

British Psychological Society – AGM Oban 2019

Summary reports submitted by council members:

A. **Secretaries report** by Francis Bunker

A steady stream of correspondence has arrived with all (except from one individual) being email. Most of this has been information from the Royal Society of Biology, which I have forwarded to Graham Underwood. Various events, particularly those by FEMS and FEPS were passed on to the web master for consideration as to whether to post on the BPS web site.

There have been requests from conference organisers wondering whether we want to avail ourselves of their services to which I reply to say that we do it ourselves to cut down costs. There have also been various emails from firms selling conferencing software.

There have been enquiries from students who want to know about funding for attending conferences or courses. The benefits of joining BPS and how to go about obtaining funding are explained.

Other correspondence has been forwarded to the relevant members of Council or the sub-committees.

There have been two emails requesting psychological assistance and polite replies have been sent to both.

The society had a lovely Christmas email from Natural Resources Wales wishing us season's greetings and explaining all about the organisation and its functions. The email was in Welsh but the sentiment were warmly received.

B. **Treasurer report** by Maeve Edwards

- BPS finances are in good health, with a balance as of the 8/1/19 of £186,619.84.
- Accounts for 2016/2017 (see below) have been prepared for submission to the external examiner after the winter meeting, and the approved accounts will be posted on the BPS website for consultation with the membership when completed.
- 2017/2018 accounts preparation are in an advanced state and should also be submitted to the external examiner shortly.
- The financial year runs between the 1st October to the 30th September.
- Currently, Society expenditure is matching income, however, reserve levels are a little too large and need to be reduced in line with Charity Commission recommendations.

- Increased expenditure in 2019/2020 on grants and loans is anticipated, as well as investment in the new Society Journal, Applied Phycology.
- For further queries on any detail within the accounts please email treasurer@brphycsoc.org.

Unapproved BPS Accounts, 2016/2017

| Income | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Source</i> | <i>Amount (£)</i> |
| BPS Membership Subscriptions | 6570 |
| EJP Profit Share 2016 balance | 30054.37 |
| EJP Profit Share Advance 2017 | 30000 |
| EJPMC fund from T&F | 2847 |
| BOS Savings account | 37571.24 |
| NS&I Savings account | 95918.51 |
| TOTAL | £202,961.12 (£69,471.37) |
| Expenditure | |
| <i>Source</i> | <i>Amount (£)</i> |
| Grants, studentships and awards | 30,553.85 |
| Publications | 22,728.89 |
| Meetings | 4,140.06 |
| Administration | 10,808.61 |
| TOTAL | £68,231.41 |

Breakdown of Expenditure

| Grants/Loans | |
|---|-------------------|
| <i>Source</i> | <i>Amount (£)</i> |
| Travel awards (annual meeting and for other courses/meetings) | 2688.62 |
| Travel awards (other conferences, course, workshops etc.) | 12369.85 |
| Special projects and summer undergraduate studentships | 10534 |
| External meeting support | 0 |

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Manton/Poster/Hilda Canter-Lund Awards | 900 |
| Algaebase sponsorship | 2500 |
| Diatom Flora Project | 1488.19 |
| TOTAL | £30,480.66 |
| Publications | |
| <i>Source</i> | <i>Amount (£)</i> |
| EJPMC expenses | 591.45 |
| EJP production costs | 3,287.25 |
| Phycologist production and postage costs | 2874 |
| EJP editor expenses | 15976.19 |
| TOTAL | £22,728.89 |
| Meetings | |
| <i>Source</i> | <i>Amount (£)</i> |
| Biodiversity and Conservation Committee | 747.57 |
| Applied Algal Committee | 529.35 |
| Council meetings | 2017.83 |
| FEPS meeting (BPS rep attendance) | 845.31 |
| Society of Biology meeting (BPS rep attendance) | 0 |
| TOTAL | £4,140.06 |
| Administration | |
| <i>Source</i> | <i>Amount (£)</i> |
| Honoraria | 4750 |
| FEMS subscription | 497.04 |
| FEPS subscription | 1170.42 |
| Society of Biology Subscription (see note 1) | - |
| Merchant credit card charges/terminal rental | 911.93 |
| Public liability insurance | 602.01 |
| Miscellaneous expenses (see note 2) | 600 |
| Website maintenance | 347.52 |
| Bank charges | 285.59 |
| Paypal fees | 155.9 |
| Independent Examiner's Fee | 1800 |
| TOTAL | £11,120.41 |

Notes

1. Membership is paid in advance of the year and was paid for in the YE 2016 accounts
2. New BPS logo development (£600)

C. **Membership Secretary report** by Hilary Redden

As of writing (2nd Jan 2019), the active membership of the Society is 228 this includes our 11 Honorary Life Members. Fourteen lapsed members re-joined this year. One member resigned their membership during 2018, due to retirement but I also know of one member who has retained their interest in phycology and has been a member for 50+ years, since the society started. Now 84 yrs. old they are still going strong.
European Journal of Phycology

Of our 228 members in 2019, 59 (26%) members opt to receive the EJP by post.

Membership breakdown

| <u>Membership Plan</u> | No. Members | % |
|--|--------------------|----------|
| Honorary-Membership | 11 | 5 |
| Corporate-Membership-Without-Journal | 0 | 0 |
| Retired-Membership-Without-Journal | 15 | 7 |
| Three-Year-Student-Membership-Without-Journal | 15 | 7 |
| Retired-Membership-With-Journal | 11 | 5 |
| Student-Membership-With-Journal | 3 | 1 |
| Student-Membership-Without-Journal | 34 | 15 |
| Ordinary-Membership-With-Journal | 49 | 21 |
| Ordinary-Membership-Without-Journal | 90 | 39 |
| Total | 228 | |

Renewal notices for 2019 membership were circulated in conjunction with information about the AGM and Oban meeting in December 2018. Members that still had not used the new website and logged on using the token generated by the webmaster during the summer were sent information on the 31st Dec 2018 and told to use the 'Join Here' link on the front page of the new website.

Payments made by the new direct debit system have been going through. There have been a few slight issues with a small group of members (about 8) so far and Andy our webmaster and myself have been dealing with them. If you have any issues about your membership or have noticed a mistake on the new website please get in touch with myself, Andy our webmaster or any of the council members so that we can resolve the issue.

D. **Student representative report** by Amie Parris:

A steady stream of correspondence has arrived with all (except from one individual) being email. Most of this has been information from the Royal Society of Biology, which I have forwarded to Graham. Various events, particularly those by FEMS and

FEPS I've passed on to the web master for consideration as to whether or not to post on the BPS web site.

There have been requests from conference organisers wondering whether we want to avail ourselves of their services to which I reply to say that we do it ourselves to cut down costs. If Council want to look into such services in the future, I can dig out contacts. There have also been various emails from firms selling conferencing software.

There have been enquiries from students who want to know about funding for attending conferences or courses. To these I explain the benefits of joining BPS and explain the rules of having to have been a member for at least 3 months before they are eligible to apply for funding.

Other correspondence I have forwarded to the relevant members of Council or the sub-committees.

I have had two emails requesting psychological assistance and have replied politely to both.

The society had a lovely Christmas email from Natural Resources Wales wishing us season's greetings and explaining all about the organisation and its functions. The email was in Welsh and it is beyond my skills to translate it but I can forward to any who are interested.

Twitter:

In 2018, BPS_algae reached 1000 followers! Currently 1065. Table 1 shows the Twitter analytics for 2018.

Table 1: 2018 summary data for the BPS Twitter account.

| | | July | August | September | October | November | December | Year-End Total | 2018 Total |
|------|-------------------|-------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|----------------|------------|
| 2018 | Tweets | 8 | 9 | 10 | 13 | 8 | 8 | 56 | 103 |
| 2018 | Tweet Impressions | 21200 | 13600 | 11800 | 15900 | 14300 | 11400 | 88200 | 146410 |
| 2018 | Profile Visits | 510 | 531 | 301 | 413 | 370 | 325 | 2450 | 6155 |
| 2018 | Mentions | 36 | 27 | 27 | 40 | 43 | 27 | 200 | 400 |
| 2018 | New Followers | 49 | 45 | 39 | 40 | 33 | 25 | 231 | 446 |
| 2018 | Link Clicks | 63 | 119 | 71 | 119 | 83 | 39 | 494 | 934 |
| 2018 | Retweets | 57 | 35 | 50 | 84 | 32 | 29 | 287 | 555 |
| 2018 | Likes | 112 | 88 | 59 | 85 | 52 | 39 | 435 | 758 |
| 2018 | Replies | 5 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 16 | 37 |

Top tweet for 2018 was in June for the shortlist of the Hilda Canter-Lund competition.

BPS Twitter student members were polled on how they would like to receive BPS correspondence. 13 people voted, below are the results:

38% Email

62% Twitter
0% Facebook
0% Post

Facebook:

As of September, I am now posting to both Twitter and Facebook as we have members who prefer one platform to the other. BPS Facebook student members were polled on how they would like to receive BPS correspondence and the one reply stated by email.

Upcoming initiatives for 2019:

- Reinvigorate career posters (as identified at the summer council meeting)
- Increase social media posts
- Student Newsletter (if decided upon to meet certain student's preference)
- Anything else?

Student Rep Email: No emails from students were received in 2018.

E. **Meetings Secretary report** by Claire Gachon

The 67th Annual meeting of the Psychological Society will be held in Oban, on Jan 7th-10th, 2019. The adopted format (2.5 days) is virtually identical to the successful one adopted in 2018 in Southend. The conference has attracted a very healthy number of delegates (108 registrants). In total, the scientific programme features 58 oral presentations (including 6 longer talks by invited speakers, and a plenary by the Overseas President) and 29 poster presentations.

Alongside classic BPS events (Manton prize, Annual General Assembly), the conference also includes exhibitors, a retrospective about Harry Powell's legacy, T&F workshop aimed at early-stage researcher about "getting published", the launch of Applied Psychology, and of the BBSRC-funded ALGAE-UK NIBB.

The conference was organised frugally in order to favour student attendance, and the all-inclusive registration fee was set to £115 (for BPS members) and £140 for non-members. The budget will be finalised shortly after the conference; provisionally, SAMS expect to return a profit of £1,500-£2,000 to the Society.

It is worth noting that:

- despite the financial penalty imposed on non-members to register, roughly 25% of conference registrants decided to not become BPS members.
- The oral programme was slightly oversubscribed. Whereas this was not perceived as problematic, due consideration should be given to the length and format of the conference, especially if future editions aimed at growing the number of delegates.

