

## Report

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 9 MAY 1992

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held in the Jodrell Laboratory Lecture Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, at 10.45 a.m. 74 members were present. Dr P. Macpherson, President, taking the chair, welcomed members, particularly any who had joined in 1991 or who were attending their first A.G.M.

Apologies for absence were read and Minutes of the 1991 Annual General Meeting, published in *Watsonia* 19: 67–71 (1992), were approved and signed by the Chairman.

#### REPORT OF COUNCIL

The adoption of this report, which had been circulated to members, was proposed from the Chair. Mr R. G. Ellis noted that the speciality of the late member Mr M. C. Clark was mycology, and with this amendment the Report was accepted unanimously.

#### HON TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

The Hon. Treasurer, proposing the adoption of his Report and Accounts, which had been circulated to members, highlighted the B.S.B.I. Database (Leicester), for which the hardware, at an expenditure of £6,000, was now in place. Mr Walpole acknowledged with thanks the hard work of our members and staff at the University of Leicester, whose enthusiasm had ensured the successful input of the initial project, the *List of vascular plants of the British Isles* by D. H. Kent which was now ready for publication. The Treasurer also commented on the small number of resignations in spite of a rise in the subscription rates this year, and he invited queries on the accounts. There being none, the Report and Accounts were accepted unanimously.

#### RE-ELECTION OF HON. GENERAL SECRETARY AND HON. TREASURER

Proposing the re-election of these Officers the President stated that the Society was fortunate to have two such hard-working Officers, thanking Mrs Briggs for tackling with good humour the continual flow of mail, the administration, and the dispersal of information including regular notes in *B.S.B.I. News* which informed members of the Society's activities and projects. He also thanked Mr Walpole for his hard work on the finances, including the V.A.T. and the Accounts, and for his wise counsel on Committees and Council. Both were then re-elected with acclaim and applause.

#### ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

In accordance with Rule 10, nominations had been received for Mr F. Horsman, Mrs A. Lee and Mr P. Thomson. Profiles had been published with the Annual Report and these members were elected unanimously by the meeting.

#### ELECTION OF HONORARY MEMBERS

Council had nominated two members: proposing Mr J. F. M. Cannon, Dr N. K. B. Robson outlined Mr Cannon's long years of service to the Society as a past-President, as a member of three of the

Permanent Working Committees, and also as a general Umbelliferae referee. On the staff of the Natural History Museum, Dept. of Botany, and later as Keeper of Botany there, Mr Cannon was closely connected with B.S.B.I. activities centred at the Museum (the official address of the Society). Proposing Mr E. S. Eedes, Mr A. Newton had sent a note which was read to the meeting reminding us that Mr Eedes had been a member of the B.S.B.I. for 60 years, and v.c. Recorder for Staffs. for 35 years. Author of *Flora of Staffordshire*, the first county Flora to be based on tetrad mapping, and joint author with A. Newton of *Brambles of the British Isles*, Mr Eedes had also been a *Rubus* referee for more than 30 years, and his nomination was strongly supported by the local botanists in Staffordshire. Their election as Honorary Members was unanimous and greeted with applause.

#### RE-ELECTION OF HONORARY AUDITORS

The Hon. Treasurer, in proposing the re-election of Grant Thornton, West Walk, Leicester, referred again to the honour for the Society to present their Accounts over the name of these distinguished Auditors, and the re-election was passed unanimously with appreciation.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Hon. Treasurer added thanks to the Secretaries and Chairmen of Committees, and all who had assisted with the running of the Society's affairs; and as Chairman of the Publications Committee he warmly thanked the Editors of the Society's Journals and publications, whose considerable work was very much appreciated by the Society.

The President announced that Council had nominated Dr F. H. Perring as President-elect 1993-5 for election at the Annual General Meeting, 1993. Dr Perring replied that he was deeply honoured and that he would take up this office with serious commitment.

On behalf of the Society the President recorded congratulations to Professor C. A. Stace on the publication of his *New Flora of the British Isles*, an achievement in which we could share in that the author's published thanks listed many B.S.B.I. members, and he had also acknowledged the Society as "a great source of inspiration to him". General appreciation was confirmed by the applause of the meeting.

The Hon. General Secretary was seeking help with the heavy burden of the administration and correspondence and those present were requested to let her know of any volunteers.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 11.15 a.m.

MARY BRIGGS

#### PAPERS READ AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Two papers were presented at the A.G.M. Dr P. Macpherson gave the Presidential Address on *Colonisation of the Glasgow Garden Festival site three years on: implications for recording* (see *Watsonia* 19: 169-179) and Professor G. Ll. Lucas spoke on *Plant management for conservation purposes*.

Thanks were recorded by J. Ounsted and P. S. Green, Vice-Presidents, to Professor G. T. Prance, Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew for permission to use the Jodrell Laboratory, and to the President and to Professor G. Ll. Lucas for their Address and Paper.

The President then thanked all those involved in the arrangements for this successful meeting, especially Dr D. A. Simpson, who with Mrs R. Simpson had organised the bookings and refreshments, and who with Mr P. C. Boyce had guided members on tours round the Gardens in the afternoon.

M.B.

## FIELD EXCURSION HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE A.G.M.

KEW GREEN AND RIVERSIDE, SURREY (V.C. 17), 10 MAY 1992

In all, 45 people attended this meeting associated with the A.G.M. at the Jodrell Laboratory, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The first part of the day was spent crawling around on Kew Green (some 40 botanists' bottoms were seen) searching for the small plant species that grow on this sandy grassland. It was too early for some of the more notable clovers but we did find *Trifolium subterraneum* L., *Ornithopus perpusillus* L., *Montia fontana* L., *Rumex acetosella* L., *Stellaria pallida* (Dumort.) Piré and *Aphanes inexpectata* Lippert. On our way to St Anne's Churchyard we saw *Rumex pulcher* L. The churchyard has long been known for interesting naturalized species and we saw *Phytolacca acinosa* Roxb., *Sisymbrium strictissimum* L. and *Sisyrinchium striatum* Smith in bud, young plants of *Galactites tomentosa* Moench becoming established and lots of *Soleirolia soleirolii* (Req.) Dandy and *Atropa belladonna* L. in flower with both *Allium paradoxum* (M. Bieb.) Don and *Ranunculus ficaria* L. subsp. *bulbifer* Lambinon demonstrating bulbils. During lunch several people saw *Saxifraga granulata* L. also with bulbils, behind the cricket pavilion; it was 45 cm tall. After lunch the march along the river bank was rather poorer in interest but still managed *Angelica archangelica* L., *Oenanthe crocata* L., *Ceratochloa carinata* (Hook. & Arn.) Tutin, *Tragopogon pratensis* L. subsp. *pratensis*, *Diptotaxis muralis* (L.) DC. and *Bolboschoenus maritimus* (L.) Palla in its highest site on the tidal River Thames but we failed in our attempt to see *Barbarea stricta* Andr. After our long walk, some went on to Richmond Park and others returned to Richmond or Kew having had a good day; on the way back I saw more than 15 herons fishing in the river.

J. M. MULLIN