minimum notice currently required. Section 17/part 6b (iv) where the word 'normally' will be inserted to allow continuity in a role where no replacement candidate is available. Section 17 part 7(a)(ii) nominations for 'office' must be supported by two or more members and reach the General Secretary not less than Three months preceding the AGM instead of the Six months minimum notice currently required.</p> <p>Council members present agreed to take these Constitutional amendments Action: Proposed changes to be presented at the AGM.</p> <p>c) Council and Committee composition The nominations for and composition of Council and committees for 2014 was circulated. No nominations had been received from the membership.</p> <p>Council approved the nominations for Council and committees Action: Nominations and composition of Council and committees for 2014 to be presented at the AGM</p> <p>d. Honorary BMS Membership: Lynne Boddy proposed that Honorary Membership of the BMS should be awarded to Edward E. Gange in recognition of his unique contribution in assembling local fungal records from 1950 to 2008 which has recently just been submitted in its entirety to the BMS FRDBI. Council approved and would go forward to the AGM</p>	
5.0	<p>The Treasurer: (GMG) The Treasurer presented the BMS Annual Accounts for the year ending December 2012. Overall the accounts reflect a healthy balance of the BMS assets, and expenditure was similar to that of previous years.</p> <p>The BMS accounts were accepted and would be presented at the AGM.</p> <p>A bequest fund was to be created with a sum of money left by the late Eunice Jones in memory of her parents. The trust specifically aims to help BMS postgraduate student members and members in their early career (postdoctoral fellows) in their research by offering financial assistance for visits to other laboratories in the UK and abroad for the purposes of training and collaboration.</p> <p>With the current financial climate and falling investment revenues, GMG asked Council to approve investing more of the BMS cash assets into its investment</p>	

	<p>portfolio. The BMS investment portfolio had consistently outperformed the high interest account and returned profits above inflation.</p> <p>Council approved transfer of more cash assets into its investment portfolio. All present thanked the BMS Treasurer for his hard work over the past year.</p> <p>GMG reminded Council that payments for future international events needed to be carefully planned and considered. It was imperative that BMS events' organisers liaise closely with the BMS office and Treasurer regarding payments to ensure procedures ran smoothly and transaction costs are kept as low as possible.</p> <p>GR Presented the accounts for Fungal Biology Ltd for the year end Dec 2012. Expenditure overall had been reduced and there were no significant increases in the overall running of the office. Fungal Biology Directors present accepted the accounts.</p>	
6.0	Fungal Biology Research committee: (NR)	
	<p>Annual Scientific Meeting 2014. NR reminded Council that the 2014 BMS meeting will be part of IMC10 in Thailand. Normally the BMS allocates £25-£35K in support of its annual scientific meeting and it was therefore proposed that a sum of £30K should be allocated as bursaries to assist BMS postgraduate members to attend IMC10 and to give financial assistance to BMS members who had been invited to speak at the meeting. It was also proposed that the BMS host a limited guest reception at IMC10 for BMS members and invited guests.</p> <p>Council approved this expenditure.</p> <p>BMS Future Meetings: The role of the BMS in future meetings was discussed. It was proposed that meeting themes should be general with the option of more focused meetings where demand requires. The FBR committee suggested that the BMS should be far more active in participating in joint meetings with other Societies and in supporting BMS sessions at other meetings. This would spread the costs and forge stronger links with other societies and help promote the BMS in the wider scientific community.</p> <p>Council agreed that this would be a positive step for the Society-</p> <p>DG proposed that where possible, field mycology aspects within the BMS should play a more prominent part in the BMS Main Scientific meetings, for example by running workshops.</p> <p>Council agreed in principal.</p> <p>Action: NP to investigate and coordinate with local organisers to try and ensure suitable facilities were available for hosting field orientated workshops.</p> <p>UK Fungus Day (October 12th & 13th 2013). This is mostly field mycology orientated in 2013. It is hoped this will become a regular feature of BMS activities and therefore should include greater academic/FBR committee input. Greater cross committee involvement must be encouraged.</p>	NP

7.0	Fungal Education and Outreach committee (PD) Postponed until after FMCC committee report.	
8.0	Field Mycology and Conservation committee. (SJS)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field Meetings/Workshops for 2014 had already been agreed by Council at the last meeting. The BMS FMCC has been requested to submit information in drawing up the Red Data List of endangered species. It is hoped that this discipline can be used to look at other species, possibly in tandem with the ABFG. FRDBI: Discussions are still on-going to see if RBG Kew will take over the hosting and administration of the FRDBI. If this however is not possible SJS emphasised that the BMS will need to invest money in maintaining and updating this resource. SJS is currently discussing options for the site with other people outside of the BMS. The incoming BMS Vice-president Prof Richard Fortey will be involved in an upcoming Television programme on fungi. A discussion ensued about the limited representation of fungi on TV, and that what there is tends to be aimed at viewers with little or no knowledge about fungi. This means the vast majority of fungi get ignored in this medium. Recent incidence of fungi seen on TV could be seen on the programme Waterloo Road, a drama series about a school in Scotland. BMS Website: As mentioned and provisionally agreed at the previous Council meeting, the BMS website will be moved from the current web designers Souk. SJS had spoken to Katalisis and would arrange a meeting between relevant BMS representatives to discuss moving the website. Online payments would be incorporated with the BMS website once moved. The current front page needs to be made more accessible and adaptable to those who regularly up-date it (Webmaster/BMS office staff). A disclaimer about the sites use of 'Cookie' software needs uploading to comply with legal regulations. <p>Action: SJS/GR/NP to visit Katalisis to explore the options for the BMS website.</p>	SJS.GR & NP
7.0	Fungal Education and Outreach committee (PD)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following on from previous discussions on Government education policies, the FEO committee drafted a response to be submitted to the Department of Education. This took the form of guidance notes on what children need to be taught about fungi at the various levels of education, the first requirement being that fungi were differentiated from plants as a separate kingdom in their own right. Study programmes were outlined taking as a starting point the statutory requirements and expanding on these to give a more in-depth understanding of fungi over the 6 year period of educational study. The document was drawn up with the assistance of FEO member Alan Williams and his experience of the secondary school system as a teacher. This has been submitted as part of a consultation document on revising schools education curriculum in England and Wales. From Another Kingdom exhibition: NR asked if the attendance figures for the FAK exhibition were available, to support the investment of further BMS funds in keeping the exhibition and updating elements of it. As this exhibition is currently being housed at the National Botanic Gardens Wales, they will be approached for this information. <p>Action: BMS office and FEO committee need to contact NBGW and Bruce</p>	BMS office &

	<p>Langridge (a new member of the FEO committee for 2014)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fungus Models: Henry Tribe, the curator of the BMS Ceramic fungus models had contacted the BMS office about their whereabouts and usage. Some were used as part of the FAK exhibition whilst others may still be held in Edinburgh after IMC9 and the original construction of the FAK exhibition. The whereabouts of these models needs to be ascertained and their storage/usage discussed. Action: this will be taken to the next meeting of the FEO committee before the end of 2013. • UK Fungus Day: Oct 12-14th 2013. The press release sent around to publicise this event had generated a lot of interest and the nationwide programme of events was presented to Council. Is the UK Fungus day was planned to be a regular event and the feedback after this inaugural event will be analysed to inform decisions for the 2014 event. An email to all organisers would be sent to look for feedback and ways in which improvements could be made in the future. The next event in 2014 will incorporate more scientific input in collaboration with the BMS Fungal Biology Research Committee. (FBR). Press Releases would be released -earlier in 2014 to local press outlets, and especially to national newspapers and magazines/journals, whose lead times are four months or more in advance of publication. MiSAC Competition 2014: Ideas for the competition theme suggested at the last FEO committee meeting had been submitted to the MiSAC committee and they have chosen a 'Fungal Horrible Histories' theme looking at the effects of fungi through the ages. Action: PD appealed to those present to submit images that could be used to illustrate competition promotional materials to be sent out to schools. These are required as soon as possible. • In 2014 Dr Ali Ashby will take on the role of FEO committee chair as PD steps down. There are also two new committee members, Bruce Langridge of NBCW and Ninela Ivanova. Ms Beverley Rhodes. Would join the FEO committee as a co-opted member. 	<p>FEO</p> <p>FEO</p> <p>ALL</p>
9.0	<p>Publications Committee: (PvW) The chair of this committee was unable to attend but a report on the current state of negotiations with the BMS journals publisher had been submitted and discussed previously.</p>	
10.0	<p>International Initiatives (AJW) The international Initiatives officer was not present and a report will be presented at the next Council meeting in 2014</p>	
11.0	<p>General Secretary Correspondence. (GR) Nothing to report</p>	
12.0	<p>A.O.B. It was proposed that the Membership & Journals fees would remain the same rate for 2014. Council accepted this proposal. Action: Membership and Journal rates to be presented at the AGM</p> <p>The President (GR) expressed sincere thanks to all Council & committee members who were retiring at the end of 2013 for all their hard work and commitment to the Society.</p>	
	<p>Meeting closed at 4.30pm</p>	