

Minutes
British Phycological Society
66th Annual General Meeting
Tolhurst Room
Park Inn by Radisson Palace Hotel, Southend-on-Sea
5 – 6pm Wednesday 10th January 2018

Present: Jessica Adams, Thomaz Andrade, Janina Brakel, Juliet Brodie, Noah Bruderer, Francis Bunker, Christine Campbell, Helen Cantwell, Chris Carter, Edgley A Cesar, Geoffrey Codd, Eileen J. Cox, John Day, Matt Dring, Brisneve Edullantes, Claire Gachon, Caroline Echappé, Paul Hayes, Christopher Howe, Bruno Jesus, Anne D Jungblut, Hiroshi Kawai, Jan Krokowski, Adam Lewis, Jane Lewis, Christine Maggs, Gill Malin, Neusa Martins, Ivy A Matoju, Linda Medlin, Valeria Montalescot, Rob Mrowicki, Flower E Msuya, Amie Parris, Alison Paskins, Claire Passarelli, Gareth Pearson, Joe Penhaul Smith, Rupert Perkins, Jane Pottas, Thomas Pröschold, Christiane Rakotomala, Hilary Redden, Mairi Roper, Michael Ross, Laia Rovira-Torres, Sadock B Rusekwa, Koen Sabbe, Mahasweta Saha, Kathryn Schoenrock, Elliot Shubert, Emily Slavin, Nicky J D Slee, Michael Steinke, Willem Stock, Graham Underwood, Holly Welsby, Jo Wilbraham, Martin Wilkinson, Eun Chang Yang

1. Apologies

Gary Caldwell, Andy Davies, Maeve Edwards

2. Minutes of the 65th AGM January 2017

The minutes were accepted.

3. Matters arising

None.

4. Reports from Officers

a. Secretary (Jane Pottas)

Nine years in office has given me a good insight into the workings and role of the BPS and I must thank the Presidents I have served under – Geoff Codd, Juliet Brodie, Paul Hayes, Chris Maggs and Gill Malin – for their forbearance, and other members of Council, past and present, for their help and support in carrying out my secretarial duties. In preparation for handover to the incoming Secretary the documentation for this meeting is in a dedicated Dropbox folder, and paperwork from the past 9 years will be handed over to Francis Bunker in May 2018. In November a mistake on my part created an Outlook Calendar link from my personal calendar to the BPS Annual Meeting in Southend which went to all subscribers to Algae-L, some 1500 people. This post elicited 97 replies including 11 who accepted, 5 possibles, and 81 who declined. I contacted all those who accepted the invitation and sent the links to the annual meeting and urged them to register online. I sought advice from the Webmaster, Andy Davies, and contacted the Algae-L moderator and unlinked my Outlook calendar so that no more mass emails would go out on Algae-L. I apologise for my mistake and advise the incoming Secretary to be careful not to make the same mistake with his Outlook calendar.

b. Treasurer (Maeve Edwards)

In the absence of the Treasurer this report was presented by Graham Underwood.

The 2015 and 2016 accounts will be published in the Spring 2018 issue of *The Phycologist*. The Society is in a healthy situation financially with the European Journal of Phycology contributing a large amount of income which enables the Awards and Training Committee to disburse in the region of £40K in bursaries and awards. All Society members are eligible to apply for funding and are

encouraged to do so. Online payment of membership fees via PayPal has at times been problematic. For reasons of security payment made by sending bank account and personal details through the post are discouraged. Members please note that the credit card machine which has been used to take payments is being decommissioned. The Treasurer and Webmaster are investigating a different online payment system which will make payment of membership fees easier.

c. Membership Secretary (Hilary Redden)

The active membership of the Society as of January 6th 2018 is 328 (316 plus 12 Honorary Life Members) and of these 121 receive *EJP*. There is one corporate member. Thirty four new members joined in 2017 and 3 new members have joined in 2018. Two members retired and are not renewing for 2018. Renewal notices for 2018 will be circulated in again in January 2018. Members are encouraged to renew early in the New Year and those who do not do so by 15th January will be in arrears. The membership of the Society has decreased in recent years so all current members are encouraged to persuade colleagues to consider joining the BPS. Eileen Cox enquired about and was reassured that it is possible for those with a UK bank account to make a Bacs payment (direct bank transfer). An enquiry about gift Aid will be investigated by the Membership Secretary. Christine Maggs requested that all alternative methods of payment be made available in addition to (and not instead of) PayPal.

d. Student Representative (position vacant)

Paul Cherry resigned as Student Representative in November.

During his time in office Paul set up and managed the BPS Twitter account. Members are encouraged to tweet about algae using #bps_algae

It is hoped to set up a small committee for student members for which there will be funding available to support satellite meetings. Student members of the BPS are encouraged to support their Student Representative and to get involved in Society matters.

e. Joint Editors of the *European Journal of Phycology* (Christine Maggs and Juliet Brodie)

Christine Maggs and Juliet Brodie have been in post as Joint Editors in Chief for the period. Caroline Magill continues as Editorial Assistant. The last 12 months have been very busy with 124 new submissions to the journal. After adding revised papers, a turnover of 191 papers has been handled in the last 12 months. An Applied Phycology Special Issue was published in October to coincide with the Asian Pacific Psychological Forum as a Festschrift to Prof. Siew Moi Phang. The editorial team and publishers worked very hard to ensure that printed copies were delivered to Malaysia in time for the special presentation to Prof. Phang.

Christine Maggs thanked the Associate Editors for their work. She urged everyone to update their literature reviews to increase the number of citations which in turn will increase the journal impact factor.

Gill Malin thanked the Editors and Editorial Assistant for their work on *EJP*. Juliet Brodie and Christine Maggs have been offered Honorary Life Membership of the Society in recognition of their contribution to phycology including their work as Editors of *EJP* and both have accepted.

f. Editor of *The Phycologist* (Jan Krokowski)

The Spring issue (92) and Autumn issue (93) of *The Phycologist* were produced and dispatched, although there was a slight delay in dispatch of copies in autumn 2017.

Thanks again go to Agnès Marhadour for typesetting, to Monument Press for printing, and to Scottish Environment Protection Agency Admin staff for posting all the newsletters. A number of BPS members have opted not to receive a print

copy of *The Phycologist* preferring instead to read *The Phycologist* on-line. As a consequence printing and postage costs have reduced.

Layout and typesetting costs remain at £500 per issue; printing costs have increased slightly from £878 (#92) to £968 (#93); postage/consumables have increased from £257.58/£1635.58 (#92) to £708.80/£2176.80 (#93).

Members are thanked for their contributions and are encouraged to continue sending in articles on any aspect of phycology to include views, news, work events *etc.* Deadlines for submission are March 1st (Spring issue) and September 1st (Autumn issue).

Gill Malin reiterated that payment of prize monies to winners of the Manton Prize and the Poster Competition is contingent upon recipients writing an article for publication in *The Phycologist*.

g. **Webmaster (Andy Davies)**

In the absence of Andy Davies this report was presented by Gill Malin.

The transfer of the webmaster duties has gone seamlessly from Mike Guiry (who is thanked immensely for his time and efforts over the many years he served on the committee). Email addresses have been transitioned to a new business hosting account with a company called Jolt.co.uk, and we are in the process of designing a new website for release at some point during the new year. The current website is still running but will be replaced by the new website in early 2018.

The new website has been built on Wordpress, a tried and tested content management system with shopping extensions (including memberships and subscriptions) being added through a WooCommerce. The site has several dynamic elements at present including full membership management; automated correspondence and renewal reminders; automatic renewals for members who pay via PayPal; a jobs board that members can post to; an events management system that dynamically adds events to the main page; and full social media integration. The site itself will be secured with SSL (i.e. instead of HTTP, it will have an HTTPS designation and all communication between the site and the user encrypted). The website has been hardened against all common forms of attack, and we will have a rigorous backup process in place in case the website is ever compromised.

We need to fully test all elements of the membership system, automatically enrol all current members, activate gateways, and move the testing website to the "brphycsoc.org" domain name and hosting server prior to the site being released to members. As of yet it is not possible to put a full timeline on the release, but a tentative date in mid-February is targeted.

Andy Davies was thanked for all the hard work which has gone into building the new website.

h. **Meetings Secretary (Claire Gachon)**

Graham Underwood and Claire Passarelli were thanked for all their hard work in organising the 2018 BPS Annual Meeting at Southend which is a joint meeting with the 3rd Microphytobenthic Biofilm Symposium. There are 122 registered delegates attending for part or all of the meeting which comprises an interesting and varied programme. Members were encouraged to suggest other organisations and societies with which to hold joint meetings.

The 2019 Annual Meeting will be held at SAMS in Oban and thanks were extended to Professor Nicholas Owens, Director of SAMS, for offering this venue. Claire gave an enthusiastic presentation about the facilities at SAMS and the delights to be experienced in the west of Scotland in January in order to enthuse

all present to attend the meeting. Suggestions for sessions at this meeting are requested.

- i. **Awards and Training Committee (Chris Maggs)**
Since the last AGM (January 2017), there have been four deadlines for applications for funding to the Awards & Training Committee (chaired by Christine Maggs; members Rupert Perkins and Michael Steinke). In total there were 25 applications for student conference/workshop travel, with a total of £12.5K awarded, for a wide range of conferences and workshops including the BPS Southend meeting; all eligible applications were fully or partially funded. As agreed at the last Council meeting, these applications were handled by the Chair only. There were 9 applications for project awards, which were judged independently by all members of the Committee. The highest ranked was Joe Taylor, York, "Probing diversity in complex freshwater microbial parasitic foodwebs" and as he only requested £2.8K we also partially funded the second ranked, Pippa Moore, Aberystwyth, "Identifying cryptic northern glacial refugia of the kelps *Laminaria digitata* and *Alaria esculenta*", to £3.5K of the £4K requested. There was only one application for a summer project (the deadline was in December 2016 but in future will be February 1st); this project on kelp was proposed by Pippa Moore, Aberystwyth, for 2nd year student Harry Thatcher, Aberystwyth, requesting £1620 (funded in full). The total expenditure committed for the year was c. £20.6K, although claims are likely to be rather lower.
- j. **Biodiversity and Conservation Committee (Martin Wilkinson)**
- k. **Outreach and Education Committee (Anne Jungblut)**
- l. **Algal Applications Committee (Gill Malin)**
The Algal Applications Committee (AAC) last met on 30th June 2017. Committee members brought forward and discussed a range of ideas for progression. Notably we are looking into BPS publishing a print on demand book on applied algal biotechnology aimed at industry. Several scientists have been approached and have indicated that they are keen to participate. BPS Council agreed to a £1000 scoping fund for this project in July 2017.
This committee meeting followed our successful joint workshop on 'Seaweed and algal aquaculture: Opportunities and Challenges' with the Marine Knowledge Exchange Network in Norwich (<https://www.uea.ac.uk/mken>). There were 27 attendees, a good mix of 15 academics and 12 nonacademics. AAC feel there is scope for BPS to be involved in further meetings of this type. We hope to have a BPS presence at further meetings, e.g. during the final year of the Phyconet project.
We did not manage to get a committee section up on the BPS website in 2017, but will aim to get this done before the launch of the new BPS website. We still need applied phycology photos (free of copyright) for use on the website, in brochures, emails etc. We also need more contacts in commercial organisations with algal interests and with people working within major UK and international applied phycology projects. These would be used for future meeting invitations and to encourage corporate membership of BPS. Please contact g.malin@uea.ac.uk
BPS members are also invited to contact Gill Malin with ideas for other projects and initiatives.
- m. **Natural History Museum Representative (Juliet Brodie)**
The Natural History Museum, London is the official address of the British Phycological Society which appears on Charity Commission documentation. The Society archives are also lodged at the NHM.

5. Council Membership

6. Federation Reports

- a) Federation of European Phycological Societies (FEPS) (Geoff Codd)
The annual FEPS Council Meeting and AGM were held in Chania, Crete on 16 September 2017. FEPS Council were guests at the annual conference of the Hellenic Phycological Society. The FEPS website is being developed and in addition to notices of jobs and studentships available, links to courses offered by national member societies, photo-exhibitions and links to international/national conferences, the website includes a new Introduced Seaweeds in Europe database. See <https://www.facebook.com/FEPSalgae/>

The FEPS review journal, *Perspectives in Phycology*, now in its fourth year of publication, continues to publish papers in the areas of pure and applied phycology. Vol. 4, issue 2 (2017) included: *Ulvophycean* photophysiology and research opportunities. Handrich, M. *et al.*, Symplastic mass flow and sieve tubes in algae and plants. Knobloch, M. and Peters, W.S., Morphology and species identification of *Chaetoceros* species (*Bacillariophyceae*). Ishii, K-I., and Shaken and stirred: the fundamental role of water motion in resource acquisition and seaweed productivity. Hurd, C.L. See:

www.schweizerbart.de/journals/pip/instructions?af=search

Circulated via FEPS, Dec. 2017: the European Marine Biological Infrastructure Cluster (embric) has announced its 2nd call for applications to its Transnational Access for Marine Biotechnology Projects. This research funding source will support travel (max. 800 Euros per person); accommodation (120 Euros per person); and shipping of biological material (up to 400 Euros). See

www.embric/access/TA

Following a call for projects FEPS has approved two new actions: The BPS proposal for a European Database of Archived Algae and Cyanobacteria for Molecular Biological Research, project leader, Dr. Katarzyna Palinska, University of Gdansk, Poland. Membership of the Working Party will include representatives of all FEPS national societies with Jo Wilbraham, NHM, London, representing the BPS. In collaboration with the Ocean Teacher Global Academy, UNESCO and others FEPS is offering a course on Species Distribution Modeling with a focus on seaweeds. (Course, Ostend, 12-16 March 2018; Applications closing date: January 14, 2018). No tuition fees. The aim is to fund accommodation and travel costs for 25 students. See <http://www.ioc-unesco.org/MSDM>

The 7th International Phycological Congress (IPC7) will be held in Zagreb, Croatia from 25-30 August, 2019.

- b) Federation of European Microbiological Societies (FEMS) (Paul Hayes)
I attended the FEMS Council/Delegate meeting in Lisbon between the 8th and 10th September 2017. FEMS have requested that we send them our annual report and membership numbers early in 2018. The membership numbers will be used to calculate our membership fee for 2018. FEMS continues to be a valuable source of funding. The BPS has been awarded funding for the current winter meeting, and our members continue to be successful when they apply for Research and Training Grants or Meeting Attendance Grants. FEMS have now fully implemented the changes in their revised Memorandum of Association, and there will be changes to some of the individuals occupying the key Director roles as the current incumbents come to the end of their terms. Details of these changes are available on the FEMS website.
- c) Royal Society of Biology (Gill Malin)
The BPS is a member organisation of the Royal Society of Biology (RSB <http://www.rsb.org.uk>). The BPS President acts as the RSB representative and

contact point so this role will pass to Graham Underwood after this AGM. The BPS membership fee for 2017 was £620 per annum.

The overarching aim of the RSB is to act as a single unified voice for biology in the UK e.g. advising government, influencing policy and advancing education and professional development. BPS members can get RSB membership at 50% the normal rate for their first 2 years. This brings additional benefits such as the RSB Continuing Professional Development programme and professional awards. RSB courses and workshops are also discounted at a rate of up to 50%. See the RSB website for full details.

We are keen to see how we can increase the BPS profile within RSB and would welcome any ideas for this. If you are already active in the RSB please let g.malin@uea.ac.uk know.

7. Future meetings

BPS Annual Meeting January 2019 will be held at SAMS, Oban.

8th Congress of European Microbiologists - FEMS 2019 to be held in Glasgow 7-11 July 2019

BPS Annual Meeting January 2020

Meeting ended at 6.30pm.