

## BMS Council Meeting March 11th 2011 at the Charity Centre, London

**Start at 11:00am**

**Present:** Prof Naresh Magan, Prof Geoff M.Gadd, Dr Geoff Robson, Dr Simon Avery, Dr Stuart Skeates, Dr Derek Schafer, Dr Peter Crittenden, Prof Anthony Whalley, Norman Porrett (BMS Administrator)

ITEM		ACTION
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Apologies for absence:</b> Ms Carol Hobart, Prof Bruce Ing, Dr David Minter, Dr Paul Dyer, Dr Pieter van West	
<b>1A</b>	<p>The incoming BMS president Prof Naresh Magan gave a short welcoming speech indicating how as the new president he would wish to conduct BMS meetings. He intends to look for consensus where possible and failing this, a majority vote where a decision is needed.</p> <p>Echoing earlier Council meetings in anticipation of 2011, financial constraints around the available BMS funds need to be considered in all proposed activities.</p> <p>The current profile of mycology in UK universities is quite low and needs to be raised, with an active drive to increase the membership and public awareness of mycology.</p>	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Approval of the Minutes of the previous Council meeting.</b> - After minor amendments these were agreed and approved. They will be filed by the office.	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Matters Arising:</b> (actions required from the last meeting were discussed)	
	<b>(4A)</b> A log of future contacts with the Charities Commission was created to ensure contact made with this body was consistent, and individuals dealt with were named for reference, should issues arise in the future.	
	<b>(4E) Incorporation:</b> Questions were raised about this issue and what progress has been made since the last Council meeting? Dr Geoff Robson volunteered to download the necessary form to circulate to trustees for completion.	<b>GR to circulate the form.</b>
	<p><b>(4G) New members' scrutiny:</b> it was proposed to remove the requirement for 2 signatures for the BMS application form previously required. Objections to this were that it would diminish the Societies reputation as a 'Learned Society'. NM asked if candidates joined online, they could be provisionally accepted with submission of two current members email addresses. These applicants' details would then be referred to the President, Treasurer and President-elect for final approval, once the email referees were verified. If these members were later deemed unsuitable, they could still be expelled under the BMS constitution.</p> <p>PC voiced concern that the system of needing two referees could be perceived as archaic compared to the requirements of other similar Societies, and could be detrimental to any drive to increase the membership.</p> <p>GMG reiterated that as a Learned Society we need to retain a certain amount of rigor in determining membership acceptance. SA asked if a more open joining policy would detract from the Learned Society label, as it is not strictly speaking, a part of the BMS legal identity.</p> <p>GR suggested that applicants pay upfront for membership with the agreement that</p>	<b>SS &amp; NP to amend website BMS membership application form</b>

	<p>acceptance was provisional until final approval was communicated. NM proposed to take this idea forward and that the online application form would be amended with the word ‘provisional’ inserted. This was agreed.</p> <p><b>Action: Web application to be amended accordingly by SS &amp; NP</b></p>	
	<p><b>(8D) Media Contact position:</b> From June 2011 Prof Lynne Boddy will be the lead BMS contact where requests for BMS help and information are received. It was proposed that the Chairs of the three committees are the next logical level of media contact should LB be unavailable. These would cover incoming enquiries. Outgoing publicity should be sent as a press release to the relevant outlet, newspaper or TV.</p>	
	<p>AW informed Council that on his recent trip to Thailand, the feedback about IMC9 held in 2010 was very positive. The BMS role in IMC9 had raised the profile of the BMS immensely in Thailand, even more so since the recent visit of Lynne Boddy and Nick Read to advise the Thai’s hosting of IMC10.</p>	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>The President:</b>	
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b><i>Special Funding Application from Alex Lichius</i></b> -A funding request for attendees at the Gordon-Kenan Research Seminar was received. Alex Lichius is known amongst the BMS Council and has been an active academic for a number of years. GMG made it know that he had attended this event before and it was a very useful platform for developing scientists.</p> <p>A debate ensued about the merits of the application and the policy of awarding only one award/grant to an organization/laboratory needed to be emphasized and enforced as laid down in the terms and conditions of the application form(s).</p> <p>The amounts requested were considered by Council and a decision was proposed by NM to offer <b>£300</b> as a travel grant for a BMS member and <b>£100</b> to sponsor a poster award, with the proviso that the award/prize be named the BMS Poster-Prize.</p> <p><b>All Council members agreed to this proposal.</b></p> <p>SA commented that special funding requests such as this need to be channeled to the relevant committee for discussion and provisional approval before being presented to Council for final approval. This would speed up Council meetings in future. This was agreed by Council.</p> <p><b>Action: All special funding requests should be sent to NM. GMG and GR to assign to the most relevant committee for consideration and one of these would make the case to Council for support or for rejection and the reasons why.</b></p>	<b>Office to pass on requests to the relevant Committee.</b>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b>BMS website progress report (SS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bulk Emailing System: this is now operational and allows for different groups of members and non-members to be contacted. All bulk emails have an ‘unsubscribe’ click button as part of the legal requirements. Access to these bulk lists can be granted to designated persons.</li> <li>• Events Module: this is now live and has been initially populated. It allows for different groups of events to have their own summary page, as well as an overall summary of events.</li> <li>• News Module: this is still live and needs items added to it.</li> <li>• Online Payment System: two quotations to implement this have been requested</li> </ul>	

	<p>and is an important facility which is essential. The 1<sup>st</sup> was from the website developers Souk and the 2<sup>nd</sup> from a freelance web designer working alone. The pros and cons of each needed to be considered. The developer will need access to the servers and this could be difficult for an outside person. The alternative would be to have the site hosted by a separate developer so either could be given access. The chosen designer would need experience of the content management system ‘Concrete 5’. SS has been in contact with the designer ‘Steve’ as recommended by Paul Dyer to compare costs of updating and amending the BMS website. His fee is significantly lower than that of Souk as he does not have their overheads, but neither does he have their pool of resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SS explained the rationale behind the hosting of the website and the cost of moving the site to another server, including possible access problems with Souk passwords if it remained where it is, especially for an external web designer.</li> <li>• SS asked for permission to get Souk to update the Myco-Kids section on the BMS website. GMG asked whether this section needs such a high profile presence on the front page of the website, as it may detract from the impression that the BMS was a Learned Society. It was suggested that this would better placed at another lower level under Education sub-section with a ‘Myco-Kids’ link from the 1<sup>st</sup> page. NM asked SS to discuss this aspect further with <b>FEO chair Paul Dyer</b>.</li> <li>• Members Address updates done by members within the website can be emailed to the office to update Elsevier’s lists of those receiving journals. This will cost £600 to implement.</li> <li>• <b>Council members debated the costs and requirements for an online payment facility and asked SS to get a third quote from another Company. He was asked to then take these quotes back to Souk and see if costs could be negotiated. A time frame of one month was given to achieve this and to communicate the result to NM, GMG and GR and a decision would then be made on which quote to accept.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>SS to discuss further with Paul Dyer</b></p>
<p><b>4.3</b></p>	<p><b>Society of Biology, Member Organisations Meeting in April:</b> A volunteer was required to attend this meeting. The members present were unavailable. <b>NM asked NP for Matt Fisher’s email to see if he could represent the BMS there.</b></p>	<p><b>NP to send Matt Fisher’s email to NM</b></p>
<p><b>4.4</b></p>	<p><b>Request for Financial Support for DVD production (GR)</b>  As part of the current special issue of Fungal Biology Reviews (FBR) composed of articles from keynote and plenary speakers at IMC9, Gero Steinberg has released images and video clips of fungal cell biology to accompany his article. The editors of FBR have negotiated with Elsevier to release these images in open access to promote FBR and the BMS. A DVD containing a copy of the special edition of FBR and all videos to be distributed at the ASILOMAR meeting is to be created. To offset production costs, Elsevier have asked for a contribution from the BMS of €1500 (approx £1200). The DVD will be a terrific educational resource and the BMS will have the right to distribute the images for promotional purposes in the scientific community. In essence this investment would be returned to the BMS as Elsevier would invest this money in sponsorship of other events this financial year, e.g., the BMS Main Scientific meeting (September, Exeter, 2011). Enquiries are also being made as to the cost of making additional copies for the BMS to sell. NM asked Council members for their response. GMG suggested an offer be extended to Elsevier of £1000.</p>	<p><b>GR to take an offer back to Elsevier.</b></p>

	<b>Council members agreed to this. GR will report back to Elsevier</b>	
<b>4.5</b>	<b>Proposed Workshop in the Philippines.</b> GMG and GR have recently returned from a partially BMS funded meeting in the Philippines on research into Geomycology & Fungal Biodeterioration. Hosted by the Central Luzon State University. The event may become a regular addition to the calendar. Future joint collaborations with the BMS and the Philippines Mycological Association (PMA) were discussed. A SE Asia fungal meeting including Thailand and perhaps Vietnam could be organized. AW will be in Thailand from August onwards and will pursue this idea further.	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Treasurers Report.(GMG)</b>	
	<p>For 2010: The Society accounts show that we basically broke even.  In 2011, with the expenditure on IMC9 and the new BMS website accounted for, funds available will be greatly reduced, when compared with to previous years.  It is imperative that any and all proposed large expenditure is scrutinized by the BMS President, Treasurer and President-elect before any spending commitments.</p> <p>Meetings of Council/Committees need to be anticipated to coincide where possible to minimize costs. Committee meetings need to be justified by their Chair as available funds are minimal. Email and telephone meetings may assist with this.  GMG has been in contact with the BMS publisher, Elsevier, to streamline payments from them to the BMS, to improve the Society's cash flow. Again this emphasizes the financial restrictions facing the Society.</p> <p>SS asked GMG if the BMS accounts will be ready for the AGM as it will take place earlier than normal, in September at Exeter during the main BMS meeting.  GMG raised the question of whether the BMS needs its accounts audited officially based on the size of its income and expenditure. If this was not a legal requirement then money could be saved by dispensing with this service in 2011.</p>	
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Fungal Biology Research (SA)</b>	
	<p>There has been no meeting of the FBR committee since the last Council meeting. The next FBR meeting could take place at Exeter before Council and the AGM, and adheres to the spirit of economy proposed by the Treasurer.  Alicante 2012: This will be the main meeting for this year. Everything is on course with main speakers invited and the overall organization proceeding satisfactorily.  The proposed venue for the 2013 main meeting is possibly Cardiff, but no follow up formal approach has been made yet.</p>	
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Fungal Education &amp; Outreach (notes supplied by Paul Dyer)</b>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>From Another Kingdom</i> exhibition: this is now being hosted in Wales at the National Botanic Gardens of Wales. (NBGW) It opens to the public on 19<sup>th</sup> March and will remain in Wales until 2012. The cost of transportation was not incurred by the BMS, although some contribution may be requested to 'fine tune' the exhibits.</li> <li>2. In conjunction with the above, Welsh (bilingual) versions of the new BMS primary school and Myco-kids materials are being produced by NBGW staff.</li> <li>3. The MiSAC 2010 competition sponsored by the BMS for secondary schools with the theme, 'Helpful and Harmful Fungi', has received 525 student entries from 56 schools. This was more than those received in previous years. Judging</li> </ol>	



	<p>Council was asked to approve the budget in principle. <b>Council agreed</b></p> <p><b>5. Projects for 2012:</b> at the FMC committee meeting a discussion took place to decide priority objects for 2012, and the following were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Narrative Summary</b> of the FMC minutes prepared and placed on the BMS website. Richard Fortey has offered to take this task on.</li> <li>• <b>Extinct Species Project:</b> Martyn Ainsworth, with local fungus groups intends to continue his project to assess the status of species not recorded in the UK for the last 50 years.</li> <li>• <b>Common Species Project:</b> Bruce Ing with the help of other Committee members is going to develop a nationwide survey of common and easily identified species. This will involve a wide sector of those interested in fungi. This is a follow up to an idea put forward at the Group Leaders meeting in 2010.</li> <li>• <b>FRDBI interface:</b> SS has put in a bid to OPAL for £5000 of lottery funding to develop the interface of the FRDBI. This is in serious need of development, especially when in 2012 Dr Paul Kirk will retire from CABI and the data may be placed on the servers at RBG Kew. Paul and Kew will continue to manage its content. BMS funding may be required if the OPAL bid is unsuccessful.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>9.0</b></p>	<p><b>Publications (chair PvW not present)</b> NR requested that in future a report on publications needs to be provided by the Chair of publications if they are unable to attend. GMG gave a brief report on the current state of the BMS journals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality of articles accepted for publication continues to increase.</li> <li>• Impact factors, where awarded, remain consistent.</li> <li>• The contract with Elsevier: the impact on the BMS needs to be considered when this comes to an end in 2015.</li> <li>• All Council members were requested to actively solicit mycological review articles from academic colleagues to provide copy for Fungal Biology Reviews.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>10.0</b></p>	<p><b>International Initiatives (Report by AJW)</b></p> <p>IMC 9 was the highlight of 2010 with many complimentary comments being received from overseas visitors during and after the meeting. Close to 2000 delegates attended representing 83 countries. Professor Nick Read and his team quite rightly deserve the many accolades. During Prof Whalley's recent stay in Thailand there was excellent feedback from Thai, Korean, Chinese and Japanese delegates at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Thai Mycological Association held at Kasetsart University in Bangkok on 7th December. Interestingly IMC9 was frequently referred to as a BMS meeting! In Edinburgh the acceptance by IMA of the Thai bid to host IMC10 was announced. The BMS is providing advice for the organizing committee which has been warmly received and very much appreciated by Professor John Taylor, President IMA who presided over a meeting of the committee to discuss the evolving timetable.</p> <p>Many of the delegates at IMC9 visited the Royal Botanic Garden at Edinburgh and the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and a number of UK universities either pre- or post-congress. Professor Yi-jian Yao, Director of the Key Laboratory for Mycology and Lichenology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing visited Liverpool and North Wales and Dr Khwanruan Papong from Mahasarakham University, Thailand visited at</p>	

	<p>the same time. Dr Papong is also the Director of the Mycology Museum at Mahasarakham and welcomes future BMS participation especially involving industrial and commercial aspects. Later in the year Professor Geoff Gadd and Dr Geoff Robson gave seminars at Mahasarakham and held discussions with the Dean of Science re future collaboration. They also gave seminars at Srinakharinwirot and Kasetsart Universities.</p> <p>During November Professor Lynne Boddy and Professor Nick Read attended the International Fungal Symposium at Mae Fah Leung University, Chiang Rai, Thailand both presenting keynote papers. Earlier they had visited Kasetsart University for discussions with Dr Leka Mannooh who is the Chair of the Organizing Committee for IMC10. Nick presented the committee with a detailed profile on the organization of the Edinburgh meeting and with Lynne visited the future venue for IMC10. Lynne also gave seminars at Ramkhamhaeng, Kasetsart and Chulalongkorn Universities.</p> <p>As Professor Tony Whalley is visiting Professor at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok he has been an invited speaker at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Thai Mycological Association and visited Kasetsart University, Mahidol University, Khon Kaen University and Srinakharinwirot Universities. When he returns later in 2011 he will give seminars at many of these universities and join the organizing committee (IMC10) to help as appropriate.</p> <p>During 2010 Geoff Gadd and Geoff Robson continued to develop links in China and have started new links with mycologists in the Philippines.</p>	
11.0	<b>General Secretary Correspondence - None of note received.</b>	
12.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BMS archives: The BMS office proposed to look into packing up and bringing archive material from Kew to Manchester to scan and return for storage to Kew. NP will look at comparative costs of transporting these via Man &amp; Van /Parcelforce, or an alternative. The comparative costs will be communicated to Council for consideration and a decision on the best course of action.</li> <li>• Printing of the Special Edition of Mycologist News from 2010 and the BMS Constitution booklet. These would form part of the welcome pack to new applicants. The cost would be £282 and £252 respectively.</li> <li>• <b>Council agreed to the reprinting of 100 issues of the Special Edition newsletter, once amended/updated. NP to amend and order reprinting.</b></li> <li>• The constitution will be supplied only in email format or printed off upon request by the BMS office.</li> <li>• Direct Debits: If the online payments via the website are implemented then Direct Debits may not be needed. The office will look at those members who would be unable to pay through the website, and those without email access. It should be possible create a trial list for possible use of Direct Debits as a payment method in 2012. <b>NP to investigate</b></li> <li>• <b>Committee A5 leaflets:</b> The stock of printed materials held in the office is getting low. The Green three-fold leaflets of the Thwaite's mushroom prints need reprinting. An estimate was presented to Council for various print runs. 2000, 4000 and 6000 were proposed. <b>Council agreed to the 2000 estimate.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>NP &amp; Office</b></p> <p><b>NP to arrange</b></p> <p><b>NP to investigate further</b></p> <p><b>NP &amp; Office</b></p>

	<p>The leaflets created for IMC9 for the FBR committee will be reprinted, and similar leaflets for the other two committees will be created and printed before Exeter in September 2011.</p> <p><b>NP &amp; the Office to liaise with Committee chairs to create leaflets.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Content for the BMS newsletter, Mycologist News is always needed. All Council members were asked to contribute items they felt would be appreciated by the membership to NP</li> <li>• <b>Next Council Meeting</b> -it was proposed to hold the next Council meeting during the Exeter Main Scientific meeting, before the AGM.</li> </ul>	<p><b>to contact Chairs of committees</b></p>
	<p>The Committees need to supply the names of nominees to their committee ASAP, as required by the BMS constitution. SS of the FMC has supplied these. The FEO and FBR committees will be contacted to supply theirs.</p>	
	<p>TW proposed awarding Dr Brian Spooner the <b>BMS Benefactors Medal</b> for his work and support in various aspects of mycology. <b>TW will email NM to discuss further.</b></p>	<p><b>TW to email NM</b></p>
	<p><b>Berkeley Award:</b> There is a deadline of July to nominate a candidate from 2011 to present a lecture in 2012. Elaine Bignells name was suggested as a possibility.</p>	
	<p><b>Meeting Closed at 3:15pm</b></p>	