

**BMS Council Meeting,**  
**Friday October 3rd 2014, 12:30pm at City View House,**  
**Union Street, Ardwick, Manchester, M12 4JD**

**Attendees:** Dr Geoff Robson, Prof Pieter van West, Ms Carol Hobart, Mr Peter Smith (Foray Manager)  
 Prof Richard Fortey, Dr Elaine Bignell, Prof Nick Read, Dr Alex Brand, Dr Stuart J. Skeates, Dr Kay Yeoman (via Skype)  
 Mr Norman Porrett (BMS Administrator) Mr Joel Hacking (BMS Office Assistant) Mr Kieran Taylor (Placement Student)

| ITEM       |  | ACTION   |
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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Apologies for absence:</b> Dr Ali Ashby, Prof Geoff M. Gadd, Prof Tony Whalley  |  |
|            | <i>GR asked all present to introduce themselves to the newer attendees, PS, JH &amp; KT</i>  |  |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Approval of Minutes from previous meeting:</b> Any amendments submitted by attendees will be added to the minutes and these will be archived.   | <b>NP</b>  |
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| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Matters Arising: (carried forward from the previous meeting)</b>  |  |
|            | <p>Points of order and associated actions raised at the last meeting will be addressed throughout this meeting.</p> <p><b>i. New Awards for each committee:</b> Feedback requested from the chairs of the three committees. FMCC felt this idea to be potentially divisive and perhaps current awards criteria needed reassessing. GR outlined the current criteria for BMS awards. The FMCC were asked to suggest alternative criteria for an FMCC award. The FEO committee were also asked to discuss if an award for FEO was appropriate.</p> <p><b>Action: The BMS committees will continue to discuss the idea of a committee specific award and the attendant criteria, and report back to Council next time.</b></p> <p><b>ii. Benefactors Medal nomination:</b> Carol Hobart.</p> <p><b>Action: Council endorsed this award unanimously. CH will be awarded this medal at the 2014 AGM by GR</b></p> <p><b>iii. Biologist journal-</b> funding request towards a Special Edition. BMS previously declined unless further details were forthcoming. No further communication has been received following this request.</p> <p><b>iv. A time had now been agreed for the BMS AGM at the November Open Meeting.</b> This would be between 12 and 12.30 on the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2014.</p> <p><b>v. IMC10 –Bursary Awards and BMS financial contribution.</b> A summary of the costs accrued through BMS involvement with IMC10 event was presented and revealed an under spend of the funds allocated. Overall the cost of participating in this event was comparable with the costs of the normal BMS Annual Main Scientific Meeting.</p> <p><b>vi. PayPal for membership renewal purposes:</b> This will be addressed later on in this meeting.</p> <p><b>vii. Financial position of the BMS:</b> The publishing contract has been signed and GMG was due to report back to Council, but is unavailable at this time. The BMS accounts will be communicated to Council as soon as available, and then to the BMS membership at the AGM in November.</p> <p><b>viii. SGM no longer wished to be involved with MiSAC.</b> KY was asked to investigate why. Margret Whalley has reported that SGM are involved in their</p> | <p><b>All BMS Committees</b></p> <p><b>GR</b></p> <p><b>GG</b></p> |

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| <p>own outreach activities and no longer feel the need to be involved with MiSAC. GR asked that Council to approve continued support for MiSAC and their school outreach activities as in previous years.</p>  |                             |
| <p><b>Action. Council supported continuing links with MiSAC</b></p>  |                             |
| <p>ix. Soliciting UG case studies for inclusion in the UG page of the FEO section of the website: This has been included within the BMS website, with the agreed offer of a £50 Amazon voucher for those whose case studies/experiments are used.</p>  |                             |
| <p>x. Leaf-Cutter Ants video link had been uploaded to the BMS website</p>   |                             |
| <p>xi. RCUK partnership scheme: KY was to email the BMS membership for experiment protocols to use in a research project to identify genome/DNA data from lichens.</p>   |                             |
| <p><b>Action: KY will report back at the next Council meeting.</b></p>   | <p><b>KY</b></p>            |
| <p>xii. FRDBI Hosting: To be discussed later in this meeting.</p>  |                             |
| <p>xiii. Postgraduate/Post Doctorate section in the BMS newsletter: FBR committee to discuss amongst themselves. Not yet progressed.</p>   | <p><b>FBR committee</b></p> |
| <p><b>Action: Needs to be looked at again before the first FBR meeting in 2015</b></p>   |                             |
| <p>xiv. Contributions to the BMS newsletter: Solicit articles from Council members again via email reminder.</p>   |                             |
| <p><b>Action: NP to email around Council for articles, news and any other items of interest</b></p>  | <p><b>NP</b></p>            |
| <p>xv. Richard Fortey (BMS vice-president) and TV program <i>The Magic of Mushrooms</i>: Broadcast in April 2014, BMS membership informed in advance of the event. It was suggested that a review of the programme could be featured in IMA Fungus to reach a more international audience.</p> |                             |
| <p><b>Action: NP to contact Lynne Boddy on behalf of Council and forward this request to write a review for IMA Fungus</b></p>   | <p><b>NP</b></p>            |
| <p>xvi. Membership had been added to the standing agenda for future BMS Council meetings.</p>  |                             |
| <p>xvii. BMS strategy for the future: Ideas for future objectives and strategies to achieve these were to be sought from BMS Council and committees.</p>   |                             |
| <p><b>Action: Council and committee to be emailed for ideas by NP/BMS office.</b></p>  | <p><b>NP</b></p>            |
| <p><b>RF: The State of Nature Report:</b> RF indicated that there is very little mention of fungi in this 2013 report. National newspapers have mentioned fungi in association with this but RF suggested the BMS must have more input into the follow up the report.</p>                      |                             |
| <p><b>Action: Council to consider this and report back ideas at the next Council meeting</b></p>   | <p><b>All Council</b></p>   |

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| <p><b>4.0</b></p> | <p><b>The President: (GR)</b></p> <p>a) <b>Presidents Actions:</b> GR and CH have written to Natural England and Natural Resources Wales concerning the State of Nature report and the BMS desire to be involved in any conservation discussions. A reply has been received from both, acknowledging this and expressing a desire to work with the BMS, amongst others, to further conservation objectives.</p> <p>The FMCC committee had applied to Council for financial support to update the FRDBI (Fungal Recording Database of Britain and Ireland). This had been agreed by email by Council and work was now underway to take this project forward for the benefit of the Society and its members, as well as the wider fungal community and conservation interests.</p> <p>b) <b>Nominations for Council &amp; Committees 2015:</b> GR presented a list of those intending to stand for positions on Council and Committees from 2015. Nominations can be found on the AGM page within the BMS website at the URL <a href="http://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/society/governance/agm/">http://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/society/governance/agm/</a></p> <p><b>Action: Council approved the nominations.</b></p> <p>c) <b>BMS Awards:</b> Discussed under Matters Arising and a course of action decided upon.</p> <p>d) <b>Fungal Biology Ltd/BMS office:</b> A replacement for Sophie Embleton, the previous BMS office part-time assistant, had been appointed. Joel Hacking would initially support the UK Fungus Day event on October 11<sup>th</sup> &amp; 12<sup>th</sup> alongside the FEO/FMC committees. Part of Joel's brief will be to look at how the BMS can communicate using modern media. A placement student from Manchester University, Kieran Taylor, will also be looking at this area as part of his brief to upgrade the BMS educational outreach materials. It is hoped that by using the modern media outlets such as Facebook and Twitter as well as easy internet access, the BMS will be able to reach schools and the general public easier and more directly..</p> <p>e) <b>BMS Facebook page</b> (as opposed to the current BMS group page). The Facebook Group page is going well with contributions of images and field enquiries, but the Facebook page will be a way of advertising the BMS and its activities to interested parties more directly. Any items Council feel should be included within the Facebook page should be sent to the BMS office. There is currently a proposal for three separate pages, one for each of the BMS committees. A Twitter page for the BMS and UK Fungus Day had also been created. This will be administered by SJS, JH and Lynne Boddy.</p> <p>f) <b>QR code for the BMS:</b> This graphic code once scanned by someone with a modern smart phone, will take them straight to the BMS website.</p> <p><b>Action: This image will be included on all new and reprinted BMS published materials.</b></p> <p>g) <b>Prof Geoff Hadley &amp; Royall T. Moore</b> had recently passed away. An obituary was featured in the most recent issue of the BMS newsletter with web links to other obituaries where available.</p> | <p>NP</p> |
| <p><b>5.0</b></p> | <p><b>The Treasurer: GR (on behalf of GMG):</b> The BMS accounts and Fungal Biology Ltd accounts are currently being finalised. These will be circulated around Council well in advance of the BMS AGM in November for Council approval. At the last meeting of Council, the proposal to move some BMS funds to other better performing financial portfolios was agreed. This has now been completed and their performance will be monitored periodically.</p>  |           |

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| <p><b>6.0</b></p> | <p><b>Fungal Biology Research committee: (NR)</b><br/> IMC10 in Thailand in August had been a great success, despite initial concerns about the volatile political situation just prior to the congress. It had over 900 attendees (IMC9 in Edinburgh, organised by the BMS had 1550 attendees). IMC11 will take place in Puerto Rico in 2018 and draw delegates from across North and South America.</p> <p>The BMS Main Scientific Meeting in 2015 would be held in Manchester as a joint meeting with the SGM on the theme “The Invasive Fungus“ and run over 2 ½ days. The SGM will provide the majority of administrative input for this as well as financial support for the invited speakers. Provisionally this would be held in early September with the exact dates and venue to be confirmed.</p> <p>The FBR committee had discussed the possibility of holding regular Day Meeting events with themes that can be covered in one day. Initially these will probably take place in London and venues will be researched by the BMS office.<br/> Joint Meetings with other similar Societies will also be investigated to create inter-societal links and reduce overall costs for all parties.</p> <p>UK Fungus Day: FBR committee was strongly supportive of a greater academic input into this event. For UK Fungus Day in 2015, the new BMS office Assistant (JH) will liaise closely with the FBR committee over the coming months to ensure universities and academics have the opportunity to contribute to this important BMS outreach event.</p> <p><b>ACTION: JH and FBR to discuss ways in which academics could input into UK Fungus Day 2015</b></p>   | <p><b>JH</b></p>                  |
| <p><b>7.0</b></p> | <p><b>Fungal Education and Outreach committee (KY)</b> Due to KY being unable to attend this Council meeting in person, she arranged to be present via Skype. This connection was unfortunately unreliable at this time, but will be investigated for future meetings and made more reliable. She did manage to transmit a short report via the Skype connection and this is copied over below.</p> <p><i>FEO Report: We are developing new leaflets of general interest, e.g. fungi and dyes. We are busy with National Fungus Day (huge thanks to Joel and Norman as the whole event wouldn't have run without them). We have 50 events across the UK. I have been organising our own, and we have funding from the Society of Biology. I gave a talk about the day in Herefordshire (group leaders meeting). We have a new section on the BMS website for higher education resources, we are hoping to begin to expand what is there.(offer of £50 Amazon voucher for experiment programs) 'From another Kingdom' is staying where it is in NBG Wales in the short term, but we are still discussing the long term home.</i></p> <p>KY felt that to take the FAK exhibition forward it would need to be updated, especially the health/biomedical aspects, and this may need some further BMS investment. This prompted a discussion about the future of the exhibition in its entirety, and whether it could survive in a smaller format if its current size was unable to be accommodated by many venues. We need to know the current dimensions of the exhibition in its layout to make any decisions on this.</p> <p><b>Action: NBG Wales will be contacted to ascertain the size and layout of the FAK exhibition</b></p> <p>NR. In discussions with Prof David Denning, he felt that perhaps Manchester could benefit from this exhibition if a suitable venue could be found.</p> <p><b>Action: NR will pursue this further and report back</b></p> | <p><b>NP</b></p> <p><b>NR</b></p> |
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| <p><b>8.0</b></p>  | <p><b>Field Mycology and Conservation committee. (CH)</b><br/> CH had welcomed new co-opted volunteer Dr Paul Cannon (Kew) to the last FMCC meeting at Kew Gardens. David Harries of the Pembrokeshire Fungus Group as Group Leaders co-ordinator, had organised a successful biennial Group Leaders meeting in Hereford in June.<br/> CH raised the issue of the relative cost of being a BMS member compared to other similar Societies with the BMS Treasurer GMG and is awaiting a response.<br/> The BMS Forays in 2014 have all gone well and the 2015 events with newly appointed Foray Manager Peter Smith are all planned and detailed within the BMS website.<br/> <a href="http://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/mycology/field-meetings/programme/">http://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/mycology/field-meetings/programme/</a><br/> The Fungal Recording Database of Britain and Ireland (FRDBI) was discussed in depth at the FMCC meeting and the way forward to update it. CH thanked Council for approving the funding necessary to update the FRDBI and a working party had been formed to take this project forward.<br/> The Red Data Lists of fungi is being completed by Dr Martyn Ainsworth (Kew) carrying on the work of the late Justin Smith.<br/> Martyn Ainsworth and Paul Cannon have acquired funding from the Esme Fairburn Foundation to set up a project entitled ‘The Lost and Found Project’.<br/> <i>‘This project will focus on fungi that have been rarely recorded from our region, carrying out targeted surveys to establish whether they are still there, and if so whether they are genuinely rare or merely under-reported’.</i> Further details can be found in the August issue of the BMS newsletter for 2014 within the BMS website.<br/> <a href="http://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/files/5014/0906/2890/Issue_3_August_2014.pdf">http://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/files/5014/0906/2890/Issue_3_August_2014.pdf</a><br/> CH reminded everyone present that any conservation enquiries needed forwarding to the relevant people depending on the part of the UK the query originated.<br/> In the England this would be either CH or Martyn Ainsworth, whilst in Scotland it would be Liz Holden (<a href="mailto:liz@marmycology.co.uk">liz@marmycology.co.uk</a>) or in Wales, Shelley Evans (<a href="mailto:shelley.evans@mycoservices.org.uk">shelley.evans@mycoservices.org.uk</a>).</p> |                           |
| <p><b>9.0</b></p>  | <p><b>Publications Committee (PvW)</b> Everything currently running fine. As mentioned previously the major development is that the contract with Elsevier is now signed and guarantees an income to the Society for the next 7 years.<br/> Reviews of submitted papers have been slow as competent reviewers are currently difficult to locate.<br/> In 2015 the journal Fungal Biology (formerly Mycological Research) may finally achieve its true impact factor award.</p>   |                           |
| <p><b>10.0</b></p> | <p><b>Website: (SJS)</b> The New web designers <i>Katalysis</i> have added the ‘cookies’ message as required by law, and a general terms and conditions document which BMS website viewers agree to by proceeding to view the website content.<br/> <b>Action: SJS recommends that Council and/or Society Trustees review these terms and conditions to ensure they agree with them.</b><br/> Online payment for BMS membership and journals is now in place for 2015 and the renewal for 2015 will be the true test of how well this system works.<br/> <b>PayPal</b> has been looked at as an alternative online payment facility and will be discussed further with <i>Katalysis</i> regarding the possibility of integrating this within the BMS website payment section. Bringing upcoming BMS events into prominence on the front page of the BMS website will also be addressed (as requested at previous meetings) now that the major task of online payment had been completed.</p>   | <p><b>All Council</b></p> |

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|             | The membership application process online has been amended to accept new members unless exceptional circumstances arise or we are otherwise informed.   |            |
| <b>11.0</b> | <p>Membership: (GR) It was proposed by GR, current BMS president, to keep the cost of membership and renewal the same in 2015 as it was in 2013 &amp; 2014. This would exclude journal costs which would have to rise in proportion to the cost of these to the BMS from Elsevier.</p> <p><b>Action: Council approved keeping membership rates the same while raising journal subscription rates in line with Elsevier.</b></p> <p>Access to the ‘Bulletin of the BMS’, an historic forerunner of the Fungal Biology Reviews journal was discussed. The question was raised as to whether Elsevier could provide the scanned files for inclusion within the BMS website as an added benefit of BMS membership.</p> <p><b>Action: PvW will contact Elsevier about supplying the Bulletin and possibly other older journals to the BMS website ASAP.</b></p>  | <b>PvW</b> |
| <b>12.0</b> | <p><b>International Initiatives: GR on behalf of AJW.</b></p> <p>The MiSAC competition supported by the BMS was taken to Thailand to coincide with IMC10 and was extremely well received. Students designed information posters on “Fearsome Fungi” and prizes for those judged the best were awarded during the closing ceremony by the BMS President. More details can be found within the FEO/Secondary Education section of the BMS website.<br/> <a href="http://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/education/secondary/misac-competition-thailand-2014/">http://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/education/secondary/misac-competition-thailand-2014/</a></p> <p>Margaret Whalley who was heavily involved in the organisation of the Thai poster competition had requested a sum of £2K to repeat the completion in 2015 to coincide with the BMS sponsored meeting in Kohn Kaen.</p> <p><b>Action: Council approved this award.</b></p> <p>AW also suggested that to increase international influence Council consider the establishment of International Award to enable talented postgraduate students to spend up to 2/3 months at a UK university where there is suitable mycological research and expertise. AW is in contact with Mr Chris Gibson, Director British Council in Bangkok, and can meet him to see if there is any possible support from the BC to fit in with such international awards. Council considered that the newly established Eunice Jones Bequest Fund was already targeting young BMS scientists for international exchange to other labs and that a separate award was unnecessary.</p> <p>AW reported that he will soon be in a position to circulate details of the proposed Khon Kaen meeting in July 2015.</p> <p><b>Action: GR will contact AW and ask him to submit further details and funding requested ASAP. These will then be circulated to Council for consideration.</b></p> | <b>GR</b>  |
| <b>13.0</b> | <b>General Secretary Correspondence: (GR) None.</b>   |            |
| <b>14.0</b> | <p><b>A.O.B.</b> GR A number of members had commented that the BMS logo and legend is looking a bit tired now after being around for 8 years or so. Is it time for a change in design/livery as we look to incorporate the QR code and increasing use of modern media?</p> <p><b>Action: NP to circulate the membership for ideas regarding a possible logo</b></p>   | <b>NP</b>  |

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|  | <p><b>redesign and report back at the next Council meeting.</b></p> <p>SJS –The Natural History Museum (NHM) is looking to create an online application for smart phones and tablets that may include fungi. Any further developments would be reported back to Council.</p> |  |
|  | <p><b>Meeting Closed at 3:30pm</b></p>   |  |