

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

Attendees: Prof Lynne Boddy, Dr Stuart Skeates, Dr Derek Schafer, Dr Fordyce Davidson, Dr Peter Crittenden, Dr Simon Avery, Dr David Minter, Dr Ian Singleton, , Dr Paul M.Kirk, Dr Julian Mitchell, Carol Hobart, Dr Matt Fisher, Dr Naresh Magan, Dinah Griffin, Norman Porrett, Prof Nick Read,

ITEM		ACTION
1.0	<b>Apologies:</b> Prof Stefan Buzaki, Dr Paul Dyer, Prof A.J. Whalley, Dr Richard Fortey, Prof Geoff M.Gadd, Dr Eleanor Landy, Dr Pieter van West,	
2.0	<b>Approval of Minutes of previous Council meeting.</b>	
	After minor errors and amendments were pointed out the minutes were accepted and will be adjusted and archived by NP.	<b>NP to amend.</b>
3.0	<b>Matters Arising (from previous minutes)</b>	
	(Follow up to point 3.5 in previous minutes) The external Affairs Advisor role will be enhanced once the new BMS website is up and running. The Society of Biology website was cited as an example of best practice for this.	
	(4.1) Archives at Kew and their sorting by DM & SB. Not actioned as yet. Remind SB & DM for the future.	
	(4.2) Mycologist News Special Edition proposed last time. IS and NP reported that this is going well and most contributors have agreed to requests for copy, and have submitted the same for editing and revision. <b>Action:</b> contributors will be chased up for their articles by NP	<b>NP</b>
	(4.3) General Secretary position - A possible candidate has been located by LB. LB will investigate further and report back at the next meeting	<b>LB</b>
	(4.4) OPAL ‘Open Air Laboratory’ Scheme. Nothing to report from the last meeting.	
	(4.5) website -after agreeing to pursue a new website design Company, the matter of recouping monies from the previous Design Company, Thread Creative had been proposed. AJW reported back to Council (via LB) that the auditors recommended all BMS supplied content be recovered. This has been done. In the auditors opinion the chances of recovering money from a defunct Limited Company are slim to non-existent. <b>Action:</b> IS offered to contact accounting contacts at Newcastle University about other avenues of financial redress with Thread Creative, previous Website Design Company.	<b>IS will report back.</b>
	*LB reminded those Council members present that even with the new approved structure of the BMS; all elected members are still Trustees of the BMS.	
	(8.9) The agreement to award funds to George & Sheila Spence at the last meeting	

	was not taken up, as they were unable to attend the proposed event. Funds were not drawn on.	
	(9.1) Further to comments from Shelley Evans concerning the perceived decline in fungal conservation initiatives, LB informed those present that a post had recently been created at RBG, Kew which may address this slightly. Dr Martyn Ainsworth has been appointed to a Fungus Conservation post at RBGK. This is seen as a positive step forward.	
	(9.2) PMK. Because of delays in updating the UK Species Dictionary, which is used by the NBN to manage records, there will be an additional delay in uploading revised and new data to the FRDBI. A schedule of data transfer is pending.	
	(9.5) Journal Costs In 2011 will have to be more realistic and subsidies for journals will not be sustainable. Pieter van-West sent a list of the proposed prices for 2011 which Council will debate further in this meeting.	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>The President (LB)</b>	
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b>Effecting the New Structure</b> LB attempted to reposition current Council members to the three new Committees of the newly created sections of the BMS (FBR, FMC and FEO). Those Council members present were asked if they felt happy in their allocated groups. Most were. DM pointed out that Conservation is part of every new committees concern. LB asked him if he was happy to be part of the FMC and be their representative to the FBR committee. He indicated that he was.</p> <p>In future years committee members will be nominated by the specific committee, and by the membership if they so wish, providing the membership nominees have the support of 2 or more members.</p> <p>LB examined the list of Council members to make clear who would be assigned to which committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FMC has rather more members than intended at present, due to the current balance on Council.</li> <li>• FBR SA suggested members for this committee. These are Mike Challen, Nick Read and Geoff Robson. Candidates ideally need to cover all aspects of the Society's interests and therefore SA has proposed specialists in areas not currently represented.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> LB asked SA to approach these candidates and feed back their responses, so that Councils nominees can be presented to the membership.</p>	<b>SA to talk to MC, NR and GR</b>
	For future continuity of the new Committees, it must be ensured that the Committee members do not retire enmasse, thereby losing experience and understanding of the group all at once. Some members may need to retire early to encourage new member 'overlap', thereby ensuring a continuity of purpose.	
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b>Election of New officers</b> The next president after the current president elect, Prof Naresh Magan, was considered so that he/she could start to attend Council etc. as the president elect when NM takes office in 2011.</p> <p>Candidates discussed included Dr Geoff Robson, Prof Nick Read and (Sir) David Read. LB suggests the next president should have shown an active involvement in the running of the Society over the years. She opened this up to Council to voice their feelings. NR had already indicated that he needed to take a break from massive BMS involvement after IMC9. After some debate it was felt that Geoff</p>	

	<p>Robson was a splendid candidate given his experience over the years, whilst David Read had been involved relatively little with the Society. LB asked for a show of hands in favor of approaching Geoff Robson. All raised their hands, it was agreed.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> LB to approach Geoff Robson with proposal to be BMS president elect from 2011.</p> <p><i>Vice-presidents position</i> SS has one more year as BMS VP. Naresh Magan President Elect indicated his willingness to continue as such. No one present voiced any objections to this.</p>	<p><b>LB to approach GR</b></p>
4.3	<p><b>Budgets 2010 &amp; 2011</b> LB had attempted to allocate funds amongst the new groups using recent year's costs/expenses as a guide, and bearing in mind future plans. She asked council present to look at these tentative allocations and comment directly to her with a view to discussion in-depth at the next Council meeting. As discussed in previous meetings, monies unspent will be returned by the individual committees to central funds, with no applied reduction in the following years budget allocation for that group. This should prevent a rush to spend remaining budgets in one year, for fear future funding allocations will be reduced.</p> <p><b>The BMS auditors will be approached for more detailed spending figures.</b></p> <p>JM and NM indicated they felt it was a good starting point to working out budgets for the three new groups.</p> <p>PMK asked that the BMS accounts be available for all trustees on request, and that the most recent accounts be made ready well before the yearly AGM so Council/trustees can examine and digest the information well in advance. <b>Agreed by all present</b></p>	
	<p>LB reported that IMC9, the BMS main scientific meeting of 2010 will require the full £100k that was promised in the application for IMC9 to IMA .</p> <p>LB has asked Nick Read and the IMC9 steering committee for a detailed budget breakdown of monies currently spent/committed, with the firm indication that no more funds will be forthcoming from the BMS. Nick Read's arrival at this meeting had been delayed up to this point.</p> <p>The proposed receptions to be held at The Royal Botanical Gardens, Edinburgh will be paid from monies already committed. (see also minute 5.0)</p> <p>PMK asked if the BMS president could contact the PCO, Elsevier, about a conference 'Day-Rate' to encourage greater attendance amongst the field community. <b>LB agreed to do this.</b></p>	<p><b>LB to contact PCO Elsevier about day-rates</b></p>
4.4	<p><b>Benefactors Medal &amp; Presidents Award.</b> This relates to IMC9. LB had previously proposed, to Council by email, Nick Read to be considered before IMC9 for the Benefactors Medal. Everyone agreed. This does not preclude the possibility of the award of other benefactor's medals in 2010</p> <p>The Presidents Medal was last awarded when Stefan Buczacki was president, and LB proposed John Webster. Everyone agreed this is a good choice and dependant on his health he could be funded to attend for 1 day at IMC9 to receive it.</p>	
4.5	<p><b>Website</b> From a final list of two Companies (3 quotes originally obtained) Souk Ltd have been chosen as the preferred partner to create the new BMS website.</p> <p>Reasons for choosing Souk:</p>	

- A delivery period of 8 weeks
- No upfront costs until completion
- Excellent graphic skills demonstrated on example websites provided.

Stuart Skeates presented the results of a meeting took place on march 17th between SOUK Ltd and LB, SS, MF and Ali Ashby to discuss details of the site content, completion date and cost.

A website hierarchy structure will allow new pages and existing ones to be created and amended and held outside the site subject to approval from BMS Section heads. Once approval is given the pages can quickly go live.

The BMS client brief supplied by SS will be revised with input from this meeting and the subsequent Council meeting and emailed to all Executive/Council members.

A site map supplied by SS indicated the structure of the proposed site with headings and sub-headings. Feedback will be given to SOUK to adapt the website structure accordingly.

Since the original brief was given to Souk extra sections have been proposed.

These include;

- Forums
- Event Calendar
- Bulk Emailer
- Extra 'Design Time'

Other costs may be incurred if options such as secure payment facilities are added on. The secure payment option is crucial to membership retention and as a way of allowing ready access to potential new members. JM and FD proposed to ask Souk to cost adding online payment facilities now rather than wait until next year. This would make recruiting and payment more efficient, especially amongst international potential members. Souk has indicated previously that this option would add £3-4K to the overall costs.

Executive had been asked in the previous meeting if they supported this move All present had agreed that this is essential and supported taking it forward to this Council meeting.

*(2:45pm Nick Read arrived at the meeting.)*

This would be an extra cost on top of the £25k already quoted. LB asked Council to approve going back to Souk and ask them to add on the online payment facility now rather than later next year, to encourage greater scope for membership recruitment. Council was asked if they agree to the current proposed cost of £25k and the extra additional cost of the online payment facility?

FD proposed that Council agrees to this addition and any other changes provided that the total cost does not exceed £30k. JM seconded the proposal. LB then asked for a show of hands for or against this proposal. **All present voted in favor. (15 in total)**

If members can register online then an automated procedure to check referees will need to be implemented. The potential new member will supply email addresses of two referees, as required by the constitution, and these will be contacted to check the veracity of the applicants claim.

4.6	<p><b>Subscription Rates for 2011</b> It was proposed in the previous meeting of Executive that 2011 basic membership costs rise from £30 to £32, with specific journal costs on top. The list supplied by Elsevier of proposed journal costs for 2011 will be used to determine the charges applied to members. In 2010 Field Mycology was subsidised for members at £15, below the recommended cost from Elsevier. This level of subsidy is not sustainable for 2011 and the Society cannot realistically continue to supply this journal at a loss. Executive had proposed to increase the cost to at least £20 in 2011, but realistically more than this to cover costs. LB asked for a vote on whether to increase Field Mycology to £20 in 2011. <b>Out of 15 Council present, 14 were in favor with 1 abstention.</b></p>	
	<p>A debate ensued about the proposal to increase membership from £30 upwards, or to increase the cost of Fungal Biology (formerly Mycological Research) above Elsevier's projected £40.50 up to £45.00. Council eventually agree to wait until the next Council meeting pending figures from Elsevier on costs and statistics from the BMS office on who take hard copy of which journals.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> NP to contact PvW and liaise about this with Allie Brown, Membership Assistant in the BMS office.</p>	<p><b>NP, PvW &amp; AB to collate figures of who receive hard copy.</b></p>
4.7	<p><b>Membership and Advertising.</b> There is now a need to pro-actively advertise the new groupings under the BMS banner. JM and SA have created provisional mock-ups of a flyer for FBR.</p>	
4.8	<p><b>Further Revision of the Constitution</b> As noted at the SGM, further amendments may be needed. LB has asked Stefan Buczacki to look over the constitution and feedback comments for change.</p>	
4.9	<p><b>Taxonomy</b> A NERC/BBSRC taxonomy review is currently underway. Richard Fortey, a new Council member, has contributed to this, whilst LB has been asked to a workshop in April. LB asked that a proposed 'white paper' from the BMS be held in abeyance until this meeting has taken place.</p> <p>DM has been in contact with the Linnean Society of London about being more inclusive of the 'Fungal Kingdom' as one of its designated species categories. Alongside Prof David Hawksworth CBE, he is involved in an ongoing dialogue with this group.</p>	
5.0	<p><b>IMC9</b> LB read out the original letter committing £100K to IMC9 to clarify the current situation of BMS funds committed. NR presented a breakdown of funds committed and assigned thus far.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £5K towards IMC9 Royal Botanical Garden Edinburgh exhibition</li> <li>• £5K towards an IMC9 reception for the BMS at RBGE</li> <li>• £85K towards Bursary awards to attend IMC9</li> <li>• £5K contingency</li> </ul> <p>All invited speakers have accepted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be 22 Special Interest Group meetings (£25 fee to include lunch)</li> <li>• 3 nomenclature sessions throughout IMC9</li> <li>• £60K currently given out in bursaries, with another round of awards totaling £25 (deadline to apply April 9th 2010) due.</li> </ul>	
5.0	<p><b>Manning the BMS stand at IMC9</b> LB asked those present to suggest people who could man the stand and inform interested people about BMS.</p>	

	<p>NR has managed to get 6 stalls/tables for selling goods/memorabilia and these will be offered to small businesses selling mycology based items/memorabilia. 12 helpers are needed to assist at IMC9 .They will receive free registration at IMC9 in exchange for their services. Anyone present at Council with students interested in this should Email NR. NR also indicates there may be the option of one day registration attendance at IMC9, but this is yet to be officially confirmed. <b>Action:</b> As proposed at the previous executive meeting LB will write to the PCO, Elsevier about this option.</p>	<p><b>LB to contact PCO about 1 day attendance</b></p>
<b>6.0</b>	<p><b><i>Treasurer (GMG not present, presented by LB)</i></b> Budgets for 2010/2011 had already been covered in this meeting. LB proposed that any expenditure over £1000 must be agreed by Council. This will be discussed in depth at the next Council meeting so that the treasurer can contribute to the discussion. Claims for Committee meetings should now go first to the Chair of that particular 'new' Committee before being presented to the BMS treasurer (by the appropriate chair). This will allow costs to be scrutinized at the source and will assist chairs in keeping within their budgets. Expense forms will be redesigned to signify at a glance where costs/expenses originate from, e.g. FBR, FEO, or FMC : In an email from Geoff Robson, it was reported that the accounts for Fungal Biology Ltd (the administration Company of the BMS) have been prepared provisionally by the accountants Hicks Randles. They indicate the cost of running the BMS office has dropped slightly in 2009.</p>	<p><b>NP to design</b></p>
<b>7.0</b>	<p><b>FBR committee (SA)</b> It was proposed that the main Meeting of 2012 will have the theme of 'Fungal Interaction', and take place in the University of Alicante in Spain. This would be organized by Dr L.V. Lopez-Llorca. All present support this proposal.</p>	
<b>8.0</b>	<p><b>FEO committee (PD, not present)</b></p>	
<b>8.1</b>	<p><b><i>RBGE Exhibition (including the BMS weekend)</i></b> This is progressing well and the book to accompany it is moving on apace. It will open on July 31st, just before IMC9 starts and will run for 4 months up to the end of November 2010. It will then go on tour across the UK and possibly into Europe. Throughout the time of the exhibition there will be a program of events/talks taking place. The BMS have been asked to organize a weekend of events to engage with the public, showing fungi specimens spore prints etc., foraging, giving talks etc LB asked for volunteers. It was agreed the BMS will take up this offer once dates are confirmed. At the next Council meeting funding of these events will be discussed further.</p>	
<b>8.2</b>	<p><b><i>Chelsea 2011</i></b> It was decided to wait until the June Council meeting when further information should be available.</p>	
<b>8.3</b>	<p><b><i>MiSAC</i></b> This year it is the BMS turn to organize the MiSAC competition. The</p>	

	<p>theme will be ‘Famous Fungi’ and schools will be asked to write an article. PD proposed to give out the large Fungi posters currently held in the BMS storage space, to all schools taking part. Council was asked to approve the use of BMS resources for this. <b>Council Agreed.</b></p> <p>Ali Ashby, a member of the FEO committee had sent a prototype ‘Mushroom detective Kit’ which could be sold or distributed by the BMS at events. This will be discussed further at the next Council meeting. Ali asked the BMS to help market this resource and that the BMS purchase the first 500 Kits (cost £5000 - £10 each kit). Council was reluctant to agree to this expenditure until further information is received. Ali Ashby will be contacted and asked to present the case for getting involved with this product at the next Council meeting.</p>	<p><b>Ali Ashby will be contacted to ask to present at next Council.</b></p>
<b>9.0</b>	<b>FMC committee (SS)</b>	
<b>9.1</b>	<p>CH, Foray manager reported that bookings for field events are down year on year. As the average age of attendees is high, this may continue to decline. To combat this decline CH has looked into acquiring funding from the National Lottery to organize forays as training events. To this end she has submitted a pre-application form and currently awaits a response. If successful the scheme would train budding mycologists, and supply microscopes etc.</p>	
<b>9.2</b>	<p>From attending the AGM of the ABFG (Michael Jordan group) a letter was read there raising concerns about legal liability for groups when leaders of fungus forays are found to be a potential risk to foray attendees. A possible requirement for leaders to have CAB checks needs to be considered. The whole legal frame work for this type of activity needs to be looked at.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> SS will look into this further</p>	<p><b>SS to look into legal exposure of fungus foray events.</b></p>
<b>10.0</b>	<b>Publications Committee (PvW)</b>	
<b>10.1</b>	<p><i>Mycologist News, Special edition for IMC9</i> NP &amp; IS reported to Executive and now Council that the issue is progressing well with articles still to be submitted by some contributors.</p>	
<b>10.2</b>	<i>Fungal Biology</i> Nothing of note to report	
<b>10.3</b>	<i>Fungal Ecology</i> Sufficient copy is available for all issues for 2010	
<b>10.4</b>	<p><i>Fungal Biology Reviews</i> There have been problems publishing on time. The upcoming Geo-Mycology issue will help to catch up. Copy for this journal was late being submitted, but has now been received, and delayed issues will soon be published.</p> <p>An error by the publisher Elsevier resulted in the last issue being recalled and published again in its correct format.</p>	
<b>11.0</b>	<b>General Secretary Correspondence</b> Nothing to report	
<b>12.0</b>	<p><b>Overseas Liaison LB presented for AJW.</b> A letter of support has been sent on behalf of the BMS to support the Thailand bid for IMC10</p> <p><b>The Thailand Workshop/Lecture series.</b> LB, GMG, GR and AJW have been invited to participate on behalf of the BMS. The BMS will cover airfare costs but all other costs will be funded locally in Thailand.</p>	

	DM suggested that BMS needs to expand connections to other parts of the world beyond Thailand and the Far East, if possible. LB encouraged DM to talk to the International Affairs Advisor AJW.	
<b>13.0</b>	<b>A.O.B.</b>	
	The Society of Biology (SOB). Matt Fisher and Lynne Boddy attended an opening event on Thursday March 25th on behalf of the BMS. Incoming president Naresh Magan will attend another event in April as the BMS representative. Prof Geoff M.Gadd has been elevated to The Boyd Baxter Chair at the University of Dundee.	
	<i>Meeting closed at 5:00pm</i>	
	<i>The next Council meeting will be in June, date to be confirmed.</i>	