

THE PHYCOLOGIST

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The Newsletter of the British Phycological Society*Editor:*Home page: <http://www.qub.ac.uk/bb/jbpage/bpshome/bps.htm>**Bruce Osborne**

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Editorial

This edition of *The Phycologist* has several enclosures and is packed with important information, none more so than the details of our annual flagship event, the **BPS Winter Meeting** held this year at the **University of Birmingham** between the 5-8 January 2000 and organised by a BPS stalwart, **Barry Leadbeater**. **Michael Guiry** will give the Founders lecture, on terrestrial green algae in Galway City. There are special sessions on Algae and the Water Industry, Calcification and Restoration of Aquatic Ecosystems. All of the titles and authors of presentations are included on pages 4-8 and you should bring this programme with you to the meeting. To register for the Birmingham meeting complete the separate form enclosed and send it as soon as possible to Barry at the address given.

Enclosed with this edition is a subscription renewal form (You were forewarned!). This also needs to be completed and sent to the new membership secretary, **Murray Brown**, at the University of Plymouth, without delay. Remember this form needs to be completed by all members, irrespective of their status, as this information is being used to update our database. It would also be helpful if any impending or known changes in address/affiliation are reported to the membership secretary at the same time.

In the historical corner section **Don Boney** recounts some of the earlier controversial exchanges about the origin of land plants between, among others, A. H. Church, F. O. Bower, A. G. Seward and A. G. Tansley. Church's belief that the ancestral form was a large green alga, with structural similarities to the brown algae, was always controversial and is not consistent with contemporary evidence. Whilst his forthright approach was often resented and the deficiencies of his theory acknowledged, Church's scientific originality was still recognised to the extent that both Seward and Bower supported his election to the Royal Society! I wonder if such magnanimity was ever that widespread or even exists in the present, highly competitive, scientific climate.

