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OF THE

BRITISH

BRYOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Editor: A.R. Perry
Assistant Editor: M. Yeo

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BRITISH BRYOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The British Bryological Society exists to promote the study of mosses and liverworts. The Society was constituted in its present form in 1923, replacing the Moss Exchange Club founded in 1896.

Two Field Meetings, each usually of a week's duration, are held every year in districts of bryological interest. In addition, two weekend meetings are held in the autumn, one for the Annual General Meeting, the presentation of papers and fieldwork, and the other for practical instruction in the examination and identification of bryophytes.

Members of the Society are entitled to receive the Society's *Journal* and its *Bulletin* free of charge, to borrow books, periodicals and reprints from the Society's library, to consult or borrow specimens from the Society's herbarium, and to consult the Society's panel of referees for assistance in the identification of specimens.

The subscription, due in advance on 1 January each year, is £20.00 for Ordinary members; £10.00 for Senior members, Junior members and Student members; and £1.00 for Family members (who do not receive the *Journal*).

Applications for membership should be addressed to the Membership Secretary, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

Council for the year 1998

PRESIDENT: Dr G.C.S. CLARKE, Department of Exhibitions & Education, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London, SW7 5BD.

PAST PRESIDENT: Mr A.R. PERRY, Department of Biodiversity & Systematic Biology, National Museum and Gallery of Wales, Cardiff, CF1 3NP.

VICE-PRESIDENT: Mr T.L. BLOCKEEL, 9 Ashfurlong Close, Dore, Sheffield, S17 3NN.

GENERAL SECRETARY: Dr M.E. NEWTON, c/o Department of Botany, Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool, L3 8EN. (Envelope to be marked PRIVATE).

TREASURER: Mr E.R. HURR, 6 The Woodlands, Chelsfield, Orpington, Kent, BR6 6HL.

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CURATOR: Mr A.R. PERRY, Department of Biodiversity & Systematic Biology, National Museum and Gallery of Wales, Cardiff, CF1 3NP.

LIBRARIAN: Dr K.J. ADAMS, Department of Life Sciences, University of East London, Stratford Campus, Romford Road, London, E15 4LZ.

MEETINGS SECRETARY: Mr N.G. HODGETTS, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Monkstone House, City Road, Peterborough, PE1 1JY.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Mr M.A. WALTON, Ivy House, Wheelock Street, Middlewich, Cheshire, CW10 9AB.

PUBLICITY OFFICER: Dr S.R. EDWARDS, The Herbarium, Manchester Museum, University of Manchester, Manchester, M13 9PL.

READING CIRCLE SECRETARY: Mr R.J. FISK, 1 Paradise Row, Ringsfield, Beccles, Suffolk, NR34 8LQ.

RECORDERS: Mr G.P. ROTHERO, Stronlonag, Glenmassan, By Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 8RA (Mosses); Mr T.H. BLACKSTOCK, Countryside Council for Wales, Plas Penrhos, Ffordd Penrhos, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2LQ (Hepatics).

RECORDING SECRETARY: Mr R.D. PORLEY, English Nature, Foxhold House, Crookham Common, Thatcham, Berkshire, RG19 8EL.

ELECTED MEMBERS: Dr J.R. EDMONDSON, Dr T.A. HEDDERSON, Dr M.O. HILL, Dr D.T. HOLYOAK, Dr J.D. SLEATH, Mr D. WRENCH.

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Assistant Editor: M. Yeo, Countryside Council for Wales, Plas Penrhos, Ffordd Penrhos,
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BRITISH BRYOLOGICAL SOCIETY

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1997

	1997 £	1996 £
INCOME		
Interest	4,176	3,704
Bequests and Donations	8,079	-
Centenary Publication Grant	2,000	-
Subscriptions	11,340	8,316
Sales of Publications, etc.		
<i>Journal of Bryology</i>	16,686	18,189
Other Publications	184	316
Lenses and Forceps	527	572
Sweatshirts and Ties	12	81
Postcards	78	356
Reading Circle	100	110
Postage and Sundries	282	106
AGM and other Meetings	614	71
LESS GENERAL EXPENDITURE	<u>44,078</u>	<u>31,821</u>
Printing and distribution		
<i>Journal of Bryology</i>	21,160	21,459
<i>Bulletin</i>	1,808	1,788
Purchases for Resale:		
(Publns., Lenses and Forceps)	951	1,008
Library and Microscope Purchase	240	25
Printing of Rules	-	67
Car stickers	-	294
AGM and other Meetings	1,114	90
Officers' Expenses	518	789
LifeScience 2000	-	207
Reading Circle	77	68
Insurance	282	279
Return of Overpaid Subscriptions	110	128
Bank Charges and Sundries	362	243
Cryptogamic Sanctuary Grant	1,000	-
LESS BEQUEST EXPENDITURE		
Awards	None	None
Expenses	None	138
	<u>27,622</u>	<u>26,583</u>
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR	<u>£16,456</u>	<u>£5,238</u>
Of which General Income less Interest and Expenditure is	<u>£4,201</u>	<u>£1,672</u>

BRITISH BRYOLOGICAL SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1997

	1997 £	1996 £
GENERAL FUND		
Balance as at 1st January	38,162	34,638
General Income less Interest and Expenditure	4,201	1,672
Share of Interest	2,088	1,852
	<u>44,451</u>	<u>38,162</u>
BEQUEST AND DONATION FUND		
Balance as at 1st January	38,887	37,173
Bequests and Donations during the Year	8,079	-
Share of Interest	2,087	1,852
Less: Expenditure during the Year	-	(138)
	<u>49,053</u>	<u>38,887</u>
	<u>93,504</u>	<u>77,049</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
Cash at National Westminster Bank		
(Current Account)	11,545	4,870
(Capital Reserve Account)	-	28,227
Girobank	1,066	925
National Savings Investment Account	40,603	46,719
National Savings Treasurers Account	45,264	-
	<u>98,478</u>	<u>80,741</u>
Less Current Liabilities		
Publication Cost of <i>J. Bryol.</i> (net)	4,902	3,334
Cheques not yet presented	72	358
NET ASSETS	<u>£93,504</u>	<u>£77,049</u>

E.R. HURR
Treasurer



I have examined the above accounts and, based on my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect accounting records have not been kept in accordance with Section 41 of the Charities Act 1993, or that the accounts presented do not accord with those records or comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 1993. No matter has come to my attention in connection with my examination to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts.


R.N. GUTTERIDGE, F.C.A.

31 March 1998

BBS BULLETIN - PRODUCTION DIFFICULTIES DURING 1998

Due to unavoidable circumstances, there have been some difficulties in producing the BBS *Bulletin* during 1998. I apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused. I know how much members rely on the *Bulletin* as a source of information regarding the activities of the Society.

The current issue of the *Bulletin* (No 71) contains only a selected range of the material which would normally have been published during the course of the year. It has not proved possible to include the lists of new vice-county records, accounts of the Society's meetings in 1997, and various other articles. These will all be incorporated in the next *Bulletin* (No 72), which will be published in January 1999.

Any additional items for inclusion in *Bulletin* 72 should be sent to me, at the address below, by **11 December 1998**. I would be grateful if contributors could send articles as word-processing files (either on disk or by email) if at all possible. WordPerfect 6.0 is the preferred format, but compatible versions of other word-processing packages are also acceptable.

Marcus Yeo, Countryside Council for Wales, Plas Penrhos, Ffordd Penrhos, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2LQ (email: m.yeo@ccw.gov.uk).

REPORTS OF OFFICERS FOR 1997

a) GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

1997, which might have been an anticlimax after our busy centenary year, has proved, on the contrary, to have been a year full of achievement and promise. Not only have membership figures reached almost 600, but Council has continuing plans to cater for the diverse interests of that membership. It is, however, a matter of regret that the Society has lost, among others, Dr G.K. Berrie, Mrs L. Franck and Mr J.H. Holness through death.

Meetings, as always, have been a mainstay of bryological activity. In addition to British venues, members were able to explore some of the Italian Alps this year. Benefits to participating members are obvious. Less obvious, but vital to the promotion of bryology, is the dialogue generated by meetings. Indeed, it is a result of our centenary symposium that a major scientific volume is now in preparation and due for publication during 1998. The forthcoming revision of the *Census Catalogue* also owes much to the collective effort of members during meetings.

Business matters dealt with over the year have included a resolution of the AGM to rationalise membership subscriptions. Existing arrangements for Ordinary members (£20) and Family members (£1) remain, but there are now three categories of members who are eligible to pay a concessionary rate of £10. The effect of these changes is to increase the Junior/Student rate of £7.50, and to widen the scope of the concessionary rate to include Senior members of more than 40 years' standing.

Council's attention has been concentrated, as well, on other aspects of finance. The Warburg Memorial Fund, which, in practice, has been managed over the years by the Botanical Society of the British Isles, has been wound up at the request of the BSBI. Its last award was to a young bryologist for field work in Serbia, and the remaining capital has been divided equally between the BBS and the BSBI. The sum received has been added to the BBS Bequest Fund, held separately from the general account of the Society. Also added to the Bequest Fund were the proceeds of a sale of books left by Prof. P.W. Richards, and it is hoped that it will soon be possible to fulfil the wishes of the late Dr E.W. Jones in this respect.

There is, of course, a considerable amount of ongoing work in the hands of Officers. Legal correspondence with Blackwell Science Ltd relates to stocks of *J. Bryol.* and *Trans. Br. bryol. Soc.*, and is a major concern of trustees, but so too is the work of all other Council members whose efforts contribute to the well-being of the Society and of bryology. We have benefited from the enthusiastic and conscientious Presidency of Mr A.R. Perry over the past two years, and it may be hoped that the firm foundations laid will be built upon the continued co-operation of BBS members in the future.

M.E. Newton, January 1998

b) TREASURER'S REPORT

Notes on the Accounts for 1997 (see pp. 2-3 of this *Bulletin*)

1. The Society's affairs still appear fairly healthy, with a General Fund income surplus without investment interest of £4,201. However, it should be borne in mind that this figure includes a £2,000 grant (see para 6 below) and the remaining cost of printing two new publications will fall during 1998.
2. As anticipated, subscription income has recovered from the false low seen last year. These random fluctuations are due to coincidence of our financial year end with the subscription renewal date.
3. The deficit on *J. Bryol.* for 1997 increased from £3,334 to £4,901. This was due partly to the inclusion of a bryological monograph (paid for in part by the author) and also to a reduction in back issue sales. Maney have asked for a meeting to discuss a possible new publishing arrangement.
4. Standing Order errors continued in 1997 and further corrections were made.
5. Insurance now covers most of our overseas field meetings without additional premium.
6. The centenary publication '*Bryology for the Second Century*' will shortly be printed. A grant of £2,000 towards publication costs has been made to the Society by the New Phytologist trust for which we are most grateful. This money has temporarily been put into the General Fund investment account.
7. The new *Census Catalogue* will also be printed during 1998. £500 towards the cost will be contributed by the Bequest and Donation Fund.

8. Further to the separation of the Bequest and Donation Fund from general funds carried out with the 1996 accounts, B & D funds are now kept in a separate National Savings 'Treasurers Account'.
9. The Warburg Memorial Fund has now been wound up. The Society's share of the balance, amounting to £4,746, has been added to the Bequest and Donation Fund.
10. Sale of the late Dr P.W. Richards' books realised £3,333 and Council directed that this money be added to the Bequest and Donation Fund.
11. At Dec 31 1997 this £3,333 (and a further £456 interest adjustment) had still to be transferred from current account to the 'Treasurers Account'. When this was done, the whole of the B & D Fund money with its accumulated interest (£49,053) stood in the Treasurers Account. This figure takes no account of Bequest Awards totalling £1,600 agreed during 1997 but not yet paid. As Bequest Awards are made, money will be transferred back to the current account so that Award cheques can be sent to recipients.
12. At the end of 1997 the accumulated and uncommitted B & D Fund interest available for awards stood at £3,647. Further applications will be invited in the Summer *Bulletin*.
13. A breakdown of Officers' Expenses is shown below.

Officers's Expenses Breakdown

(JWB) <i>J. Bryol.</i> Editor	None claimed in 1997
(MEN) Gen. Sec. and Assoc. Editor	£201
(RCS) Conservation Officer	£224
(ERH) Treasurer and SE Group Sec.	£71
(ARP) President	£22

Note: Expenses of meetings, Reading Circle and Bulletin are included in the appropriate item of the main Expenditure Account.

Roy Hurr

c) BIBLIOGRAPHER'S REPORT

Recent Bryological Literature 87 and 88 have appeared in the *Journal of Bryology*; number 89 is in press and number 90 is in preparation. I am grateful to all those who have sent me references or reprints for inclusion in these lists. Special thanks are owed to the staff of the Botany Library at the Natural History Museum, London, for their co-operation and assistance. I much appreciate receiving details of papers and books which I may have overlooked.

L.T. Ellis, March 1998

d) CONSERVATION OFFICER'S REPORT

1. The Government has produced an additional list of species for which Biodiversity Action Plans are to be prepared. Plantlife has been commissioned to prepare the plans for certain bryophytes and the BBS has given advice and information. The BBS has also been consulted on some woodland Habitat Action Plans, as well as certain Local Biodiversity Action Plans (for species and habitats) on a county basis.
2. There has been a further delay in the publication of the Bryophytes Red Data Book. The BBS has expressed its disappointment about this to the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and has urged that the final editing should be completed as soon as possible.
3. Representations have also been made to the JNCC about the omission so far of certain important bryophyte sites in the south of England from the UK list of possible Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). These sites include the Wealden Sandrocks and the western part of the South Downs.
4. Discussions are in progress on *ex situ* conservation of bryophytes (storage of spores and other living bryophyte material), including the possible location of an organisation which would be able to undertake the work on a long-term basis.
5. RCS has continued to represent the BBS at meetings of Plantlife Link and has maintained frequent informal contact with Plantlife.
6. The Conservation Committee met at Torquay in April and at Chichester in September.

R.C. Stern, December 1997

e) JOURNAL EDITOR'S REPORT

Volume 19 of *Journal of Bryology* was concluded in 1997 with the publication of parts 3 and 4, together amounting to 484 pages. The pages in excess of the normal annual budget (400 pp.) are largely accounted for by the publication of the first *Bryological Monograph*, a long article on the ecology of *Andreaea* in western Norway. The system being adopted is that authors of very long papers will be allowed a certain number of pages free of charge, but they must find external funding for the remaining pages. In essence this means that subscribers and BBS members are obtaining a larger volume at no additional cost. A second *Bryological Monograph* is currently in press and will appear in the *Journal* in 1998.

Forty-seven papers (including 'bryological notes') were submitted for publication in 1997, a significant reduction compared to the 61 received the previous year. By late February 1998, 33 papers (70%) had been accepted, six (13%) had been rejected, and eight (17%) were still pending. The acceptance rate is up (1996, 54%) and the rejection rate down (1996, 25%) compared to last year, but the sample is probably too small for these figures to have much significance. A breakdown of the countries of origin of the authors of the papers submitted in 1997 shows that non-British Europeans are the main contributors, with a large proportion of 'bryological notes' emanating from Spain. The figures, irrespective of acceptance or rejection

are: British authors, 12 papers (25%); other Europeans, 24 papers (49%); Asians, five papers (10%); North Americans, five papers (10%); Australasians, three papers (6%); (papers with mixed authors were credited to both regions involved). Several papers directly concerned the British bryophyte flora. A special birthday tribute to Dr H.L.K. Whitehouse was included in part 3. No obituaries were published in 1997. The cover illustrations used were a photograph of *Tortula ruralis* by Dr M.C.F. Proctor and line drawings of a Hong Kong moss, *Trichosteleum boschii*, the latter deemed appropriate in the year that the former British colony was returned to Chinese rule.

I am, as ever, deeply indebted to the Associate Editors and others who find time to referee papers and contribute to the continuing high standard of the *Journal*. I am also especially grateful to those authors who take the trouble to follow with care the instructions for preparation of manuscripts now published in part 1 of each volume.

J.W. Bates, 25 February 1998

f) LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Sales:	<i>J. Bryology</i> (parts)	26
	<i>TBBS</i> (parts)	10
	Distribution of Bryophytes	6
	Census Catalogues (old)	4
	Hepatics of Europe and the Azores	-
	BBS <i>Bulletins</i>	19
	BBS Library Catalogues	1
	Moss Wall Charts	20
	Special Volume: Jubilee	9
	Special Volume: Chromosomes	2
	Special Volume: Tropical Bryophytes	3
	Special Volume: Mosses in English Lit.	5
	Bryology (Linn. Soc.)	4
	Mosses & Liverworts of Woodland	23
	German/English Glossary	1
	x20 lenses	24
	Stainless steel forceps (Patterson)	4
	Stainless steel forceps (Idealtek)	10
	Eyepiece graticules	-
	BBS ties	-
Loans:	35mm slides	4
	Micrometer slide	-

Two new Chinese microscopes have been purchased by the BBS for loan to new members who wish to experience using a microscope before making their own purchase. The funds to purchase these microscopes came from the sale of three old brass microscopes left to the Society by the late Eustace Jones.

Thanks to the kind co-operation of Professor Zen Iwatsuki, the exchange with the *Journal of the Hattori Botanical Laboratory* has now been re-established and the BBS Library has a complete

run of back numbers. The BBS is also very grateful to Dr June Chatfield for once again promoting BBS sales during the year.

Ken Adams, February 1998

g) MEETINGS SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Spring meeting of the BBS was held in Torquay this year. The weather was kind to us most of the time and Mark Pool ably organised a highly enjoyable and varied week on the 'English Riviera'. Many of the local specialities were seen, including *Petalophyllum ralfsii* growing at its only known non-dune site in Britain, and a good time was had by all.

There were two summer meetings this year, because Giorgio Buffa and Luca Miserere of the University of Turin had kindly agreed to organise a meeting in the Italian Alps. This was additional to the regular BBS meeting, which took place in north-east Yorkshire. Although only a small number of people took part in the Italian meeting, it was judged a great success. As well as being highly enjoyable, a great many significant new records were made in this under-recorded but bryologically rich part of Europe. Thank are due not only to Giorgio and Luca for their organisation but also to Tom Blockeel, who took on the British end of the arrangements. The meeting in north-east Yorkshire took place a couple of weeks later and, although perhaps a trifle less dramatic than the Alps, offered an equal amount of enjoyment to bryologists. Many useful records were made for the vice-county and my thanks to John Blackburn for doing the organisation and to Cliff Townsend for writing the account in the *Bulletin*.

To the south coast again for the autumn meeting and AGM, where Bishop Otter College, Chichester was the venue. As usual, the speakers covered a wide range of bryological topics and all were both interesting and entertaining. The weekend was made special by a celebratory dinner held in honour of the 80th birthday of Harold Whitehouse, particularly as members of his family also attended. Thanks to Rod Stern for the organisation of the weekend.

The workshop meeting was hosted by Ken Adams at the University of East London, where the topics were *Sphagnum* (led by Mark Hill) and *Leucobryum* (led by Ken). My thanks to both for their work for this meeting.

The attendance figures for this year's meetings are as follows:

	1996	1997
Spring meeting	ca 52	ca 31
Summer meeting, week 1	26 (Ballachulish)	8 (Italian Alps)
Summer meeting, week 2	19 (Braemar)	13 (Malton)
AGM weekend	50	ca 40
Workshop	17	9
TOTAL	ca 164	ca 101

As half-expected following the centenary year, numbers were down somewhat in 1997. However, the totals are still quite healthy and give no cause for concern. Having said that, it would be nice if numbers at the meetings this year were up again!

I hope the local groups are all continuing to thrive. I sometimes hear word of them but do not feel I have the complete picture. Pieces on local groups in the *Bulletin* are always very welcome and interesting.

My grateful thanks to everyone who has organised or contributed in some way to the meetings this year: you have all helped make life fun for the members and easier for me!

Nick Hodgetts, March 1998

h) MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

In this, my final report, I should like to thank most sincerely those who have helped to make my work easy and, more importantly, a great pleasure. I have of course been reliant on the good will of the Treasurer; Giles Clarke and latterly Roy Hurr have been indulgent of my peccadilloes and ever helpful. In the collection of the North American dues, Ronald Pursell set, at the start of my incumbency, a painstaking and excellent example. More recently I have come to depend on the diligence and accuracy of Diana Horton, who has set me an admirable example in the way in which she has collected, ever more efficiently, the subscriptions of the North American members and, in the course of this, proved to be a such an excellent and enjoyable correspondent. Without the help of Philip Stanley and Roy Perry I could not have produced membership lists which were even approaching accuracy. Lastly, but not least, I have ever been dependent on the fact that Martha Newton was at the end of a telephone line and ready with good and accurate advice, always unstintingly given; Martha has been a good friend.

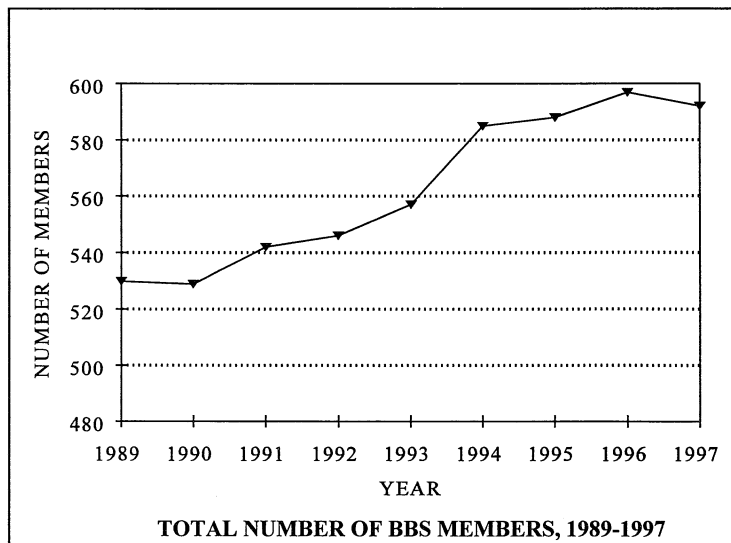
Members should be aware that all of the membership records have been transferred to a computer data base and thus come under the jurisdiction of the Data Protection Register with whom our transactions are duly registered. This should help in the maintenance of accurate records and the prompt production of information. Hard copy in the form of a card index is also maintained.

It is an unfortunate circumstance that the membership has actually fallen in 1997. This is mainly due to the fact that, for the first time in eight years, the number of new members was actually less than the number lost because of resignation, death and other reasons. However, I am sure that in Mike Walton's term of office, the number will advance past the magic number of 600. Mike has already put in a lot of hard work and I am sure that he will prove to be a worthy and efficient Membership Secretary.

The following table and graph illustrate changes in the number of BBS members between 1989 and 1997.

CHANGES IN BBS MEMBERSHIP, 1989-1997

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
New members									
UK	20	20	19	26	24	27	27	24	13
Overseas	7	8	9	4	11	18	9	16	7
TOTAL GAINED	27	28	36	30	35	45	36	40	20
Members lost by:									
Death	8	5	3	4	2	2	4	5	3
Resignation	11	9	11	9	3	4	14	11	7
Other	10	15	9	13	19	11	14	15	15
TOTAL LOSSES	29	29	23	26	24	17	32	31	25
Total overseas members	207	199	190	186	187	202	209	215	226
Total UK members	323	330	353	360	370	383	380	382	368
NET TOTAL	530	529	542	546	557	585	588	597	592
Comprising:									
Honorary	14	13	12	11	11	11	10	11	10
Ordinary & Junior	502	503	512	513	524	545	549	559	557
Family	14	13	18	22	22	29	29	27	25
Turnover ratio x100	11	11	11	10	10	11	12	12	8



Tony V. Smith, January 1998

i) PUBLICITY OFFICER'S REPORT

Sweatshirts

BBS sweatshirt sales have now effectively halted, with no more shirts sold during 1997. Ten small shirts remain to sell out of 96. Total gross (not counting the loss of income from tie-up capital) profit is £146.27. There is no demand for the small size that remains. It is doubtful whether the market exists for a further order of larger sizes.

Postcards

732 sets (11,712 cards) have now been sold (end 1997), compared with 721 sets this time last year, leaving a further 85 sets needed to break even. The BBS market is probably close to saturation, running at only 11 (replacement?) sets for the last year (117 the previous year, and 196 the year before that). Enthusiastic advertisements in the *Bulletin* have their limits, but hopefully a further commercial order may be found. Nonetheless, the deficit of £241.13 left (not counting the loss of income from tie-up capital, from a total expenditure of £2,337.85) is probably justifiable simply in terms of publicity.

Common names

English Names for British Mosses (BBS Special Volume no 5) was finally published on 12 December 1997, as a 68-page A5 stapled volume. 4,744 English names were recorded for British bryophytes, plus a small supplementary list of 121 names for non-British bryophytes. The total number of references to these names was a surprising 7,680. The scientific names are in accordance (as far as possible) with the forthcoming *Check-list and Census Catalogue* (Blockeel & Long), and *Liverwort Flora of the British Isles* (Paton). I should like to thank these authors for their help, as well as the many members whose information and contributions made the whole project possible. The publication and printing method, in-house as copies are ordered, works because of the facilities available at the Manchester Museum; it means that no financial deficit is possible, and there are no storage problems. The method is however somewhat labour-intensive, and is dependent on there happening to be time available to run copies off when requested. I am not sure that I would recommend the BBS to repeat such an exercise without appreciating these implications.

The nature of such a large compilation is that it will attract comments (omissions, emendations, minor corrections, etc.) after publication, and one of the arguments in favour of the concept of in-house publishing, was that it would be easy to bring out a second edition (or merely 'with minor corrections, etc.', as is often seen on the title page of re-prints) without the problems of having outdated existing stock. When I brought this up last year, the Publications Committee minutes (18 February 1997) decided: "In response to a question from Dr Edwards the Committee believed that there should be only one approved version of the publication and that any 'updates' would be strictly private and 'unpublished' communications between himself and other individuals." Perhaps this decision might be reconsidered?

Travelling Exhibition

Arrangements have been made for the Travelling Exhibition to go, at least for a limited period, from Cardiff to Bolton Museum. Long-term storage of the exhibition remains a problem, but the text is still available as a word-processed document (for example by email), and the pictures (as scanned files) could also be available, as discussed last year, for the BBS web site.

Sean Edwards, 10 March 1998

j) READING CIRCLE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership has remained static at 34, new members equalling losses due to overdue balance and resignation. Subscription to the *Bryologist* has been renewed and copies were received at the end of the year. The *Journal of the Hattori Botanical Laboratory* remains elusive; no contents lists were sent this year. Contents lists of 15 issues of four journals were circulated, and copies of 39 articles totalling 534 pages, were supplied to 11 members. The number of members receiving contents lists of the various journals is as follows;

<i>Annales Botanici Fennici</i>	24
<i>Bryologist</i>	25
<i>Cryptogamie</i>	24
<i>Journal of the Hattori Botanical Laboratory</i>	24
<i>Lindbergia</i>	23

Financial statement:

Income:

Opening balance	£168.50
Credit (cheques received etc.)	£106.45

Expenditure:

Photocopying	£36.57
Postage	£40.48
Total	£77.15

Balance of members accounts	£198.89
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Richard Fisk, 18th January 1998

k) REPORT OF THE RECORDER FOR HEPATICS

The 44 new liverwort records for 1997 represent an increase for the second consecutive year, although more of these are older records which have come to light from researches for the new *Census Catalogue*. This work also resulted in 22 deletions.

The new records include several significant extensions of known range; particularly important is the discovery of *Plagiochila atlantica* in Cumberland and Westmorland, new to England. In Cheshire, finds of *Cephaloziella nicholsonii* and *Riccia rhenana* have extended the known distribution of these local species northwards. The known distribution of *Fossombronia fimbriata* has been pushed southwards by its discovery in Derbyshire. *Lophocolea semiteres* in Peeblesshire, the third British vice-county, is evidence that this species is likely to spread more widely throughout Britain. Another rare species, *Cephaloziella calyculata* has been found in a fourth English vice-county, East Cornwall.

	New records collected 1996-97	New records collected pre-1996	Deletions
England	22	2	11
Wales	1	4	3
Scotland	5	5	6
Ireland	1	4	2
Totals	29	15	22

After eleven years as Recorder for Hepatics, this is now my final annual report, and I would like to wish my successor, Tim Blackstock, an equally enjoyable and stimulating term of office. Throughout my term many members have given a great deal of help, none more so than Jean Paton who has given her valued opinion on numerous critical specimens and been a constant support in many other ways; others I would like to thank are Roy Perry for loans of specimens, Tom Blockeel for checking the annual lists of new county records, and the liverwort referees for their assistance and support. Finally I would like to thank all the BBS members who have sent in voucher specimens over the years.

David Long

D) REPORT OF THE RECORDER OF MOSSES

A comparison of the table below with similar tables published in previous years shows that new moss records are at a low ebb, particularly if it is remembered that records from before the current year are inflated by new vouchers exhumed by work on the *Census Catalogue*. It is possible to postulate a variety of reasons for this but the most obvious one is that, while most active bryologists operate in areas that are relatively well-worked (almost by definition), it is visits to less worked areas that produce more new records. As an illustration of this, almost 10% of the new records come from two vice-counties in the far north of Scotland and probably involved only four or five 'field-days'. However, it is also true that over 25% of the records come from the Home Counties and East Anglia, areas that I (perhaps in my ignorance) would presume to be relatively well-worked. It is somewhat depressing that there is just one, solitary, new record for Ireland, the least worked area of all.

Records of interest include *Ptilium crista-castrensis* in Montgomery, *Leptodontium gemmascens* in West Suffolk, *Platygyrium repens* in Herefordshire, *Grimmia ovalis* in Sutherland, *Sphagnum platyphyllum* in East Perthshire, and an extension of range of *Tortula protobryoides* northwards into Orkney.

	New records collected 1996-97	New records collected pre-1996	Deletions
England	46	29	13
Wales	4	6	2
Scotland	19	5	2
Ireland	0	1	0
Totals	69	41	17

The process of publication of the new *Census Catalogue* has involved checking vice-county records against those held by BRC and the deletion of county records for which there was no BRC record and no other supporting information. Also the new catalogue has strictly adhered to the 1950 cut-off date so that all verified occurrences of species in vice-counties for which there are no post-1950 data will be in parentheses. Tom Blockeel has been involved in a long process of checking published floras and vouchers to update as many records as possible and this has resulted in a list of updated records which will be published in the *Bulletin* but separate from the normal list of new vice-county records.

I hope that the new *Census Catalogue* will act as a spur to further recording and I am certainly anticipating a number of vouchers to update records that have been newly 'bracketed' and for new taxa. I hope that this will come as a steady stream rather than a tidal wave and that critical genera will go to referees first!

Gordon Rothero, February 1998

m) RECORDING SECRETARY'S REPORT

At the end of 1997 we have a slight drop (three) in the number of vice-counties covered by Regional Recorders, although the level of recording (if this is indeed reflected in the number of cards that reach me - I suspect not) is similar to that of the previous year, with 149 cards sent to me (14 up on last year).

The most significant event however is that about 12 Regional Recorders have received vice-county data from BRC. This is the number of Recorders who had, until then, requested data; I now have a fresh batch of requests and this has been communicated to BRC, so hopefully these data will be available very soon. There have been no serious problems with reading the data, despite it being sent in zipped format to enable the larger data sets to fit on a single floppy disc.

R.D. Porley, February 1998

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, CHICHESTER, 1997

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Chichester Institute of Higher Education, Chichester, at 16.30 on Saturday 13 September 1997.

PRESENT: Mr A.R. Perry, President, in the Chair and 42 other members.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies were received from Dr J.W. Bates, Dr M. Newton, Mr A.V. Smith, Mr T.H. Blackstock, Dr S. Edwards, Dr A. Burton, Mr G. Stark and Prof. D.J. Cove.
2. **MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM, NESS BOTANIC GARDEN, 1996:** These were approved. The copy minute book was not available to be signed, due to the absence of the Secretary, and would be signed at a later date.
3. **MATTERS ARISING:** There were no matters arising.
4. **REPORTS OF OFFICERS FOR 1996:** These had been published in *Bulletin 70*, and gave rise to the following comments and discussion:
 - g) **Librarian:** Dr Adams apologised for being a month behind with orders. Mr Fisk reported that supplies of the *Bryologist* appeared to have dried up and that he would contact Dr Burton concerning this. Dr Adams responded that these should be sent to the library.
 - k) **Recording Secretary:** Mr Porley reported that the discs for the VC data sets had arrived. All the files were on one disc and needed unzipping to send to people.
5. **REPORT FROM COUNCIL:**
 - a) **Cumulative Index:** Dr Stanley reported that two-thirds of the editing and indexing had been done. All the citations were complete. He was taking a month off to complete the work.
 - b) **Symposium Volume:** Prof. Duckett reported that this would hopefully be ready for publication next month.
 - c) **Census Catalogue:** Mr Long reported that this was going fine.
 - d) **English Names for British Bryophytes:** Dr Edwards reported that these were complete and will be published from the Manchester Museum to individual order. They will be advertised on the Web Site.
 - e) **Warburg Memorial Fund:** Mr Hurr reported that this money, amounting to £8,000, is a joint fund with the BSBI, available for projects for those under the age of 25. Applicants have been hard to find. The Treasurer of the BSBI has suggested terminating the present arrangement as it is difficult to administer. The fund would be divided equally with the BBS. Should we agree, the money could go into our own bequest and donation fund. Council would delegate the decision on how to handle this to our Executive Committee. Mr Crundwell thought it unlikely that we would need the permission of the family. Inflation has made the Fund petty in terms of an interest generating sum. It would make more sense to amalgamate it with other bequests such as the Side bequest, and be prepared to pay out capital. Mrs Paton agreed with

Mr Crundwell. Mr Hurr pointed out that at the moment we still need the approval of the BSBI. Mr Perry concluded the discussion by stating that the proposal had met with general approval but we need to await further discussion with the BSBI. It was reported that a Serbian member had been funded for work in Serbia this year.

- f) **Wallace Reserve:** Mr Crundwell reported the felling of alder woodland on the Reserve.
6. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** The President reported Council's nominations for the posts of Vice-President (Mr T.L. Blockeel), Membership Secretary (Mr M. Walton) and Recorder for Hepatics (Mr T.H. Blackstock). The President thanked Mr A.V. Smith (retiring) for his excellent work as Membership Secretary. Mr D. Long thanked everyone for their identifications, in particular Mrs J. Paton. He will continue to work on the new *Census Catalogue*. All other officers were eligible for re-election: Treasurer (Mr E.R. Hurr), Bibliographer (Mr L.T. Ellis), Bulletin Editor (Mr A.R. Perry), Librarian (Dr K. Adams), Publicity Officer (Dr S.R. Edwards) and Recording Secretary (Mr R.D. Porley). There being no other nominations, those named were declared elected.
7. **ELECTION OF ELECTED MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:** The President reported that Dr M.O. Hill, Dr D. Holyoak, and Mr D. Wrench had been pleased to accept Council's nomination. Being unopposed, they were declared elected.
8. **PROPOSED CHANGE IN RULES OF MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTION:** The proposed new wording of the rules relating to membership had been circulated in *Bulletin* 70, p. 31. These were agreed by the meeting. Two members voted against reduced subscriptions for senior members.
9. **PLACE AND DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** This will be on 19 September 1998 at Loughborough University.
10. **OTHER FUTURE MEETINGS:** Dr R. Gulliver reminded members to contact him in good time in order to be sure of a place on the Summer Field Meeting as there was limited accommodation. The possibility of a field meeting in Ireland was discussed. Volunteers are needed for next year's workshop meeting.
11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**
- a) Members were requested to donate photographic slides of bryophytes to the Society's collection.
 - b) Prof. Duckett reported that The Bombay Moss Conference will be on 8-12 January 1998. Anyone interested should contact Prof. Johri at the Tatta Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay.
 - c) Dr Watson reminded members to send photographs of BBS members to Prof. Seaward for the archives.
 - d) Dr Longton thanked the outgoing President for his work on behalf of the Society.
 - e) Mr Long reported that records up to 31 December 1997 will be included in the new *Census Catalogue*, which was nearing completion. No conclusion was reached about putting this on the Web Site. New VC records will continue to be published in the *Bulletin*.

- f) Mr Matcham asked about progress on cataloguing the books Dr E.W. Jones had left to the Society. Dr Adams replied that boxes of other bequests needed to be cleared before he could do the work.
- g) Dr J. Chatfield asked for suggestions for workshop meetings in the coming year.
- h) Dr Adams asked that the BBS should thank Dr Chatfield for advertising the Society in the Countryside magazine. Members gladly did so.

G.C.S. Clarke

FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY

Members are reminded to read the BBS Safety Code, which is published in *Bulletin* 43 and is available from local secretaries for inspection during BBS meetings. Please inform local secretaries well in advance if you intend to join a meeting, even if you are not staying at the headquarters hotel.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SYMPOSIUM MEETING 1998, University of Loughborough, 18-20 September.

Local secretary: Mr Dennis Ballard, 84 Leicester Road, Groby, Leicester, LE6 0DN. Tel: 0116 2873263.

The 1998 meeting will be held at Loughborough University, which is at the centre of the Charnwood Forest in Leicestershire and now part of the new National Forest. Loughborough is a pleasant market town easily reached by road, rail and air. The University is one mile from the M1 (J23), one mile from the railway station and eight miles from East Midlands Airport. It is within easy walking distance of the town centre.

Reservations have been made for en suite and standard accommodation. Those members wishing to make their own catering arrangements can book for bed/breakfast and beverages only. There are cash meal and snack facilities on the campus. There are some economy single standard bedrooms with wash hand basins and shared bathroom facilities at £17.50, which are very competitive with what can be obtained in the district. The University operates security barriers at the entrance to the campus. Will members wishing to make their own arrangements please register with the local secretary *at least* two weeks before the meeting.

Speakers will be:

- Dennis Ballard (Leicester) - 'Bryology in Leicestershire'.
- David Holyoak (Truro) - 'Tetrad recording in VC 1'.
- Royce Longton & Terry Hedderson (University of Reading) - 'Variation in *Bryum argenteum*'.
- Angela Newton (Natural History Museum) - 'Mosses and cladograms: floristic and phylogenetic exploration in the Americas'.

- Martha Newton (University of Manchester) - 'Bonus bryophytes'.
- David Rycroft (University of Glasgow) - 'A chemist's view of liverworts'.
- Daniel Wrench (Sefton Coast LIFE) - 'Conservation of *Petalophyllum ralfsii* and dune *Bryums*'.

The Sunday excursion will be to the Charley Woods, fine examples of ancient woodland and remnants from mediaeval times. The woods, Burrow Wood and Cat Hill Wood, are recent purchases by the Wildlife Trust and are now nature reserves. Further details are available from the local secretary.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at 4.30 p.m. on Saturday 19 September, 1998, at the University of Loughborough.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the last AGM, Chichester, 1997 (see pp. 16-18 of this *Bulletin*).
3. Matters arising.
4. Reports of Officers for 1997 (see pp. 4-15 of this *Bulletin*).
5. Report from Council.
6. Election of Officers (see p. 20 of this *Bulletin*).
 - a) General Secretary.
 - b) Bulletin Editor.
 - c) Journal Editor.
 - d) Meetings Secretary.
 - e) Reading Circle Secretary.
 - f) Recorder for Mosses.
7. Election of Elected Members of Council (see p. 20 of this *Bulletin*).
8. Place and date of the next Annual General Meeting.
9. Other future meetings.
10. Any other business.

BRYOLOGICAL WORKSHOP 1998, Beaulieu, Hampshire, 7-8 November.

Local secretary: Dr June Chatfield, Anglefield, 44 Ashdell Road, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 2TA.
Tel: 01420 82214.

This will be an introductory workshop, with excursions into the New Forest.

SPRING FIELD MEETING 1999, Abergavenny, Gwent, 14-21 April.

Local Secretary: Dr Jonathan Sleath, The Villa, Kingstone, Herefordshire, HR2 9ET. (Tel: 01981 251634; e-mail: jonathan.sleath@virgin.net).

The last time the society met in this area was the Brecon meeting of 1984, and before that the Ross meeting of 1968, so I hope we will be able to visit some interesting sites, new to most of

those attending. We will concentrate on localities in the Brecon Beacons and the Black Mountains. This will include the upland Old Red Sandstone crags of Craig Cerrig Gleisiad National Nature Reserve (*Jungermannia borealis*, *J. subelliptica*, *Eremonotus myriocarpus*), the north-facing wooded Carboniferous Limestone escarpment of Craig y Cilau NNR (*Funaria muhlenbergii*, *Seligeria trifaria*), and relatively unknown sites in the Black Mountains including Cwmyoy (*Grimmia affinis*) and the upper Grwyne valley. *Bryum gemmiparum* has been recorded from the river Grwyne, where we hope to refind it, and also at Llangynidr bridge by the BBS in 1984.

The venue for this meeting will be the Ty'r Morwydd Environmental Study Centre in Abergavenny. I would encourage all those planning to attend to stay here, although of course other places are available locally. This establishment provides reasonably priced accommodation similar to that offered by the Field Studies Council, and is approved by the Wales Tourist Board. Laboratory facilities will be available, and there is a library with a respectable bryological component. The prices per day will be B&B £14.60, dinner £7.00 and packed lunch £3.50.

Booking will be via the local secretary, who would be grateful for expressions of interest by the end of October, so that Ty'r Morwydd have some idea of the numbers involved.

SUMMER FIELD MEETING 1999.

A meeting in Ireland is planned.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND ELECTED MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Mr A.R. Perry has signified his wish to retire from office as Bulletin Editor at the end of 1998, as has Mr N.G. Hodgetts as Meetings Secretary. The terms of four other Officers, the General Secretary, Journal Editor, Reading Circle Secretary and Recorder for Mosses, expire at the end of 1998, and their present incumbents are eligible for re-election for one or two years. The three Elected Members of Council who retire at the end of the year, Dr J.R. Edmondson, Dr T.A. Hedderson and Dr J.A. Sleath, are not eligible for re-election in that capacity until two years have elapsed. Members are invited to submit nominations for Officers and Elected Members, sending them, in an envelope marked PRIVATE, to the General Secretary of the BBS, Dr M.E. Newton, c/o Botany Department, Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool, L3 8EN, to arrive no later than 22 August 1998. A nomination must not be made without the consent of the person it is wished to nominate. If elections are needed, they will be held at the AGM in Loughborough, on 19 September 1998.

RECORDING MATTERS 15

There are a few updates to the Regional Recorders list since the last Bulletin. Andy McMullen, Tim Robinson and Elinor Wiltshire relinquish vice-counties 89, 38 and H8 respectively. We thank them for their efforts. It is always regrettable to lose Recorders, particularly those in Ireland! Andy McMullen will still be continuing with VC 96.

There are two changes of address to note:

15: Malcolm Watling, 23 Dane Hill, Margate, Kent, CT9 1QP.

46: Alan Hale, Northfield, Cliff Terrace, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 2DN.

This now leaves the following vice-counties unadopted: 37, 38, 39, 56, 71, 75, 85, 89, 90, 91, 93-95, 106, 107, 109, 112, and much of Ireland. 100 is also effectively vacant because I reported last time Katie Cocking's desire to resign, so anyone wishing to adopt this or any others please contact me.

Completed cards continue to drift into me, but not in a flood which would be nice to see. At least one member has brought it to my attention that since taking up the duties of a Regional Recorder (for vice-counties 69 & 92) he has never received any cards whatsoever. And this is despite the BBS holding a week's excursion around Ambleside in 1995 and around Braemar in 1996. For the scheme to run effectively members must try to submit records to the appropriate Recorders, particularly when the Recorders show so much enthusiasm to take on the post in the first place.

Many of you will now be in possession of computerised data for vice-counties held by BRC to whom I extend my thanks. I have had one or two queries about format and various anomalies but generally people have had no problems with reading the files. Since then others have requested data for their vice-counties and I hope to supply these in the near future.

Many of you will have heard of Biodiversity Action Plans. BAPs (more acronyms; nothing to do with your packed lunch!) have been drawn up on behalf of the UK Government following the 1991 Earth Summit in Rio. BAPs have, or are to be, drawn up for a range of threatened habitats, animals and plants in Britain, including bryophytes. Habitats of interest for bryophytes include native woodlands, such as Caledonian pinewoods, upland oakwoods, lowland beech and yew woods and wet woodlands.

For species, the aim is to produce a national programme of targeted actions, within specified time-frames, to halt the decline and preferably enhance the status of threatened taxa. Each Species Action Plan (SAP) will inevitably start at different points; for many of our bryophytes there is still the need to conduct basic survey and identify sites (an example here is *Weissia multicapsularis*); for others we are aware of the sites, and the challenge is to safeguard them (an example could be *Thamnobryum angustifolium* or *Didymodon (Barbula) glaucus*). There are 13 existing bryophyte SAPs, and a further 33 currently being written. Although each plan follows a national framework, it is often at the local level that such plans are implemented. For example, conservation organisations, local authorities or individuals in Norfolk may feel it more appropriate to instigate remedial management on certain fens where *Hamatocaulis (Drepanocladus) vernicosus* has been recorded in the past, and may even wish to consider translocation measures. In Wales on the other hand, more survey may be felt to be the priority.

Whichever route is taken to achieve national targets, effort invariably rests at the local level and this means tapping into local expertise.

This is where I hope Regional Recorders can help. You may be approached by one of the statutory conservation agencies (e.g. English Nature) or other conservation organisations (e.g. a Wildlife Trust) to advise on the status of a particular species that falls within your patch. It is important that any plan has its foundations in good robust data, and we should be willing to provide information. Usually such requests are not too onerous, but if much effort is needed to provide the kind of information required, one can always negotiate terms!

I think it would be useful here to list the species for which action plans have been or are being written:

Published SAPs:

<i>Buxbaumia viridis</i>	<i>Jamesoniella undulifolia</i>
<i>Didymodon glaucus</i>	<i>Lejeunea mandonii</i>
<i>Ditrichum cornubicum</i>	<i>Lophozia rutheana</i>
<i>Hamatocaulis vernicosus</i>	<i>Marsupella profunda</i>
<i>Thamnobryum angustifolium</i>	<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>
<i>Weissia multicapsularis</i>	

SAPs currently being written:

<i>Acaulon triquetrum</i>	<i>Orthotrichum pallens</i>
<i>Andreaea frigida</i>	<i>Pohlia scotica</i>
<i>Bartramia stricta</i>	<i>Rhynchostegium rotundifolium</i>
<i>Brachythecium appleyardiae</i>	<i>Sematophyllum demissum</i>
<i>Bryoerythrophyllum caledonicum</i>	<i>Sphagnum balticum</i>
<i>Bryum mamillatum</i>	<i>Thamnobryum cataractarum</i>
<i>Bryum neodamense</i>	<i>Tortula freibergii</i>
<i>Bryum warneum</i>	<i>Trochobryum carniolicum</i>
<i>Cryphaea lamyana</i>	<i>Zygodon forsteri</i>
<i>Desmatodon cernuus</i>	<i>Zygodon gracilis</i>
<i>Didymodon mamillosus</i>	<i>Acrobolbus wilsonii</i>
<i>Didymodon tomaculosus</i>	<i>Adelanthus lindenbergianus</i>
<i>Ditrichum plumbicola</i>	<i>Cephaloziella nicholsonii</i>
<i>Ephemerum stellatum</i>	<i>Herbertus borealis</i>
<i>Leptodontium gemmascens</i>	<i>Pallavicinia lyellii</i>
<i>Orthodontium gracile</i>	<i>Riccia huebeneriana</i>
<i>Orthotrichum obtusifolium</i>	

It is recognised that some Recorders have more detailed knowledge of their vice-counties than others, but most should be able to contribute in a positive way to steering groups or other *ad hoc* bodies which may be established.

Ron Porley, English Nature, Foxhold House, Crookham Common, Thatcham, Berkshire, RG19 8EL.

COUNCIL NEWSLETTER NUMBER 14

There has been progress in this the first year after our Centenary but, before I tell you about it in detail, I must report the sad loss of four of our members through death. Mrs Susan Ford and Mrs Lilian Franck had greatly enjoyed participating in field meetings over many years. Dr G.K. Berrie joined the Society as long ago as 1950. All, like Mr John Holness who had more recently become an active member, will be sadly missed.

Turning to happier things, members who were brought together by the AGM in Chichester were able to attend a dinner in honour of Dr Harold Whitehouse. At 80, he continues to make invaluable contributions in research and discovery and, equally important, to share his knowledge and enthusiasm generously.

Publications

Although it was hoped that the *Centenary Symposium Volume* and the new *Census Catalogue* would both appear in 1997, neither has done so. However, work is in good hands and continues apace, so all bodes well for the finished products. In the meantime, the Publications Committee has recently approved the sale of Dr Sean Edwards' *English Names for British Bryophytes*.

Bequest Funds

There have been several developments in this context; one concerns the sum raised by the sale of old microscopes bequeathed by Dr Eustace Jones. It has been used to purchase two new microscopes, which will be lent to BBS members, and about which you will read in detail elsewhere in this *Bulletin*. The Society has also received a legacy in excess of £3,000 derived from the sale of books from the library of Prof. Paul Richards. With a view to managing these and previously existing bequest funds to best effect, Council has established a Bequest Committee consisting of five members, four of whom, Dr G.C.S. Clarke, Prof. J.G. Duckett, Mr D.G. Long and Mr H.W. Matcham, will retire annually in alphabetical order but be eligible for re-election by Council, each for a maximum of eight years. The fifth member is Mr E.R. Hurr, *ex officio* (Treasurer), who will be one of two members drawn from BBS trustees. Arrangements have also been made to hold bequest funds in a separate account.

Warburg Memorial Fund

This, as many of you will know, is a joint asset of the BBS and the BSBI, from which occasional small grants are made to young members. A grant was made this year to Mr M. Sabovljevik for bryophyte work in Serbia. In practice, the fund has been administered by the BSBI, from which a proposal to wind up the fund has recently been received, and I understand that the proposal was agreed in principle by the BBS Council at its last meeting.

Membership

Increasing numbers continue to reflect a thriving society, which calls, not only for efficient handling of data, but also for good communication facilities. Appropriately, our Membership Secretary has now ensured that the BBS is registered for data protection, covering, not only membership details, but also recording activities.

A new list of members is nearing completion, and it is hoped that its circulation will help to promote dialogue, and thus the interests of bryology. Some of that dialogue, I hope, will continue to assist Council in its efforts on behalf of the Society.

M.E. Newton

BBS LIBRARY SALES AND SERVICE, 1998

FOR LOAN (UK Members only):

Members wishing to borrow books or papers are advised to consider whether a photocopy of the appropriate pages would suffice instead of the original in those cases where copyright has expired. Charge 10p per exposure. Limit 50.

- a) Approximately 250 bryological books and journals and several thousand offprints of individual papers. A catalogue of the books and journals is available, price £1.00.
- b) Transparency collection, list available (s.a.e.). 630 slides in the collection. Loan charge (to cover breakage of mounts) 50p plus return postage. Only 50 slides may be borrowed at a time to minimise loss or damage.
- c) Microscope stage-micrometer slide for calibration of eyepiece graticules. 10µm divisions. Loan deposit £45.00.

FOR SALE:

British Bryological Society *Bulletins*: back numbers from no 23 @ £1.00 each.

Transactions of the British Bryological Society/Journal of Bryology:

Vol. 1: parts 1-4	(£2.40 each), part 5 out of print
Vol. 2: parts 1-4	(£3.00 each), part 5 out of print
Vol. 3: parts 1-5	(£2.40 each), £12.00 per volume
Vol. 4: parts 1,3-5	(£2.40 each), part 2 out of print
Vol. 5: parts 1,3,5	(£3.00 each), parts 2 & 4 out of print
Vol. 6: parts 1-2	(£6.00 each), £12.00 per volume - ends series of <i>Transactions</i>
Vol. 7: parts 1-4	(£5.00 each), £20.00 per volume - renamed <i>Journal of Bryology</i>
Vol. 8: parts 2,3	(£5.00 each), parts 1 & 4 out of print
Vol. 9: parts 1-3	(£5.00 each), part 4 out of print
Vol. 10: parts 1,3,4	(£8.00 each), part 2 out of print
Vol. 11: parts 1-3	(£10.00 each), part 4 out of print
Vol. 12: parts 1-3	(£11.50 each), part 4 out of print
Vol. 13: parts 1-4	(£15.50 each), £62.00 per volume
Vol. 14: parts 2-4	(£18.00 each), part 1 out of print
Vol. 15: parts 1-4	(£22.50 each), £90.00 per volume
Vol. 16: parts 1-4	(£29.75 each), £119.00 per volume
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BBS Special Volumes:

1. Longton, R.E., Perry, A.R. (1985). Proceedings of Jubilee Meeting 1983, 89 pp. (£6.00)
2. Newton, M.E. (1989). A Practical Guide to Bryophyte Chromosomes, 19 pp. (£2.50)
3. O'Shea, B.J. (1989). A Guide to Collecting Bryophytes in the Tropics, 28 pp. (£3.50)
4. Edwards, S.R. (1992). Mosses in English Literature, 44 pp. (£2.50)

Census Catalogues

- Duncan, J.B. (1926). Census Catalogue of British Mosses, 2nd edition. (20p)
- Sherrin, W.R. (1946). Census Catalogue of British Sphagna. (20p)
- Warburg, E.F. (1963). Census Catalogue of British Mosses, 3rd edition. (20p)
- Paton, J.A. (1966). Census Catalogue of British Hepatics, 4th edition. (20p)
- Corley, M.F.V., Hill, M.O. (1981). Distribution of Bryophytes in the British Isles: a census catalogue of their occurrence in vice-counties. Price incl. p&p: members (£5.00), non-members (£6.00), trade (£4.00)

Other items:

- Evans, D.E., Perry, A.R. (1987). Moss Wall Chart. Price incl. packing (£2.80)
- Grolle, R. (1983). Hepatics of Europe and the Azores: an annotated list of species with synonyms. Price incl. p&p (£2.50)
- Newton, M.E. *et al.*, eds. (1988). Bryology: modern research and the ways forward. (£5.50)
- Pearman, M.A. (1979). A short German-English bryological glossary. (£0.50)
- Perry, A.R. (1992). Mosses and liverworts of woodland, 41 pp. (£2.95)
- BBS tie, claret with single BBS logo (£4.95)
- Swift x20 handlens and case (£18.75)
- Patterson no 2 stainless steel forceps (£4.00)
- Idealtek no 3 stainless steel forceps (£9.30)
- Eyepiece graticule 1 cm x 10 micrometer, 16 mm diameter (£25.00)

PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE CASH WITH ORDERS. Customers will be invoiced for the correct amount including p&p (postage and packing is extra unless stated). Address label legibly printed would be appreciated. All the above are available from the BBS librarian:

Kenneth J. Adams, 63 Wroths Path, Baldwins Hill, Loughton, Essex, IG10 1SH, UK.

NEWS FROM THE UK SYSTEMATICS FORUM

Membership of the Forum comprises fourteen leading institutions with the largest systematics collections in the UK. The work of the committee has been funded by the Office of Science and Technology, and their principal objective has been to prepare a strategy for systematic biology in the UK at the request of the government's chief scientist, Professor Robert May. The draft report, with the title 'The Web of Life', was circulated to members in May 1998 and will be published later in the year following final consultations.

Following extensive discussions with the systematics community, and with the major users of systematic biology research, priorities have been identified in three major areas:

- The discovery and documentation of the diversity of living and fossil species;
- The organisation of that diversity into classifications based on patterns of evolutionary history;
- Greater access to the information and expertise produced by systematics.

In order to promote support for systematic research, the Forum wishes to disseminate the message that local floristic and ecological studies incorporate much long-term research into the systematics of plant groups, and that lesser-known groups such as the bryophytes are particularly in need of such research. All too often, funding bodies support projects in the fields of ecology and genetics which are not founded on a thorough understanding of the systematics of the groups being studied.

Increasingly, the emphasis on collecting biodiversity information is leading to a demand for more people who are trained in the identification of difficult groups. The directory of systematic biology expertise, which is accessible on the Natural History Museum's web site (<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/ukssf>), contains details of 33 people with systematic biology expertise in bryophytes and pteridophytes, including 23 professionals (7 of whom are retired) and 3 amateurs. This would appear to be a gross underestimate of the true number of people with systematics expertise in mosses and liverworts, and I would hope that more bryologists would register their details in the directory: the process is entirely voluntary.

The strategy proposes a number of steps that would improve the situation for taxonomists, as foreshadowed by the House of Lords select committee chaired by Lord Dainton. One is to improve the skills base by training specialists in groups where expertise is currently in short supply; another is to improve the quality and quantity of school and undergraduate education in systematics. The Forum will seek to establish a thematic research programme operated by one or more of the research councils. It also plans to increase access to the information held in biological collections, both by promoting the conversion of data to electronic form and by developing on-line identification services. It sees a need to promote the application of systematics to biodiversity management and conservation within the UK, as well as to contribute to international initiatives such as Diversitas and Species 2000.

A main thrust of this policy is to seek to promote co-operation at a national level. One early objective is to organise a survey of the biological collections held in the UK, to be available on-line alongside the directory of systematics expertise.

Anyone wishing to comment on these proposals, or to register on the directory of systematics expertise, should contact Professor Steve Blackmore, the chair of the UK Systematics Forum, c/o the Natural History Museum.

John Edmondson, National Museums & Galleries on Merseyside, Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN.

REFEREES (AUGUST 1998)

The refereeing service is intended to provide assistance to members who have genuine difficulty in naming their collections. **It is not intended as a 'free-for-all' identification facility**, least of all for bulk collections. Please therefore respect the following guidelines when submitting material.

- If possible, avoid sending large quantities at any one time. Do not send material if you are not prepared to examine it yourself in advance.
- Please ensure that fragile specimens are adequately protected in the Post. This applies particularly to material with lumps of soil attached. It is dispiriting to open a packet and find nothing but a pile of dust inside! Small boxes or tins are ideal for protection from crushing.
- Please label all packets clearly with full collection details, including habitat, locality, altitude and at least a 10 km grid reference.
- Always enclose a stamped addressed envelope (or label), even if material is sent to universities or institutions. Otherwise you may not receive a reply.

The General Referee will help beginners who are having difficulty in placing their material in a genus. If you encounter any other problems send it to the appropriate Recorder - Mr Tim Blackstock for hepatics (Countryside Council for Wales, Plas Penrhos, Ffordd Penrhos, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2LQ) or Mr Gordon Rothero for mosses (Stronlonag, Glenmassan, By Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 8RA).

For hepatics, the numbers below refer to genera in *Distribution of Bryophytes in the British Isles* by M.F.V. Corley & M.O. Hill (1981). The numbers for moss genera refer to the new *Census Catalogue*.

GENERAL REFEREE: H.W. Matcham, 21 Temple Bar, Strettington, nr. Chichester, W. Sussex, PO18 0LB.

HEPATIC REFEREES:

- 1, 2, 11, 12, 38, 53-55, 58, 64-67, 69, 75-77:** D.G. Long, Royal Botanic Garden, Inverleith Row, Edinburgh, EH3 5LR.
- 3-10, 18-24:** Dr M.E. Newton, c/o Department of Botany, Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool, L3 8EN. (All mail to be marked 'Private'.)

13-17, 36, 37, 39-44: G.P. Rothero, Stronlonag, Glenmassan, By Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 8RA.
25-35, 45-47: M.F.V. Corley, Pucketty Farm Cottage, Faringdon, Oxfordshire, SN7 8JP.
48-52, 78-86: N.G. Hodgetts, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Monkstone House, City Road, Peterborough, PE1 1JY.
56, 57, 59-63, 68, 70-74: T.L. Blackstock, Countryside Council for Wales, Plas Penrhos, Ffordd Penrhos, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2LQ.

MOSS REFEREES:

1: Dr M.O. Hill, Monks Wood Experimental Station, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, PE17 2LS;
A. Eddy, Dept of Botany, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London, SW7 5BD.
2-10, 156-160: Dr M.O. Hill, (address above).
11-33: G.P. Rothero, Stronlonag, Glenmassan, By Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 8RA.
34, 35, 67-70, 187-195: Dr A.J.E. Smith, School of Biological Sciences, Brambell Building, University College of North Wales, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2UW.
36, 71-89, 104-111: N.G. Hodgetts, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Monkstone House, City Road, Peterborough, PE1 1JY.
37-66: Dr D.F. Chamberlain, Royal Botanic Garden, Inverleith Row, Edinburgh, EH3 5LR.
90-98, 112: Dr E.V. Watson, Little Court, Cleeve, Goring on Thames, Reading, Berkshire, RG8 0DG.
99-103: A. Orange, Department of Biodiversity & Systematic Biology, National Museum and Gallery of Wales, Cardiff, CF1 3NP.
113-146: R.D. Porley, English Nature, Foxhold House, Crookham Common, Newbury, Berkshire, RG15 8EL.
147-155, 161-174: T.L. Blockeel, 9 Ashfurlong Close, Dore, Sheffield, S17 3NN.
175-187: D.T. Holyoak, 8 Edward Street, Tuckingmill, Camborne, Cornwall, TR14 8PA.

TO LOVE MOSSES AND LICHENS TAKES A VERY SPECIAL KIND OF PERSON

It was the Observer's Book of British Wild Animals that first inspired my interest in natural history and I still hold great affection for this series of books, most of which I acquired during childhood. To this day, the most pristine books in the collection remain number 20 (Lichens) and number 33 (Mosses and liverworts), I can recall curling up with number 15 (Ships) and I would definitely have volunteered to spend the evening in with number 41 (Heraldry), rather than have been forced to remove 20 and 33 from their place on the shelf. In recent years I have accompanied lichen and moss experts on their outings in the hope that some of their interest and knowledge would rub off on me. But I just can't seem to get to grips with the micro species of the natural world.

The problem, I think, is the absence, with a few exceptions, of common English names. What I like, in the plant world, are the sort of names that suggest the very essence of the object in question: who could forget what a bluebell or a foxglove is? But *Hypocenomyce caradocensis* or *Rhynchostegium riparioides*? These are the kind of names which roll off the tongues of the

experts. How do they do it? My theory is that these people are not like the rest of us. Long days spent observing them suggest this to be the case. They are oblivious to wind and rain, take hours to travel a few yards, have little concern for their safety and do not seem to experience the phenomena that curtail most expeditions into the countryside: pangs of hunger or the lure of a rural public house.

Mosses and lichens are epiphytes or air plants - they have no roots in the soil, so get their nutrients from the air, from rain water or from the organic debris on the object which they grow on. Books which list the lichens and mosses of the Peak and Pennines refer to some of the obscure places in which these little plants can be found: the heather thatched roof of a church porch, a shooting butt, lead mining spoil heaps, demolition sites, dust impregnated tree holes in the bottom of limestone dales. How do they find them? I have concluded that small plant experts are a unique sub-species of the human race.

My outings with local experts have not been totally in vain, however, as I am beginning to appreciate the number and variety of species, and their beauty. The colours and textures of the lichens are lovely. So I would like to thank my expert friends for helping me towards an appreciation of small plants. We should all thank them, because the presence of certain moss and lichen species indicates the quality of the air we breathe. As long ago as 1859 Leo Grindon suggested that the decline of the lichen flora of South Lancashire might be attributed to the increase in air pollution. As sulphur dioxide levels rose, the lichen and moss floras declined, but after the Clean Air Acts of the 1950s and 60s, lichen species gradually began to return and the number of mosses increased. Moss species that used to occur in our local upland bogs have not returned so fast, however, possibly an indication of the effects of acid rain.

My favourite moss is *Thamnobryum angustifolium*. I've never seen it, but it is remarkable to think that there is only one small patch of this moss in the whole world, and that is in Derbyshire. It is also a favourite because it has a lovely common name: the Derbyshire Feather Moss. Because of its rarity, this moss's location is kept secret, but we can trust that the moss men and women will do everything they can to ensure its survival.

Helen Perkins

This article, by North West Naturalists Union member Helen Perkins, has been reproduced by kind permission of Helen and of the publishers of 'Peak and Pennine' magazine in which it was first published.

TROPICAL BRYOLOGY GROUP - PROGRESS IN 1997

EXPEDITIONS

Uganda

The second year of our Darwin-funded activities in Uganda saw a survey of the forests of eastern Uganda, already reported on in the last *Bulletin*, and by the time this is printed, the third year of our Uganda activities will have started, with a training course in Makerere University's Biological Field Station in Kibale National Park entitled 'introduction to bryology and tropical cryptogam ecology', which is being given by Jeff Bates, Roy Perry and Michael Proctor. Following this, during the summer, a team of four (Nick Hodgetts, Ron Porley, Jeff Duckett and Catherine Lafarge-England) will spend three weeks surveying the bryophytes of the mountainous Rwenzori National Park. This will complete all the Uganda-based activities of the Darwin-funded project, and it will remain to translate all this activity into published results. Many new records for Uganda (and indeed one new to Africa) have already been identified, and the first publications should be ready soon.

Malawi

Nine publications have now appeared, and another eight are underway. The current tally is 4,811 specimens, of which 4,258 are with experts for identification, and 2,317 have so far been identified, yielding 290 different taxa, of which 156 (54%) are new to Malawi. Many families are delayed awaiting taxonomic revision, which is a problem with all tropical African collections. Identified specimens are being distributed by Royce Longton from Reading University Herbarium.

Future

Consideration is being given to future expeditions of the TBG now the Uganda project is in its last year. Several suggestions have been made, but there is no clear favourite. Any suggestions to me please.

PUBLICATIONS

TBG Newsletter

Only one Newsletter has been published during the year, and distributed to 54 members. We are trying to reduce the number posted, and the next issue will be emailed to all those that can receive it, which will reduce the postage significantly. (Membership of the TBG is free and open to all BBS members.)

E.W. Jones' Flora of west African hepatics

This is progressing well, and we are hoping the drawings will be complete by Spring; good progress is also being made on the text.

Internet

New documents continue to be added to the TBG part of the BBS home page on the internet. Twelve documents have been added in the last year. There is now an interlinked set of keys covering tropical African pleurocarps, with a key to families, linked to keys to genera and keys

to species. At present the individual keys to genera and species are few and far between, but new keys are added as they become available, as are translations of older ones.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Guide to bryophytes of sub-Saharan Africa

Several TBG members will be participating in a project starting in April 1998 to produce an illustrated guide to the families and genera of African bryophytes.

Lesotho

Other TBG members have been participating in Jeff Duckett's work on the bryoflora of Lesotho and the neighbouring Drakensbergs, and a major paper on the work so far will include both a species new to science as well as several new to Africa.

IBC99

The International Botanical Congress in 1999 (in St Louis, Missouri) will again feature bryological seminars, and the TBG will be involved in the African part of a symposium on moss diversity.

Brian J. O'Shea, 141 Fawnbrake Avenue, London SE24 0BG (email: brian@oshea.demon.co.uk).

RECENT DEATHS

It is with regret that the deaths are announced of:

Dr G.K. Berrie, a cytologist, and member since 1950, whose work was largely in African and Australian universities.

Mr R. Carpenter, an enthusiastic amateur member since 1979.

Mr R.J. Edwards, who joined the Society as recently as 1995.

Prof. S. Inoue, a moss cytologist and BBS member since 1972, having visited Britain the previous year.

Prof. A. Lecointe, an ecologist who joined the Society in 1983.

Dr G.A.M. Scott, a member since 1956, and known for his work on the Australian bryoflora.

Prof. A.J. Sharp, a member since 1947, with wide research interests in American and Asian systematics and floristics.

THE SIDE BEQUEST AWARDS

The scheme was described in *Bulletin* 69 and awards are still available. The Bequest Committee cordially invites your application if you need financial support for fieldwork at home or abroad, attending meetings or in publishing your work. Applications from amateurs and from those under 25 years of age are especially welcome, but awards will be considered for any work which does not form part of a professional employment. The application should say how the award would be used, and include a budget setting out the financial support needed and proposed expenditure in as much detail as possible. Please enclose a note on your own botanical background.

Send your application to the Bequest Committee through the Treasurer (at present Roy Hurr - see address on front cover) who will be pleased to give further information or advice if needed.

Jeff Duckett

MEMBERS' EMAIL ADDRESSES

To reduce the cost of postage when sending notice to members of changes in subscription rates, or sending reminders when subscriptions are overdue, etc. it would be helpful if those members who have email addresses would send a message to me at walton@ivyhouse.u-net.com so that I have their address in my records and can email to them instead of using the postal system.

I will also, **but only with the individual member's permission**, include the details in the next issue of the printed membership list and will maintain a list of email addresses on the Society's web site for the benefit of members who wish to get in touch with each other. For the benefit of those members who are worried about their email addresses being scanned by machine and being included in 'spammers' lists, I will include a four digit number in the address. To see an example of the way in which the list will be formatted please see <http://www.ivyhouse.u-net.com/email.htm>.

I already have a number of email addresses from members who included them with their subscription renewal but will not include them in the membership list and/or the web site without a message from those members giving me permission to do so.

When you send the email message, therefore, will you please let me know whether or not I may include your email address in the printed membership list and/or on the web site.

Mike Walton, Membership Secretary
walton@ivyhouse.u-net.com
