

**BMS Council Meeting,**  
**1:00pm November 16th 2012 at the Charity Centre, Stephenson Way (London)**

**Attendees:** Prof Naresh Magan, Dr Paul Dyer, Dr Pieter van West, Prof Geoff M.Gadd,  
Dr Geoff Robson, Prof Bruce Ing, Dr Simon Avery, Dr Stuart J.Skeates,  
Ms Carol Hobart, Ms Dinah Griffin, Mr Norman Porrett (BMS Administrator)

<b>ITEM</b>		<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Apologies:</b> Prof Nick Read, Prof Tony Whalley, Prof Lynne Boddy	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting:</b> With minor amendments to be added about details of the current publishing contract's expiry date, the previous minutes were accepted by those present.	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Matters Arising: (carried forward from the previous meeting)</b>	
(a)	CH has spoken to accountants about clarification of the BMS accounts for the Council and membership at AGM. Specifically the allocation of operating costs across the three committees. <b>Action: CH will discuss further with BMS Treasurer GMG.</b>	<b>CH/GMG</b>
(b)	<b>Code of Conduct (at BMS meetings):</b> Following on from the document submitted to Council at the last meeting. NM asked if all present were happy to accept this as the BMS Code of Conduct statement for those attending BMS organised events. It will be placed on the BMS website and handed out to all attendees when they book a place on a BMS foray, workshop or any other BMS organised event. All present agreed to accept this as the BMS Code of Conduct document. <b>Action: It will be placed on the website alongside the booking forms.</b> A short debate took place about the intention of the statement and its relevance to current BMS activities. CH pointed out new areas of outreach activity to areas of society who might not normally get involved in foray type activities, and it is to these newcomers that the Code of Conduct will be emphasised. Main Scientific Meeting attendees will also be made aware of this BMS code.	<b>NP</b>
(c)	Small Grants: A list compiled by the BMS office of the Small Grants allocated in 2012 to-date, was circulated to illustrate the type of activities BMS monies are supporting. It was suggested adding a list of grant funded projects and the recipients to the website, to illustrate how BMS funds are employed. <b>Action: NP and SJS to arrange</b>	<b>NP/SJS</b>
(d)	Society of Biology-Task Force on Fungal Science. Prof Nick Read was due to report back to Council on any progress made in this area. He will be requested to circulate an update to Council on its current progress when able. <b>Action: NR to be contacted for progress report by the BMS office</b>	<b>NP</b>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Presidents Report:</b>	
(a)	<b>Alicante: BMS Main Scientific meeting 2012.</b> Held in September within the confines of Alicante University, the meeting was very well attended with 148 delegates present. The meeting was streamed live online for those who were unable to attend in person and this had been a very well received. GMG	

	<p>expounded on some of the minor problems encountered with payment requests from venues and suchlike. These difficulties are now sorted and should inform preparations for the Main Meeting in Cardiff in 2013. GMG will look at applying for a BMS credit card to pay for expenses incurred during meetings. This will necessitate very clear accounting procedures to avoid falling foul of Charity Commission and legal requirements for charities. Invited Speakers need to be made aware early on about the procedures for claiming back their expenses.</p> <p>CH voiced concerns expressed to her about ‘foreign speakers’ incurring costs when paid with Sterling cheques in converting to their local currency. This will also be reviewed for Cardiff 2013.</p>	
(b)	<p><i>The Association of British Fungus Groups</i> (ABFG) have contacted NM and SJS in the recent past about getting involved in joint ventures, but no follow-up contact has been received. Neither NM nor SJS will pursue this further at this time.</p>	
5.0	<p><b>The Treasurer:</b> GMG summarised the BMS accounts for 2011 to be presented at the BMS AGM the following day. On his request, the accountants Hicks Randles have attempted to make the accounts more accessible to both Council and the membership. Looking through the Statement of Financial Activities, page 9, illustrated the movement of BMS funds. It attempts to reconcile the 2010 and 2011 accounts and the movement of money where events in 2010 had a knock on effect into 2011 (IMC9). At the end of 2011 there was in effect a small surplus of approximately £9191. The current funds will allow all the normal activities of the Society to continue in 2013. As ever, economies need to be looked for to attempt to build up a reserve of money to fund possible one-off events, where significant opportunities arise to promote the Society’s aims and objectives. NM asked if looking forward, would the BMS be able to fund all current activities once the journals publishing contract is renewed from 2015 onwards. GMG reiterated that the BMS is fine in the short-term but a reduction in publications income will have an effect on what activities the BMS will be able to fund. A debate amongst the Council members present ensued about where the Society goes from this point on. GR as incoming BMS president proposed to look at listing and breaking down all the current BMS activities, where possible, to see where funds can be best allocated for maximum impact.</p> <p><b>Action: GR and GMG will look into this further.</b></p> <p>GMG asked if Council were happy with the accounts as presented. CH asked if in future the accounts could be circulated to Council before uploading to the Charity Commission website. GMG and GR informed Council this had been done in advance of the Council meeting to avoid a penalty charge to the Society for late filing.</p> <p><i>Council accepted the accounts as a fair and accurate picture of the Society’s activities in 2011.</i></p> <p>CH proposed a vote of thanks to GMG as Treasurer for all the effort he puts into bringing the accounts together. All present echoed this proposal. SJS raised a point within the BMS constitution about the length of time a person could perform the role of Treasurer. It states that ‘normally’ the role could only be held for five years, but after contacting the Charities</p>	<p><b>GR &amp; GMG</b></p>

	<p>Commission for clarification assistance it seems that with Councils approval, the incumbent can carry on longer should they wish. GMG indicated he is happy to continue in the role with Councils approval and support, and that this should still fit within the precepts of the BMS Constitution.</p> <p><b>NM proposed a motion that Council agree to GMG carrying on in the role of Treasurer. All present agreed with this proposal. –Motion Carried</b></p>	
	<p><b>Action: NP to remind GR to replace the accounts currently on the Charity Commission website with the agreed and signed version from this meeting.</b></p>	NP
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Fungal Biology Research committee: (SA for NR)</b>	
(a)	<p>Presenting a report from Prof Nick Read, SA proposed that based on experience during the Alicante meeting in 2012, BMS Summer Bursary students should be encouraged to attend the BMS main meeting and present their research project. This would be formally supported by the BMS for one day's conference attendance and overnight stay. An overall budget for this will need to be determined and presented to the Treasurer for consideration.</p> <p><b>All agreed this was an excellent idea and should be supported.</b></p>	
(b)	<p>Prof Lynne Boddy was to have presented a report on the progress of the BMS Main Meeting, to be held in Cardiff in 2013. As she was unable to attend this meeting, and only a brief outline email had been received, it was proposed to request a more complete breakdown of activities and estimated costs be circulated amongst Council before the next meeting. GMG asked that the report be more general with certain assumptions of necessary costs taken as read, and that the minutia of certain smaller costs need not be included.</p> <p><b>Action: LB will be approached for a detailed report on the plans for the Cardiff 2013 meeting.</b></p> <p>This should include Keynote Speakers where known, and a paragraph on the overarching theme. This will be uploaded to the Future Meetings pages within the FBR section of the BMS website. It was agreed that the FBR committee need to be actively involved in the planning and implementation of the 2013 meeting.</p>	NP
(c)	<p>SA for NR- A report on the visit to Thailand by three BMS representatives to give support to the local organisers of IMC10 in 2014. Progress is good and things look well on track for 2014. Venues have been chosen and speakers and themes were discussed. A report on the meeting and its outcomes has already been circulated to Council. IMC10 will replace the BMS Main Meeting for 2014.</p>	
(d)	<p>The mission statement drawn up, amended, and agreed upon at the last FBR meeting can now be placed on the FBR section of the BMS website.</p> <p><b>Action: NP to take this from the minutes of the FBR meeting in Alicante.</b></p>	NP
(e)	<p>A New Member on the FBR committee for 2013- Alex Brand will fill the vacancy left by SA as he steps down at the end of 2012. She is a previous Berkeley Award recipient.</p> <p>The FBR delegate to Council in 2013 will be Dr Elaine Bignell</p>	
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Fungal Education and Outreach committee (PD)</b>	
	<p>Big Nature Day- An event held at the Natural History Museum (NHM) as part of the OPAL (Open Air Laboratory) citizen science drive was a great</p>	

	<p>success. It was well attended by children and adults and the BMS stand was one of the most popular attractions. The NMH were very pleased with the success of the event and indicated a willingness to have other joint activities involving the BMS.</p> <p>PD thanked all those who had helped out on the day for their time and effort.</p>	
	<p>A statement presented at a previous Council meeting about fungal education within schools has been submitted to the Governments Education Secretary.</p>	
	<p>The Myco-Kids logo on the BMS website has been replaced with a more generally accepted image and reduced in size slightly to be less dominant on the front page of the BMS website.</p>	
	<p>MiSAC Competition- the entries from the theme chosen by the BMS are on the website from 2011.</p>	
	<p>LB has taken on the role of Media Liaison for the various TV/Radio/Press enquiries to the Society. She has developed a range of contacts within organisations such as the BBC and is well placed to be the first contact when fungi are featured in broadcasts. LB will also liaise with Bruce Langridge of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Wales (RBGW) where the From Another Kingdom Exhibition, (FAK) is currently hosted after its success at IMC9. The exhibits may need a little repair and renovation. The FAK exhibition will remain at the RBGW until February 2013, and will then hopefully be transferred to another venue. LB and Ali Ashby of the FEO committee are currently looking at options. A Company G's Mushrooms are setting up a fungus themed visitor attraction centre to promote their mushroom business, and it is hoped they could provide a home for the exhibition. The Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh reports that the book from the FAK exhibition is their best seller and is on its second print run.</p>	
	<p>The FEO committee have been looking at how to promote fungi more to the general public and one idea for 2013 would be to have a UK wide Fungus Day event similar to that held in Wales in 2012 by the RBGW under Bruce Langridge. A provisional date of October 13th 2013 has been decided upon to suit most potential contributors. PD asked if Council supported the cost of bringing Bruce Langridge to the upcoming FEO meeting in London on December 6th, to capitalise on his knowledge and experience in organising the UK Fungus Day.</p> <p>GMG asked if a definite academic element would be included within the proposed event, to present a more complete picture of mycology. This will be pursued as the plans are drawn up and the event unfolds. SJS suggested that the FMC committee as well as other similar Societies could be involved to give maximum exposure across a variety of interests, and encourage greater media attention.</p> <p>GR pointed out that other Societies regularly try to get the public involved and the BMS need to emulate this. SJS has a contact who he has discussed creating an 'App' for mobile phones to incorporate the 'Have You Seen This Fungus' aspect of the BMS website. All present were keen on pursuing such ideas but were wary of over extending the BMS in too many directions. GR suggested choosing one week of the year and use this as a 'snapshot' every year of fungal activity and changing environments, to create a database to monitor variations over time.</p> <p>CH steps down from the FEO at the end of 2012 and PD thanked her for all her hard work over the last few years. The vacancy on the FEO committee</p>	

	<p>has been advertised and two candidates have presented themselves, Elaine Bignell and Beverly Rhodes. PD has spoken to NR and it has been proposed that Elaine Bignell be appointed to the vacancy for 2013 and co-opt Beverly Rhodes onto the FEO committee, as allowed within the BMS Constitution. A new FEO representative to Council will be needed for 2013 and PD proposed Ali Ashby for this. GR mentioned the BMS Facebook page and suggested that the FEO take this on as part of their remit.</p> <p><b>Action: PD will put this to the FEO committee at the next meeting on December 6th in London.</b></p> <p>CH voiced a concern that the various BMS committees seem to recycle their members between the committees, and possibly not enough new members are getting involved. The new structure of the BMS may sort this aspect out over time. CH suggested that the selection of committee members needs to be actively opened up to the membership.</p>	<b>PD</b>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Field Mycology and Conservation committee. (SJS)</b>	
	<p>The FMC committee met on the 14th of August at Kew and was attended by 8 members. Minutes were taken by Dinah Griffin as the office staff was unavailable.</p>	
	<p><b>Field Events:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>2012:</b> all forays and workshops were well attended. The microscope skills workshop received very positive responses from attending postgraduate students, who bemoaned the lack of such activities within their various courses. SJS asked if it might be possible to set up a ‘Yahoo Group’ be set up to link PhD students across the UK and encourage networking.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: This will be investigated by SJS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>2013:</b> All events arranged and bookings are progressing well.</li> <li>• <b>2014:</b> Some events are arranged and funding/budgets will be discussed at the next FMC committee meeting in February 2013.</li> </ul> <p><b>Field Events Organiser</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CH is standing down as Field Events Organiser at the end of 2014 and is in discussion with a potential replacement. SJS thank CH for all her hard work, the new workshops events and the lottery funding sourced during her tenure.</li> </ul> <p><b>Recording Group Leaders Meeting 2012</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2012 Recording Group Leaders Meeting held in Hereford was a great success. It was organised by Sheila Spence who steps down as Network co-ordinator in 2013. SJS expressed the FMC committee and the recording groups’ thanks for her work over the last few years.</li> <li>• One of the most important decisions made there was to support a UK National Fungus Day event in 2013, expanding on an event held in Wales in 2012 by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Wales. An agreed date for this will be 13th of October 2013, and the FEO committee have taken this on as their main event for 2013.</li> <li>• The appointment of David Harries of the Pembrokeshire Fungus Recording Network Recording Groups co-ordinator was confirmed at this meeting.</li> </ul>	

	<p><b>FRDBI:</b> Paul Kirk has moved from CABI to KEW and Kew has expressed an interest in developing the FRDBI to combine it with the Fungarium Database and Checklist of British Fungi. This will require careful contract negotiations over ownership, management and funding, but could provide a secure future for the data. Kew may ask for funding assistance to manage this and both GR and GMG asked if an estimated figure could be supplied to see how much it might cost. SJS will meet with Paul Kirk and Kew representatives to discuss further, especially the ownership and accessibility aspects.</p> <p>Should this avenue become unviable then an alternative could be found in a development of a new web interface, currently under discussion with Adrian Bicker. Based around a generic web record collecting system for Local Recording Centres across the UK, this may offer a means of preserving and using the FRDBI.</p> <p>Based on Google Earth mapping, details can be found at <a href="http://www.livingrecord.net">www.livingrecord.net</a></p>	
	<p><b>Conservation Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SJS and Martyn Ainsworth (FMC based at Kew) have met with Keith Vincent who is leading a Law Commission review of the Wildlife Species legislation in England and Wales as representatives of the BMS.</li> <li>• Justin Smith (incoming FMC committee member in 2013) SJS and Martyn Ainsworth are looking again at producing a Red Data List for Boletales in the UK which will meet current IUCN criteria.</li> <li>• <i>Cryptomyces maximus</i> (Willow Blister) is now in the IUCN global top 100 endangered species.</li> <li>• Bruce Ing reported on Conservation and Endangered Species: It is hoped that using Fungus Recording Groups information across the UK will assist in focusing co-ordinated conservation initiatives and responses nationwide.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Projects for 2012/2013-Update:</b> Discussions took place amongst the FMC committee to prioritise objectives for 2013 and decided upon the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>DEFRA/CEH</b> funded project to assess recording techniques for less well recorded species groups, such as fungi, lichens, bryophytes. £6000 was allocated to the BMS for expenses etc. CEH are still running the project.</li> <li>• <b>Extinct Species Project:</b> Martyn Ainsworth is continuing his Natural England project to assess the status of species that have not been recorded in the UK for the last 50 years.</li> <li>• <b>Common Species Project:</b> This is still continuing and promotional literature has been produced, but it has still not yet captured the public imagination.</li> <li>• <b>CEH</b> further requests to the Society for participation in a DEFRA funded project to review impediments to wider documentation of environmental change, as it affects species. GR asked if perhaps the BMS leaflet and online scheme ‘Have You Seen This Fungus?’ could be included as part of this to raise the BMS profile in this area. A second request comes from DEFRA, to help with a project documenting non-native species.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Silene Rust Puzzle: From work done by the Warwickshire Fungus Survey the distribution of the two named Rust species, <i>Puccinia arenariae</i> and <i>Puccinia behenis</i> was examined and ways to distinguish them shown. Given that they look at first impression, very similar, it was requested by Gill Brand that it would be useful to establish the current distribution and frequency of the two rust species for future reference. Further information can be found on the BMS website at the URL below. <a href="http://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/index.php?cID=367">http://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/index.php?cID=367</a></li> <li>• New Members of the FMC committee for 2013 will be Justin Smith and new Recording Network Co-ordinator David Harries. Paul Kirk and CH will be co-opted onto the FMC committee in 2013.</li> </ul>	
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Publications Committee (PvW)</b>	
	<p>The prices charged by Elsevier to the BMS, and the proposed prices to charge the membership in 2013 were presented to Council. There has been an increased cost to the BMS and therefore this is reflected in a slight increased cost to the membership. Some titles are still being subsidised at the price offered to the membership. CH raised the point that subscribers to Field Mycology journal feel they get less for their money than those who subscribe to the Fungal Biology journal. There have also been problems for those using e-access to Field Mycology as front and back pages, and the images contained therein, have been left off the online version. This is a problem as the images are referred to within the articles.</p> <p>CH asked if it might be possible, with the publishing contact due for renewal in 2015, that the BMS could publish the journal Field Mycology separately at a reduced cost to the Society and pass this onto the membership.</p> <p><b>Action: CH will research the cost of producing the journal separately.</b></p> <p><b>PvW</b> will take this idea to the next meeting of the BMS Publications committee.</p> <p><b>CH</b> and the <b>FMC</b> committee will also approach the editor, Geoffrey Kibby, and ask his opinion on producing the journal separately.</p>	<p><b>CH</b></p> <p><b>CH &amp; FMCc</b></p>
	<p><b>BMS Journals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fungal Biology</b>- Increasing papers submission and rise in the overall quality.</li> <li>• <b>Fungal Biology Reviews</b>- Four issues proposed each year and although recently there have been minor issues, GR reassured everyone that these are now resolved. An Impact Factor is due to be awarded soon.</li> <li>• <b>Fungal Ecology</b>- All issues for 2013 are well on track.</li> <li>• <b>Field Mycology</b>- Four issues published a year. The editorial board attempt to keep two issues ahead to reduce the pressure on publishing deadlines.</li> <li>• <b>BMS Newsletter-Mycologist News:</b> This continues to be published four times a year and is available to the membership mostly in electronic format, unless hard copy is directly requested. Content is always sought and Council and Committee members are encouraged to submit any items they feel the membership would appreciate.</li> </ul>	
	The current publishers Elsevier have suggested that the BMS might look at	

	<p>creating a purely online journal to exploit the Society's name and reputation in keeping with other similar Societies. If created 'in-house' it could be more profitable for the Society than if we used a publishing house such as Elsevier, who charge considerably to create and host an online journal. This shift in publishing trends will have a significant impact when the BMS come to renew the journals publishing contract, as income will almost certainly reduce. PD mentioned the American Biological Society's online journal as an example of this type of venture. NR had asked the Publications Committee would they wish to investigate this idea further. The Publications Committee will consider this in more depth and discuss it fully at their next meeting. Any decisions will be fed back to Council at the next Council meeting in 2013.</p>	
	<p><b>BMS website: (SJS)</b> Recently the BMS website had to be taken off-line due to a computer virus incursion. Although eventually rectified, there have been many false membership registrations on the site and SJS asked the developers Souk how this could be tackled. Souk provided a range of quotes to implement changes. Included in these was a cost to add a CAPTCHA section, to prevent automated registering. Upon investigation into the back office of the website, SJS learned that this facility could be added with simple instruction from software already included in the operating system. This experience, taken with others, has raised the question of whether the BMS is being best served by the current developers, and whether we should move the website to a new host/developer.</p> <p><b>Action: SJS will meet with an alternative Company and cost moving the website and upgrading the system and report back to Council.</b></p>	SJS
	<p>A discussion ensued about online payment for membership and journals after quotes from Souk and an alternative developer suggested a figure of £9000 to implement a payment system. This seemed high but an online payment facility of some kind is needed for the website. Various payment methods were discussed with a Direct Debit option suggested to save yearly reminders being sent out to members.</p> <p>Discussions with any new website developer/host Company will need to address this as a priority.</p> <p><b>Online payment has already been provisionally approved by Council at a previous meeting and needs implementing ASAP.</b></p> <p>The requirement to inform users of websites that 'Cookies' are used during their browsing will need to be included within the BMS website. A cost of adding this has been submitted by Souk at £2990. This is a legal requirement and may be enforced soon.</p> <p>This will also need to be addressed by any new developer/host urgently.</p>	
<b>10.0</b>	<b>International Initiatives:</b> The International Officer was not in attendance and no report was submitted at this time.	
<b>11.0</b>	<p><b>General Secretary Correspondence:</b> SA has received a request from the British Yeast Group asking for funding assistance with their annual meeting. This is a regular event and the BMS traditionally supports this group. They have asked for £500, and will include the BMS logo in there publicity material to acknowledge the Society's support. Council agreed to this request.</p> <p><b>Action: SA will inform then and the funds will be supplied by the office</b></p>	

12.0	<p><b>A.O.B.</b> GR presented the accounts from the BMS office, Fungal Biology Ltd which has now been filed on the Charity Commission website. He explained the overall picture of the years activities in 2011 indicating costs had been contained and dropped slightly in comparison with the previous year 2010. Overall the BMS office is shown to be cost effective, even when compared to outsourcing to secretarial services agencies. To maximise this resource, the office could also be used for external services possibly, and this will be investigated more fully in 2013.</p>	
	<p><b>Incorporation:</b> As an ‘unincorporated Company’ the BMS exposes its trustees to potential personal liability. The Charitable Incorporated Organisation status that the BMS could register for should be available from May 2013, provisionally. When the full details of this proposed status are known, GR will circulate these to Council. There is the option to apply for this status in advance, but then choose not to accept. The transfer of title from BMS to BMS CIO should be fairly straightforward. Again GR will circulate detailed information to Council.</p> <p><b>Action: GR to investigate current status of Incorporation process and report relevant information back to Council.</b></p>	GR
	<p>The Proposed date of the next Council meeting with GR as BMS President is Friday March 1st, probably in the Manchester office meeting rooms. The Publications Committee is also planning to hold a meeting on the same day.</p>	
	<p>CH asked if the mileage allowance on the BMS expenses form could be increased to reflect rising costs of fuel. From 30p per mile to 40p proposed by members present. NM asked if everyone was happy with this. Everyone present agreed they were. The current expenses form will be amended accordingly. This will take effect from January 2013.</p> <p><b>Action: NP will update the expenses form.</b></p>	
	<p>For the upcoming AGM. The recipient of the 2012 Berkeley Award will be Tom Richards.</p>	
	<p>NM –Reminded all present about the upcoming BMS/SfAM joint winter meeting on the 9th of January, at the Royal Society, London.</p>	
	<p>NM proposed that the BMS president-elect for 2015 will be Prof Nick Read. His knowledge of negotiating the previous publishing contract and his experience organising scientific meetings make him an ideal candidate. NM asked what Council thought about this proposal. GR and GMG pointed out that he has many strong links with international contacts, and these can only benefit the BMS. Everyone present supported the nomination.</p>	
	<p>NM nominated GMG for the BMS president’s medal for his contributions to the Society as Treasurer over the years. NM also nominated SJS for the Benefactors Medal for all his work in bringing the BMS website together and keeping it updated. All present agreed that these awards were well deserved.</p>	
	<p>NM thanked all present for their support over his two years as BMS president, as he steps down at the end of 2012.</p>	
	<p><b>meeting closed at 4:00pm</b></p>	