

Minutes of the BMS AGM 2020
Online Zoom Meeting due to Covid-19 Restrictions
September 15th 2020, 2:00pm to 3:00pm

ITEM		ACTION
1.0	Apologies for absence: Prof Neil Gow, Liz Holden (BMS Vice-President)	
2.0	Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting	
	The minutes from 2019 were placed on the BMS website under AGM 2020 and linked from the front page of the website under the notice of AGM 2020	
	President's Report on the year's activities:	
3.0	<p>Angel Medina-Vaya (Cranfield University and BMS FBR Committee Chair) presented a slide instructing AGM attendees how the Zoom event would work.</p> <p>Presidents report on the previous year's activities Prof Simon Avery thanked everyone within the BMS, Council and Committee members of the three sections who had contributed to its activities in 2020, as well as the BMS office team. He also thanked those who had chosen to attend this Zoom AGM event. The slides from this event will be posted on the BMS website under the AGM pages.</p> <p>The Society had been very active in supporting a great many fungal initiatives in 2020 despite the coronavirus restrictions.</p> <p>There were two Council Meetings in 2020, on the 5th of March and an online Zoom Meeting September 14th</p> <p>Fungal Biology Research (FBR) In 2020. The <i>BMS Main Scientific Meeting</i> had to be postponed to March 2021 due to the Coronavirus situation. The Speakers from 2020 have been confirmed and the accommodation and conference dinner plans are suitably amended to support this change. The theme will be the one planned for 2020. The BMS Autumn Open Meeting planned for November at Kew's Jodrell Laboratory has also been changed to an online event. Planning has yet to be finalized and communicated to the membership. The 2021 Main Scientific Meeting will not take place and the next Main Meeting after March 2021 will be in September 2022. This may clash with the IMC12 Meeting so will need some consideration. The BMS Main Meeting 2022 will provisionally take place in Newcastle Upon Tyne.</p> <p>Field Mycology & Conservation (FMC) The Field Meetings and Workshops planned for 2020 were cancelled due to covid-19. This will also impact on any proposed meetings in 2021. Discussions are ongoing about whether any of these can take place due to the recent increase in cases of coronavirus.</p> <p>Fungal Education and Outreach (FEO). The major event for 2020 will be UK Fungus Day on October 3rd/4th. This will be organized by the BMS FEO committee. UK Fungus day 2020: 3th/4th October 2020 would normally involve outreach events aimed at the general public, but most events will be virtual online activities due to the current situation. Detail of the planned activities can be found on the UKFD website</p> <p>The BMS journals - All four titles are doing well with some of the newer titles going from strength to strength. The publishing contract guarantees income to the Society until the end of 2021 at the current level. The BMS president thanked all those who were involved in the publishing contract negotiations., in particular Matthias Brock (BMS Publications Officer) Simon Avery explained the rationale behind Impact Factors and what they meant for each journal.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fungal Biology - Doing well. 2. Fungal Biology Reviews –The New senior editor <i>Jan Dijksterhuis carries on the work</i> 	

	<p>of the late BMS members and editors Geoff Robson and Nick Read. <i>Other BMS members who have had significant impact on the Society's work who died in 2020 were Prof John Peberdy and Richard Shotbolt.</i></p> <p>3. Fungal Ecology – 4. Field Mycology -</p> <p>The Publication contract with Elsevier will expire at the end of 2021 and will be relocating to a new publisher from 2022. With the support of a negotiating Company RENEW, four Companies initially expressed interest in taking on the BMS publications, including the current publisher Elsevier. This has been whittled down to two Companies, one of whom is Elsevier. The other publishing Company is OUP. A presentation meeting from these two will take place on October 29th and a decision on whom to go with will be made by the end of November/start of December. The contract needs to start on January 1st 2022.</p>	
4.0	Treasurer's Report (Geoff M. Gadd)	
	<p>Statement of financial activities: The prepared BMS accounts up to December 31st 2019 will be made available through the BMS website and the Charity Commission website after the AGM. Geoff Gadd explained the rationale behind compiling these as part of the legal requirement of the Charity Commission. He highlighted the areas such as the reports of the trustees and the allocation of costs and expenses. This included the 'Summary of Income' section where multiple transactions may not always be easily distinguished but are grouped together for ease of accounting. He also highlighted the variations in the accounts indicating the Society enjoyed a healthy surplus at the end of 2019. This surplus was largely due to better than expected performance of the BMS investments. The portfolio of BMS investments continues to do well despite difficult financial conditions. Society President Prof Simon Avery expressed the Society's thanks for all Prof Geoff Gadd's work as BMS Treasurer</p> <p>Simon Avery informed those present that the accounts had been approved by Council in the last day. He asked if anyone present had any questions. Simon Avery proposed the motion that the accounts be accepted as a true and fair reflection of the Societies activities for the previous year.</p> <p>Dr Angel Medina-Vaya proposed a motion that the accounts be accepted. Prof Naresh Magan seconded this motion</p> <p>Proposed Motion Carried</p> <p>In Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the 2019 financial year, expenditure and income were approximately the same without the need to transfer funds from the investment portfolio or high return accounts. • This indicates "prudent management" according to the Auditors at Whittingham Riddle. • Established activities should be able to continue in 2021: however new activities should be carefully scrutinized. Economies should always continue to be sought. • The Treasurer will take close scrutiny at this in 2021, with appropriate measures to ensure that the financial security of the Society is not jeopardized whilst ensuring core activities continue. <p>Membership Rates for 2021: These will increase for 2021 after a freeze over the last five years. The cost of journals will also rise slightly as they increase in cost to the Society year-on-year. Details can be found on the BMS website under the membership section. http://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/society/membership/fees-2/ The rationale for this was explained. Simon Avery asked if anyone had any questions or objections. None were voiced. Simon asked if these costs could be accepted by the members present. Angel Medina-Vaya proposed they be accepted, Geoff Gadd seconded this proposal. The costs for 2021 were therefore accepted.</p>	

5.0	Election of Honorary Officers, Auditors and Trustees for 2020															
<u>Proposed Honorary Officers (01.01.19)</u>																
<p>President: Prof Janet Quinn (Newcastle(Upon Tyne) University) (new for 2021) Vice President: Ms Liz Holden Treasurer: Prof. G. M. Gadd, University of Dundee General Secretary: Prof Naresh Magan (Cranfield Heath) Publications Officer: Dr. Matthias Brock International Initiative Adviser (co-opted) Prof AW Whalley (non-voting) Media Liaison (co-opted) Prof Lynne Boddy (non-voting) Fungal Biology Research Committee representatives: Dr Angel Medina-Vaya, (TBC) Fungal Education and Outreach Committee representatives: Dr Linda Davies, (TBC) Field Mycology and Conservation Representatives: Ms Carol Hobart, (TBC)</p>																
<u>Committees (those in BOLD are new for 2021)</u>																
<u>Fungal Biology Research (FBR)</u>																
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Co-opted for 2021:																
<p>Dr Stuart Skeates (Webmaster) Tim Wilkins.</p>																
<p>Simon Avery asked those present at AGM to accept these individuals in the positions. Naresh Magan proposed to accept these, seconded by Matthias Brock Nominations accepted.</p>																

<p>6.0</p>	<p>Election of New Members: Membership Numbers for 2020:</p> <p>Members 330 (30 new for 2020) Associates 136 (35 new for 2020) Honorary 16 Centenary 19 Life 69 Postgraduate 41 (12 new for 2020) Undergraduate 19 (14 new for 2020)</p> <p>TOTAL = 630 (613 in 2019)</p> <p>Simon Avery requested these be accepted into the Society.</p> <p>All were accepted as members without any objections raised.</p> <p>Simon Avery informed those attending that the current membership stood at: <i>Paid Up members in 2020 = 630</i> <i>New Members (included in the above)</i></p>	
<p>7.0</p>	<p>Awards: In 2020 a number of awards were given by the Society. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergraduate Bursary Awards – 6 • BMS Small Grants – 12 • The Eunice Jones Bequest Fund – 0 <p><i>The other BMS awards marking special recognition are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The John Webster Award (FBR award) – Prof Geoffrey M. Gadd in recognition of outstanding contributions to mycological science and for his work as BMS treasurer over the years. • The Berkeley Award – Dr Angel Median-Vaya • The President’s Award: No Nominee in 2020 • Benefactors Medal – Two Nominees in 2020, David J. Harries and Peter R. Smith. Their contribution to BMS activities was outlined by Simon Avery and the awards were approved • The Field Mycology & Conservation Committee Award recipient for 2020 will be Dr Paul Kirk for his work on the BMS FRDBI database over many years and his support of the field community. This will be presented to Paul Kirk at a later date. • FEO committee award was given to Liz Holden for all her work in compiling the list of English Names of Fungi, educational input into the fung4schools website and many of the BMS educational materials available. 	
<p>8.0</p>	<p>Following the BMS strategy meeting 2019, which included input from independent adviser Marcus Yeo (CEO, JNCC); Simon Avery outlined the areas discussed and the potential opportunities to increase awareness of the BMS and its work, both in the UK and Internationally. Resulting actions and initiatives were:</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Society Mission now online • Society Objectives now online • Society Strategy drafted (online soon) • Larger research-grants scheme being launched • Postgraduate training/cohort-building day at future main meetings • New position approved – BMS Scientific Communications and Development Officer (50% time) 	

Hopefully the newer initiatives will be progressed in 2021 with the support of the incoming BMS President Prof Janet Quinn.

Simon Avery thanked all those present for their attendance and commitment to the Society throughout 2020, and looked forward to their continued support for the delayed 2020 BMS Main Meeting in 2021 at Cranfield University in March.

A request was made to virtual attendees for any questions they had about anything mentioned in the AGM. Prof Naresh Magan (BMS General secretary) was ready to field these.

- Q: Clare Blencowe asked if the evolving strategy for the BMS would look to actively involve the wider BMS membership?
- A: Simon Avery responded that the Initial Strategy Group who met would continue to communicate with BMS Council and they in turn would look for input from the membership and the three BMS Committees where relevant.
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Simon Avery asked that any follow up questions after the close of the meeting could be emailed to the BMS office, and these would be forwarded onto the relevant people to respond.

The AGM was then closed at 3.00pm (approx.)