



NatSCA

Natural Sciences Collections Association

<http://www.natsca.org>

The Biology Curator

Title: Minutes of the BCG AGM 2000

Author(s): BCG Committee

Source: BCG Committee (2000). Minutes of the BCG AGM 2000. *The Biology Curator*, Issue 19, 3 - 5.

URL: <http://www.natsca.org/article/817>

NatSCA supports open access publication as part of its mission is to promote and support natural science collections. NatSCA uses the Creative Commons Attribution License (CCAL) <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/> for all works we publish. Under CCAL authors retain ownership of the copyright for their article, but authors allow anyone to download, reuse, reprint, modify, distribute, and/or copy articles in NatSCA publications, so long as the original authors and source are cited.

BCG Committee Secretary's Report

BCG committee has been reviewing the constitution, and has made changes, which now need to be approved and ratified by the membership. The current constitution and the proposed new constitution are printed here to give the membership the opportunity to examine them before the AGM. The purpose of these changes is to try and remove some inconsistencies and to make sure that the constitution reflects the way in which the group actually operates.

Also printed here are the minutes of the last AGM. It is hoped that you will read these before attending the AGM, so that the business of the AGM can be conducted as correctly and efficiently as possible.

The notice for the 2001 AGM and an agenda will be circulated following the next committee meeting, probably in the next issue of *The Biology Curator*, if that issue is printed sufficiently far in advance.

Minutes of the BCG AGM 2000

Monday 3rd April 2000, Scarborough Spa Conference Centre

1. Apologies for absence: No apologies were made.
2. Minutes of the last AGM:
Minutes for the 1999 AGM held at the Powell Cotton Museum were not available for presentation and the Secretary offered his apologies for this situation. Since it was pointed out that minutes are not officially required under the Group's constitution, it was suggested that the meeting should proceed without them on this occasion - proposed by Julian Carter, seconded by Steve Hewitt.
3. Matters arising: There were no matters arising.
4. Chairman's report:
I am pleased to report that we have had another good year with membership holding up well and with a good programme of events including a very successful visit to Leiden and an excellent Molluscs meeting at Oxford University Museum, culminating in this joint conference with the Geology Curator's Group and Natural Sciences Conservation Group. I sincerely hope that this will reinforce our recent trend of widening our influence through close contact with other organisations, particularly GCG and NSCG. We are also currently working towards closer links with SPNHC (The Society for Preservation of Natural History Collections), the Care of Collections Forum and the Guild of Taxidermists. We also now have a

formal link with the UK Systematics Forum through Howard Mendel who will attend meetings of their Entomology Management Group on our behalf, while another of our members, Steve Garland, is now a member of the MA Council.

Your committee has been busy again this year, although increased pressures at work have meant that many of us have been unable to do as much as we would have liked - I certainly count myself amongst them. However I would like to offer particular thanks to Kathie Way for keeping our finances in good shape and for organising a memorable visit to the Netherlands, to Steve Thompson for his sterling work as Secretary and especially to our new meetings organiser, Nick Gordon, who has not only master-minded this conference and the Molluscs meeting but has also taken over responsibility for the documentation cell. Jo Hatton, has performed the unenviable task of minutes secretary with great efficiency and has also provided us with the venue for one of our committee meetings and has been working on some new publicity material for BCG. Howard Mendel has been monitoring Biological recording matters, particularly the development of Recorder 2000 and the funding of Biological Record Centres. Unfortunately, two committee members have resigned during the year - Shona Allan and John Harrison. We would like to thank Shona, for representing Scottish members so well - she has been one of best attendees at committee meetings, despite the long journeys. Thanks also to John for his services to committee, particularly in connection with last year's AGM at the Powell-Cotton Museum.

Special thanks should also go Pat Francis and Kath Berry for all their work in producing the *Biology Curator*. I am sure that you will have noticed how slim recent issues have been and this has nothing to do with their excellent efforts - I am afraid it is simply because we are not receiving enough contributions. The current *Biology Curator* had to be delayed for a few weeks before we could gather enough copy for an issue. However, with Nick Gordon's help, we are hoping to produce a series of 'themed' issues, linked to particular meetings, with write-ups of relevant talks, demonstrations and seminars. We also hope to produce a special 'legal' edition based on updated versions of talks given at the 'Legal Eagles' meeting in Edinburgh in 1998 - Steve Thompson is still beavering away on this. What we do need to revitalise the *Biology Curator* is to find a managing editor that can work alongside our excellent production team of Pat and Kath.

So, what of the year ahead? The next planned event will be a day visit to Kew - a new departure from our usual events - perhaps it is time that we visited more collections near to home. Later in the year, we hope to make our annual pilgrimage to the continent, this time

with a visit to the Natural History Museum at Budapest. We also plan to be represented at the MA conference in Jersey in October, although we will not be organising a session there due to travel costs. Unfortunately, this will be the second year running that we have not run an MA session so we will make a point of doing so in 2001 - unless the venue is even more difficult!

I would end with a final plea for more input from our members. I know that you are all rushed off your feet but we do need your individual support. If you feel that you have something to offer to the group, please do not hesitate to contact a committee member - or even volunteer to join the committee - there is plenty to do.

5. Secretary's report:

BCG committee have held three meetings since the last AGM, in May, September and January. While we have not yet achieved my aim of getting every committee member to the same meeting, attendance has been very good, despite the fact that some members have necessarily to make long journeys. I feel sure that this commitment will continue throughout the coming year.

We are currently working on producing a range of publicity material, including leaflets, a poster and display stands. We hope to have this ready for the autumn. If possible, and if we decide to attend, it would be good to have this ready for the MA conference, at which we intend to have a stand. With the conference being in Jersey, attendance becomes problematic because of the cost of travelling and accommodation.

We continue to monitor collections, though at present there are not too many that have come to our attention, the principal ones being those at Ipswich and Norwich. It would be nice to think that this was a true reflection of the situation at present. However, we suspect that there are many cases out there that we are not yet aware of. If any of our members know of situations that they feel we should be aware of, please let us know.

We have held the usual set of meetings this last year and they have met with what has now become our customary success. Leiden was fully booked and the Mollusca meeting in Oxford was full to overflowing. Not content with that, it is great to see so many people at this meeting, our best attended ever. Nevertheless, we feel we can do better yet and hopefully next years meetings will be better than those so far. These are to include a study trip a little closer to home, looking at the Botanic Gardens at Kew, in which considerable interest has already been expressed. We also intend to take our now annual study trip abroad to Budapest, and plans for this are developing. Next year we hope to go

further yet, with a trip to the US, but travel arrangements for that cannot be made yet, so watch this space.

On the subject of meetings, we hope to be able to print papers from the meetings quickly after the meetings. To this end we are encouraging speakers to bring copies of their papers with them, so that they can be passed directly to the editors. You will have seen that recent issues of *The Biology Curator* have been thin, and the current one is late. This is in no part due to the editors themselves, who have done an excellent job, but down to the fact that the material has not been coming in. There seems to be a reasonable amount in the wings, but do try and come up with material for the newsletter.

We hope that we have been doing a decent job of managing the affairs of the group. If you have any comments or suggestions that you feel the committee ought to be aware of, please speak to one of the committee members. Thank you.

6. Treasurers report:

The Treasurer presented the accounts and explained the deficit in the Leiden visit account. This was due to subsidy of rail fares from Amsterdam to Leiden in order to keep the cost of the trip close to 250 pounds. Membership fees will remain at £8 for the time being. It was noted that if *The Biology Curator* were to get larger (which we sincerely hope it will) most of the groups savings would be used up in printing costs. However, we are happy to keep the subscription to £8 per annum for the time being. KMW also noted that she was still wasting a lot of time chasing people for cheques, she urged people to pay their subscriptions promptly at the start of the year.

7. Event Organisers report:

This is a new post taken on by Nick Gordon, who takes responsibility for finding venues and speakers and ensuring the smooth running of all our meetings, (no small task). NG informed members that we are hoping to hold a meeting on documentation sometime in January/February 2001. As well as suggestions for speakers at our meetings, the main problem seems to be locating venues large enough to accommodate us. Nick made an appeal for likely venues, he pointed out that persons hosting events would have very little to do, book a room with lecture facilities, sort out the food and he will do the rest.

8. Review of Constitution: discussion

ST pointed out that the constitution was now 5 years old and is due for review. It was agreed to either publish the group's constitution again in a forthcoming TBC or send copies to members as individual handouts for suggestions and feedback. Any proposals can then be fully discussed and voted on at next year's AGM.

9. Election of Officers:

Lyndsey Loughtman from Manchester Museum, who was co-opted by the committee during the year, was duly elected by committee nomination. No other nominations had been received.

10. Any other business:

Websites: ST informed the membership that a BCG website was currently under construction. Any members knowing of or wishing to place links to the website to let ST know.

11. Date & Venue of the next AGM:

This had not been decided at time of meeting, offers of venues from the membership were requested.
(Oxford - see page 2.- Ed.)

BIOLOGY CURATORS GROUP

Existing constitution

1. The name of the group shall be the Biology Curators Group.

2. The aims of the group will be:-

to promote the exchange of information between individuals or institutions concerning the management of biological collections and records, their research, conservation and interpretation;

to present the views of curators of biological collections;

to publish a journal on biology curation on a regular basis.

3. There shall be the following membership categories:-

Individual membership, open to any individual interested in the aims of the group;

Institutional membership, open to any institution interested in the aims of the group;

Honorary membership, for which individuals may be recommended by the committee and approved by an annual general meeting.

Individual and institutional memberships will be granted on application to the committee.

4. Rights of members

4.1. Individual members shall be eligible to:-

attend and vote at all meetings;

receive one copy of each edition of the journal;

stand for election to the committee.

4.2. Institutional members shall be eligible to:-

nominate one person who shall have the right to attend all meetings of the group;

receive one copy of each edition of the newsletter.

4.3. Honorary members shall have the same rights as individual members.

5. Committee.

5.1. The management of the group shall be vested in a committee consisting of the officers and nine committee members.

5.2. The officers of the group shall be the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Editor. Any officer may fill more than one of these posts if the committee agrees that it is in the best interests of the group.

5.3. The officers of the group shall be elected at the annual general meeting. They shall serve for three years but will be eligible for re-election to that post at the end of that time.

5.4. Committee members shall be elected at the annual general meeting. They shall serve for three years and shall be eligible for re-election only if there are insufficient nominations to fill the committee posts that would then be vacant. Otherwise they shall be eligible for re-election after one year.

5.5. Nominations for officers and committee members must be supported by two members of the group. Nominations must be received, in writing, by the secretary at least two weeks before the annual general meeting.

5.6. When more than one nomination is received for any officer's post, the election shall be decided by a majority vote at the annual general meeting.

5.7. If more nominations for committee member's posts are received than there are vacant posts, then candidates will be elected in order of the greatest number of votes at the annual general meeting.

5.8. The committee shall have the power to co-opt.

5.9. The quorum of the committee shall be 4 members, or $\frac{1}{3}$ of the committee, whichever is the greater, one of whom should be an officer.

6 Financial management

6.1. An annual subscription, the rate to be decided at the annual general meeting, shall be levied on all members.