



73rd Annual General Meeting

Online

28th January 2025

Meeting Minutes

Meeting chaired by the President, Saul Purton. Meeting was quorate with 30 in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence

Chris Howe - member

Dan Franklin (Chair O&E committee)

Nicky Slee (Treasurer)

2. Announcements

Key aspects of the AGM are the formal approval of the BPS accounts and last year's AGM minutes. For various reasons neither of these documents were available on 8th January at the conference in Hull, so we decided to go ahead with the presentation of reports from Council Officers and sub-committees at the Conference but hold a separate online AGM. This would ensure approval of the accounts prior to their submission to the Charity Commission (deadline for which is 31st Jan). The minutes, the accounts, and the reports presented are all on the BPS website.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 72nd AGM, 10th January 2024 Reading University CM proposed, FB seconded. Minutes were approved

4. Matters arising

Confirmation that the membership fees will increase on 01 April 2025 in line with the new financial year.

5. Treasurer's Report (Jane Lewis)

There is no formal report available from the Treasurer, but the Auditors have sent a draft report for the year ending 31st March 2024. Jane gave a summary of the figures presented in the Auditor's report. It was noted that there is some additional income generated in this year from the Annual Meeting, but will not arrive in the accounts until the following year (2024/25). In addition the big Awards round agreed in 2023/24 will appear as an expense in 2024/25 accounts. JL gave thanks to all who contributed to the Journal that brings us income.

CM noted that there was a discrepancy in the dates of the financial year as stated in the report – this will be updated to the correct dates by the Auditor.

In addition, some wording for CM's report needs to be corrected. These corrections will be sent back to the auditor before the accounts are signed off.

6. Approval of the Accounts for the year to 31st March 2024

Proposal to accept the Accounts (with corrections) proposed CM, seconded JA

ACTION: Nicky Slee to submit final accounts to Charity Commission by 31st January 2025.

7. Appointment of auditors

Paul Murray of LM Griffiths & Co Ltd appointed on 16th February 2021 and has been efficient and effective as our Independent Examiner. Members invited to approve Paul Murray as our auditor for a further 12 months.

Proposal to keep the same Auditor for next year – proposed SP, seconded PH

A query was raised regarding the allowed length of tenure of Independent Examiners.

ACTION: JP to check Charity Commission website and BPS Constitution.

8. Elections and Council Vacancies

The following candidates are proposed:

○Webmaster: Leonardo Cherin

○Secretary: Jane Purton

Two elected officers (Andy Davies as Webmaster and Kirstin Covington as Secretary) stepped down from Council this year. Council sought suitably qualified replacements through emails to members, and an excellent candidate for each position was identified.

Leonardo Cherin as Webmaster – Proposed – PH, Seconded – JL. Appointment approved

Jane Purton as Secretary – Proposed – AB, Seconded – FB. Appointment approved.

There are two vacancies on Council for Ordinary Members, which were advertised in the autumn issue of the Phycologist, but no nominations were received. Council therefore sought candidates, and two nominations have now been received.

Mánus Cunningham, Queen's University Belfast.

Proposed CM, Seconded FB – appointment approved.

Francis Bunker (retired)

Proposed CM, Seconded AB– appointment approved.

ACTION: LC to update BPS website to include new appointments.

9. Appointment of Honorary Life Member

Owing to the sad passing of Prof. John Raven FRS, there is a vacancy for an Honorary Member. Council wishes to recommend Prof. Paul Hayes as the new Honorary Member.

Proposed JA, Seconded CM – appointment approved.

10. Forthcoming events: Hilda Canter-Lund Prize and Royal Society Summer Exhibition

Annual HCL competition: Macro and micro categories. See the BPS website for past winners and inspiration. Timings will be:

Announcement - early Spring

Deadline for submissions - late Spring/Early Summer

Winners announced - late Summer

We have been selected to exhibit at the Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition **01-06 July 2025:**

Harnessing the power of algae for new natural products and a cleaner and more sustainable world.

Micro and macro algal themed hands-on activities and passive displays are planned. Please contact/talk to Dan Franklin if you'd like to discuss potential involvement in this event.

Jane Lewis also highlighted the Training and Awards funds and the upcoming deadlines of 1st February and 1st May.

11. Subcommittee and Federation reports

All other reports were presented at the Winter Meeting in Hull and are available online at: <https://brphycsoc.org/annual-general-meeting/>

12. Future Annual meetings and AGM dates

The next Annual Meeting will be in early January 2026 in Aberystwyth (provisionally 8th Jan 2026). Jessica Adams organising. The meeting in January 2027 will be at Queen's University Belfast – this will be the 75th AGM.

13. AOB

- A new social media email will be announced to members soon – please use this to send in potential posts.
- The webmaster will update the website with the newly elected Council Members.

Key to names:

Amanda Burson (AB)

Christine Maggs (CM)

Francis Bunker (FB)

Jessica Adams (JA)

Jane Lewis (JL)

Jane Purton (JP)

Leo Cherin (LC)

Paul Hayes (PH)

Saul Purton (SP)