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Present position: (year of election in brackets)

Chairman: Steve Garland
Secretary: Derek Whiteley
Treasurer: Adam Wright
Membership Secretary: Adam Wright
Advertising Officer: Adam Wright
Editor: John Mathias
Special Publications Editor: Gordon Reid
Committee:

Steve Moran (1986)
Rosina Down (1987)
Geoff Hancock (1985) retires
Howard Mendel (1986)
Graham Walley (1985) retires
Phil Collins (1986)
Clem Fisher (1987)
Colin Plant (1987)

All officers are willing to stand for re-election.

The committee has the power to co-opt. Present co-opted members are Di Smith (GCG representative), Dave Bolton, Kathy Way and Geoff Stansfield.

The committee consists of nine posts of which only eight are presently filled; two members retire at the AGM.

Nominations for officers and committee members must be supported by two members of the Group. Nominations, in writing, should reach the Secretary at least two weeks before the Annual General Meeting.

Derek Whiteley (BCG Secretary)
City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield S10 2TP

AGM 87

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Sheffield City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield on Friday 3rd April at 4.00pm.

1. Apologies were received from Gordon Reid and Phil Collins.
2. Minutes of the 1986 AGM at Cambridge were unavailable for reading. Item deferred to next AGM. Ex-Secretary to be contacted again.
3. Chairman's Report. Steve Garland as Acting Chairman read a report of the year's activities (to be published in the Newsletter). The report was accepted. Proposed D Whiteley, seconded Rosina Down.
4. Secretary's Report. Derek Whiteley as Acting Secretary read a report on the Committee's activities (to be published in the Newsletter). The report was accepted. Prop S Garland, sec Adam Wright. Discussion followed on the charging policy of the British Museum (Natural History). Prop David Mellor, sec Sue Cross that "BCG Committee take steps to canvass the opinion of the membership and seek a mandate" concerning the BM(NH) charging policy for entrance to the museum. Carried by a majority vote.

5. Treasurer's Report. Adam Wright circulated a report on the accounts which was accepted. Prop I Evans, sec J. Mathias.

6. Editor's Report. John Mathias read the Editor's report (to be published in the Newsletter).

7. Election of Officers and Committee

Chairman. Tony Irwin had recently resigned. Steve Garland was elected. Prop J Mathias, sec Derek Lott.

Secretary. Derek Whiteley was elected. Prop John Mathias, sec Steve Garland.

Special Publications Officer. Steve Garland having moved to Chairman, Gordon Reid was elected. Prop Steve Garland, sec John Mathias.

Treasurer, Adam Wright; Editor, John Mathias; committee members Geoff Hancock, Graham Walley, Phil Collins, Howard Mendel and Steve Moran were willing to stand, and were re-elected en bloc. Geoff Stansfield has served three years and retires from committee.

The committee consists of nine posts of which four are filled. Three nominations were received:

Clem Fisher - prop Derek Whiteley, sec Steve Garland
Colin Plant - prop Steve Garland, sec Bill Ely
Rosina Down - prop Derek Whiteley, sec Adam Wright

8. Date and place of next AGM. Bolton, 15th April 1988

9. Any other business

Reg Harris. John Mathias reported on the recent death of Reg Harris, a founder member of the Group. The AGM wished to express its sadness at Reg's untimely death, and to minute the contribution he made to the Group, particularly in the fields of training and publication. Rosina Down had attended the funeral on behalf of BCG.

There was no other business and the meeting finished at 5.20pm.

Derek Whiteley
Secretary

NFBR

National Federation for Biological Recording

The 1988 Annual Meeting will take place at the University of Nottingham on Saturday 23rd April following the two day MDA meeting on Computers in Museums.

The NFBR meeting will take the form of a series of demonstrations of the use of micro-computers in the recording of species and site records, followed by the Annual General Meeting.

The report of the Biological Recording Working Party of the Linnean Society was approved for publication by the Linnean Society Council in January. It is hoped that it will be possible to distribute the report to County Trusts, Local Authority Departments and other interested bodies.

Curatorial Course

Natural Sciences Curatorial Course
Losehill Hall, Derbyshire
17th to 21st October 1988
Organised jointly by BCG and GCG

Provisional programme

Monday 17th:

pm Registration
Introduction
Brief history, functions,
organisation and current trends in
Natural Sciences in museums
evening Collections Research: sources/
importance

Tuesday 18th:

am Study visit to Rotherham Museum
Running a Museum based records centre
Collection, preservation and storage
of invertebrates
pm Study visit to Sheffield Museum
New displays
Treatment and preservation of
material for exhibition purposes
Enquiry services
The "Ecology Unit"
evening Museums and conservation

Wednesday 19th:

am Study visit to Buxton Museum
Storage of geological collections
Geological site recording
lunch Matlock Bath - also an opportunity
to visit the Peak District Mining
Museum
pm Study visit to Derby Museum
The practical and theoretical
considerations involved in planning
the new Derby Natural History Museum
- plus a site visit to look at
progress
evening Do we undervalue Natural Sciences
Collections?

Thursday 20th:

am Study visit to Manchester Museum
Preservation, storage and
documentation of vertebrate material
Preservation, storage and
documentation of botanical material
Legal and practical aspects of live
displays in museums
pm Recent trends in Natural Sciences
conservation
Short study visit to Edale visitor
centre (Peak District National Park)
evening Museum Natural Sciences and Education

Friday 21st:

am Documentation of collections: the
special requirements of natural

history, types etc.

Collecting policies: legal aspects,
relationship to display programmes
etc.

lunchtime Course finishes

A further note on the Curatorial Course from the Secretary, Derek Whiteley. Losehill Hall has now been booked for the period of the course. The programme, outlined above, is now being finalised and will be given in full in the next Newsletter.

The cost will be £150 and this will cover food, accommodation, tuition and transport by minibus to neighbouring museums. We have tried to keep the costs to a minimum. Although the course failed to attract grant-aid it is still cheaper than the first curatorial course organised by BCG two years or so ago in Leicester. It should be good value for money!

Queries on the course content should be sent to Steve Moran, Inverness Museum and Art Gallery, Castle Wynd, Inverness, IV2 3ED. Tel: 0463 - 237114.

Bookings can now be accepted with a deposit of £30.00, cheques made payable to 'Biology Curators Group'. Send your name, address, telephone number and any special requirements you may have regarding the accommodation (diet etc.), and deposit to Derek Whiteley (BCG Secretary), City Museum, Sheffield S10 2TP.

Beetle-down....

"Beetle-down to your local museum"

1. The Idea

"I never realised that you do so much!" exclaimed a staggered member of the audience, following a lecture on the activities of our Natural Sciences department. "The museum was the last place I'd think of" said another, who couldn't believe that we are actually involved in local nature conservation.

"I thought you just put things in glass cases and typed the label". How many times have we heard this remark? "But you should tell people what else is available!" added a particularly vociferous council activist, of course, hitting the nail right on the head. And broadly speaking she was right we very rarely advertise our bread-and-butter public services.

"Beetle down to your local museum", is an attempt by BCG to tackle the problem nationally, starting with a co-ordinated campaign week, and then taking it from there. We are printing 30,000 "Beetle down" leaflets A4 size, folded twice to fit in the pocket or notebook. Initially aimed at children, the leaflet describes, with the aid of cartoons, most of the services and activities at most museums. Displays, temporary exhibitions, information, identification services, enquiries, live