

Report

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 8 MAY 1999

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London, at 11.50 a.m. The President, Mrs M. Briggs took the Chair in the presence of 102 members.

Apologies for absence were read and Minutes of the 1998 Annual General Meeting, published in *Watsonia* 22: 297–298 (1999), were accepted as correct, approved and signed by the President.

REPORT OF COUNCIL

The President took members through the Report of the Council, which had been previously circulated to members, commenting on the main achievements of the Society during the year. She mentioned especially the progress of Atlas 2000 and the setting up, with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (J.N.C.C.) and the Country Agencies, of the Threatened Plants Database (T.P.D.B.) and the appointment of Mr A. Lockton and Mrs S. J. Whild to run this and act as B.S.B. I. Co-ordinators. She finally thanked all those who worked so hard for the Society on a voluntary basis and congratulated Mr R. G. Ellis on producing another excellent Report. The adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by Mr C. R. Boon, seconded by Mr R. M. Walls and accepted unanimously.

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

The Treasurer reported that as usual, only summary accounts had been published in the Annual Report, full sets of accounts were available at the meeting and on application to him. He commented that only 30% of the resources used in the Society's activities were derived from subscriptions, much of the remainder coming from other bodies in the form of grants for Atlas 2000, T.P.D.B., etc. He was again pleased to report a small surplus for the year but, with the disappointing returns from our recent Covenant campaign, in order to continue to cover expenditure by income a modest increase in subscriptions was needed. He then proposed the adoption of the report, which was seconded by Mr J. Ounsted and carried unanimously. The President thanked the Treasurer for all the hard work he put into managing our financial affairs so competently.

RULE CHANGES

In introducing the proposed rule changes, the President commented that the change to Rule 2 was aimed at allowing the Society to involve itself with the study of British taxa in Europe and elsewhere, while the change to Rule 4 would replace the now disbanded Conservation Committee with the newly formed Science and Research Committee as a Permanent Working Committee. Members were assured that the Society would continue to take an interest in plant conservation, mainly through the S & R Committee, and the revised Terms of Reference for that Committee were available at the meeting.

Proposed amendment to Rules 2 (Aims of the Society)

That Rule 2 of the Society's Rules be deleted and the following be substituted as recommended by Council:

AIMS AND OBJECTS

2. The aims of the Botanical Society of the British Isles shall be those of a learned society of professional and amateur botanists dedicated to the study and conservation of the British and Irish vascular plant and charophyte flora.

The objects of the Society shall be

- a) To promote the study of and interest in the British and Irish vascular plant and charophyte flora.
- b) To support, encourage, carry out and participate in research into the taxonomy, ecology, biogeography and conservation of the British and Irish flora and to co-operate with Continental and other botanists in matters of mutual interest and concern.
- c) To provide a forum for the dissemination of knowledge about the British and Irish flora, by means of publications, Information Technology, meetings and advice.
- d) To support and encourage the training of botanical skills.
- e) To collaborate with statutory and other voluntary bodies engaged in the conservation of the British and Irish vegetation and flora.
- f) To maintain a botanical recording network in Britain and Ireland.
- g) To provide, for the benefit of members, access to identification and other expert services for the study of wild plants.
- h) To support studies of the British and Irish flora or related taxa elsewhere, in furtherance of the Society's aims.

The change to Rule 2 as set out above was proposed by S. L. Jury, seconded by E. F. Greenwood and carried unanimously

Proposed amendment to Rule 4 (Permanent Working Committees)

That Rule 4 of the Society's Rules be amended. Council, in consultation with the Committees concerned, decided that the furtherance of the Society's aims for conservation would be better achieved by the Committee reorganisation as follows:

- (c) *Conservation* be deleted and replaced by
(c) ***Science and Research***

The change to Rule 4 as set out above was proposed by Dr N. K. B. Robson, seconded by Dr F. H. Perring and carried unanimously

INCREASE IN SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Treasurer proposed an increase from January 1st 2000 as follows (current rates in parenthesis):

For members in Britain and Ireland

Ordinary	£20.00 (£18.00)
Family	£2.00 (£2.00)
Junior	£10.00 (£9.00)
Senior	£13.00 (£12.00)
Institutional Member	£20.00 (£18.00)

For other overseas members £22.00 (£20.00)

This was seconded by Mr A.O. Chater and carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT

The President commented that it was a pleasant duty to propose Council's nomination of Dr G. Halliday, who, as Chairman of Records Committee, had been involved with many of the Society's

activities in recent years. The nomination was seconded by Mr M. Walpole and carried unanimously with acclamation.

ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT

The election of Mr D. J. McCosh, as nominated by Council, was proposed by Dr P. Macpherson, seconded by Mr R. D. Pryce and carried unanimously.

RE-ELECTION OF HON GENERAL SECRETARY AND HON. TREASURER

Council had nominated Mr R. G. Ellis and Mr M. E. Braithwaite for re-election to their respective posts. This was proposed by Mr P. H. Oswald, seconded by Miss A. P. Conolly and carried unanimously with acclamation.

REAPPOINTMENT OF EDITORS, INDEXERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMITTEES

In proposing the reappointment of Editors, Indexers and Representatives of Committees, the President praised them for the hard work they carried out, voluntarily, on behalf of the Society. She gave special thanks to Mr P. J. Fry (Assistant Secretary) who gave so freely of his time in answering postal and telephone queries at the B.S.B.I. desk in the Natural History Museum, and to Mr P. Thomson (Council Minuting Secretary). These were received with acclamation.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

In accordance with Rule 11 nominations had been received for Mr P. H. Oswald (proposed Dr C. D. Preston, seconded Mr R. G. Ellis), Mrs J. M. Robertson (proposed Mr A. C. Jermy, seconded Mr R. M. Walls) and Dr B. S. Rushton (proposed Mrs M. Briggs, seconded Mr R. G. Ellis). Profiles had been published and election of these members was carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF HONORARY MEMBERS

The President mentioned that three members had been nominated for Honorary Membership of the Society this year. All had, in different ways, made outstanding contributions to the Society. Sponsors for all three gave short appreciations of their respective candidates (to be published in *BSBI News*) and their election was carried unanimously with warm applause.

The three new Honorary Members (and sponsors) were: Mr E. J. Clement (Mr T. B. Ryves, read by Mr R. G. Ellis), Dr B. S. Rushton (Mr M. Walpole) and Prof. G. A. Swan (Dr A. J. Richards, read by Mrs M. Briggs).

RE-ELECTION OF HONORARY INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The President warmly thanked Mr John Coats, of Greaves West & Ayre, Chartered Accountants, Berwick upon Tweed for his exemplary examination of our accounts. His re-election was proposed by Mr M. Walpole, seconded by Mrs M. Lindop and carried unanimously.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

In reply to a written query by Dr T. C. G. Rich concerning the non-availability of a pre-publication offer for the new Red Data Book published by J.N.C.C., the President reported that attempts to persuade J.N.C.C. to give a discount to B.S.B.I. members had been unsuccessful.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.47 p.m.

GWYNN ELLIS