

Minutes of the BMS AGM 2019
TECA Aberdeen (during Main Meeting)
September 19th 2019,
12:34pm to 1:10pm

ITEM		ACTION
1.0	Apologies for absence: Prof David Hawksworth, Prof Geoff M. Gadd, Prof Neil Gow	
2.0	Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting	
	The minutes from 2018	
	President's Report on the year's activities:	
3.0	<p>Prof Simon Avery asked for a show of members' hands to establish quorum. There were 15 BMS members present. It was decided to proceed with a presentation on the previous year's activities for those present.</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 2019, as well as the BMS office team.</p> <p>The Society had been very active in supporting a great many fungal initiatives in 2019.</p> <p>A BMS Strategy Meeting was held on July 23rd & 24th to look at how the BMS will continue its work and expand its remit using the aspects of Social Media to communicate with members.</p> <p><i>Fungal Biology Research (FBR)</i> In 2019. The BMS Main Scientific Meeting was held in Aberdeen at the TECA Centre.(17th to 19th)</p> <p><i>Field Mycology & Conservation (FMC)</i> The BMS Forays and Workshops were all well attended and the Foray Manager Peter R. Smith confirmed that all events had been well received. The 2019 events are on the BMS website and bookings are already being taken.</p> <p><i>Fungal Education and Outreach (FEO).</i> The major event for 2019 will be UK Fungus Day on October 3rd/4th. This will be organized by the BMS FEO committee, with Dr Eleanor Landy taking the lead in the overall organization, with support from the BMS office. This involves many of the fungus recording groups across the UK and will involve the general public in various fungus related activities. An interactive map will be created within the UK Fungus Day website where events can be located geographically. The 2020 UK Fungus Day event will look to build on this success and look to involve more academics, as well as take into schools. There may be between 35-40 events across the Country. Reports will be collated from as many events as possible and be available from early 2020. The UKFD in 2020 will take place on the weekend of October 3rd & 4th. Various sponsors were involved in the 2019 event and more will be sought for 2020 to help grow the event year-on-year.</p> <p>There were two Council Meetings in 2019, the 27th February & September 17th (during the Main Meeting)</p> <p><u>BMS Meetings for 2019:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BMS Main Scientific Meeting 2019 September 17th – 19th TECA Conference Centre, Theme : Fungal Interaction. • BMS Autumn Open Meeting at Jodrell Laboratory Kew November 16th Theme: Diversity & Ecology of Fungi. <p>The BMS Main Scientific Meeting for 2020 is planned to be held in Cranfield University from 15th to the 17th of September 2020.Theme: Fungi in the Environment.</p>	

	<p>The Field Meetings and Workshops are all planned for 2020 and information available through the BMS website.</p> <p>UK Fungus day 2019: 6th/7th October 2019. Involved outreach events aimed at the general public. 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 2020 at the current level. The BMS president thanked all those who were involved in the publishing contract negotiations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fungal Biology -Doing well. 2. Fungal Biology Reviews – The Impact Factor is on the increase. New senior editor Jan Dijksterhuis appointed to support Nick Read as joint senior editor. 3. Fungal Ecology – This title goes from strength to strength. 4. Field Mycology - Is doing extremely well and as ever is always well received. <p>The Publication contract with Elsevier will expire at the end of 2020 and will need renegotiating or relocating to a new publisher from 2021.</p>	
4.0	<p>Treasurer’s Report (Geoff M. Gadd-presented by Simon Avery)</p>	
	<p>Statement of financial activities:</p> <p>The prepared BMS accounts up to December 31st 2018 are now available through the BMS website. Simon Avery 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 ‘<i>Summary of Income</i>’ section where multiple transactions may not always be easily distinguished but are grouped together for ease of accounting.</p> <p>He also highlighted the variations in the accounts indicating the Society enjoyed a healthy surplus at the end of 2018. 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. 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.</p> <p>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>Carol Hobart proposed a motion that the accounts be accepted. Pieter van West seconded this motion</p> <p>Proposed Motion Carried</p> <p>In Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the 2018 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 (Previously Hicks Randles) • Established activities should be able to continue in 2020: however new activities should be carefully scrutinized. Economies should continue to be sought. • The Treasurer will take close scrutiny at this in 2020, with appropriate measures to ensure that the financial security of the Society is not jeopardized whilst ensuring core activities continue. <p>Membership Rates for 2020: These will remain as they were in 2017, 2018 & 2019. The cost of journals however will rise slightly as these increase in cost to the Society year-on-year. Details can be found on the BMS website under the membership section.</p>	

<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. PvW asked if these costs could be accepted by the members present.

Angel Medina-Vaya proposed they be accepted,
Paul Dyer seconded this proposal.

The costs for 2020 were therefore accepted.

5.0 Election of Honorary Officers, Auditors and Trustees for 2019

Proposed Honorary Officers (01.01.19)

President: Prof Simon Avery (Nottingham University)

Vice President: *Ms Liz Holden (new for 2020)*

Treasurer: Prof. G. M. Gadd, University of Dundee

General Secretary: Prof Naresh Magan (Cranfield Heath)

Publications Officer: Dr. Matthius Brock

International Initiative Adviser (seconded) Prof AW Whalley (non-voting)

Media Liaison (seconded) Prof Lynne Boddy (non-voting)

Fungal Biology Research Committee representatives: Dr Angel Medina-Vaya, (TBC)

Fungal Education and Outreach Committee representatives: Mr Nathan Smith, (TBC)

Field Mycology and Conservation Representatives: Mr Eric Janke, Mrs Jeanette Maddy

Committees

Fungal Biology Research (FBR)

Dr Angel Medina-Vaya(chair)	retiring 2021
Michael Csukai.....	retiring 2021
Dr Matthius Brock (Publications Officer)	retiring 2021
Dr Martin Bidartondo	retiring 2021
Dr Duncan Wilson	retiring 2020

Prof Paul Dyer (Co-opted as IMA liaison)

Fungal Education and Outreach

Mr Nathan Smith (Secondary School Adviser)	retiring 2020
Mr Rich Wright	retiring 2021
Dr Linda Davies	retiring 2021
Mr Ali McKernan	retiring 2021

Prof Lynne Boddy will be co-opted onto FEO (Media Relations)

Field Mycology and Conservation

Mr Richard Shotbolt	retiring 2020
Ms Jeanette Maddy	retiring 2020
Dr Eric Janke	retiring 2020
Pat O' Reilly	retiring 2021
Pat Cavanagh	retiring 2021
Brian Gale	retiring 2022
Andy Overall	retiring 2022

Mr David Harries (Fungus group Network Co-ordinator) retiring 2020

Co-opted for 2020:

Dr Paul Kirk (Database Manager)
Dr Stuart Skeates (Webmaster)
Dr Peter Smith (Foray Manager)

	<p>Simon Avery asked those present at AGM to accept these individuals in the positions. Paul Dyer proposed to accept these, seconded by Carol Hobart Nominations accepted.</p>	
6.0	<p>Election of New Members: New members for 2019 were listed. Simon Avery requested these be accepted into the Society. Carol Hobart proposed that they were. Paul Dyer seconded this proposal. All were accepted as members.</p> <p>Membership Numbers for 2019: Simon Avery informed those attending that the current membership stood at: <i>Paid Up members in 2019 = 613</i> <i>New Members (included in the above) = 55</i></p> <p>A proposal to amend the BMS Constitutional requirements that new members be supported by two current BMS members as referees had been proposed in 2018. This change would remove the need for two referees. The failure to reach a quorum of members meant that this was postponed until the 2019 AGM. In line with the Constitution, this proposal was re-presented and, despite no quorum being available, was passed by Council as allowed within the rule of the BMS Constitution. All present asked if they supported this change. Show of hands had 11 in favour. No one opposed this motion. AGREED. The change will be amended within the constitution document. Part 2, Section 7. Line (b)</p>	
7.0	<p>Awards: In 2019 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 Berkeley Award – No Nominee in 2019 • The President’s Award: No Nominee in 2019 • Benefactors Medal – No Nominee in 2019. • The new committee specific award from the Field Mycology & Conservation Committee. Recipient for 2019 was a group whose work on Rust Fungi was acknowledged as significant. It will presented to these people by Carol Hobart, Acting Chair of the FMC committee. <p>The FBR & FEO committee awards were not given in 2019</p>	
8.0	<p>A.O.B. The BMS Strategy Meeting held in July 2019 was attended by representatives from the BMS Council & Committees and Mr Marcus Yeo of JNCC (in the role of objective observer) Matters Discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Society Mission • Social Media Activity • Funding for New Activities • Training Courses to support Field communities <p>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.</p> <p>He asked if anyone had any questions about this strategic evaluation. A former BMS president asked about the declining membership numbers at a time when mycology and fungi are very much in the public eye. He wished the trustees to look at why more people were not joining the Society and why some were leaving. Simon Avery expounded on ideas discussed at the Strategy Meeting and ongoing with Council</p>	

	<p>and Committees as to how this might be addressed.</p> <p>The International aspect of the Society was discussed and how the BMS might reach beyond the perception of the Society as simply a British Society.</p> <p>Simon Avery asked if there were any more questions or issues that those members present wished to discuss. No one mentioned anything of note.</p> <p>Simon Avery thanked all those present for their attendance and continued commitment to the Society and asked that look forward to supporting the 2020 BMS Main Scientific Meeting at Cranfield University in September.</p> <p>The AGM was then closed at 1:15pm (approx.)</p> <p>As an aside, Simon Avery informed those present that Prof Lynne Boddy of Cardiff University, a longtime BMS member and former BMS president, had received an MBE award from the Queen, for services to mycology. He expressed the congratulations from the Society on this exceptional recognition of her achievements in the world of mycology and fungal studies.</p>	
	<p>The next BMS AGM in 2020 will be held during the BMS Main Meeting at Cranfield University</p>	
	<p>The meeting closed at approximately 1:15pm</p>	