

## British Phycological Society

Winter Council Meeting January 2022

### Algal Applications Committee (AAC)

#### Committee membership

Gill Malin (Chair), Geoff Codd, Saul Purton, Brenda Parker, Andrew Spicer (Algenuity [www.algenuity.com](http://www.algenuity.com)), Craig Rose (Seaweed & Co. [www.seaweedandco.com](http://www.seaweedandco.com)).

*To be confirmed*

#### REMIT

The remit of the Algal Applications Committee covers all aspects of applied phycology from biotechnology through to the use of algae as bioindicators and the production of algal biomass for *inter alia* biofuels, food, feed, nutritional supplements, and various high value products. The overall aim is to foster stronger connections between the BPS and the commercial companies, public agencies and regulatory bodies that use or consider algae in their work. A particular focus will be inspiring and training the next generation of applied phycologists.

*As agreed by BPS Council June 2016*

Items that need a decision from Council - none

Items to be discussed by Council  
**See bold highlighted text below.**

Items to be noted by Council

Limited progress to report from the last 6 months. Some thoughts towards building momentum in the first half of 2022.

The general subject area of Applied Phycology seems to be continuing to gain momentum – the programme for the BPS annual meeting reflects this very well with sessions on Sustainable Food Systems and Blue Carbon. I have not done a proper analysis due to the lack of affiliation information in the programme (GDPR?) but most of the presenters appear to be academics. Some may have links to or funding from algae-based businesses.

Information on **Corporate Membership** of the BPS was added to the BPS website some time ago. On advice from the non-academic committee members the membership fee was set at £500 as they felt the previous fee of £100 would not be taken seriously. A list of what corporate members can expect from BPS is also given on the website. However, as far as I am aware, we do not have any corporate members at present. On the other hand recent BPS meetings have been supported by various businesses e.g. this meeting has had support from Barti, Membranology (a spin out company of Swansea University), VariconAqua, and the BBSRC network Algae-UK, and Taylor & Francis who publish the BPS journals. BPS is in a good position financially so building a Corporate Membership is not about money *per se* but rather about fostering stronger connections and inspiring and training the next generation of applied phycologists.

The next step will be an attempt to pump-prime Corporate Membership. By offering a 1-year membership gratis to the companies listed above. Should any Corporate Membership income be made available to the organiser of the next BPS Annual Meeting. **Comments and suggestions are welcome.**

The European Algae Biomass Association (EABA) accepted our proposal for a reciprocal membership arrangement whereby the EABA appears as a Corporate Member of BPS and BPS as a Scientific Member of EABA both without charge. EABA membership is aimed at algae-based businesses and they run some well-attended meetings throughout the year. Both are expensive relative to BPS membership and meetings. BPS members will get the EABA Member rate without having to join EABA on a personal basis and the BPS logo will be displayed on the EABA website. Information will be added to the BPS website soon. **Any comments welcome.**

I also discussed free corporate membership for Culture Collection of Algae and protozoa (CCAP, based at SAMS in Oban) with Christine Campbell and she was keen. The reasoning here is that they are an important resource and advice hub for people working on algal cultures. Christine retired in 2021 so I will renew the conversation with CCAP.

Algae-UK (one of six phase II Networks in Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy (NIBB) supported by the BBSRC for a 5-year period) is Directed by Saul Purton head of the UCL Algal Biotechnology Group. They provided some support for this BPS Annual Meeting. Saul is a member of the committee and the incoming BPS President Elect. I will discuss with Saul how BPS can work with Algae-UK now e.g. could we co-organise an 'Algae Careers Event', and in the future. **Support for Algae Careers Event?**

Summary paragraph of the report for inclusion in Council meeting/AGM minutes

The remit of the Algal Applications Committee covers all aspects of applied phycology from biotechnology through to the use of algae as bioindicators and the production of algal biomass for *inter alia* biofuels, food, feed, nutritional supplements, and various high value products.

The general subject area of Applied Phycology seems to be continuing to gain momentum – the programme for the BPS annual meeting reflects this very well with sessions on Sustainable Food Systems and Blue Carbon. BPS welcomes Corporate Members and information can be found on the website <https://brphycsoc.org/corporate-membership/>. The BPS membership also benefits from Annual Meeting support kindly provided by various algae-related businesses e.g. this meeting has had support from Barti, Membranology (a spin out company of Swansea University), VariconAqua, and the BBSRC network Algae-UK, and Taylor & Francis who publish the BPS journals. We thank them all for their support!

Given that the overall aim is to foster stronger connections between the BPS and the commercial companies, public agencies and regulatory bodies that use or consider algae in their work, we welcome your ideas and suggestions for working together at any time. For example this could range from a suggestion for a special session at a future BPS Annual Meeting, a one-off meeting focussed on an applied phycology topic or an event that would inspire and help with the training of the next generation of applied phycologists from amongst the BPS Student Membership.

Gill Malin 4/1/2022