



72nd Annual General Meeting
Reading University
10th January 2024

Meeting Minutes

Meeting chaired by the President, Jane Lewis. Meeting was quorate with 37 in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence
Amanda Burson (AB, Editor Phycologist)
Andy Davies (AD, Webmaster)
Dan Franklin (DF, Chair O&E committee)
Esther Hughes (EH)
Phoebe Lewis (PL)
Mahasweta Saha (MS, Ordinary Member)
Graham Underwood (GU, Chair of BPS Journals Committee)
Martin Wilkinson (MW, Chair of Biodiv. Cons. Com)
2. Announcements
None
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 71st AGM, 25th January 2023 Newcastle University
JH proposed, SP seconded. Minutes were approved
4. Matters arising
No matters arising
5. Membership tiers (Jane Lewis, Nicky Slee)
JL brought to the meeting a proposal to remove the retired membership category and increase membership fees by a small amount from next year, to continue to support core activities, with a view that membership fees and structures should be reviewed on a regular basis. JH proposed and AL seconded the motion. Proposal was approved.
6. Reports from Elected Officers (* reports will be made available at <https://brphycsoc.org/annual-general-meeting/>)
 - a. Secretary (Francis Bunker)

Over 2023 I have answered various queries from members and the public or passed them on the relevant Council / sub-committee members. These have been many and varied correspondence from people wanted to reach the British Psychological Society. When correspondence has arrived relating to events which are of potential interest to BPS members, I have notified our Webmaster Andy Davies so notices can be posted on the BPS web site.

Council meeting minutes and the BPS Operating Manual are now stored on the web site. There have been updates to this manual in 2023.

A notice advertising Council positions was drafted and sent to the Phycologist for publication in the autumn issue. The number of people proposed for these positions matched the number of vacancies on Council so there was no need for elections.

The BPS Insurance was renewed at the end of November 2023 with Self Assured Underwriting Agencies Ltd.

b. Treasurer (Nicky Slee)

Paul Murray of LM Griffiths & Co Ltd on 16th February 2021 and has been efficient and effective as out Independent Examiner. The annual return annual return and the Report of the Trustees with the financial statements for the British Phycological Society (Charity Number 246707) signed off at last year's AGM were uploaded to the Charity Commission Website (CCW) on 31st January 2023. Our reports have been on time since we have used Paul Murray as our accountants. The end of Year Tax date is 31st March. The YE2023 accounts (12th month period) have been prepared by the Treasurer and independently examined by Paul Murray of LM Griffiths & Co. Ltd. On 2.1.2024, see attached copy. During 2023 the finance sub-committee reviewed membership fees which was brought to the Summer Council meeting (2023) and new categories and membership are proposed for 2025 (see below)

Proposed BPS Membership categories and fees from January 2025

| Category | No Journal | With Journal | With Journal (online only) |
|--------------------------------------|------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Ordinary Member | £14.00 | £40.00 [26] | 36.00 [22] |
| Retired Member | £8.00 | £34.00 [26] | 30.00 [22] |
| Student Member | £14.00 | £33.00 [19] | 29.00 [15] |
| Student Member (3 years, no journal) | £32.00 | | |

Update on the accounts.

Account updates:

The BPS has three accounts with the Bank of Scotland:

- i. A current account with online access that has been successfully used by the current treasurer to carry out the necessary payments. We received a legacy in the autumn and finance subcommittee will work on honouring the wishes of the legacy and conditions of the bequest and this will become a restricted account. The BPS have acknowledged thanks to the administrator of the Will.
- ii. Another online account with a small balance in. At the summer meeting it was agreed that this can be merged into the other current account; forms to be completed to action this. Aim to action by summer council meeting 2024.
- iii. A BoS Savings account. A review of the Saving rate and compare with a new online Savings account. BUS Bank Instant rate from 10.1.2023 to 9.11.2023 were 1.30%. Next step is to get this with online access. October 2023 a letter from BoS detailed other

options for Savings including a Fixed term deposit accounts (minimum deposit of £10,000) rates are:

Accounts Overview

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| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| BoS Current account: | £126571.29 (Balance on 5.1.2024) |
| Bos Linked current account: | £27.61 (Balance on 5.1.2024) |
| BPS BUS ac (Savings account) | £38442.12 (Balance on 9.11.2023) |
| NSI Accounts: | £98189.27 (Balance on 1.1.2023) |
| Total: | £263,230.59 (Total on 22.1.2023) |

Awards Allocated but money still in BoS Current account: comes to about to £96450. Also pending are some governance costs and journal costs still pending, some money has restricted use therefore the money available is about £136,000.; therefore, this will be considered when setting the Awards budget for the next year.

Members were asked to accept the Prepared Accounts. CM proposed, FB seconded, motion was carried.

Members were asked to elect Paul Murray of LM Griffiths & Co. Ltd as the Independent Examiners for the BPS YE accounts for YE2023. HT proposed and SM seconded, motion was carried.

- c. Membership Secretary (Hilary Redden)
See summary report. Membership steady at 502. A question was raised regarding membership diversity and interest in types of algae. It was reported that questions regarding diversity are raised during funding application process but answers are voluntary and currently their doesn't appear to be a great bias.
- d. Student Representatives (Hannah Thomas)
Not much to report, but if you wish to get involved please get in touch.
- e. Joint Editors in Chief of the *European Journal of Phycology* (Christine Maggs and Juliet Brodie)
EJP has strengthened its team of Associate Editors. It published four issues to time in 2023, totalling 490 pages. There is a healthy pipeline of 15 articles published online, due to come out in 2024. These include a paper with an Altmetric score of 30 and five papers with >100 reads. The wide range of topics covers all aspects of phycology including applications of algae. The editors continue to offer transfers to Applied Phycology where appropriate. There were 86 new submissions in 2023, which corresponds to an acceptance rate of <50%.
- f. Hon Editor in Chief Applied Phycology (John Beardall - delivered by CM and JB)
Applied Phycology published ten papers in 2023, and a total of 16 submissions were received. We were unable to publish a Special Issue this year, and the editors are seeking suitable areas for 2024. Inclusion in the Scopus database was an important step towards gaining an impact factor.
- g. Editor of *The Phycologist* (Amanda Burson)
See report. Things are going well, any suggestions speak to Amanda. Current plans are to make Phycologist searchable.

- h. Webmaster (Andy Davies)
Nothing significant to report, just that the webpages continue to be updated rapidly, but please get in touch with any suggestions.

JA proposed we adopt all reports, JB seconded, motion carried.

7. Elections and Council Vacancies (Francis Bunker)

Council vacancies for 2023 were advertised in the autumn issue of the Phycologist and although all positions were filled, an election was not deemed to be necessary.

A vote of thanks is given to the following for the work they have done for the society whilst serving on Council.

Linne LeGall (Overseas Vice President)
Pippa Moore (Ordinary Council Member)
Jessica Adams (Ordinary Council Member)
Esther Hughes (Ordinary Council Member)

We would like to welcome the following people to serve on Council.

Jessica Adams (President Elect)
Kirstin Covington (incoming secretary)
Craig Schneider (Overseas Vice President)
Chris Williamson (Ordinary Member)
Mahasweta Saha (Ordinary Council Member)
John Griffin (Ordinary Council Member)
Pranali Deore (Ordinary Council Member)
Adam Lewis (Ordinary Council Member)

Phoebe Lewis (Co-opted Student Representative)

8. Hilda Canter-Lund Prize (Hannah Thomas)

Winners were highlighted and shared. Outreach committee are looking to display the pictures so get in touch with the committee members if you want to help.

9. Subcommittee reports (****[subcommittee reports](#)**)

- a) Awards and Training Committee (Jason Hall-Spencer)
- b) Biodiversity and Conservation Committee (Martin Wilkinson)
- c) Algal Outreach Committee (Dan Franklin)
- d) Algal Applications Committee (Gill Malin)

SM proposed all reports are accepted, seconded by NS, motion carried.

10. Federation Reports (****[federation reports](#)**)

- a) Federation of European Phycological Societies (FEPS) (Jason Hall-Spencer)
A new FEPS website had been set up <https://www.feps-algae.org/>
Krakau in Poland will be the venue for EPC 9 in 2026.

Time of payment from BPS to FEPS be moved to 30th June.

If you are a member of one of the following societies, you are automatically a member of FEPS. FEPS will no longer be taking individual memberships.

- British Phycological Society - represented by Jason Hall-Spencer on FEPS Council
- Czech Phycological Society Yvonne Němcová FEPS Council rep.
- French Phycological Society Line Le Gall FEPS Council rep.
- German Phycological Section Peter Kroth FEPS Council rep.
- Hellenic Phycological Society Sotiris Orfanidis FEPS Council rep.

- b) Federation of European Microbiological Societies (FEMS) (Anne Jungblut)
Anne D. Jungblut represented BPs at the FEMS Council in Vienna, Austria, in September 2023.

As of January 2024, four of the journals of the Federation of European Microbiological Societies (FEMS) have become fully open access (OA), with one journal remaining a subscription journal and free to publish in. Members of FEMS Member Societies are eligible for a 20% discount on the APCs of their articles. FEMS is offering several Meeting Organizer Grant and an Early Career Meeting Attendance Grants as well as Early Career Project Grant: https://fems-microbiology.org/about_fems/network-and-activities/grants/. There are only two deadlines per year and application deadline for annual meetings held in January is in June of the previous year: 1 June 23:59 CET for meetings taking place between 1 December that year and 30 November the following year.

The next FEMS council meeting and AGM will be held in person in The Netherlands, in September 2024.

- c) Royal Society of Biology (Jane Lewis)
JL flagged that the Royal Society of Biology can be joined by BPS members for a reduced fee and RSB membership comes with a number of benefits.

SA proposed to accept these reports, GM seconded, motion carried.

11. Future Annual meetings

JL announced the next annual meeting will be at Hull University, the week of the 6th January 2025, hosted by Prof. Rodney Forster.

12. AOB

JL thanked the outgoing secretary, Francis Bunker, for all his hard work over the many years he was secretary for the BPS council. SP also thanked the outgoing President JL for all her work as President Elect and then as President.