

THE PHYCOLOGIST

Number 56

August 2000

The Newsletter of the British Phycological SocietyHome page: <http://www.brphycsoc.org/>*Editor:***Bruce Osborne**

Contents

Editorial	1
Historical Corner	2
BPS Winter Meeting	5
BPS Funding	6
Call for Council Nominations	7
Phycological Tips	7
The SAG Culture Collection	10
A New Blue-Green Algal Key	12
Algal-Based Environmental Monitoring	13
Council Officers	15
Instructions for Contributors	16

Editorial

The UK Governments recent announcement of a multi-million pound increased investment in science must have heartened a number of researchers throughout the country. What was particularly pleasing about this announcement was the increased funding for postgraduate students and the recognition that successive cohorts of young researchers had been underfunded for several years. Partly as a consequence of this the attractiveness of a career in research had declined dramatically. It has always been surprising, given that postgraduate research must account for the major part of research output in the UK and in other European countries, that these students have been so under funded. Just prior to this announcement the Irish government also announced what, for them given past expenditure on scientific research and/or development was a massive, apparently unprecedented, increase in funding for key research areas, particularly biotechnology. What was disappointing, however, was the absence, in this package, of a significant increase in postgraduate research funding to complement this investment. Despite the recent UK announcement, my impression, based on anecdotal information, is that support for postgraduate research in these Islands still falls far short of that made available by our European counterparts. One wonders, therefore, whether we will ever get the best return out of any new monetary investment, unless this is complemented by a comparable investment in able postgraduate researchers. Failure to do this in the short term has even more serious consequences in the long term, as we could be left with a workforce that does not have the skills to realise the potential that extra funding could bring. It's all very well talking today about a booming economy it's another thing sustaining that boom for the future.

Sometime ago I indicated that I was trying to commission a series of articles on useful techniques, under the heading, 'Phycological Tips'. The first of a series of three, appearing in successive

