

**BMS Council Meeting,**  
**Friday March 1st 2013, 1:00pm at City View House,**  
**Union Street, Ardwick, Manchester, M12 4JD**

**Attendees:** Dr Geoff Robson, Dr Paul Dyer, Dr Pieter van West, Dr Stuart J. Skeates,  
 Dr Elaine Bignell, Prof Nick Read, Dr Ali Ashby, Prof Anthony J. Whalley,  
 Mrs Sheila Spence, Mr Norman Porrett (BMS Administrator)

| ITEM |  | ACTION    |
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| 1.0  | <b>Apologies:</b> Prof Geoff M. Gadd, Prof Bruce Ing, Ms Dinah Griffin,  |           |
|      | GR formally welcomed Dr Elaine Bignell and Dr Ali Ashby onto Council for 2013. All present introduced themselves including their area of interest and current role within the BMS.   |           |
| 2.0  | <b>Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting:</b><br>With minor amendments to be added about the BMS code of conduct to include all aspects of the BMS, not just FMC committee, the previous minutes were accepted by those present.<br><b>Action: NP to amend and archive as a PDF document.</b>  | <b>NP</b> |
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| 3.0  | <b>Matters Arising: (carried forward from the previous meeting)</b>  |           |
|      | (5.) It had been asked if the BMS accountants could make the accounts easier to interpret for the membership and BMS officers. GR addressed this explaining that the BMS accounts needed to adhere to Charity Commission guidelines. GR and BMS Treasurer (GG) have agreed a format that should ascribe costs more clearly within the accounts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constitutional points-this will be raised later on in the meeting.</li> <li>• Accounts need placing on the Charity Commission website – <b>Done</b></li> <li>• LB to produce a detailed report on the progress with the 2013 BMS Main Meeting in Cardiff. - Report supplied, will be discussed later.</li> <li>• Yahoo Group: Nothing progressed but easily done if required.</li> <li>• BMS Expenses Form –Needed amending with increased mileage allowance (from 30p a mile to 40p a mile from January 2013) - <b>Done</b></li> </ul>   |           |
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| 4.0  | <b>Presidents Report:</b>  |           |
| (a)  | Incorporation: (GR) Further to previous discussions about incorporation of the BMS, as a means of limiting potential liability of Society trustees, it seemed the best route for the BMS would be to become a Charitable Incorporated Entity. This format of the incorporation process is currently being legislated for within the UK Parliament and should be available for Societies such as the BMS from May 2013. Bearing this in mind, GR reminded all present that it will still be a complicated process to incorporate and the Charity Commission had advised that a temporary Constitution would need to be adopted during the process and advised that a professional Charities Solicitor should be consulted throughout. Based on the past experiences when attempting to alter the name and legal standing of the Society and the problems that arose, GR proposed that the status of the Society should remain for the present and incorporation be looked at again at some point in the future as circumstances dictated. GR asked those Council members present if they were happy for the status of the Society to remain as it is. |           |

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|            | <p><b>Council agreed</b></p> <p>(b) <b>Bequest to the BMS:</b> this will be discussed later in the meeting.<br/> (c) <b>MiSAC:</b> PD will cover later in the FEO section<br/> (d) <b>Request for financial support:</b> GR will attend the 8th Latin American Biodeterioration Society International meeting in Brazil. This will be an opportunity to raise the profile of fungi and promote the BMS to a wider audience. The talk given will be noted as BMS sponsored with the Society's promotional material distributed to attending delegates. Registration and accommodation are being covered by the organisers, and additional funds are coming from Manchester University. The BMS are asked to support this venture with a sum of £600 as a special request.</p> <p><b>Council approved</b></p> <p>(e) <b>Constitutional clarification:</b> The notice period to advise BMS members of the Society's AGM is currently 8 months prior to the event. It is felt that this time period was excessive, given that the AGM is normally associated with the main scientific meeting and that sufficient details of the programme are not generally available 8 months in advance. It was suggested that the Constitution should be amended to 4 months prior notice without affecting member's opportunity to attend</p> <p><b>Council agreed.</b></p> <p><b>Action: Change to AGM notification to be taken forward for consideration at the 2013 AGM in Cardiff.</b></p> <p>The term 'not normally' as used within the BMS constitution allows a certain amount of flexibility of tenure for the Treasurer and General secretary positions to reflect the benefit to the BMS in having longer terms of office for these two positions which gives a degree of much needed stability and experience to Council. While some parts of the constitution state "not normally more than 5 years" other parts do not. GR proposed clarifying this by ensuring "not normally" is added where necessary as initially intended.</p> <p><b>Council agreed.</b></p> <p><b>Action: Change to tenure to be taken forward for consideration at the 2013 AGM in Cardiff.</b></p> <p>The procedures and notification periods regarding AGM and council nominations need to be reviewed and clarified.<br/> <b>Action: GR &amp; SJS will look at these aspects of the constitution and report.</b></p> |                     |
|            |   | <b>GR &amp; NP</b>  |
|            |   | <b>GR &amp; SJS</b> |
| <b>5.0</b> | <p><b>The Treasurer: (GR reporting for GMG):</b> A bequest has been left to the BMS from Ms Eunice Jones with the proviso that a specific Trust Fund be created in memory of her late mother, to '<i>Aid postgraduate students involved in fungal biology with their study and/or training</i>'. It was proposed that this fund could be used to enable postgraduate BMS students to visit other laboratories to extend their research experience. Such a scheme is highly beneficial to postgraduates and is something the BMS currently does not specifically support other than through the small grants</p>   | <b>GR</b>           |

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|            | <p>scheme and would fall within the remit of the bequest.</p> <p><b>Council agreed</b></p> <p><b>Action: GR and GG to agree wording of the new funding scheme and send to NP for inclusion on the website.</b></p>  |                              |
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| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Fungal Biology Research committee: (NR)</b>  |                              |
|            | <p><b>Main Scientific Meeting for 2013-Cardiff, local organiser Prof Lynne Boddy. The theme will be Fungi &amp; Environmental Change.</b></p> <p>The BMS normally subsidises the main meeting to the sum of ca. £20,000. A conference registration fee for the meeting was proposed as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fee for BMS members – proposed £200</li> <li>• Fee for Non-BMS members proposed £250</li> <li>• Students – Free</li> <li>• Cost price for retired mycologists- they pay per event attended.</li> </ul> <p>The budget costs to aid the attendance of speakers was also outlined. These are in line with previous annual meetings.</p> <p>It was also proposed that an excursion to National Botanic Garden of Wales (NBGW), the current home of the From Another Kingdom (FAK) exhibition is included as part of the meeting and approval was sort to include the expenses for those individuals who would lead the excursion.</p> <p>GR asked if the proposed budget submitted by LB for the Cardiff meeting was acceptable to Council.</p> <p><b>Council approved the proposed budget.</b></p> <p>NR reported that the FBR committee recommended that a template needs to be created to assist in organising future Annual Scientific Meetings to aid future local organisers.</p> <p><b>Action: FBR committee to produce meeting template for organisation of future meetings</b></p> <p><b>Annual Scientific Meeting 2014.</b> NR reminded Council that there will be no meeting in 2014 due to IMC10 and that as previously, BMS funds will be used to support the IMC meeting. The next Annual Scientific meeting will therefore be in 2015. As yet, no plans had been made for this.</p> <p>It was discussed that in the future, the BMS should consider holding joint meetings with other Societies as a means of both reducing costs and broadening attendance.</p> <p><b>Society for Biology (SoB) Fungal Science Task Force:</b> This was previously reported at the last FBR/Council meetings. Since then a meeting was held by the SoB in December 2012. However, it did not include a broad spectrum of representatives from the fungal community. The initial conclusions from this meeting were highly biased towards the specialisations of those present. It was felt by the FBR committee that input from the BMS was urgently needed to ensure this task force fully represented all aspects of the fungal research community. It was proposed that a letter should be sent to the SoB to include a list of proposed individuals currently active in fungal biology research in the UK who could be</p> | <p><b>BMS<br/>office</b></p> |

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|            | included in the SoB task force.<br><b>Action: Council to submit proposed individuals to NP and NR to submit letter to the SoB.</b>  | NP/NR                                     |
| <b>7.0</b> | <b>Fungal Education and Outreach committee (PD)</b>   |   |
|            | <p>Bruce Langridge of National Botanic Gardens Wales (NBGW) attended the last FEO committee meeting. The FAK exhibition is currently being hosted at NBGW and has been so well received it will be kept until the end of 2013. It is hoped the exhibition can be updated to improve its appeal and thereby encourage other venues to take the FAK exhibition after 2013. AA mentioned that a company (commercial mushroom supplier) she has been in contact with are developing an educational centre as part of their business and had expressed an interest in possibly hosting the FAK exhibition as they have a large space available as part of their proposed educational centre. They planned to have proposals for content of the education centre ready by the end of 2013. Initial discussions indicated that transport costs for the FAK exhibition would not be an issue. They will report their progress to AA, who will in turn report back to Council. It was highlighted that ownership and status of the exhibition, including specific items, needs to be clarified to ensure all interested parties are happy for the exhibition to change venue.</p> <p>PD reported that a careers section had been added to the website and thanked all those who had helped in its content. EB asked if it might be possible for the BMS website to include adverts for PhD and Post-Doctoral positions.<br/><b>Action: NP &amp; SJS to investigate.</b></p> <p>AA proposed that a map of the UK with active links to universities and local fungus groups could be added to the BMS website. This was discussed and would need to be investigated by a web designer. In addition, it would be difficult to gather the required information. It was suggested that a survey form could be sent to universities and a list compiled of all academics with a research interest in fungi together with their location and particular research interests.<br/><b>Action: AA will liaise with NR and begin to create a list of fungal researchers in the UK.</b></p> <p><b>BMS on Facebook:</b> the FEO have asked for someone to actively take charge of this and use it more proactively to communicate with the membership and publicise events. A volunteer to take on this task is still looked for.<br/><b>Action: EB will look at the BMS Group Facebook page; review the activity with the aim to use it as an active resource. She will report back to Council at the next meeting.</b></p> <p><b>MiSAC: (PD)</b> The annual competition organised by this body asks students to provide a paper/poster on a microbiology based theme/subject. Every 3-4 years MiSAC hold a similar competition aimed at schools. The BMS sponsored this in 2011 and is due to sponsor it again in 2014. MiSAC needs confirmation that the BMS intends to continue this. A problem has arisen where MiSAC failed to mention the BMS within a list of its funder on its website, despite many years of BMS support. Therefore those present were asked if the BMS should continue to support this organisation. PD feels that it has always been a positive relationship previous to this omission, and could continue to benefit the BMS with positive exposure. He</p> | <p>NP/SJS</p> <p>AA&amp; NR</p> <p>EB</p> |

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|                   | <p>asked if Council agree to continue the BMS involvement in MiSAC and funding the 2014 competition to the sum of £2000. PD will supply details of the theme at a later date, once decided upon.</p> <p><b>Council agreed</b></p> <p><b>UK Fungus Day:</b> UK fungus day is a UK-wide event in October 2013 bringing fungus groups and Societies together across the whole of the UK. This will include a broad range of activities including Botanic al Gardens, Museums, Parks and Nature sites. Botanic Gardens and Museums have been contacted and responses will be collated to aid in planning and coordination of events. A <a href="mailto:UKfungusday@britmycolosoc.info">UKfungusday@britmycolosoc.info</a> email address has been created and a website with links to the main BMS website is under construction. The domain names <b>ukfungusday.co.uk</b> and <b>ukfungusday.org</b> have been purchased to this end. Various Societies have been contacted such as SGM, ABFG and NBGW and all have responded positively. Funding is requested from the BMS for the projected costs, approximately £12K. External sponsorship will also be sought. A series of banners are to be produced for use by the groups across the UK with a standardised template to incorporate the group’s information, as well as the BMS logos. AA briefly presented a breakdown of the budget to council. It was the intention that many of the materials produced would be able to be reused at future National Fungus Day events. GR invited comments and discussion of the presented proposals.</p> <p>A broad discussion took place regarding the focus of the event this year, future events, publicity and funding. It was generally agreed that future events needed a greater scientific input and focus on the importance of fungi to the environment and society. It was also agreed that local and national media agencies needed to be alerted to the NFD to maximise publicity.</p> <p><b>Action: NR (FBR committee) and PD (FEO committee) need to coordinate on a press release prior to the event.</b></p> <p>GR asked council for budget approval. After discussion, council approved a maximum budget of £9500.</p> <p><b>Council Approved</b></p> | <p><b>NR &amp; PD</b></p> |
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| <p><b>8.0</b></p> | <p><b>Publications Committee (PvW)</b> PvW has met with Alina from Elsevier, the current BMS publishers, about renegotiating the BMS contract. Elsevier proposed an early renewal of the contract (end of 2013) in advance of the 2015 termination date of the current contract. Elsevier had produced a draft contract with financial benefits to the BMS broadly in line with the existing benefits and extending the current contract effectively for another 7 years. They also proposed to commission a new journal to recapture areas of interest no longer covered by the Fungal Biology journal. This new journal would be in essence, a hybrid, being published online and in print copy, covering Fungal Science and Taxonomy. Elsevier would cover the costs of market research to investigate how the journal might be best presented and the set up costs. PvW outlined the potential advantages to the BMS of staying with Elsevier, other than sustaining the current level of income. Based on empirical evidence, moving publishers can cause existing customers/journal purchasing bodies, to review their journal requirements and around 20% of libraries, one of the largest purchasers,</p>   |                           |

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|            | <p>choose to stop receiving some or all of their previous journals. This obviously creates an immediate 20% drop in relative income to the journal providers. It was proposed that Mark Ware, who helped negotiate the current publishing contract, should be asked to review the new proposals and to help negotiate any changes. GR reminded council that the publications contract is fundamental to the future of the BMS in sustaining its current level of activities and that the involvement of a professional independent publishing consultant was critical in ensuring the BMS attained the best possible terms and had been highly beneficial and key in negotiating the existing contract. GR asked for approval for the involvement of Mark Ware in reviewing the proposed new contract.</p> <p><b>Council approved.</b></p>  |            |
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|            | <p><b>BMS Journals Overview:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fungal Biology:</b> The impact factor is currently low due to the change over from Mycological Research. There were 333 articles handled in 2012 with a rejection rate of 70%. This would normally be 65% for a comparative journal according to Elsevier. A review of the article quality/quantity balance may be needed. To sustain the journal in the long-term, Elsevier recommended a rejection rate of between 60-65%.</li> <li>• <b>Fungal Ecology:</b> In 2012 the journal received 172 articles with a 68% rejection rate. Elsevier again thought this too high for a relatively new journal and recommended it should be no more than 60%.</li> <li>• <b>Fungal Biology Reviews:</b> No impact factor received as yet. Articles are still largely commission based and copy is being maintained. Some proposed reviews were now being received and would most likely increase in the future.</li> <li>• <b>Field Mycology:</b> 48 articles received. PvW has discussed with Elsevier the problems highlighted at the previous meeting regarding the loss of journal covers on the e-access version and reported that this will be rectified soon.</li> </ul> |            |
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| <b>9.0</b> | <b>Field Mycology and Conservation committee. (SJS)</b>   |            |
|            | <p>From previous meeting, the proposal to change the current BMS web designers/hosts was provisionally supported. Nothing has been progressed as yet due to various factors, but the change in the design team at the current designers, Souk, makes it more likely that the BMS website should be moved. A 2nd Company has been located by SJS who work with the Concrete 5 web-base behind the BMS site.</p> <p><b>Action: SJS will arrange a meeting with this Company to see what they offer.</b></p> <p><b>Field meeting Costs for 2014:</b> supplied by Carol Hobart, Foray manager, these were along similar lines to those in previous years. Council were asked to approve these for 2014.</p> <p><b>Council approved</b></p> <p>In 2014 Carol Hobart will step down as BMS Foray Manager and Pete Smith will take up the post. The Network Co-ordinator for the Fungus Groups across the UK is now David Harries, who succeeds Sheila Spence. The budget for the next Biennial</p>  | <b>SJS</b> |

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|             | <p>Group leaders meeting in 2014 was presented for Councils approval.</p> <p><b>Council approved.</b></p> <p><b>FRDBI:</b> RBG Kew has expressed an interest in hosting the FRDBI.<br/><b>Action: SJS will meet with a representative to discuss further.</b></p> <p><b>Autumn Open Meeting:</b> November 30th 2013 on the theme ‘The geography of Fungi’. The speaker’s expenses will be similar to previous year’s meetings and the FMC committee have drafted a budget of £1500 for the day.</p> <p><b>Council approved</b></p>  | <b>SJS</b> |
| <b>10.0</b> | <p><b>International Initiatives: (AJW)</b> AJW presented a report of the work currently being undertaken in Thailand and Asia by BMS members to further links with the mycological community. GG and GR participated in workshops and seminars and with NR are actively involved with the Thai preparation for the upcoming IMC10 conference in 2014.</p> <p>AJW proposed that to coincide with IMC10, the BMS could be involved in a competition to be held in Thailand with the Institute for the Promotion of Teaching of Science and Technology (IPST) aimed at schools, looking at a particular aspect of mycology. The overall organisation would be undertaken by MiSAC and IPST with BMS support. Thai sponsorship for this competition has already been agreed, with the BMS required only to provide a financial prize for the winner. The publicity and media coverage will be organised locally by IPST and BMS representatives will be encouraged to be part of this. Judging of the competition entries would jointly undertaken by representatives of the Thai Mycological Society, MiSAC, IPST and the BMS. It was proposed that the prize money awarded to the winning school would be £1000. Council was asked to support the proposed prize and expenses for nominated BMS representatives to participate in the programme.</p> <p><b>Council Approved.</b></p> <p>Asian harmonisation. ‘Asian Harmonisation’ where all the Asian Countries such as Korea, China, Japan and Thailand join together to celebrate their common culture and scientific contributions will take place over 2013 and 2014. This presents a unique opportunity for the BMS to extend its links further to include other Asian countries.</p> <p><b>Action: AJW will investigate this further and report back to Council.</b></p> | <b>AJW</b> |
| <b>11.0</b> | <b>General Secretary Correspondence: (GR)</b> Already covered in the meeting agenda   |            |
| <b>12.0</b> | <b>A.O.B. AJW</b> reported that Jean Stamps, a former member of the Society and Benefactors Medal recipient had passed away recently. An obituary will feature in a future issue of the BMS newsletter Mycologist News. He also informed council that Jim Prosser, a former BMS Council Member has received the OBE, whilst another former Council Member, Glen Kyle has recently been awarded the ‘Order of Australia’.  |            |

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|  | <p>The next scheduled Council meeting will be held in Cardiff before the BMS main meeting, in September 2013. Exact date and time to be confirmed.</p> <p>A Special Council meeting in May/June 2013 was proposed to discuss the important matter of a new publishing contract for BMS Journals. Exact date to be confirmed.</p> <p><b>Council Agreed</b></p> |  |
|  | <p><b>meeting closed at 4:25pm</b></p>  |  |