

# BSBI Wales Annual General Meeting 2009

The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the BSBI in Wales, held at Llanelwedd Jubilee Hall, Builth Wells on Saturday 27th June 2009

**1. Welcome.** The Chairman, Andy Jones, welcomed everyone, especially the President, Michael Braithwaite and his wife, to the Royal Welsh Showground and to the Jubilee Hall where the AGM and Exhibitions were being held.

**2. Apologies for Absence.** I.Bonner, P.Day, E.Dean, T.Dines, S.Evans, J.Green, G.Hutchinson, M.Perring, D.Reynolds, K.Slade, S.Whyman and S.Spencer.

**3. Minutes.** The minutes of the AGM held on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2008 at Gregynog Hall, Newtown, Monts. were approved as printed in Welsh Bulletin No. 84.

**4. Matters Arising.** The Chairman took the opportunity to tell members that Jean Green, who has recently retired from the Recordship of Denbighshire, v.c. 50, was to have major surgery the following week. The meeting agreed to send her a card from the AGM with our good wishes. [Members will be pleased to know that Jean has made a good recovery and is able to again get out into the great outdoors to continue her passion for field botany this season - ed.]

## 5. Chairman's Statement

- a. Andy Jones commented on the high standard of the exhibitions “the best in years”, and of the two workshops run by Julian Woodman and John Poland.
- b. Next year's AGM is to be in Anglesey, run by Trevor Dines, probably in June. Outline arrangements for subsequent years are:
  - i. 2011 – Pembrokeshire (Stephen Evans)
  - ii. 2012 – Llangollen (Delyth Williams)
- c. BSBI in Wales:
- d. Liaison with the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) is in a similar vane to that of the UK and with almost complete coverage of County Rare Plant Registers.
- e. Our membership is more fully participatory, with field meetings better attended.
- f. A Welsh Officer in line with the Scottish Officer would organise the AGM and arrange workshops, as well as supporting Vice-County Recorders and co-ordinating field meetings in Wales. Prospects are dependent on BSBI providing match funding with the 50% available from CCW.
- g. Wales is ahead with all its plans and botanical activity is going well.

## 6. Hon. Secretary's Report

- a. The Secretary added his welcome to the President and his wife, Michael and Paddy Braithwaite.
- b. He thanked Tim Blackstock for agreeing to give the keynote speech that evening, and members for coming to support the meeting.
- c. He commented on the good programme of field meetings this year with still four more to come, and on the planned future AGMs.
- d. He explained that Trevor Dines had not been able to come because of a clash with a Plantlife meeting.
- e. The Welsh Bulletin was published twice a year and had previously cost in the region of £300 per issue. By outsourcing colour printing, costs had now increased and there was a case for a contribution from central BSBI funds. The Irish and Scottish publications were totally funded by such funds.
- f. Publications by BSBI this year were the *Callitriche* and *Fumaria* Handbooks and John Poland's Vegetative Key to the British Flora. The Secretary commended all these to members.

## 7. Hon. Treasurer's Report

### Annual Statement of Accounts for the period 1st January 2009 - 1st June 2009

<i>Receipts</i>	£	<i>Payments</i>	£
WB subs	£44.00	Welsh Bulletin costs	£296.67
Plantlife	£142.00		
2009 AGM	£2,361.00		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£2,547.00</b>		<b>£296.67</b>
Receipts less payments	£2,250.33		
c/f from 31 Dec 2008	£605.99		
<b>Bank balance at 1 June 2009</b>	<b>£2,856.32</b>		

### Accounts for the year 1 January - 31 December 2008

<i>Receipts</i>		<i>Payments</i>	
Welsh Bulletin subs		Welsh Bulletin costs	£564.20
Plantlife	£174.00	AGM	£7,436.06
AGM*	£164.00	Refunds	£80.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£7,711.00</b>		<b>£8,080.26</b>
	<b>£8,049.00</b>		

### Receipts less payments for 2008

c/f from 1st January 2008	-£31.26
Bank balance at 31st December 2008	<u>£637.25</u>

The accounts were approved unanimously.

## 8. Election of Officers

The following had still a year to serve of their current term of office:

Andy Jones (Chairman)

Delyth Williams (Vice Chair – to take up the Chair at the next AGM)

Richard Pryce (Secretary – gave notice of his wish to stand down in 2010)

The following members consented to stand for re-election:

Ian Bonner (Ian had earlier resigned as he felt unable to arrange an AGM in Anglesey but had now agreed to come back onto the Committee)

Trevor Evans

Trevor Dines

Richard Pryce

Ray Woods

Their re-election was approved.

Other members were not due for re-election until 2010, but there was still a vacant place on the committee. Kath Pryce was nominated and elected unanimously.

The new co-editors of the Welsh Bulletin, Katherine Slade and Sally Whyman had been co-opted onto the Committee, and George Hutchinson will resign when he retires from Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales in March 2010.

Trevor Dines also sits on the Committee as Plantlife representative, and Paul Day represents CCW.

## 9. Any Other Business

- a. Andy Shaw said he could take samples of *Potentilla rupestris* and grow them on to make them available to members;
- b. Trevor Evans said that although he had been awarded the President's Prize in 2009 for his Flora of Monmouthshire, no acknowledgement had been published by the BSBI, nor by the Wildflower Society. (The President's Prize is awarded alternately by the BSBI and the Wildflower Society and Trevor's award was made by Sir Ghillelan Prance, President of WFS). [Both Andy Jones as Chairman, and Richard Pryce as Secretary, confirmed this to be the case and congratulated Trevor on his award whilst also regretting the apparent lack of its recognition in the publications of two Societies].
- c. Diana Reynolds apologised for her and her husband's absence but said that we must keep trust in Welsh Assembly Government to work towards biodiversity targets. Vice-County Recorders were reminded that small grants were

- available from WAG for books and maps, but that the uptake had been small, and it was important that this money should not be lost.
- d. Delegates were reminded of Tim Blackstock's talk that evening after dinner.
  - e. Michael Braithwaite, on behalf of himself and Paddy, said what a pleasure it was to be here. He emphasised that he was available to listen to members' concerns and take them up with Council. He reminded members that regional activity was what the BSBI was all about – it never set out to be centralised – and he emphasised the importance of the Welsh and Scottish committees and of small get-togethers elsewhere.
  - f. Steve Coker had liaised with CCW over many years and offered to help with digitised mapping for recording purposes.

The Meeting then closed. The AGM was attended by 33 members.

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