

# British Phycological Society 71<sup>st</sup> AGM University of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne

## Biodiversity & Conservation Sub-Committee Report by Dr Martin Wilkinson

- It is hoped that there may be another freshwater identification course at FBA about June 2023
- The broader need for more freshwater identification courses both amateur and professional is being considered. There is a need for charophyte identification training.
- Seaweed identification course, Plymouth, 17-19 May 2023. Details from Frances Bunker.
- Seaweed field meeting, St Andrews, 1 to 6 August 2023, Details from Martin Wilkinson. It is hoped to link this course with citizen science efforts in Scotland.
- Brown seaweed book now expected to be released April 2023.
- New Danish seaweed flora, of which Juliet Brodie co-author, very useful for some British flora, has an English language edition, *Seaweeds of Denmark vols 1 & 2*.
- European charophyte flora expected publication summer 2023
- British freshwater flora 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, BPS supported publication, has DVD illustrations moved online and has online taxonomic updates since its release in August 2021.
- Desmid posters almost sold out. Possible update, republication or online transfer being considered.
- Diatom flora project, funded by BPS, joint with National Museum of Wales has proceeded well and a next stage is being considered.
- Seaweed red data list submitted in 2021 showed us problems with IUCN requirements based on higher land plants. Problems and possible solutions are in paper published by Juliet Brodie et al. We are discussing how suitable sampling programmes could be introduced to help in future.
- Big Seaweed Search devised by Juliet Brodie and NHM is particularly good citizen science project, now 13 years old, and linked to Marine Conservation Society and used as basis for new schemes overseas. Juliet will present proposal to Council for formal BPS partnership.
- Algal recording site problems resolved but we are considering whether BPS should have a data officer linked with it.
- Scottish Biodiversity plan to Scottish Government concerns about biodiversity loss does not have an algal component. This may be because it is considered already covered by NatureScot citizen science marine monitoring programme started two years ago. We are investigating this and if BPS can help.