

British Psychological Society – AGM Oban 2019

Summary reports submitted by the BPS sub-committees:

A. **Awards and Training sub-committee** by Gill Malin

For those who are not aware, the BPS Immediate Past President takes on the role of Chair of the BPS Awards and Training Committee. A revised version of the BPS Funding Guidelines has been approved by BPS Council and this and refreshed application forms will be uploaded to the BPS website with an email alert to the membership as soon as possible. The main aims of the revision are to increase clarity to reduce the potential for queries and ineligible applications. Summer Undergraduate Project have been renamed Summer Undergraduate Internships and academic and corporate members will be eligible to apply. For all schemes applicants must have been a member of the BPS for at least 3 months before the application date and successful applicants should be prepared to renew their membership where the project or meeting falls in the following calendar year. So please do encourage your students and colleagues to join or renew their BPS membership at the earliest opportunity! For future Internships and Project Award applications from members who do not have an independent position (e.g. a short-term postdoctoral scientist), a letter from the line manager will be required to assure the BPS Council that the applicant has the time and access to the general facilities and materials required for the project. PhD student members should note that they are not eligible to apply for Summer Undergraduate Internships and Project awards. The BPS Council sets aside an annual budget for our various awards. In 2018 just under £22,000 was awarded for 1 Summer Undergraduate Project, 2 Project Awards and 21 student Bursaries for attendance at conferences in the UK and abroad. Over 50% of the monies awarded were for student activities. BPS members are also reminded that we are an active member of the Federation of European Microbiological Societies and this gives BPS members access to the FEMS funding schemes <https://fems-microbiology.org/fems-activities/>

B. **Biodiversity and conservation committee** by Martin Wilkinson

This committee promotes recognition of algal biodiversity by promoting identification courses, field meetings, running an algal distribution recording website and promoting identification publications. It engages in protection of this biodiversity by proposing and supporting conservation initiatives and responding to threats to algal habitats.

In 2018 we have been particularly concerned with kelp forests in the British Isles. These are one of the world's major ecosystem types of great importance in coastal productivity, providing the habitat for massive biodiversity at all trophic levels and in coastal protection. With increased sea temperatures some kelp species are declining in southern Britain. We believe that they should be added to the OSPAR list of

threatened habitats and are delighted to hear that OSPAR is about to review their case.

Debate in Scotland about possible mechanised kelp harvesting has exposed how little that the immense importance of the kelp ecosystem is appreciated.

Development of a sustainable seaweed industry has to take this into account and we are asking the Scottish Government and Marine Scotland to include BPS in their list of standard consultees concerning seaweed harvesting and seaweed farming applications. There is an opportunity for us to collaborate here with the BPS Outreach and Education Committee on improving public knowledge of algae and their ecosystems.

We propose a special session for the next BPS meeting to discuss algae as indicators for the EC Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). Phytoplankton indicators are being developed but we wish also to promote macroalgal indicators.

The final volume of *Seaweeds of the British Isles* series on brown seaweeds is at last in sight of completion. BPS is thanked for a grant to expedite this and committee member Juliet Brodie is acknowledged for tremendous efforts to bring this about.

Identification courses and field meetings for 2019. See BPS website for announcements

- Seaweed course with Francis Bunker at Plymouth. 18-22 March. Longer than before with two consecutive levels – beginners and more advanced.
- Freshwater course – Durham – Dave John and Brian Whitton – may run introductory course in July following success again in 2018. Would be 27th consecutive course.
- Freshwater course for FSC – Eliot Shubert and Eileen Cox – Kindrogan – 1 to 8 July – may be the last time.
- Seaweed courses for FSC at Millport – Jane Pottas on edible seaweeds 7-9 June.
- BPS/Quekett Microscopical Society – Another joint meeting 2019 as last one successful. At Ennerdale.
- One day charophyte meeting October 2019 in Northamptonshire with Chris Carter
- Possible seaweed field meeting in Firth of Forth, Scotland in late summer or autumn based in Edinburgh organised by Martin Wilkinson and Clare Scanlan. Watch website for announcements.

C. **Outreach and Education Committee** by Anne Jungblut

1. New flyers/brochure: It was discussed that an academic and general public audience would be interested in different type of information, and therefore two flyers should be created. The flyer for the general public would include a list of key facts on algae.
2. The winner of the 2018 Hilder Canter-Lund competition is Rafael Martín-Ledo with the images titled “Drifting diatoms”, and the second prize was awarded to John Huisman for the image titled “A New *Ganonema*”.

3. Videos on algae were invited for the first time as part of the Hilder Canter-Lund competition in 2018 in addition to macroalgae and microalgae category. There was only one video submission which was not of sufficient quality to be put forward for an award. The category will also be included for the 2019 round to see if there is any improvement of the quality of the entries and increase in number of entries.
4. It has been proposed to include a new category for applied phycology for the Hilder Canter-Lund competition to acknowledge the increase in applied research. The winner of the 2019 round would be used as cover for the new journal.
5. Science events for the general public: It was discussed that the BPS could hold more events together with other scientific and amateur societies. It could enable us reach new audiences and reach audiences with an already general interest in science and the natural world.
6. New approach to outreach activities: The committee discussed potential new ways to do public outreach events, for example activities such as pond dipping activities as part of music festivals that are popular with families.
There will be a Quekett Microscopy event in 2019 (contact Martyn Kelly for more details).

D. Algal Applications Committee by Gill Malin

The Algal Applications Committee (AAC) did not meet in 2018 but a meeting will be arranged in the first half of 2018. Priorities will be to: discuss a special session for the BPS annual meeting in January 2020 on an aspect of applied phycology and/or a separate satellite meeting; establish a mechanism for BPS Corporate Membership, consider what BPS can offer Corporate members; progress the idea of a print on demand handbook or special issue on applied algal biotechnology aimed at industry.

AAC member Saul Purton is congratulated on the success of a bid for a BBSRC phase II Network in Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy (NIBB) "Algae-UK: Exploiting the algal treasure trove". This will continue the work of the very successful NIBB PHYCONET, but it is broader in scope in covering microalgae and seaweeds and so closer than ever to the BPS remit.

E. Natural History Museum Representative by Juliet Brodie

To be include in forthcoming update.