

BMS Council Meeting Friday November 26th,
1:00 pm at the Directory for Social Change, Charity Centre,
Stephenson Way, London NW1 2DP

Attendees: Prof Lynne Boddy, Dr Derek Schafer, Dr Peter Crittenden, Dr Simon Avery, Dr Paul M.Kirk,
 Ms Carol Hobart, Dr Matt Fisher, Prof Naresh Magan, Dr Ali Ashby, Dr Paul Dyer, Prof Bruce Ing,
 Prof Nick Read, Norman Porrett (BMS Administrator)

ITEM		ACTION
1.0	Apologies: Prof Geoff Gadd, Prof Tony Whalley, Dr Pieter van West, Dr Stuart Skeates, Dr David Minter.	
2.0	Approval of Minutes of previous Council meeting.	
	After minor errors and amendments were pointed out the minutes were accepted and will be adjusted and archived by NP.	NP to amend.
3.0	Matters Arising (from previous minutes)	
	<i>(point 4.2)</i> A membership subscription article for Mycologist News. LB asks to be reminded to write this. Action: Remind LB	
	<i>(point 4.4)</i> Article from previous Council meeting by Prof Richard Fortey, Action: NP to chase up.	
4.0	The President (LB)	
	(f) Brought forward Council & Committees - The new structure and changing composition of these. After LB had communicated with the Charities Commission she was informed that the structure as defined in the Constitution needs to be implemented immediately. After further contact with the Charities Commission, and conflicting advice, it was proposed to log every contact with them, date, time and person spoken/written to. This would cover the BMS in the event that incorrect information resulted in a failure to adhere to Charity Commission guidelines. Action: The office to create a log of contact with the Charities Commission	NP & the Office
	(a) BMS Website - LB asked that an enormous vote of thanks be minuted to Stuart Skeates for all his constant hard work in the ongoing development of the website and liaising with Souk. AA voiced that the tutorial agreed as part of the original website development contract needs to be arranged for the office staff, and those who will input data into the website. All the new committees need to take on responsibility for their particular section. Transferred data from the old website needs to be verified by these committees before including on the new website. Estimates were presented in a handout from Stuart Skeates indicating the potential costs of website maintenance and extra capabilities required in the future. Questions were asked at the meeting about whether it would be more economical to live with the site without a maintenance contract, and pay ad-hoc for upkeep, with the aim replace the site in say 10 years using the money saved from not having a maintenance contract. It was proposed to look at other I.T maintenance providers for comparative costings. Further investigation will be postponed until Stuart Skeates can be present, as he has been leading this project. Discussions on Payment methods were raised and NP was asked to look at Direct	

	Debits again and report back the pros and cons for the BMS. Action: NP to contact the BMS contact at RBS to discuss further.	NP
	(b) IMC10 This will take place in Thailand and members of the BMS have been over to Thailand to advise the Thai's, based on the experience of IMC9.	
	(c) Berkeley Award - There is one nomination for the award, Ms Alex Brand. This will be announced at the upcoming AGM on Saturday November 27th.	
	(d) REF nomination - LB has nominated Prof Neil Gow for membership of this committee. They make the decisions on allocating the Research Selectivity award.	
	(e) Incorporation - (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) LB, NM and Geoff Robson will pursue this further, and advise which avenue of incorporation the BMS need to pursue. Action: LB, NM and GR to investigate and report back to Council	LB, NM & GR
	(g) New Members Scrutiny - Joining the BMS through the website may mean nominators of new members would need to be contacted to verify their support. LB proposed that applicants submit their membership application with enough details of their interests and experience, and that the BMS Council or Committees scrutinize these applications before acceptance. A debate ensued about the reasons people have for joining the BMS, and the rationale behind the current joining criteria, it was decided that for a trial period the two referees signatures would be dispensed with for new applicants. A new application form will be created and circulated to Council for approval, with the aim of keeping it simple and less wordy for ease of completion. Action: LB asked that 1 person from each committee creates an application form aimed at their target audience.	Committees to create an application form for BMS membership
	(h) BMS Fungus Models - The ceramic models used in the 'From Another Kingdom' exhibition at RGB Edinburgh. Council needed to approve the transportation of these with the exhibition when it goes on tour. Council Approved	
	BMS AGM 2011 - LB proposed that it be held in Exeter at the time of the BMS Main Scientific Meeting.(around the 2nd week in September) Council agreed this.	
	Council meetings in 2011. -LB will investigate with members when the best times are for all concerned. All new Council members need to attend where possible.	LB
5.0	IMC9 and IMA (NR)	
	Reporting on the IMC9 event held in Edinburgh in August 2010 Prof Nick Read informed those present that there had been; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1900 plus delegates from 83 different Countries • 330 oral presentations • 1200 posters presented • £91,000 handed out in 296 bursary awards to help attend the event • 700 attendees at the party on the last night. The report by the Professional Conference Organiser (PCO) Elsevier will be circulated soon, with a feedback questionnaire. NR has written an article from the experience for the website 'I Am A Fungus' IMC9 revenue will provide the International Mycological Association (IMA)with funds of £26,400. A review of the event by Dr Ian Singleton will also be published in the BMS newsletter, Mycologist News. Prof Nick read is now Vice-Chair of IMA and will be actively involved with IMC10 in Thailand. HE has prepared a seven page document about how to	

	<p>successfully organize an IMC event. Representatives from the BMS met with the Thailand organisers, to share their experience of organizing this type of event, and this was much appreciated by their Thai hosts. The initial contact with the PCO for IMC10 was very positive, and the venue proposed looked superb. Accommodation for attendees should be well within the means of most people. The overall impression indicated that the congress should be a great success.</p>	
6.0	The Treasurer (GMG - not present)	
	<p>The 2009 BMS accounts were discussed by Council members present. GMG has proposed to look at the accounts and attempt to separate out costs and ascribe them to the three new committees, to assist with future budgeting strategies. The 2010 BMS accounts will most likely report that expenses are significantly higher than 2009. This will be due largely to the funding of IMC9. Revenue and income will be reduced. GMG has proposed that activities in 2011 be planned based on the previous year's monetary allocations. LB highlighted the comparative outgoings of 2008 against those of 2009, indicating the variations both up and down. CH raised the issue of prepared accounts being not immediately accessible or understandable to the untrained eye. LB will talk to the accountant about the wording on the notes to the accounts, specifically page 2, induction and training of new council members. <i>(Matt Fisher left the meeting)</i></p>	
7.0	Fungal Biology Research (SA)	
	<p>SA reviewed the upcoming BMS Main Scientific Meetings for the coming years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011 -Exeter Meeting -theme: Pathogenesis & Development. All the speakers have been invited and confirmation is due. • 2012 Alicante Meeting-(Spain) from previous meetings the budget presented has been revised and tentatively approved by Council with further modifications. The current proposed registration fee for attendees is €150. A cap on travel costs has been decided on for invited speakers to keep costs down. There has been a €25,500 contribution request from the BMS. Meeting Chairs have been suggested by the BMS, to have an active role in the direction and content of the meeting. • 2013 Various venues have been proposed including Cardiff but nothing has been decided on at this time. 	
8.0	Fungal Education & Outreach (PD)	
(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RBGE (Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh) fungi exhibition, including the associated book and fungal outreach weekend, have been very well received and attended. PD expressed the wish to take the exhibition on tour at previous Council meetings to venues such as Cambridge and Cardiff. The cost of storage and transportation has risen more than anticipated to around £15K. The funds to transport and stage the exhibition will come from both Cambridge and Cardiff but some contribution will still be required of the BMS. The extra funds looked for would be comparative to the BMS taking part in RHS Chelsea, around £4500. PD asked if Council 	

	<p>would approve this amount to help tour the exhibition. SA asked if a proposal should have been presented to Council with a written breakdown of the attendant costs. LB agreed that this would normally be the case, but the funds used will in effect be for an activity substitution, not extra funds. The Exhibition on tour instead of RHS Chelsea in 2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A debate about the value and merit of the exhibition, and the reasons for why it needs funding for storage and transportation ensued. <p>Eventually it was agreed by all present to allocate the funds of £4500 to this outreach activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The book from the RBGE exhibition has sold very well with at least 60% of the print-run sold. • The fungus outreach activity on the weekend of the 16th & 17th of October. <i>PD recorded the thanks of the BMS to Ali Ashby and Lynne Boddy for all their hard work over this event.</i> • Nick Read and Patrick Hickey held a weekend of activities on mushrooms during the RBGE exhibition. Other weekend events were held, all of which were very well received. • The pull-up banners to be used in outreach activities are coming along. Carol Hobart has produced some images and ideas for both the screens and handouts. Local fungus groups will be approached for their input. 	
(b)	<p>MiSAC competition 2011 There have been 560 secondary schools invited to take part in the competition. The draft flyers sent to the BMS have been produced without the suggested amendments by the FEO committee. The schools who take part will receive a copy of the fungus poster as approved by Council previously. . Judging of the entries will take place during April 2011 and volunteers for this task will be sought within the BMS nearer the time.</p>	
(c)	<p>Myco-Kids (Ali Ashby) This is the primary school platform on the new BMS website aimed at children ages 5-11, Keystage 1&2 equivalent. It falls within the remit of the FEO to take mycology out to the general public and encourage interest in fungi from a young age. It takes the form of an accessible image with an audio response by clicking on the image. AA explained the structure and rationale behind the site and its overall aims. The site has potential to be developed even further and become even more informative and complex.</p> <p>The council members present then discussed the idea of outreach to young people. Everyone was very positive about this aspect of the new website.</p>	
(d)	<p>Media - from the meeting of the FEO held in the morning before Council, 3 areas were identified as important to future outreach and promotion activities. These are;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A person(s) who could be designated as the BMS spokesperson to the media, newspapers, TV etc. 2. The BMS to be more pro-active and draw up a list of science correspondent contacts at the various newspapers to develop a relationship/contact with. (The office asked to do this). 3. High profile articles should be actively provided by the BMS once the list of contacts, proposed above, is in place. This could place the BMS in the position of specialist ‘informed opinion’, and raise the Society’s profile. <p>Council discussed the increasing interest from the media in all things mycological, with a raft of TV programs relating to fungi in production.</p>	<p>BMS office</p>

9.0	Field Mycology and Conservation (SS, not present)	
	Heritage lottery Fund Bid: Carol Hobart has requested an application form to bid for Lottery funds to run fungus workshops and forays as training events. Those attending would be trained with the aim to take the knowledge back to their communities. These would be aimed primarily at those people who would normally not be able to afford to attend event such as these.	
	In August the FMC committee meeting trustees were decided upon from this over subscribed group, and roles assigned within it. A sub group of the FMC was created to deal with conservation related emails.	
	Field Events were generally well attended with only the Autumn foray slightly down on numbers. The Overseas foray was agreed as a great success. 2011 - Two meetings as workshops are already taking bookings. The Exeter meeting, to be held during the BMS main scientific meeting of 2011, is lagging slightly with advance bookings, but there is time for this to improve. The other proposed meetings for 2011, Autumn and Overseas are on course to be well attended. The two Microscopy courses proposed have had 5 of the 9 places booked on each course.	
	Conservation: The Red Data List - FMC members have been actively involved in meetings to take this project forward.	
	FRDBI - Plans to ask for funds from the BMS to update the functionality of this website have been revised. The change in the hosting of the website to RBG Kew has altered the proposal. Once the site has moved, the bid for funds will be re-configured and presented to the BMS. Plans need to be formulated to anticipate the requirements of the FRDBI, and then brought back to Council for discussion at a later date.	
10.0	Publications Committee (PvW, not present)	
	Ian Singleton is to step down as editor of the BMS newsletter, Mycologist News. A replacement is needed ASAP.	
11.0	International Initiatives (AJW, not present) to be reported on next meeting.	
12.0	General Secretary Correspondence - None of note to report	
13.0	A.O.B. LB asked that as it is her last Council meeting as President, she would like to express her wholehearted thanks to all those who have helped move the BMS forward in its new structure. All present thanked LB for the huge amount of effort she has brought to the role of President in this time of great change.	