

Report

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 7 May 1988

Following the Presidential Address, the Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at 12.15 hrs in the Jodrell Laboratory Lecture Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, by kind permission of the Director. 120 members were present. Professor C. A. Stace, President, took the Chair, apologies for absence were read, and the Minutes of the 1987 Annual General Meeting, as published in *Watsonia* 17: 119-120 (1988), were approved and signed by the President.

REPORT OF COUNCIL

The total of 4,760 survey cards sent in by B.S.B.I. members by the end of the first year of the Monitoring Scheme was added to the Report, and it was noted that the records were being entered on to the computer and copies of the cards were being returned to participants for the second year of field work. In the Conservation Committee report a sentence was amended to "letters had been sent supporting the opposition to three major conservation threats . . .". The adoption of the Report was then proposed by Mr E. Milne-Redhead, seconded by Mr R. G. Ellis and passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

The Treasurer, proposing the adoption of his Report and Accounts, offered to clarify any points, but there were no queries. The adoption of the Report was seconded by Mr G. Ll. Lucas and unanimously approved.

RE-ELECTION OF HONORARY GENERAL SECRETARY AND HONORARY TREASURER

The President proposed Mrs M. Briggs and Mr M. Walpole for re-election as Honorary General Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, warmly thanking both for their major roles in the running of the Society. Their re-election was seconded by Dr T. C. G. Rich and carried by the meeting with applause.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

In accordance with Rule 10, nominations had been received for Dr S. L. Jury, Dr P. S. Wyse Jackson and Mr N. F. Stewart; these were elected unanimously. The President then thanked all the Editors and Secretaries appointed by Council – their considerable work for the Society was very much appreciated; in particular Mr R. Smith, Field Secretary, the Secretaries of all the Committees, and the Editors of all the Society's publications. The achievements of the Society through the year were very largely due to the time and work given voluntarily by them to the Society.

ELECTION OF HONORARY MEMBER

Proposing Dr N. K. B. Robson from the Chair, the President referred to Dr Robson's 21 years of service as an Editor of *Watsonia*. The Society was exceedingly grateful for this very long term of service and Dr Robson would be one of our most deserving Honorary Members. In reply, Dr Robson wished the whole Editorial team to be included in the thanks, saying that his work as Editor

had brought him much interest and enjoyment, and many contacts. He added that all aspects of the B.S.B.I. had been a pleasure to him since he first joined the Society.

RE-ELECTION OF HONORARY AUDITORS

The Chairman proposed the re-election of Grant Thornton, West Walk, Leicester, as Honorary Auditors, and the Treasurer, asking for a letter of thanks to be sent, said that the Society was fortunate to have a firm of international standing named below the Annual Accounts.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr E. Milne-Redhead asked if the Conservation Committee had considered his request for a recommendation to the Ministry of Transport on sowing wild flower seeds on motorway verges. Praising his County Council for their co-operation in sowing local wild flower seeds on minor roads, Mr Milne-Redhead said that in Suffolk they would welcome a similar policy for motorways and trunk roads. A lively discussion followed as Dr J. G. Dony reported a confusion of locally rare plants recorded after wild flower seed sowing. In Bedfordshire and Hampshire there was a strong feeling that no wild flower seeds should be sown, but that new verges should be left to natural colonization. Opinions from the floor were divided and the subject was referred to the Conservation Committee for discussion on the practicability of formulating a B.S.B.I. policy on this matter.

Mr R. M. Bateman asked whether both the date of receipt and of acceptance for publication could be recorded for papers published in *Watsonia*. This point was taken and referred to the Editors. Mr Bateman also asked if the general Editorial policy and aims for the journal could be stated in more detail than in the 'Instructions to Contributors' currently printed in *Watsonia*. The Editors replied that a longer statement on this was planned and will be published in *B.S.B.I. News*.

The meeting closed at 12.58 hrs.

M. BRIGGS