

Report

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 16 MAY 1993

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at the Lincolnshire College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Riseholme Hall, Riseholme, Lincoln, at 12.30 p.m. 80 members were present. Dr P. Macpherson, retiring President, taking the Chair for the first three items on the Agenda, welcomed the members present, then stated that his first sad duty was to report the recent death of Mr R. W. David, C.B.E., M.A., a past President and Honorary member of the Society, and joint author of the B.S.B.I. Handbook *Sedges of the British Isles*.

Apologies for absence were read and the Minutes of the 1992 Annual General Meeting, published in *Watsonia* 19: 205-207 (1993), were approved and signed by the President.

REPORT OF COUNCIL

The Chairman summarised the highlights of the year in his Report, which had been circulated to members; the adoption was proposed by Dr N. K. B. Robson, seconded by Mrs M. Lindop, and 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, referred to the Welch Bequest Fund from which a number of grants had been paid during the year, including to the B.S.B.I. Database (Leicester) project which was proving to be an asset to the Society. Mr Walpole also reported that all Handbooks destroyed in the flood had been reprinted. He invited queries on the Accounts, and there being none the adoption of the Report and Accounts, seconded by Mr R. G. Ellis, were accepted unanimously.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Dr P. Macpherson, retiring President, commented that as President he had been given an insight into the committee structure of the Society, and had gained an awareness of the amount of work undertaken for the Society by members of the various committees, by the committee chairmen and secretaries in particular, and also by the Honorary Editors. He thanked all these on behalf of the Society. The Hon. General Secretary he thanked for keeping him in touch with Society affairs, by phone and by many postcards, and for general communications within the Society. Mr M. Walpole, as Hon. Treasurer and as Chairman of the Publications Committee he thanked with appreciation for discussions and advice throughout his Presidency. Thanking the members of his President's Energising Panel, and of the Executive Committee, Dr Macpherson referred to the honour of being President of the B.S.B.I., also thanking the members who had elected him, saying that he was very appreciative of their support.

Introducing Dr F. H. Perring, O.B.E., F.L.S., F.I.Biol., Dr Macpherson commented that the President-elect was well-known to members as an author, broadcaster and enthusiast for the conservation of wild plants, who had many contacts in the conservation world with whom he would aim for liaison and publicity for the Society. Dr Perring was unanimously elected, and taking the Chair he said that he would be very happy to repay the enormous debt of gratitude that he owed to the Society on being a member for 40 years. He hoped to contact many members and would value highly their thoughts and comments on the Society.

On behalf of the Society he particularly thanked Dr Macpherson for his Presidential Address, for

his regular attendance and firm chairmanship of meetings, undeterred by the distances involved. As President at two Royal occasions Dr Macpherson had also represented Scotland by wearing kilt and sporran, and Dr Perring remarked that the retiring President was leaving a hard act to follow.

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT, 1993–1997

Mr A. O. Chater had been nominated by Council and was known to many members as a past Secretary of the Publications Committee, a Referee for *Carex* and for nomenclature, the Recorder for Cardiganshire and his work on the Records Committee and also as joint author of the B.S.B.I. Handbook *Sedges of the British Isles*. His unanimous election was welcomed, with applause.

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

Proposing the re-election of these Officers from the chair, the President endorsed Dr Macpherson's comments, and again thanked these Officers for the wonderful service which they gave to the Society. They were unanimously re-elected, with applause.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

In accordance with Rule 10 nominations had been received for Mr B. A. Gale, Mr D. J. McCosh and Dr G. Wynne. Profiles had been published, and these members were elected unanimously by the meeting.

ELECTION OF HONORARY MEMBERS

Council had nominated two members: proposing Mr R. H. Roberts, M.Sc., Mr R. G. Ellis described him as well-known to north-western botanists in Britain, and to those with special interests in ferns and the genus *Dactylorhiza* as a Referee for these groups, as Recorder for Anglesey and also as a long-serving member of the Committee for Wales and author of *The flowering plants and ferns of Anglesey*.

Dr Perring proposing Mr P. J. O. Trist, O.B.E., B.A., introduced him as being based in East Anglia for many years, and editor of *An ecological Flora of Breckland*, but was also well-known to many members as a Referee for *Bromus*, *Festuca* and other grasses. Mr Trist, now retired as a *Gramineae* Referee, had named 1,891 grass specimens for members during his time as Referee.

The election of Mr Roberts and Mr Trist as Hon. Members was unanimous, and with applause.

AMENDMENTS TO B.S.B.I. RULES, 1993

Re-wording Rules 3c) and 4a), under *Management of the Society* and the addition of Rule 10 under *The Officers*, with subsequent adjustment to the numbering of Rules 11–39, was approved by the meeting, and copies are available to members on request.

RE-ELECTION OF HON. AUDITORS

The Hon. Treasurer proposing the re-election of Grant Thornton, West Walk, Leicester, reported that they were willing to continue as Hon. Auditors and the re-election was passed unanimously, with applause. The President would write to express the appreciation of the Society.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

On behalf of those present the President thanked Mrs I. Weston as local organiser, and her team of local helpers for the excellent arrangements and very good facilities provided at Riseholme Hall. He again thanked the Speakers, and Mrs M. D. Perring and Mr J. and Mrs S. M. Atkins for bringing new and second-hand botanical books.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 1.25 p.m.

MARY BRIGGS