

Society business

Future meetings of the society

Annual General Meeting and paper-reading session 2007, Liverpool, 28-30th September

Local secretary: John Edmondson, World Museum Liverpool, William Brown Street, Liverpool, L3 8EN; tel: 0151 478 4370; fax: 0151 478 4350; e-mail: john.edmondson@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Friday 28 September

14.00-15.30: Tour of Herbarium (limited numbers, strictly by ticket only) and exhibition of old bryology books.

16.30-17.30: Committee meetings, Athenaeum, Church Alley, Liverpool L1 3DD.

18.30: Conference Dinner at the Athenaeum, Church Alley, Liverpool L1 3DD.

20.00-21.30: Council meeting, Athenaeum, Church Alley, Liverpool L1 3DD.

Saturday 29 September

10.30-12.30: Bryophyte identification workshop: focus on the new Field Key. Community Base, 4th floor, World Museum Liverpool.

12.30-14.00: Buffet lunch, 4th floor, World Museum Liverpool, plus posters.

14.00-16.30: Symposium papers

Des Callaghan: Bryophyte diversity, rarity and survey gaps in Lancashire.

Mark Hill & Chris Preston: First records of British bryophytes.

Mark Lawley: The influence of social background on the emergence of British field-botanists in the 17-19th centuries: William Wilson, a case study.

(15.00: tea/coffee)

Anne Secord: "Tutored eyes": the observational skills of nineteenth-century Lancashire bryologists.

Joanna Wilbraham: Phases of bryological exploration with the tropical moss genus *Macromitrium*.

16.30-17.30: **Annual General Meeting.** Treasure House Theatre, 1st floor, World Museum Liverpool. Agenda:

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the last AGM, Hatfield, 2006 (see pp. 63-68 of this *Field Bryology*).
3. Matters arising.
4. Accounts and Treasurer's Report for 2005 (see pp. 60-63 of this *Field Bryology*).
5. Reports of other officers for 2005 (see pp. 68-78 of this *Field Bryology*).
6. Report from Council.
7. Election of Officers (p. 16 *Field Bryology* 92).
 - a) Vice President
 - b) General Secretary
 - c) Conservation Officer
 - d) Librarian.
 - e) Meetings Secretary
 - f) Membership Secretary
 - g) Recorder for Hepatics
 - h) Recording Secretary
 - i) Bulletin Editor
8. Election of Elected Members of Council (see p. 16 *Field Bryology* 92).
9. Place and date of the next Annual General

Society business

Meeting.

10. Other future meetings.

11. Any other business.

Dinner in City Centre restaurant. No pre-payment required.

Sunday 30 September

Field meeting: Whixall Moss National Nature Reserve, Whitchurch, Shropshire (by kind permission of Natural England). Leader: Dr Martha Newton. Meet at 10.00 at Moss Cottages, Platt Lane, Whixall, SJ 503364. Bring packed lunch and stout waterproof footwear (wellingtons advisable). Should finish around 15.00. For details of car-sharing arrangements please contact the organiser.

Booking and accommodation: please book via the Local Secretary. A wide range of accommodation exists in and around the Liverpool city centre. On confirmation of your booking, a brochure will be provided giving full details. For online information visit www.visitliverpool.com/site/accommodation and for accommodation bookings via VisitLiverpool ring **0844 8700 123** or book online. Calls cost 5p per minute.

Bryophyte Ecology Group Spring Workshop 2008

Local secretary: Martin Godfrey, 6 Darnford Close, Parkside, Stafford ST16 1LR; e-mail: martinandrosie@aol.com

The 2008 BRECOG spring workshop will be held at Malham Tarn Field Centre on 7-9 March. The format will be similar to the 2007 meeting with arrivals by dinner time on the 7th and departure pm on the 9th which will give ample opportunity to explore the upland limestone and wetlands abundant in this area as well as time for any lab

work.

Costs will be £110 per head with a £20 supplement for a single room. Please contact the local secretary to book your rooms.

Spring Meeting, Denbighshire, 3-8th April 2008

Local Secretary: Sarah Stille, The Quillet, Berwyn Street, Llandrillo, Corwen, Denbighshire LL21 0TH; email: sarah.stille@virgin.net

The 2008 Spring Meeting will be based in Llangollen, Denbighshire, from where we will explore delightfully varied habitats in the surrounding countryside. Please contact Sarah for further details about this meeting.

Summer Meeting, Shetland Islands, 12-19th July 2008

Local secretary: Paul Harvey, SBRC, Shetland Amenity Trust, Garthspool, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0NY; tel: 01595 694688; email: sbrc@zet-net.co.uk

As lower plants are relatively under recorded in Shetland, the primary purpose of this visit will be to record bryophytes within Britain's most northerly island group. The field trip will include visits to all of Shetland's main islands and the full range of habitats that this unique island group hosts. If you wish to register an interest in this field trip then please contact the local secretary.

Liz Kungu has kindly offered to arrange a few days of informal recording either immediately before or after the Shetland meeting for members who wish to break their journey north (or south). Please contact Liz at Royal Botanic Garden, 20A Inverleith Row, Edinburgh EH3 5LR (e.kungu@rbge.org.uk) for further information.

Annual General Meeting and paper-reading session 2008, Preston Montford Field Centre, 10-12th October Close, Parkside, Stafford, ST16 1LR; tel: 01785 229713; e-mail: martinandrosie@aol.com

Local secretary: Martin Godfrey, 6 Darnford

Other bryological meetings 2007-2008

BBS Southern Group Meetings 2007-2008

All meetings start at **10.30am**

October 13th: Leader Neil Sanderson. E-mail: neilsand@dircon.co.uk

Brockenhurst/Roydon Woods. Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust Reserve. Park near Brockenhurst Church. Minor road south-east of A337. **SU 303016**.

October 28th: Leader David Streeter. E-mail: d.t.streeter@sussex.ac.uk

Nap Wood. National Trust. North of Mark Cross. Park on verges of minor road off the A 267. (Tunbridge Wells Road). **TQ 579328**.

November 11th: Leader Jeff Duckett E-mail: j.g.duckett@qmul.ac.uk

Thursley Common National Nature Reserve. Car park at 'The Moat', off minor road between Thursley and Elstead. Joint visit with the south-east group. **SU900417**.

Badly damaged by fire last year the aim of the visit is to record the changes to the known bryophyte flora. Many *Sphagnum* species, and *Polytrichum strictum* recorded in quantity from here in June of this year, the first record since 1932. Bring Wellingtons.

December 9th: Leader Bruce Middleton. E-mail: bmiddleton@southdowns-aonb.gov.uk

Rother river and valley. Park near Stedham Church. **SU 863226**.

February 10th: Leader Andrew Branson: E-mail: andrew@britishwildlife.com

Grovely Wood. North-west of Wilton. Park on minor road at **SU005350**.

March 15th: Leader June Chatfield

Rotherfield Park. Park at East Tisted Church. **SU701323**.

April 19th: Leader Howard Matcham. E-mail: hwlmatch@yahoo.co.uk

Brookwood Cemetery. Search for additional sites for the recently named *Lophocolea brookwoodiana* and possibly introduced bryophytes in this the largest cemetery in Britain. Park at **SU956567** (This is the grid ref. given by the Brookwood Cemetery website, car parking may be marginally different).

Howard Matcham Tel.: 01243 781238

Contact Roy Hurr: e.r.hurr@ntlworld.com for details of South-East group meetings.

Changes to the membership list, July 2007

These changes refer to the September 2006 list.

Changes of address and amendments

Denyer, Dr Joanne, 11a Fairfields, St Ives, Cambs., PE27 5QQ, UK, (O), (2003)

Fischer, Prof. Dr. Eberhard, Institute for Integrated Natural Sciences, Department of Biology, University Koblenz-Landau, Universitaetstrasse 1, D-56070 Koblenz, Germany, (O), (2003)

Greenhalgh, Rev P A, Stapleton Rectory, Roweltown, Carlisle, CA6 6LD, UK, (O), (2001)

Groome, Dr Giles, 13 Park Road, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 9QN, UK, (O), (2006)

Tacchi, Dot.ssa Roberta, Dipartimento di Scienze Ambientali - Sezione Botanica ed Ecologia, Università degli Studi di Camerino, Via Pontoni 5, I - 62032 CAMERINO (MC), Italy, (O), (2002)

Waters, Mr Timothy, Flat 9, Oval Mansions, Kennington Oval, Kennington, London, SE11 5SQ, UK, (O), (2002)

New members

Ashton, Mr John, 4 Atlantic Way, Tintagel, PL34 0DF, UK, (O), (2007)

Dawson, Mr Tim, 15 Kinellan Drive, Strathpeffer, Ross-Shire, IV14 9BZ, UK, (O), (2007)

Droop, Miss J, 6f Downie Place, Musselburgh, East Lothian, EH21 6JW, UK, (O), (2007)

Farmer, Mr Carl, Flat 7, Polfearn House, Taynult, Argyll, PA35 1JQ, UK, (O), (2007)

Hampson, Mrs S L, Blakeway Cottage, Harley Bank, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY5 6LT, (O), (2007)

Hicks, Mr Damien, Sepa, 5 Redwood Crescent, Peel Park, East Kilbride, G74 5PP, UK, (O), (2007)

Jefferson, Dr Richard, 14 Wakes Close, Bourne, Lincolnshire, PE10 0BU, UK, (O), (2007)

Mežaka, Ms Anna, University of Latvia, Faculty of Biology, Department of Botany and Ecology, Kronvalda Bulv. 4, Riga, LV-1010, Latvia, (S), (2007)

Newland, Mr Cassidy, c/o Department of Environment and Conservation, Warren Region, Brain Street, Manjimup, Western Australia 6258, Australia, (O), (2007)

Pressel, Dr Silvia, 3 Streatleigh Court, Streatham High Road, Streatham, London, SW16 1EG, UK, (O), (2007)

Setchfield, Dr Rosemary, 3 Lincoln Row, St Eval, Wadebridge, Cornwall, TR27 7TR, UK, (O), (2007)

Wharton, Mr T S, 33 Ennerdale Drive, Crook, County Durham, DL15 8NT, UK, (O), (2007)

Wierzcholska, Sylwia, University of Wroclaw, Institute of Plant Biology, Department of Biodiversity and Plant Cover Protection, ul. Kanonia 6/8, 50-328 Wroclaw, Poland, (S), (2007)

Reinstatements

Harpel, Dr Judith A, P. O. Box 490, Brush Prairie, WA 98606-0490, USA, (O), (1994)

O'Hanrahan, Mr Brendan, 4 Macrae Crescent, Kincaig, Kingussie, PH21 1NN, UK, (O), (2007)

Deceased

We regret to report the death of Professor Emeritus Creu Casas Sicart (Unitat de Botànica, Departament de Biologia Animal, Biologia Vegetal y Ecologia, Edifici C, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, 08193 Bellaterra (Barcelona), Spain), a member since 1977; an obituary will be published in the *Journal of Bryology*.

We also regret to report the death of Dr D. P. Stevens (Countryside Council for Wales, Headquarters, Plas Penrhos, Ffordd Penrhos, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2LQ, UK) who had been a member since 1990. The Editor would be pleased to receive any memories that members may have of him for publication in the next issue of *Field Bryology*.

BBS accounts

British Bryological Society (Charity Commission registered number 228851) Receipts and payments accounts for the financial year ended 31 December 2006

GENERAL FUND	Note	2006	2005
Receipts	2	£	£
Interest and investment income		2,580	2,252
Members' subscriptions		11,405	11,363
Income tax repayment (under Gift Aid)		1,243	1,315
Sales of Publications <i>etc</i>			
<i>Journal of Bryology</i>	3	8,053	13,839
<i>Census Catalogue</i>		60	60
Other publications		140	182
Lenses and forceps		245	212
AGM and other meetings		3,274	440
Reading Circle		125	117
Postage and sundries		249	311
Total Receipts		<u>27,374</u>	<u>30,091</u>
Payments			
Production and distribution			
<i>Journal of Bryology</i>	4	4,968	17,982
<i>Field Bryology</i>	5	4,111	6,808
Membership List		-	609
Field Guide	6	100	586
AGM and other meetings		4,774	1,872
Library purchases		160	284
Research grant		500	-
Reading Circle		126	91
Officers' expenses	7	404	296
Insurance		409	419
Return of overpaid subscriptions		140	-
Bank charges and sundries		187	201
Total Payments		<u>15,879</u>	<u>29,148</u>
Net of Receipts		11,495	943
Transfer of donations to Bequest and Donation Fund	8	(730)	-
Cash funds at last year-end		44,072	-
Cash funds at this year-end		<u>54,837</u>	<u>943</u>
BEQUEST AND DONATION FUND	2		
Receipts			
Coker bequest	9	300	-
Interest and investment income		1,865	1,627
		2,165	1,627
Other receipts (not counting as "Gross Income")			
Donation (destined for investment)		20	49
Total Receipts		<u>2,185</u>	<u>1,676</u>
Payments			
Student bursary for AGM symposium		100	-
Atlas recording expenses		119	-
Journal extra pages for moss checklist		1,344	-
Total grants		1,563	1,717
Investment purchases (not counting as "Expenditure")			
COIF Investment Fund income units		750	-
Total Payments		<u>2,313</u>	<u>1,717</u>
Net of (Payments)		(128)	-
Transfer of donations from General Fund		730	-
Cash funds at last year-end		5,693	-
Cash funds at this year-end		<u>6,293</u>	<u>6,293</u>
TOTAL cash funds at this year-end	10	<u>61,132</u>	<u>61,132</u>
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Society business

Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 December 2006

	Note	2006 £	2005 £
Cash Funds			
Cash at National Westminster Bank	12	500	1,895
COIF Deposit Fund		<u>60,632</u>	<u>58,450</u>
Total cash funds		<u>61,132</u>	<u>60,345</u>
Investment Assets (at market value)	13		
GENERAL FUND			
COIF Investment Fund accumulation units		1,099	27,194
COIF Investment Fund income units		18,863	-
COIF Property Fund income units		<u>10,063</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>30,025</u>	<u>27,194</u>
BEQUEST AND DONATION FUND			
COIF Fixed Interest Fund income units		22,552	23,652
COIF Investment Fund accumulation units		1,693	27,718
COIF Investment Fund income units		19,615	-
COIF Property Fund income units		<u>10,063</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>53,923</u>	<u>51,370</u>
Total investment assets		<u>83,948</u>	<u>78,564</u>
Other Assets			
Bryological library			
Small stocks for sale of lenses, forceps, publications, back issues of journals and sundry items			
Liabilities			
Cheques not yet presented	12	-	199
Net remaining cost of J. Bryology Vol. 28	14	4,399	7,520
Printing of Field Bryology No. 90 and mailing		3,111	2,862
Printing of Membership List		<u>550</u>	<u>-</u>
Total liabilities		<u>8,060</u>	<u>10,581</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>137,020</u>	<u>128,328</u>

Approved by the trustees on 14th April 2007. (Signed) D.S. Rycroft, Treasurer, on behalf of all the trustees.

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the British Bryological Society

I report on the accounts of the British Bryological Society for the year ended 31 December 2006.

Respective responsibilities of the trustees (British Bryological Society Members of Council) and the examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirements of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act), as amended by s.28 of the Charities Act 2006) do not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts (under section 43 of the Act, as amended), to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the

Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, as amended), and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

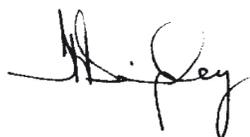
(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements:

- to ensure proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 41 of the Act); and
- to prepare accounts which agree with the accounting records and to comply with the ac-

counting requirements of the Act; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

J H Bingley MA FCIS, Chartered Secretary, Eaton Farm, Miles Lane, Cobham, Surrey KT11 2ED



10 July 2007

Treasurer's report

exclusions (see notes 3–5).

Notes to the Accounts for 2006

1. The accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis. This is a change from the inherited practice of recent years, where payments made and received after year-end for events occurring during the year were accrued back into that year's accounts. The regulations governing preparation of accruals accounts are prescriptive and require intimate knowledge of accountancy; valuation of assets is also necessary. The Society's finances fall, however, within the limits that allow adoption of the simpler receipts and payments regime. Some adjustments are required in the accounts of this changeover year. Sums that fall in this financial year but that have already been included in the accounts for 2005 are not included again here. Consequently, several figures, for example those concerning the Journal and others dependent thereon, are not comparable directly with the previous year's. In particular, the net of receipts of the General Fund is inflated abnormally by these
2. All funds are unrestricted. Some assets are designated by the trustees as the Bequest and Donation Fund, to provide investment income from which grants are made.
3. The balance of royalties received for volume 27 (£4,484) was accrued into 2005 and is excluded. This financial year does not include all receipts relating to volume 28.
4. Payments for members' copies and extra pages of volume 27 (£12,004) were accrued into 2005 and are excluded. This financial year does not include all payments relating to volume 28.
5. Payments for printing no. 87 and mailing (£2,862) were accrued into 2005 and are excluded. This financial year does not include all payments relating to no. 90.
6. The computer software that was purchased in 2005 to produce copy for the Field Guide is now being used to produce *Field Bryology*.

Society business

7. Officers' expenses:
- | | |
|---|------------|
| | £ |
| M.A. Walton (Secretary) | 178 |
| D.S. Rycroft (Treasurer): | 101 |
| D.T. Holyoak (Conservation Officer): | 22 |
| M. Pool (Membership Secretary): | <u>28</u> |
| | 329 |
| K.J. Adams (Librarian): | |
| postage and packing recovered in sales and included in 'Postage and sundries' | <u>75</u> |
| Total: | <u>404</u> |
8. Donations accumulated in the General Fund since 2002 were transferred to the Bequest and Donation Fund for investment in order to meet Society policy.
9. The bequest from Dr P. D. Coker "is intended as a contribution to the fieldwork expenses of a student incident to the study of some aspect of bryophyte ecology."
10. At year-end, commitments for 2007 are £4,471 and uncommitted accumulated interest available for grants is £1,824.
11. Gross Income: £29,539
Total Expenditure: £17,442
12. The bank balance for 2006 includes cheque payments (£3,009) that had not cleared by year-end; that for 2005 does not.
13. Most accumulation units were reorganised into income units during the year, to meet a commitment to Plantlife Scotland for 2007–2009.
14. Purchases of members' copies of the Journal (at £4.50 per copy) during 2006 (£10,760) less the balance of royalties due for volume 28 (£6,361).

D.S.Rycroft, March 2007

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, Hatfield, 2006

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the School of Life Sciences, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, Herts, at 4.35 p.m. on Saturday, 9 September, 2006.

Present: Dr SR Edwards (President, in the chair) and 38 other members.

1. Apologies for absence. Apologies had been received from Mr TH Blackstock, Prof. JG Duckett, Mrs JD Gutteridge, Mr RN Gutteridge, Dr EM Kungu, Mr HW Matcham, Dr AE Newton, Dr ME Newton, Mrs JA Paton MBE, Mr R Stevenson, Mr M Watling, Mr MM Yeo.

The President then reported the deaths of:

Prof. Hisatsugu Ando (2005), a bryologist of international repute whose long and distinguished career was probably best known by members for his work on the Hypnaceae, leaving an indelible and friendly mark in the form of *Hypnum andoi*. As with so many of the Society's members, his botanical work was far wider, and apart from his chair at Hiroshima University, he published in the Japanese journal *Hikobia* (Hiroshima Botanical Club), to which he had recently acted as an 'Advisor'. He had been a former member of the BBS, joining in 1970.

Dr Kathryn Benson-Evans (2005) had been a Cardiff-based botanist who had joined the Society in 1951 and who had published widely especially on

algae and bryophytes, including work on the germination of *Cryptothallus* and *Mnium hornum* spores, the development of the female heads of *Conocephalum*, photoperiodicity and sexuality in *Sphagnum*, and on moss maturation cycles.

Dr Francis Rose MBE (2006) had been known to most members. His enthusiastic and friendly contributions would be missed by all members, many of whom had thought of him especially as a bryologist, as had been recognised by his election as an Honorary Member of the Society in 1998. He had joined the BBS in 1945, 61 years before! He was honoured, of course, by the 62 acre Francis Rose Reserve at Kew Gardens' Wakehurst Place, which opened in September 2003.

RB Pierrot (2006) had been a French past-member who had joined the Society in 1956, and who had just published, in 2005, a recent major work: *Les Bryophytes du Centre-Ouest; Classification, Determination, Repartition*. He had recently co-authored several papers in *J. Bryol. on Aschisma* and *Bryum* from France and Portugal.

Prof. KJ Willis (2006). Professor Willis (Sheffield) had joined the British Bryological Society in 1957, publishing in the *Transactions of the British Bryological Society* and, despite much wide-ranging interests and duties, had always maintained his interest in bryophytes.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2005. Following a proposal by MA Walton, seconded by Dr PE Stanley, the Minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting and were signed by the President.

3. Matters arising. A member asked whether any decision had been made about sales of *Field Bryology* to institutions (which had been raised under 'any other business' at the 2005 meeting). Mr Walton said that Council had agreed that institu-

tions could subscribe to *Field Bryology* for £15 per annum or buy copies of current issues for £5 per copy. Back issues would be sold at £2 per copy.

4. Accounts and Treasurer's Report for 2005. Following a proposal by Dr JD Sleath which was seconded by Dr KJ Adams, the accounts and report, which had been published in *Field Bryology* 89, were approved without comment.

5. Reports of Officers for 2005. Following a proposal by Mr TL Blockeel, seconded by Dr RA Finch, the reports, which had been published in *Field Bryology* 89, were approved without comment.

6. Report from Council. The President's Report from Council, which was given at the meeting, has been published in Council Newsletter Number 23 on pp 17-18 of *Field Bryology* 92.

7. Election of Officers. Council's nominations for the officers who were due for re-election were: Dr DS Rycroft (Treasurer), Mr DA Callaghan (Bulletin Editor), Mr M Godfrey (Reading Circle Secretary) and Dr JD Sleath (Web Site Editor).

Under rule 5(c) the President proposed (seconded by the Vice President) that Mr GP Rothero be re-elected as Recorder for Mosses for a further two years. Mr Rothero said that he had agreed to stand for re-election so that the work on the forthcoming updated census catalogue could be completed during his term of office to enable the next recorder to take up the responsibilities of the office more easily.

There were no other nominations and, following a proposal from MA Walton which was seconded by Dr KJ Adams, the nominations were approved.

8. Election of Elected members of Council. Council nominated Mr IDM Atherton as an

Elected Member for a term of three years commencing on 1 January 2007. The Secretary reported that a second nomination was still being sought and asked that the Executive be given delegated authority to co-opt a further elected member who would then be nominated to the next AGM for the balance of two years. The Secretary had received no other nominations and, following a proposal by Mr MA Walton which was seconded by Dr DT Holyoak, Mr Atherton was duly elected and the Executive was given delegated authority as outlined above.

9. Election of Honorary members. Council submitted the names of Prof. J Váňá and Dr JW Bates for election as an Honorary Members of the Society.

Dr Jiří Váňá (Prague). Dr Váňá was one of Europe's leading hepaticologists, and surely the world's leading authority on his particular specialist group, the Jungermannioideae. He had published ten substantial and authoritative papers reviewing these species in just four years in the mid 1970s. Since then he had continued his studies of *Jungermannia* and allied genera, while expanding his taxonomic range outwards to include genera such as *Cephalozia*, *Gymnomitrium* and *Marsupella*. The world-wide scope of his work was particularly impressive and his papers had included specialist studies of taxa in Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America and Antarctica, as well as monographic studies covering all continents. His most recent publications had included the three papers on hepatic families which launched the Bryophyte Flora of Uganda in the *Journal of Bryology*. In addition to these specialist publications, the more general key to European liverworts that he had produced with Schumacker (2nd edition, 2003) was a particularly useful publication which would be familiar to many BBS members. He had even ventured into moss taxonomy, discovering and describing the enigmatic new genus and species

Ochyraea tatrensis in Slovakia.

As the leading Czech bryologist, Váňá had been responsible for producing successive bryophyte checklists for the Czech Republic, the most recent (with Jan Kučera) also incorporating a red list. He had a strong interest in conservation, having been a Board Member of the European Committee for the Conservation of Bryophytes since its inception in 1990.

Dr Jeff Bates (Imperial College at Silwood Park). For over thirty years Dr Jeff Bates had been a most productive university bryologist, publishing a series of papers on the ecophysiology of mosses and sometimes dealing with lichens too. His wide range of interests had included the related fields of epiphytic and epilithic mosses, desiccation tolerance and the response of bryophytes and lichens to pollution, as well as the life forms of bryophytes and their role in nutrient cycling. A characteristic of all of his work had been the way that his field experience had informed his approach to his experimental studies. Not surprisingly, his Bryophyte Flora of Berkshire was one of the best of all county floras, with particularly informative and original treatments of the ecology of the surprisingly numerous Berkshire species. He had also written floras of Alderney and Belle-île. He had co-edited a 1992 book *Bryophytes and lichens in a changing environment* and the 1998 BBS symposium *Bryology for the twenty-first century*.

Throughout this period Jeff had been closely involved with the BBS, serving as Recording Secretary from 1990 to 1995 and as Editor of *Journal of Bryology* from 1992 to 2006. As Recording Secretary he had successfully led the Society project to record epiphytic bryophytes along a transect from S.W. England and S. Wales to East Anglia. How could anyone estimate the work involved in his role as editor of the *Journal*? The Society had been most fortunate to have someone of such scientific

standing to edit the *Journal* in this period, and it said much for Jeff's remarkable capacity for sustained work that he had been able to combine this with his research career and his very considerable administrative duties at Imperial College. Now that Jeff was stepping down as editor, Council felt that it was a most appropriate time to elect him an Honorary Member. Nonetheless they continued to look forward to his active involvement in Society affairs, notably in the BBS Ecology Group (BRECOCG) that he had recently founded.

The nominations were proposed by Mr TL Blockeel and seconded by Mr M Pool and were approved unanimously.

In reply, Dr Bates said that he was surprised that, as a member of Council, he had had no idea that he was to be nominated but that he was honoured by his election.

10. The future of the BBS Library. The meeting considered proposals from Council that had been published in a report on pp 63-65 of *Field Bryology* 89.

Mr Blockeel noted that the proposals said that "none of the contents of the library will be issued by post" and asked whether that precluded members borrowing books and taking them away provided that they made arrangements for them to be collected and returned. Mr Walton said that Council would consider the matter.

Several members asked whether the accommodation at Preston Montford (Council's proposed destination for the library) would be properly secure. Mr Walton replied that the Society's insurers had been consulted and that their recommendations had been implemented.

Members asked about the benefits of housing the library at Preston Montford (PM), as opposed

to the National Museum and Gallery of Wales (NMGW) - the alternative proposal. Mr Walton said that several members had expressed concerns that, if housed at the latter location, the library would be fragmented whereas, at PM, it would remain as an entity. He also pointed out that, if the library were relocated to PM, it would not preclude other arrangements being implemented in the future.

Dr CD Preston added that it would be easier to update the library at Preston Montford and that it could not be assumed that PM would be prepared to house only those duplicates that NMGW did not want. He also pointed out that there was a good bryological library at NMGW and the relocation of the BBS library to PM would establish another good bryological library.

Dr Adams said that housing the library at PM would make it more easily available and that, as a result, the library would be used more than had been the case in the past. Dr Holyoak also drew attention to the fact that reasonably priced accommodation was available at PM for users who had to travel from a distance and that photocopying facilities were also available. This contrasted with the problems of accessing the library in a large city centre.

Dr PE Stanley asked whether a complete catalogue of the library would be available and Dr Adams confirmed that it would be. Dr Stanley also asked whether there would be regular stock checks and was assured by Mr M Godfrey (who would be one of the Society's representatives at PM) that they would take place.

Dr Stanley also asked whether or not PM might in the future make a charge for housing the library. Mr Walton replied that both parties to the agreement could serve the other with six months notice terminating the agreement.

Following a proposal by Mr M Godfrey, which was seconded by Dr JW Bates, the AGM approved the housing of the BBS library at the Field Studies Council Centre at Preston Montford and authorised the Executive to conclude an agreement with the Field Studies Council on the principles set out in the report in *Field Bryology* 89.

11. Arrangements for the on-line production of the Journal of Bryology. The meeting considered a report on pp 65-66 of *Field Bryology* 89.

Mr Walton emphasised that the Society was fortunate that the introduction of on-line publication facilities had coincided with the need to appoint a successor to Dr Jeff Bates. Had it been necessary to continue under the former publication arrangements, the Executive had identified members who were qualified to hold the office but had been unable to identify someone who had the time and the facilities to do so. The new arrangements had widened the range of appropriately qualified members who could fulfil the requirements as different combinations of skills and experience could be accommodated.

Following a proposal by Mr B O'Shea, which was seconded by Mr GP Rothero, the AGM voted:

- to delete the office of Journal Editor;
- to thank Dr Jeff Bates for his work as Journal Editor for the last 14 years and for steering the implementation of the new system;
- to amend Rule 5(a) of the Society's Rules to read "The officers of the Society shall be President, Vice-President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Editor or Editors (apart from the Managing Editor and Scientific Editors of the *Journal of Bryology*), Librarian and such others as the Society may appoint".;

- to establish the post of Managing Editor on the terms set out in the report;
- to delegate the appointment of the Managing Editor to Council, subject to a report to the AGM that follows any re-appointment or new appointment.

12. Appointment of an independent examiner for the Society's accounts. Mr Walton reported that the nominee for the post had, unfortunately, said that he could no longer undertake the duties and that, in the time available, it had been impossible to contact a possible successor. As a result, and following a proposal by Dr PE Stanley which was seconded by Dr JW Bates, the AGM delegated the appointment of an independent examiner to the Executive.

13. Place and date of the next annual general meeting. The next Annual General Meeting will be held on 29 September 2007, at the World Museum, Liverpool.

14. Other future meetings. Mr Lawley gave an outline of future meetings.

In addition to those that had been advertised in *Field Bryology*, and following the formation of the Bryophyte Ecology Group (BRECOCG), there would be a recording workshop at the Field Studies Council Centre at Preston Montford on 9-11 March 2007.

Dr JW Bates referred to the proposal for a meeting in Bulgaria in April/May 2007 and said that, at present, he was unable to undertake the arrangements for the meeting. Under current circumstances it was likely that some official input from within the country would be needed and he was too committed at present to undertake the necessary liaison. He also suggested that, because of the usual weather conditions in the early part

of the year, June would be a better time of year for any such meeting.

Mr Lawley then reported that he hoped that it might prove possible to arrange a week-long meeting on Shetland in July or August 2008, part-funded by Shetland Biological Records Centre, with 3-4 days on the mainland and the other days on smaller islands. In the event of this meeting being arranged, it might also be well to arrange a meeting on the Scottish mainland to immediately precede or succeed the meeting on Shetland.

15. Any other business. Dr Stanley asked what arrangements were being made for the publication of 'Recent Bryological Literature'. Mr Walton replied that it had not been possible to identify members who were prepared to undertake the work. Dr Bates questioned the value of continu-

ing to print this information since it is available to members who want it through various search engines on the internet. Dr Holyoak said that the *Bryologist* is continuing to print its listing and Mr Walton added that this is available to members via the Reading Circle.

Mr RC Stern asked whether the Society's photographic archive could be made available on the web site. Mr Walton said that Council would consider the matter.

Dr Edwards then thanked Dr Burton for the work that she had undertaken in arranging the AGM and, there being no further business, the meeting was drawn to a close at 5.55 p.m.

M.A. Walton, Hon. General Secretary, September 2006.

Officers' reports for 2006

General Secretary

The year saw the move from the 'office based' production of the *Journal of Bryology* to the new online system and the change from a Journal Editor who, amongst his other duties, was responsible for arranging for peer review of papers, to a Managing Editor who is supported by a panel of Scientific Editors who arrange for appropriate peer review of papers. This change made it possible to appoint a Managing Editor who did not need the administrative support that was provided in the past by the academic institution by whom the Journal Editor was employed. Since it had been impossible to fill the office of Journal Editor as formerly constituted, this change to the production arrangements came at a very apposite time.

The Society has been fortunate in having Jeff Bates as Editor for the past 13 years and in having Howard Matcham to undertake the role of Managing Editor.

Not surprisingly, with a major change of this nature, there are some teething troubles but Howard is liaising with the staff at Maney, the publishers, to resolve them.

The year also saw further improvements to *Field Bryology*, which continues to go from strength to strength and fills what was an important gap in the Society's publications. Thanks are due to the former editor, Marcus Yeo, and to his successor, Des Callaghan.

The AGM in 2006 approved the move of the So-

ciety's library to the Field Studies Council centre at Preston Montford. Given its location and the accommodation that is available, it is anticipated that this move will make the library more accessible to members generally and it will be an asset for the bryological courses which are held there. By the time that this report is published, the library should be safely accommodated at its new home.

Progress continues to be made on the production of the Field Guide and the year saw the first steps towards the launch of the BRECOG (the Bryophyte Ecology Group) project, the **main aim** of which is to define, in a rigorous manner, the ecological niches of individual common bryophyte species. It is hoped that these two projects will provide the means to attract and retain new members: the former by providing a guide to enable them to 'hone' their identification skills, and the latter by providing the opportunity for them to utilise those skills to contribute to a growing body of knowledge. This is particularly important as, increasingly, the 'amateur' bryologists will need to fill the growing gap left by the reduction in bryological studies at the universities and the consequent reduction in the number of 'professional' bryologists.

MA Walton, March 2007

Bulletin Editor

Three issues of *Field Bryology* were published in 2006: number 88 in February, number 89 in July, and number 90 in December. In total these contained 160 pages of material. As in previous years I was able to include a wide range of articles on various aspects of bryology.

After eight years as Bulletin editor my term of office came to an end in 2006. During this period I oversaw a major overhaul of the style, format and

content of the Bulletin, resulting in the launch of the new-look *Field Bryology* in 2004. Having achieved this, I felt that the Bulletin would benefit from some fresh thinking and that it was time for someone else to take over the reins and lead the further development of *Field Bryology*. I wish my successor, Des Callaghan, good luck and hope he enjoys his time as Bulletin editor as much as I have.

Marcus Yeo, June 2007

Conservation Officer

The BBS Conservation and Recording Committee met twice during 2006, at Stafford in April and at Hatfield in September.

During 2005 considerable time had been devoted to the BBS contribution to revision of the list of bryophyte species within the UK Biodiversity Action Plans, which is the list of species regarded as priorities for funded conservation work. It was therefore encouraging to be informed by JNCC in July 2006 that our recommendations for changes to the current UK BAP list had been accepted. Nevertheless, concerns were soon expressed over how much conservation action will follow publication of the new list. This resulted in a request being sent to JNCC that the BBS be involved in preparation of future bryophyte Species Action Plans.

Much of the collaborative work on bryophyte conservation noted in the last few reports was maintained through 2006. Most of this has been funded through the UK BAP and involved the government's nature conservation agencies (Countryside Council for Wales, English Nature, Environment and Heritage Service and Scottish Natural Heritage), Environment Agency, Natural History Museum, Plantlife, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, the RSPB, and others, besides the BBS.

However, the merging of English Nature into a larger Natural England agency in October 2006 was accompanied by substantial cuts in funding, leading to fears about the effectiveness of the new agency's future contribution to bryophyte conservation in England. The BBS voiced these worries in a letter to the Chief Executive Designate of Natural England.

The Threatened Bryophyte Database (TBDB) project organised from the Biological Records Centre at Monks Wood was continued through 2006 by Nick Hodgetts, using data contributed mainly by BBS members.

Plantlife continued work on the British contribution to the international initiative to catalogue Important Plant Areas worldwide. The BBS was again involved in preparation of the draft lists of British bryophyte sites during 2006. Ultimately it is hoped that the IPA lists will not only underpin the sites already covered by statutory designations but also identify additional areas important for bryophytes that remain unprotected.

Conservation and Recording Committee also considered a variety of other projects and issues, including confidentiality of localities for certain rare bryophytes, damage to bryophyte habitats on Craig Leek due to introduced partridges, Guidelines for harvesting moss in Scotland, transplantation of *Bryum schleicheri*, and a funding request from PLINKS (Plantlife Link Scotland) for work involving bryophytes.

Substantial field research to gather data on threatened bryophytes in Ireland was again carried out by National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin, concentrating during 2006 on Co. Kerry and Co. Cork. Plans were developed that should result in publication of the *Red Data Book* for Irish bryophytes in 2010, shortly ahead of the new bryophyte *Atlas* which will cover Great Britain and

Ireland.

D.T. Holyoak, February 2007

Journal Editor

The main event in 2006 from the point of view of authors, editors and reviewers was that the publisher's on-line manuscript submission and management system, Editorial Manager™ (E.M.), became fully functional. This and other impending changes necessitated the termination of employment of Anja Steenkiste who had efficiently run the Editorial Office at Silwood Park for a number of years. E.M. is a sophisticated program that is widely used in journal publishing and capable of doing far more complex operations than *Journal of Bryology* is ever likely to require. Its introduction has not been without its teething problems; however, these have largely been concerned with finding a comfortable configuration for our specific needs rather than representing true faults. E.M. requires the author to download his manuscript, tables and figures onto the website after which the review and revision process operates upon this 'virtual' copy with the potential saving of much paper and postage. One point worth making to any reviewers new to web-based systems is always firstly to compose your comments and save them on your own computer (*e.g.* as a Microsoft Word file), and then copy and paste them into E.M. If you attempt to compose a review live in E.M. you risk losing everything if your email connection is broken at any point, a too common occurrence and a very frustrating experience if you are in a hurry.

The four parts of the Journal in 2006 comprised 384 pages. The 60 or so extra pages result from the inclusion of Hill *et al.*'s checklist of European and Macaronesian mosses, a paper as notable for its 19-strong cast of European authors as its new bryological content! This 'bryological monograph'

Society business

was published with the aid of a grant from the BBS Bequest Fund as well as from other sources and as such represents a bonus for our institutional subscribers. As usual, the papers published in 2006 included a healthy smattering of ecological and physiological topics as well as the normal preponderance of taxonomic studies.

The year 2006 also marked my retirement from the post of Journal Editor. After the publication of Part 3, I handed over to Howard Matcham, who occupies the newly created post of Managing Editor. In place of the old board of Associate Editors there is now a smaller panel of Scientific Editors, one for each of five main areas of bryology. The Scientific Editors have full responsibility for reviewing and accepting or rejecting manuscripts in their area. Howard has the demanding task of keeping everything running smoothly as well as contributing his own not inconsiderable bryological knowledge when required. This system has the advantage of spreading the burden over several people and so reduces the risk of over-reliance on any one individual. To give some continuity I will be continuing as a Scientific Editor (in Ecology and Physiology) for the time being. I know the Society will join me in wishing Howard and his team every success with the *Journal* for the future.

Jeff Bates, March 2007

Librarian

New books added to the library collection during the year include: (i) *The liverworts, mosses and ferns of Europe*, originally by Frey, Frahm, Fischer and Lobin in 1995, now as an English edition revised and edited by Tom Blockeel (Harley Books, 2006); (ii) *A taxonomic monograph of the genus Codriophorus P.Beauv. (Grimmiaceae)* presented to the BBS by author Halina Bednarek-Ochyra; and (iii) the spectacular *Bladmossor Sköldmossor-bladmossor Bry-*

Sales

<i>Transactions of the BBS</i> (parts)	4
<i>Journal of Bryology</i> (parts)	8
<i>Census Catalogue</i> (Blockeel & Long)	9
Hepatics of Europe and the Azores, 2nd edn.	0
BBS <i>Bulletins</i> (back nos.)	0
<i>Field Bryology</i>	0
BBS Library Catalogues	0
Moss Wall Charts	5
Special Volume 1 Jubilee	1
Special Volume 2 Chromosomes	4
Special Volume 3 Tropical Bryophytes	2
Special Volume 4 Mosses in English Lit.	3
Special Volume 5 English Names (2nd edit)	13
Bryology (Linn. Soc.)	3
Mosses & Liverworts of Woodland	7
German/English Glossary	2
Microscope Techniques	9
Japanese x20 lenses	6
Apollo Stainless steel forceps	23
BBS ties	0
Car stickers	0

Loans

Chinese microscope	1
Micrometer slide	1
35mm slides	-

ophyta: Buxbaumia to Leucobryum by Tomas Hallingbäck *et al.* (ArtDatbanken, Uppsala, 2006), in the *Encyclopaedia of the Swedish Flora and Fauna* series. This latter is a large format volume that has numerous high quality colour photos and watercolours of plants, colour micrographs of leaves and capsules, and has keys and synopses duplicated in English.

Following the agreement to transfer the BBS Library from the librarian's house (where it has accumulated for the past 35 years) to form the basis

of a National Bryological Library at the Preston Montford Field Centre, your librarian has been making arrangements with Sue Townsend, its new custodian, to install adequate shelving for the 42 m of books and Journals that it now comprises.

Ken Adams, March 2007

Membership Secretary

Unfortunately, 2006 showed a further slight fall in numbers; the Society ended the year with a total membership of 619, down by 8 from the 2005 total. We do, however, still seem to be able to attract new members; the year ended with a total of 50.

The fall in numbers was at least partly due to the unusually high number of deaths; a total of eight members either died (or their deaths were reported) during 2006. The most prominent was our Honorary member Dr Francis Rose, a member

since 1945; the others included Dr R. A. Finch, of Cambridge, who had been in membership since 1960.

A revised membership list, current to September, was published during the year and distributed with *Field Bryology* 90. The table below shows the changes in membership over the last ten years.

Mark Pool, March 2007

Meetings Secretary

Half way through my term as Meetings Secretary is an appropriate point at which to review developments and trends in organising the Society's meetings. The annual cycle of field-meetings on British soil in spring and summer, followed by paper-reading plus AGM in autumn continues to serve members well. However, if you disagree, please tell me why, and how our schedule might

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
New members										
UK	13	14	37	37	17	36	37	49	30	41
Overseas	7	18	34	14	11	6	17	18	10	9
TOTAL GAINED	20	32	71	51	28	42	54	67	40	50
Members lost by:										
Death	3	12	1	8	4	4	2	6	4	8
Resignation	7	18	7	13	11	17	11	11	6	11
Other	17	24	24	22	37	18	22	38	32	39
TOTAL LOSSES	27	54	32	43	52	39	35	55	42	58
Total overseas members	226	224	245	240	228	217	220	217	217	206
Total UK members	368	348	366	379	367	381	397	412	410	413
NET TOTAL	594	572	611	619	595	598	617	629	627	619
Comprising:										
Honorary	10	10	12	11	11	11	11	11	12	13
Ordinary	558	544	578	585	561	564	583	592	536	539
Concessionary									52	44
Family	26	18	21	23	23	23	23	26	27	23

be improved. In my first report to the Society, I invited members to tell me what meetings they wanted and where, but I have received few suggestions in the intervening five years, so have joyfully made unilateral decisions and exercised executive power in deciding where to hold my bryological holidays.

Spring Meetings

One of the more pleasurable consequences of global warming is that we no longer have to hold every Spring Meeting in the south of the country. Eric Watson's anecdotal (but surely not apocryphal) reminiscence of Arnold Thompson's verdict on the meeting at Buxton in April 1948, when rain and snow affected excursions - that "Booxton were a nightmare" - doubtless stung the Secretary of the day, but nowadays Spring Meetings in the hills of Wales and northern England are a moderately sane proposition. Consequently, we have become able to venture into more distant terrain on recent Summer Meetings.

Summer Meetings

Recent years have seen a number of changes in the ways our Summer Meetings are arranged, and much improved attendances indicate that members (or at any rate, those attending) welcome these developments. Many members relish visiting the Scottish Highlands or Islands in most summers, preferring to bryologise further south on Spring Meetings. Moreover, Scottish meetings offer opportunities to explore bryologically rich districts in wild country, and considerably advance our corporate understanding of the local bryoflora because relatively few active field-bryologists visit these districts, and even fewer live there. And with improved trunk roads from the south, English bryologists can reach northern Scotland much more quickly and easily than even 30 or 40 years ago, so encouraging more frequent visits. For all

these reasons, I have increased the frequency of Summer Meetings in the north.

A further development at recent Summer Meetings (starting with the second week in Perthshire in 2003) has been the popularity of self-catering as well as serviced accommodation. This has made it possible to fit arrangements for meals around excursions, rather than *vice versa*, facilitated work at the microscope in the evenings (as well as relaxing with a fine malt), and also contributed immeasurably to social enjoyment and *esprit de corps*.

Another innovation with several recent Summer Meetings has been the use of a "Local" Secretary who has been anything but local, living several hundred miles from the destinations chosen for these meetings. Such meetings have worked well because rather than being escorted by local botanists to see rarities in places they are already known to inhabit, I have chosen to explore little-known districts that look interesting on the map, with supporting advice and suggestions from local wildlife organisations. These meetings have proved that a keen and reasonably knowledgeable party of bryologists will find much of interest more or less wherever they explore in the Highlands and Islands.

Workshops

Workshops are arranged from time to time, according to opportunity and demand, rather than once every calendar year as a matter of policy. They may deal with a particular taxonomic group or a topic such as co-ordinated recording or digital photography. 2007's workshop will be run by and for the recently established Bryophyte Ecology Group, and in 2008 their ecological interests will be represented at the Autumn Meeting. Do let me know if you think of suitable topics for a future workshop.

Overseas Meetings

Members occasionally arrange meetings overseas, and liaise with the Meetings Secretary, who advises whether the provisional dates are likely to clash with our meetings on home soil. Ireland is not only overseas, but also boasts even fewer resident field-bryologists than northern Scotland, so arranging Irish meetings usually depends upon identifying someone to organise them. Volunteers please form an orderly queue.

Autumn Meetings

Opportunities for organising Autumn Meetings at universities have greatly diminished because nowadays the Society has very few members based at universities. Moreover, recent reorganisation of the academic year obliges us to book accommodation at universities no later than early September, which in turn requires us to hold Summer Meetings in July rather than August if we are to maintain a reasonable interval between the two meetings. For both these reasons, we will probably hold more of our future Autumn Meetings at centres such as those run by the Field Studies Council. And since our Society's library is now housed at Preston Montford, it seems appropriate to meet there fairly frequently, so that members may have convenient opportunities for consulting their library.

At our Autumn Meeting at Preston Montford in 2004, we arranged indoor sessions for the Saturday and Sunday mornings, and went into the field for the afternoons. Most members who were present approved of alternating indoor and outdoor entertainment in that way, as it avoided the dreadful tedium of bums on seats for an entire Saturday. This can only work when we meet at venues with interesting bryological sites reasonably close to hand, otherwise we would spend as much time travelling as bryologising. But with the trend away

from Autumn Meetings at universities in towns and cities, opportunities to alternate indoor and *al fresco* sessions on each day will probably become more frequent.

It may be that you do not much care for Spring Meetings on the Welsh border, Summer Meetings in Scotland, and Autumn Meetings at Preston Montford – a cycle which suits the Meetings Secretary's tastes very well. But if you had alternative opinions about where to meet, you would have let me know before now - wouldn't you?

Mark Lawley, January 2007

Reading Circle Secretary

Membership was fairly static at 33 but quite active. 539 contents lists distributed and 128 papers totalling 2250 pages were sent to 18 members. Sadly the last issue of the Journal of the Hattori Laboratory was published in August.

Richard Fisk, January 2007

Financial statement

Income:

Opening balance	£231
Credit (cheques etc.)	£125
Total	£356

Expenditure:

Photocopying	£101
Postage	£81
Total	£181

Balance of members' accounts	£174
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Recorder for Hepatics

The number of new and updated records for liv-

Society business

	New records	Updated records	Deletions
England	28	5	-
Wales	8	-	-
Scotland	56	11	1
Ireland	22	8	-
Total	114	24	1

erworts and hornworts was slightly lower than in 2005. Scotland had the highest number of new finds, and BBS meetings in East Sutherland and Orkney were both productive. Elsewhere, there was a scattering of records from England, Wales and Ireland.

Among the most notable and exciting records was *Cephaloziella nicholsonii* new to Ireland (v.-c. H3); it was also recognised from a second Welsh locality (v.-c. 46). In Orkney (v.-c. 111), both *Jungermania polaris* (below 300 m) and *Scapania calcicola* were rather unexpectedly detected. There were a further six county records for *Lophocolea semiteres* and four new county records of *Cololejeunea minutissima* in England, together with *Lophozia capitata* (v.-c. 24), *Lophocolea bispinosa* (v.-c. 98) and *Riccia huebeneriana* (v.-c. 59 and 65). Records for the revised *Anastrophyllum joergensenii* and the newly recognised *A. alpinum*, by David Long and colleagues, have been incorporated.

Thanks to all who sent in specimens, and special thanks to Mrs Jean Paton for her help over difficult material.

Tim Blackstock, May 2007

Recorder for Mosses

After high number of new records in the past couple of years, a drop to below 500 records was inevitable, particularly as the Irish gravy-train ventured onto rather busier tracks this year. So, the number of Irish records is well down, but a summer meeting in two relatively poorly recorded

areas of Scotland and diligent recording elsewhere by Liz Kungu and David Chamberlain means that Scottish records are well up. New records from Wales are down a little and those from England remain much the same but with a lot of quality.

In Ireland, pride of place goes to *Ditrichum cornubicum*, *Kiaeria falcata* and *Scopelophila cataractae*, all recorded here for the first time and also important are records for *Orthotrichum pallens* and *Fissidens polyphyllus*, along with further records for *Sematophyllum substrumulosum* and *Hypnum uncinulatum*. Award winner in the 'most unusual habitat' category should go to *Daltonia splachnoides*, 10m up in a Sitka spruce, a find which also begs several questions! In Scotland, Nick Hodggets found the cryptic *Schistidium flexipile* new to Britain on Skye and Sam Bosanquet discovered the 'extinct' *Grimmia elatior* in East Sutherland at the end of a BBS meeting which also produced *Syntrichia princeps* and *Sphagnum riparium*. Targeted fieldwork by Sandy Payne gave a number of records for *Sanionia orthothecioides* on the NE coast and new records for *Sphagnum majus* from Argyll and Caithness.

In England, Martin Godfrey found *Thamnobryum maderense* in Staffordshire, *Bryum valparaisense* was found in the Scillies by Bob Finch and the distinctive *Hypnum cupressiforme* var *heseleri* was another product of Robin Stevenson's fixation on apple trees, all taxa new to Britain. Survey work by Tom Blockeel produced two welcome new records

	New records	Updated records	Deletions
England	72 (81)	39 (19)	4 (5)
Channel Islands	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Wales	34 (53)	5 (8)	1 (0)
Scotland	136 (99)	57 (24)	5 (1)
Ireland	107 (281)	45 (89)	5 (18)
Total	349 (515)	146 (140)	15 (24)

(The figures in parenthesis are those for 2005)

for the threatened *Homomallium incurvatum* and there are useful additional records for *Leptodontium gemmascens* and *Grimmia tergestina*. Two records of *Sphagnum palustre* var. *centrale* from Wicken Fen and Flitwick Moor suggest that it might not be as rare as the current records suggest. Cambridge also produced *Hedwigia ciliata* var. *leucophaea*, as an epiphyte and the rarer segregate, var. *leucophaea*, was found in Monmouth. Elsewhere in Wales, probably the most satisfying find is Nick Hodgetts' rediscovery of *Sematophyllum micans* in Merioneth and there are two notable extensions of range in *Orthothecium rufescens* from Brecon and *Grimmia elongata* from Cardigan, plus a further record of *Rhytidiadelphus subpinatus*, also in Breconshire.

My thanks as always to all the referees and to the Nomenclature Panel for wise advice, and to BRC for picking up errors in the data. We should all thank Mark Hill for taking the data from the Recorders and converting it into what is effectively a new census catalogue each year.

Gordon Rothero, February 2007

Recording Secretary

The good flow of electronic records has continued unabated. The really big hitters were John Lowell with 50,000 records from South Lancashire, Richard Fisk with 47,000 records from Suffolk, and John Blackburn with 46,000 records from NE Yorkshire. There were several other good contributions, notably Chris Preston's 13,000 from Cambridgeshire, Sam Bosanquet's 10,000 from Pembrokeshire, Mark Pool's 9,000 from Devon, Gordon Rothero's 3,000 from various parts of Scotland, Colin Wall's 2,000 from SW Yorkshire, David Chamberlain's 800 from the Lothians, Rosemary McCance's 600 from Orkney, Jacqueline Wright's 500 from Oxfordshire, and 300 Essex sphagna from Ken Adams. David Long sent

records for the new segregates of *Anastrophyllum joergensenii*. BRC also received record cards from several members, notably Mark Lawley (Shropshire), Howard Wallis (Surrey) and David Chamberlain (Lothians). Many thanks to these contributors and to everybody else who sent in data for the BBS database.

Progress with publication of SBAL has not been as rapid as we would have wished. This is largely because I was heavily occupied with other things, especially the checklist of European mosses, to which I gave priority. This is regrettable but certainly not a disaster, as I am now clear of checklist duties.

At the time of writing there are 1.25 million items of data in the main BBS database. These are posted on the NBN Gateway, which has proved to be a satisfactory way of displaying our data. Because of its large size, the BBS database is updated on the Gateway only about twice a year, so there is still a considerable delay before recorders can see what they send in. There is also a delay resulting from slow compilation by me. However, I have during 2006 significantly reduced the processing time, so that I am normally able to report on contributors' data within a few weeks. Data are checked both for whether they appear to be new for the vice-county and whether the vice-county and grid reference agree. These checks almost always reveal a few errors, even when contributors have been as careful as humanly possible.

The same checks that are applied to ordinary records are applied also to published new vice-county records sent by the Society's Recorders. Even these august personages occasionally make mistakes, which can be detected by these routine checks.

Recording for the New Atlas has continued, with both major BBS meetings being held in previously

under-recorded areas, Staffordshire and East Sutherland. The East Sutherland meeting was notable for the rediscovery of *Grimmia elatior* in Britain, again demonstrating that under-recorded areas are not necessarily dull. Staffordshire had some very good things too, of which *Fissidens rivularis* was perhaps the star.

Several Regional Recorders stood down after many years of service. In most but not all cases a successor could be found. Christopher Tipper replaced Graeme Smith (v.-c. 20), Mary Ghullam replaced John Mott (v.-c. 27), Rachel Carter took over from Martin Wigginton (v.-c. 32), and Des Callaghan took over from John Lowell (v.-c. 59). Howard Wallis took on the vacant v.-c. 17, and Keith Raistrick moved to Scotland, leaving v.-c. 69 and v.-c. 70 vacant. It is a pleasure to thank the departing Regional Recorders for their valuable work over the years, and to welcome the new ones. There are still too many 'vacant' vice-counties. Please let me know if you can take one on.

An unusual duty during the year was to devise, with Chris Preston, a recording card for the Italian meeting. This was based on the equivalent of vice-county records for Italian regions, maintained by Michele Aleffi.

Finally, I thank those recorders who have sent in interesting titbits for the 'Rare and Interesting' column in *Field Bryology*; there have been some very rare and very interesting. Keep up the flow of records.

Mark Hill, January 2007

Website Editor

The BBS website currently attracts an average of

49 visits a day, of which 67% are from the UK, 9% from the rest of Europe, 10% from the USA and 14% from the rest of the world. It contains 376 pages and is 221 MB in size.

The last year has seen mainly a consolidation of the existing website structure and material rather than any exciting new features. It has been particularly useful as a source for electronic documents, and I would mention in particular:

- Moss Exchange Club reports for 1896-1919 have been scanned by Mike Walton and are available for viewing as image files.
- Vice-county distributional data accurate up to the new records published in 1996 has been prepared by Mark Hill and is available for downloading.
- Gordon Rothero has provided a spreadsheet of new vice-county records intended for publication so that the details can be checked by recorders.
- Some pdf files of selected papers from the Journal are available, for example the recent European checklist.

The BBS Bulletin Board was shut down since it was used by virtually no one, and attracted a lot of unwholesome spam messages. As website manager and now editor I receive a number of general queries that I try to handle as best as I can or pass on to somebody else, being aware that the website represents one of the more public faces of the society.

Jonathan Sleath, March 2007