

BMS Council Meeting,
Monday April 14th 2014, 1:30pm at City View House,
Union Street, Ardwick, Manchester, M12 4JD

Attendees: Dr Geoff Robson, Prof Geoff M. Gadd, Prof Pieter van West, Ms Carol Hobart, Dr Stuart J. Skeates, Prof Richard Fortey, Dr Elaine Bignell, Prof Nick Read, Dr Kay Yeoman, Dr Alex Brand, Mr Norman Porrett (BMS Administrator)

ITEM	GR thanked all present for their attendance at this meeting in Manchester.	ACTION
1.0	Apologies: Prof Anthony Whalley	
2.0	<p>Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The minutes from the previous BMS Council meeting in Cardiff were approved and will be saved as a PDF document and archived.</p> <p>GR introduced Prof Richard Fortey as the new Vice-president and asked all present to introduce themselves and give a little background to their area of mycological interest and expertise.</p>	
3.0	<p>Matters Arising: (carried forward from the previous meeting)</p>	
	Points of order and associated actions raised at the last meeting will be addressed throughout this meeting.	
4.0	<p>Presidents Report:</p> <p>a) BMS Award nominations: the Berkeley Award recognises those in the early stages of their academic career, and nominations have been invited from the BMS membership as well as Council and Committee members. Nominees should be submitted with a current CV detailing their career to-date, to BMS president GR. The Benefactors Medal recognises those BMS members who have made a significant contribution to the BMS activities. Again, nominations need to be sent to GR with a rationale supporting the nomination. Currently two nominations have been proposed, these are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carol Hobart, BMS Foray Manager: Nominated by GMG, seconded by GR. GR summarised the outstanding contribution CH has made over the years to the BMS, and all present agreed she was a worthy recipient of the award. This will be presented at the AGM in November 2014 at Kew Gardens, during the Autumn Taxonomy meeting. Action: CH to be awarded the Benefactors medal at the Autumn taxonomy meeting 2. Josephine Weightman: Nominated by letter from BMS member Edward Blackwell. GR listed her experience and overall contribution to mycology in general, which was extensive. GR asked Council members present for their opinion. Overall it was felt that while a valued member of the mycological community, the Benefactors Medal was awarded for services relating to the running of the BMS directly and not an appropriate award in this instance. SJS asked if an award was needed to recognise those who have made a 	GR

	<p>significant contribution to mycology, if not directly to the running of the BMS. GR voiced his support for this idea. CH asked if perhaps it was time to look at the relevance of awarding ‘medals’ as recognition, and instead award a sum of money in the name of a recognised individual as assistance to a research project or similar.</p> <p>A discussion ensued about the reasons for awarding medals alongside the range of BMS grants and financial awards currently available. Is there a need to alter this situation? GR asked those present what they felt about instigating an award of recognition for Field Mycology contributions, and possibly Fungal Education contributions too. Could this idea or proposal go forward to both the FMCC & FEO committees for consideration, to inaugurate and name an award? Effectively the three BMS committees could create an award from each to recognise achievements in their particular sphere of influence.</p> <p>Action: All three committee chairs were requested to take this idea to the next meeting of their committee and discuss.</p> <p>.</p> <p>Action: Edward Blackwell will be contacted by GR to inform him of Council’s decision and the rationale behind it.</p> <p>b) Small Grants and Awards granted: To be discussed elsewhere on the agenda</p> <p>c) National Fungus Day support: Due to the current Field Mycology Assistant Sophie Embleton leaving the BMS office at the end of April, a replacement is needed to support the UK Fungus Day event in October and general office duties. Advertising for a replacement office assistant was supported.</p> <p>Action: GR proposed to liaise with KY and create a job description to employ a replacement for Sophie Embleton.</p> <p>d) Request for Support for a supplement in ‘The Biologist’ (GR/GMG) An email from the editorial dept. of The Biologist’ had been received for a financial contribution of ca. £4K to produce a special issue of “The Biologist” focusing on fungi. However, despite several requests no further details had been received. Council declined the request but would reconsider once more details and proposed content had been received.</p> <p>Action: GR will reply to ‘The Biologist’ that the BMS cannot support the proposal until further details had been received.</p> <p>e) BMS AGM 2014: This will take place during the Autumn Open taxonomy meeting at Kew Gardens on November 29th as the BMS annual scientific meeting would not be held this year due to IMC10.</p> <p>Action: NP to contact the meeting organiser at Kew, Dr Martin Bidartondo to request that time be made for the AGM.</p> <p>f) New Nominations for BMS Council and Committees: All present were asked for nominations for these bodies.</p> <p>Action: NP to email Committee chairs and the BMS membership for nominations as required by the BMS Constitution.</p>	<p>NR/CH/ KY</p> <p>GR</p> <p>GR/KY</p> <p>GR</p> <p>NP</p> <p>NP</p>
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	<p>IMC10 Bursary Award: A total of 13 applications had been received, far lower than had been anticipated. As the registration date for IMC10 had been extended, it was proposed that the Bursary closing date should also be extended. Agreed by all present.</p> <p>Action: NP to amend IMC10 bursary details on the BMS website accordingly.</p>	NP
	<p>g) Complaints received about current membership payment methods. A number of complaints had been received regarding lack of online and Direct Debit payments for membership renewal. Electronic online renewal and new membership payments is currently being developed and should be available for 2015 renewals. Direct Debits and Paypal would be investigated.</p> <p>Action: NP to look at PayPal as an option alongside the online payment facility currently being looked at by the BMS website designers</p>	NP
	<p>It was with sadness that the President informed Council that Lorna Casselton and Justin Smith had recently passed away. Obituaries would be published in the next issue of the BMS newsletter.</p>	NP/PvW
5.0	<p>The Treasurer: The BMS has received two bequests, one from Eunice Jones estate to fund the Eunice Jones Bequest Fund and a one off cheque for £5000. GMG informed Council that he will meet with representatives of Deutsche Bank to discuss ways of maximising the returns on BMS financial assets. The publishing contract with Elsevier had now been signed and guaranteeing an income to the Society for the next 7 years.</p> <p>Action: GG to report on BMS financial assets at the next Council meeting</p>	GG
6.0	<p>Fungal Biology Research committee: (NR) NR informed Council on the latest situation regarding IMC10. After a number of organisational difficulties, NR was pleased to inform Council that significant progress had now been made and IMC10 would proceed as planned.</p> <p>It was proposed that the 2015 Main Scientific Meeting of the BMS would be on the theme of the ‘Invasive Fungus’ to be held in collaboration with the SGM. The proposed venue would be Manchester due to its central location, excellent travel links and a large number of hotel-style venues available. It was also proposed that from 2015, the BMS should consider specialised one day meetings and to explore further joint meetings with other Societies in the future.</p>	
7.0	<p>Fungal Education and Outreach committee (KY) National (UK) Fungus Day 2013. KY summarised the events that took place countrywide for this event and highlighted the special issue of the newsletter that containing reports from most of the events that had been circulated to the membership in January 2014. In the last month a letter had been sent to those organisations and groups who had participated in 2013 inviting them to participate again this year. In addition to rerunning events held in 2013, it was planned to further expand activities and to launch online ‘blogs’ and other web based interactivity. A BMS ‘Twitter’ account will circulate news about upcoming National Fungus Day events.</p>	

	<p>EB reported that a new BMS Facebook page had been created to complement the existing BMS Facebook group page, and includes pages for all three aspects of the Society (FBR, FEO and FMCC).</p> <p>KY reported that the MiSAC competition sponsored and supported by the BMS went well, with a theme of 'Helpful and Harmful Fungi'. The judging had taken place and the results will be posted on the BMS website as they become available. It was noted that one of the major sponsors, the SGM had pulled out of MiSAC and KY agreed to investigate the reasons for this. Action: KY will investigate and report back to council.</p> <p>Within the Education section of the BMS website, the university level needs more exercises available for tutors and students. KY is looking to progress this section as part of her role as FEO chair. She proposed to offer a reward of £50 to anyone who provided a case study that could be used on the BMS UG education page within the website. This could form part of an undergraduate student's course of study. She asked if Council could agree to offer this incentive to contributors. All present agreed. NP will add this to the website and communicate to likely contributors.</p> <p>Leaf-Cutter Ants and their use of fungi: KY mentioned a video available through YouTube about ants using fungi as part of their nest building and suggested the URL be circulated for those interested to view. This could be placed on the news section of the BMS website. Action: NP to add to BMS website if possible.</p> <p>KY reported on a RCUK partnership scheme, using students to identify genome/DNA data from lichens. Could this be linked back to the BMS and promoted for joint benefit? It could be included in the BMS newsletter each quarter and be updated in the BMS twitter-feed and Facebook page. KY is also currently working with Pearson publishers to update their 'A-level' content to show how their studies equate with actual areas of research. Action: KY to compose an email to send out to the BMS membership to solicit experiment protocols.</p>	<p>KY</p> <p>NP</p> <p>NP</p> <p>KY</p>
<p>8.0</p>	<p>Field Mycology and Conservation committee. (CH) The newly elected chair of the FMCC committee from 2014, Justin Smith, had died suddenly (mentioned earlier) and CH had agreed to be acting chair of FMCC for the time being after receiving the support of the members of the FMCC committee. CH briefly outlined the contribution Justin had made to not only the BMS but other Societies and to conservation.</p> <p>Field Meetings: CH will step down as Foray Manager at the end of 2014. Peter Smith will take on this role from 2015 onwards. A budget for proposed 2015 activities had been prepared</p> <p>.</p> <p>Report on 2013 Meetings: All meetings were well attended. Reports from sites visited and their owners have been positive and raised the profile of the Society for future events. Participants also reported back positively and this should impact on return bookings.</p>	

2014 Meetings: All the 2014 meetings were fully booked and the Gregynnog meeting had been expanded to cope with demand.

2015 Meetings: The proposed budget for these has been presented to the FMCC committee and approved subject to Councils final approval. The costs outlined were comparable with those of previous years at £6000 and a breakdown of these costs available upon request. CH noted that the careful management and containment of costs by the FMCC, was helped by the tutors who gave of their time, without payment, to make these BMS events a success.

2015 budget proposed by FMCC was approved.

Lottery Funding: The remaining amount of funding sourced from the National Lottery Heritage Fund needs to be spent by the end of December 2014. A sum of £140 was allocated to the Norfolk and Norwich Natural History Society Grassland Workshop. After agreed funding for events in 2014, Pembrokeshire bioblitz workshop and Grassland workshop in Longshaw, there now remained a further sum of money for allocation.

The Recording Network: The BMS Group Leaders biennial meeting takes place in Hereford in June 2014. Invited speakers include Marcus Yeo (CEO JNCC), Dr David Bullock (Head of Conservation, Natural England), Dr Martyn Ainswoth (RBG Kew) and Dr Kay Yeoman (FEO chair).

Conservation and Projects: The Red Data List for Boletaceae was approved by JNCC in 2013. Other species will be investigated as part of the current project. Martyn Ainsworth sought clarification of the BMS position on data sharing and after consulting with GR and others, an agreed statement was arrived at that states; *'The BMS is willing for FRDBI data to be used for research purposes, including both institutional and personal non-profit making purposes. These records are made available under the Creative Commons license by-nc-sa. The BMS is not in a position currently to pass the contents of the FRDBI database for inclusion in CATE2 database of records.'*

A review of the code for collecting wild life specimens is underway and this will include fungi. Separate codes exist for Scotland and Wales currently; however an overarching statement is under discussion.

Plantlife together with the network of other UK organisations will produce a statement on Biodiversity to mark the update to the CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) and the GSPC (Global Strategy for Plant Conservation) which will be launched at a House of Lords event in October. BMS members of PLINK had been invited.

The BMS had been invited to contribute to the RSPB-led State of Nature report, launched in 2013 by Sir David Attenborough at the Natural History Museum. It might benefit the Society if it could look to make a bigger contribution in the future.

Database hosting. Kew is in the process of transferring Index Fungorum to its systems and it is hoped the FRDBI may follow. A meeting would be arranged between the

	<p>BMS and Kew’s representatives to clarify ownership and hosting issues before the transfer. Senior BMS officers should attend this as it will involve legal agreements. Currently the process is being slowed down due to financial constraints at Kew. A financial contribution from the BMS might facilitate this process. A report written by SJS in 2012 stated that a sum of up to £600 pa may be required to host the FRDBI with a web hosting Company. Council was asked to approve this funding. Council approved this request</p> <p>Discussions amongst the FMCC had concluded that this move could be an ideal opportunity to review the FRDBI website and update it. A small group will meet to discuss this and report back to Council, possibly with a request for funding to support this upgrading.</p> <p>Thanks to funding obtained through DEFRA by SJS, Richard Shotbolt had been looking at a system to update the UK Species Inventory at the Natural History Museum. This supplies data to the NBN Gateway, Local Government Record Centres and many Societies and recording systems. The project will also update the system to send FRDBI records to the NBN Gateway, which in turn sends them to GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Forum).</p> <p>BMS Website: The BMS Facebook page welcomed Richard Shotbolt as another administrator/moderator, and has taken on the role of actively responding to posts and removing extraneous advertising posts. The BMS also has a twitter account, set up by SJS and Gabi Brown. Prof Lynne Boddy is a major ‘tweeter’ and the account currently has 300 followers.</p> <p>The Autumn Open meeting at Kew on November 29th has a proposed budget in line with previous years of £1400-£1700. The topic will be Fungal Conservation. Council were asked to approve this budget. Council approved this request</p> <p>Co-opted members to fill vacant posts on FMCC committee: Volunteers were being sought to strengthen the conservation profile of the committee. Three suitable candidates have come forward at this time, Marcus Yeo, Dr Paul Cannon and Michael Allison.</p>	FMCC
<p>9.0</p>	<p>Publications Committee (PvW) The new contract with the current BMS publisher Elsevier has been agreed and signed and will guarantee and income to the BMS for the next 7 years. BMS Journals Overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fungal Biology: The high rejection rate for this journal had been raised by Elsevier as a potential issue, however the editorial board strongly supported the need to maintain high standards for the journal. The current impact factor was still skewed as a result of the change in journal name from Mycological Research to Fungal Biology, however this should now start to increase steadily as the ‘new’ journal goes forward from 2015. • Fungal Ecology: Going well with an impact factor of 2.05 and increasing. • Fungal Biology Reviews: FBR has a provisional impact factor of 3.52 which was predicted to rise. It was planned to have at least one special issue will be produced every year, with a 2014 edition based around the work of the late 	

	<p>Lorna Casselton. Proposals for articles were welcomed from all Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Mycology: Going well, online version now has the cover photographs available electronically, after complaints by members were passed onto Elsevier. <p>BMS Newsletter Mycologist News: Special Edition went out in January/February with reports from the inaugural UK Fungus Day events held across the Country in 2013. More articles are always needed and all Council were requested to look at contributing something in the near future. The possibility of introducing a Postgraduate/Post doctorate section, to catch up on recently qualified academics and see how and where their career path had taken them was suggested.</p> <p>Action: This will be discussed further with FBR committee members</p> <p>Action: Contributions will be requested from all Council and Committee members, at least one article a year to build up a reservoir of content for the newsletter.</p> <p>BMS Website: This has now been moved from Souk to Katalysis. An online map of academics based in the UK and been created by SJS and online payments are currently being investigated and will hopefully be in place for 2015 membership renewals. The legally required message to ask website viewers to accept ‘cookies’ on their PC is currently being added to the website.</p> <p>The events page is also being reviewed to ensure events are rotated and highlighted regularly. Information about other Societies events should be sent to the BMS office to keep the site fresh and up-to-date by all Committee and Council members as they are informed. The BMS office will also look to keep abreast of these.</p> <p>Payment methods were discussed and a further investigation of using Direct Debits seems costly for the relatively low numbers who will use it. It was agreed that the online payment scheme currently being implemented, and investigating the use of PayPal, would be the agreed payment methods for the BMS membership from 2015. Action: NP to investigate PayPal and report back next Council meeting.</p>	<p>FBR</p> <p>NP/FBR</p> <p>NP</p> <p>NP</p>
<p>10.0</p>	<p>International Initiatives: (AJW) GR presented a report from International Advisor Prof Anthony Whalley to Council.</p> <p>AW was visiting professor at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. He met with various organisations and individuals including former students now based there, with a view to encouraging future collaborations between the Thai universities and the BMS.</p> <p>The upcoming IMC10 meeting was discussed and BMS input has greatly assisted in the helping the final stages of the organisation of this large international gathering of mycologists.</p> <p>AW also visited Chonbuk National university in South Korea, again with the intention to encourage strong links with the BMS and to explore possible joint projects in the future.</p> <p>AW has developed links with the National University of Lao in Vientiane and potential joint initiatives will be explored here also.</p> <p>ASEAN: A proposal had been presented previously to BMS Council to hold a meeting in Thailand to coincide with the official launch of ASEAN in 2014. Further details will be supplied through a Prof Niwat about costing's. Early indications show a great deal of interest in this meeting from a number of SE Asian countries including</p>	

	Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan, China, Korea and the Philippines. Action: AW will provide Council with a draft programme and detailed financial breakdowns as soon as these become available.	AW
11.0	General Secretary Correspondence: (GR) GR proposes to take on the official role of BMS General secretary in 2015 after stepping down as BMS president, with Council's support. NR proposed and GMG seconded this proposal.	
12.0	A.O.B. On the 24th of April on BBC4 Prof Richard Fortey (incoming BMS Vice-president) will present a programme originally entitled 'The Forgotten Kingdom' but now titled the 'Magic of Mushrooms' by the BBC. Action: The details will be communicated to the BMS membership to look out for this programme. The decline in BMS membership was discussed by Council. It was decided that membership should be included on all future agenda. his problem. Action: Membership to be included as a standing agenda item. The future long-term strategy for the BMS was raised. It was a number of years since the strategic goals of the BMS had been reviewed. Council were encouraged to consider potential future objectives and strategies and to discuss at the next Council meeting. Action: Ideas for future objectives and strategies for the BMS would be sought from Council and committees to be discussed at the next Council meeting.	NP NP ALL
	Next Council Meeting: Proposed for October 3rd 2014 provisionally in Manchester	
	Meeting closed at 4:25pm	