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Editorial

Like all good phycological societies, the British Phycological Society's main purpose is the support of all areas of phycology and the active encouragement of new pursuits and ventures in phycology. In turn, it also has an important role in supporting the interests of its members, whether they are professional phycologists or amateurs, irrespective of whether their interests are in classical taxonomy, physiology, biochemistry, ecology or molecular biology. Even a casual glance through a few issues of the societies' flagship journal, *The European Journal of Phycology*, or the attendance at one of the annual winter meetings, will give a fair indication of the considerable breadth and diversity of members interests. I believe that it is this expansiveness, combined with diversity, that is one of the major strengths of the society. Over the years, however, the emphasis may change. Although we appear to be in a molecular era, you would have been lucky to find a paper on this topic in the last issues of the *British Phycological Journal*, the forerunner of the present *European Journal*, and that's not so long ago. In recent years there has been somewhat of a renaissance in the ecological area, which might not have been predicted after the apparent demise of the environmental lobby and the reduction in funding for ecological research in the 1980's. Even where the interests have remained the same the availability of new equipment or resources has led to the use of techniques or approaches that were largely unforeseen in the past. Unfortunately, we also lose some members and some approaches become unfashionable. Clearly, the personalities change and their interests too. It is important, therefore, that the society takes a proactive role in keeping abreast of these changes.

