

British ferns. The classes today are less demanding as well as more varied. Showing a wide variety of interesting ferns is an excellent way of stimulating public interest in fern culture, which members should support. The prize-winners are listed below.

- Class 7 Individual Championship: Four Hardy British Ferns (dissimilar), two Greenhouse Ferns (dissimilar) and two Foreign Ferns Hardy in Great Britain: 1st B. Russ, 2nd M. Hayward, 3rd I. Rawson (3 entries)
- Class 8 Three Hardy British Ferns (distinct species, not varieties): No award (1 entry, not as schedule)
- Class 9 One Foreign Fern Hardy in Great Britain: 1st B. Russ, 2nd O. Fairclough, 3rd M. Hayward (3 entries)
- Class 10 Three *Polypodium* (3 distinct varieties): (no entries)
- Class 11 Three *Polystichum* (3 distinct varieties): (no entries)
- Class 12 Three *Athyrium* (3 distinct varieties): (no entries)
- Class 13 Three *Asplenium* excluding *A. scolopendrium* (3 distinct varieties or species): 1st M. Hayward (1 entry)
- Class 14 One British Fern (any genus or variety): 1st I. Rawson, 2nd M. Hayward 3rd O. Fairclough (3 entries)
- Class 15 One Greenhouse Fern: 1st D. Abbott, 2nd H.J. Abbott, 3rd D. Vose (5 entries)
- Class 16 Three *Asplenium scolopendrium* (3 distinct varieties): (no entries)

The BPS cup for the Individual Championship was won once again by member Brian Russ. The Happiland Trophy for the most points in all other classes went to Michael Hayward. The judge was Dick Hayward.

I would like to thank Ruth Berry, Ann Gill, Rita Hardman, Joan Hindle, Trevor Pearce and Harvey Shepherd for manning the stand, and Patrick Acock, Yvonne Golding and Alastair Wardlaw for providing plants. We again had a social evening at my house in Blundellsands after the show.

The dates for next year's show are 16-19 August 2007. We would encourage members within travelling distance to come and see what surprises we shall have on display. Or why not join us on the stand and get your entrance to the show free! You also get a complimentary ticket to the show if you exhibit in the competitive classes. If you are interested in showing ferns, either contact M. Hayward (6 Far Moss Road, Blundellsands, Liverpool L23 8TQ; mhaywardL23@blueyonder.co.uk) or obtain details of the schedule direct from the organisers at www.southportflowershow.co.uk.

SECRETARIAL NOTES

Please note: names and contact details of all officers can be found on the inside of the front cover of this Bulletin.

NEW GENERAL SECRETARY: Yvonne Golding

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2007 – The 104th AGM will take place on Saturday 24th March 2007 at Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Inverleith Row, at 14.00 hrs.

NEW COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Graham Ackers

COMMITTEE VACANCIES – In accordance with paragraph 3, section 3 of the Society's Constitution, six vacancies will occur on the Committee. Nominations are invited from Society members to fill these vacancies at the Annual General Meeting in 2007. The names of the nominees, proposers and seconders, together with a letter from the nominee indicating

his or her willingness to serve, should reach the Committee Secretary before the AGM. Members with a potential interest in serving as an elected Committee member and who wish to know more of the duties and responsibilities are invited to contact the Committee Secretary.

NEW MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Mike Taylor

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2007 – Members are reminded that subscriptions were due on 1st January 2007 and should be paid to the Membership Secretary. Cheques should be made payable to ‘The British Pteridological Society’. Current rates are given inside the front cover of this issue. Payment can be made by **Credit Card** – see renewal form. **Standing Order** forms are printed on the reverse of renewal forms and are also available from the Membership Secretary and the BPS website (www.eBPS.org.uk). Standing Orders may be paid on 1st January or 1st February. In either case, membership is deemed to be from 1st January to 31st December.

Members are reminded that according to Clause 11 of the Constitution “Any member failing to pay their subscription within six calendar months of its becoming due shall be liable to have their name removed from the List of Members of this Society”! Defaulting members who do not amend their Standing Orders with their bank and are still paying at the old rate shall be notified that they will not receive the Fern Gazette until such time as their Standing Orders are updated. Members still paying even earlier rates shall be notified that their name will be removed from the Membership List until such times as Standing Orders are updated or cancelled. Any monies received from old Standing Orders will be treated as a donation.

GIFT AID – Since 2003 the BPS has been a registered charity. This enables us to claim back from the Inland Revenue 28p for every pound paid in the annual subscription for each member who authorises us to do so. Since 2003, increasing numbers of members have authorised us to claim Gift Aid on their behalf, and last year (2006) we were able to claim for 206 members, which brought in £1,118.88. While this is obviously an extremely valuable addition to the Society’s annual income, it could be considerably more. There are probably a further 200 members on whose subscriptions the Society could claim Gift Aid if these members authorised it and this could lead to perhaps another £1,000 per annum. All that is required is a minimal amount of form filling (about one minute) and a second class stamp. **Even better, the form has only to be filled in once.** The forms are retained by the Gift Aid Secretary and the same ones used year after year to make the claim.

The small number of provisos is set out below:

1. Gift Aid is available only to members who reside in the UK.
2. Members on whose subscription Gift Aid is claimed must be paying income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the amount claimed.
3. Members whose subscriptions are allowed as an expense in connection with their employment may not claim Gift Aid.

If the Inland Revenue allows us to claim relief on your membership subscription please authorise us to do so. It’s the equivalent of a yearly £5 donation to the Society.

DIRECT DEBIT – The Society does not offer a Direct Debit facility for subscriptions. The reasons are two-fold. Expensive software is required to create a direct debit tape to send to the bank and is too expensive for a small Society like the BPS. With Standing Orders the bank does all the administration, whereas with Direct Debits a considerable additional workload would fall on the Society, in particular the Treasurer, and it is necessary to bear in mind that all officers offer their time and services on a voluntary basis.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES – These are now published, as agreed, “for members who have a relatively stable e-mail address and who keep up-to-date with their messages”. A supplementary list and amendments are published in this *Bulletin*. Members who wish to have their e-mail address added, changed or removed are requested to inform the Membership Secretary by E-MAIL: Membership@eBPS.org.uk.

NOTIFYING CHANGES OF ADDRESS – Please inform the Membership Secretary of changes of address and telephone number. He will be responsible for notifying any other officers and appointees who need to know.

PUBLICATIONS BY AIRMAIL – Our journals can be sent by airmail to overseas members, provided that they advise the Membership Secretary and pay an additional subscription to cover airmail postage. See inside front cover for rates.

CODES OF SAFETY, CONDUCT AND DECLARATION FORM – All members attending Society field meetings should be aware of the Society's *Safety Code* (see 2000 *Bulletin* 5(5): 275), as well as the *Code of Conduct for the Conservation and Enjoyment of Wild Plants* (see 1999 *Bulletin* 5(4): 199), and are required to sign a Declaration form. Copies of these documents can be obtained from the Meetings Secretary or BPS website.

GREENFIELD FUND – This fund, set up as a memorial to one of our Society's great fern growers, Percy Greenfield, is used to finance approved projects, helping with the cost of necessary equipment, books and travel expenses. Percy Greenfield's interest leaned very much towards the non-scientific side of our activities and it is felt that he would have wanted this taken into consideration when decisions are made. Workers eligible for university or college grants and similar support are not therefore eligible for help from the fund. Applications will normally be dealt with once a year and should be submitted by 1st November. Anyone wishing to apply for this funding should contact the General Secretary for further information.

CENTENARY FUND – This fund is used to promote the study of all aspects of pteridophytes – horticultural, scientific and educational, whether by amateurs, students or professional pteridologists. As such its scope is much broader and more flexible than the Greenfield Fund. Applications will normally be dealt with once a year and should be submitted by 1st November. Anyone wishing to apply for this funding should contact the General Secretary for further information.

THE J.W. DYCE AWARD – The committee has decided that there should be an award to honour the memory of Jimmy Dyce who was a member from 1935 until his death in 1996. During this time he held all the key committee posts, virtually single-handedly saved the Society from extinction after the war, and contributed in so many other ways to shape the Society as it is today. The award of £100 together with a certificate is to be made annually at the AGM to the author of the best paper, article, book or other substantial piece of work published in any of the three BPS journals, on the BPS website, or as a special publication. Annually the editors will submit up to two entries each to the Greenfield and Centenary Fund Trustees who will consult with experts as necessary to decide on a winner. Winning entries, other than books, will be placed on the website for all to read. The award is open to everyone, whether professional or amateur, pteridologist, horticulturalist or fern enthusiast. We look forward to receiving your contributions!

TREE-FERN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP – For further information, please either send a stamped addressed envelope to the organiser, Prof. A.C. Wardlaw, 92 Drymen Road, Bearsden, Glasgow G61 2SY, or contact him by e-mail: Tree-Ferns@eBPS.org.uk.

MEMBERS' INFORMATION SERVICE – Members often require information and advice on many aspects of pteridophytes but are reluctant to ask or simply do not know where to obtain help. Queries from members on any aspects of the biology, identification or cultivation of ferns should be sent, with three first class stamps, to the Horticultural Information Officer.

READING CIRCLE – The Society operates a reading circle for the *American Fern Journal*, a quarterly publication containing much information for those seriously interested in ferns. The *Fiddlehead Forum*, which publishes many 'ferny' items of interest to the amateur grower, accompanies it. To receive these journals contact the Horticultural Information Officer.

FOREIGN FERN SOCIETY JOURNALS HELD BY THE SOCIETY – The Society exchanges journals with a number of other fern societies in the world. We have a collection of journals/newsletters from societies in the United States (2), Australia (3), New Zealand, India and the Netherlands. If members would like to browse these, they are welcome to get in touch with the Back Numbers Organiser for a list of our holdings. The journals can then be borrowed for just the cost of postage both ways.

BACK NUMBERS OF JOURNALS – Our Back Numbers are always a good source of Pteridological information. They contain articles written by an array of authors on interesting fern subjects. You can have a sample pack of six journals for £6. A full list of journal parts stocked is available from Pat Acock.

BPS WEBSITE – www.eBPS.org.uk (hosted by The Natural History Museum.) In today's internet-oriented world, it is increasingly important for the Society to see its website as a major means of communication. The website provides information for the membership, but it is also, and perhaps more importantly, a 'shop-window' to present the Society and pteridology to the wider world. Our aim is to make our website the premier source on the internet of information about pteridophytes and pteridology. There have been a number of significant enhancements to the website this year and the whole site is in the process of being revised with a view to a 're-launch' in 2007. There is an Advisory Group to support the website Editor, which helps to identify requirements for our website and to support the work necessary to meet those requirements. Members with views on what the website should provide and with offers to help with content should contact the Website Editor, Anthony Pigott. In particular, we would appreciate suggestions for wild sites for 'Where to See Ferns'; contributions should be sent to Frank McGavigan (frank@mcbgavigan2.demon.co.uk), who is assembling this information.

BPS E-MAIL LIST – Members are reminded that there is an e-mail group or 'list' for BPS members only. Its purpose is for discussion of Society matters of common interest and for communication of information; it is not intended as a list to discuss the botany or growing of ferns, for which another list such as UK-FERNS or FERNS would be more appropriate (see the BPS website under 'Links'). Send a blank e-mail to: BPS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to subscribe. Unless your real name is obvious from your e-mail address, please send an e-mail at the same time to Webmaster@eBPS.org.uk in order to identify yourself as a BPS member. Members are encouraged to join as the potential benefits are greater with fuller participation. Contact the BPS Website Editor for further information.

BPS VIDEO 'BRITISH FERNS' – This twenty-five minute video shows most of the native British ferns growing in their natural habitats. It demonstrates the wide variety of size and form to be found in British ferns and the broad range of habitats they colonise. Attention is drawn to key identification characters for each species.

Schering Agriculture and the National Museum of Wales funded the video. It is available for loan to members and interested organisations for the cost of postage both ways. For further details contact the General Secretary.

BRITISH WILDLIFE – Concessionary individual subscriptions to *British Wildlife* magazine are available to BPS members: www.britishwildlife.com.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY – Our Society is affiliated to the RHS, enabling a limited number of members to enjoy certain privileges in connection with RHS Shows, competitions and services. Further information is available from the General Secretary.

PAYMENT OF EXPENSES – Documents setting out the *Rules of Conduct for the Treasurer* (BPS/T/1), the *Rules for Seeking Re-imbursment of Personal Travelling and Administrative Expenses* by officers and members acting on behalf of the Society (BPS/T/2), and the *Authorities for Payment* (BPS/T/3) can be obtained from the Treasurer on request.

COPYRIGHT – All contributors to the BPS journals and website are required to sign an agreement assigning ownership of copyright of the article, photograph etc. to the BPS. This has the aim of safeguarding the contributors' work from unlawful copying and use. It does not stop contributors from using their own work elsewhere provided that they acknowledge the original source of publication.

MERCHANDISE – Do you have a BPS sweatshirt, polo shirt or fleece? These are all dark green with a small embroidered BPS logo in yellow. Other items, such as BPS ties, metal badges, ferny greetings cards, bookmarks, pens and mugs, are also for sale. Can't find your order form? Contact the Merchandise Organisers or look on the website for details. The Organisers also welcome suggestions for new stock.

NEW BOOKSALES ORGANISER: Frank Katzer

BOOKSALES – It has now become more difficult to find second-hand fern books at reasonable prices so if you are thinking of selling any of your books please consider first offering them to the Society. Frank would also be pleased to receive any donated or bequeathed books that could then be offered to members at affordable prices. Contact him by e-mail if possible: Booksales@eBPS.org.uk.

DESTINATION OF PTERIDOPHYTE RECORDS – Members are reminded that records of ferns, horsetails, clubmosses and quillworts in the wild should be sent to the appropriate Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI) Vice-county recorders, whose addresses are available from the BSBI website or BSBI yearbook, which is available to BSBI members. For those without access to the Internet or yearbook, records may be sent to the BPS Recorder, Fred Rumsey, who will forward them to the BSBI. These records are stored centrally at the Biological Records Centre, and can be accessed by the BPS.

SOUTHPORT FLOWER SHOW – Why not spend a few hours or a day helping man the Society's stand? You do not need to be an expert on ferns or fern growing, just prepared to spend a few hours or a day with us. Expenses are available, as well as free entry to the Show. Details are available from Michael Hayward, 6 Far Moss Road, Blundellsands, Liverpool L23 8TQ. mhaywardL23@blueyonder.co.uk.

BPS FIRST MINUTE BOOK – This historical document containing the Committee Minutes from the inception of the Society in 1891 to 1983 is available in full colour on a CD ROM at £10 per copy, including postage. Place your order with Pat Acock.

NURSERY ADVERTISEMENTS – Members with nurseries that offer ferns are reminded that they may place an advertisement in the *Bulletin*, *Pteridologist* and on the website, free of charge, in return for the inclusion of a note about the Society in their catalogues. A suitable form of words is available from the Secretary. The Website Editor can include an image if required. If members wish their nursery to be included, please contact the General Secretary.

AMERICAN FERN SOCIETY – The AFS has had a reciprocal payment arrangement with the BPS for many years through their respective Membership Secretaries. See AFS advert on p. 432.

WANTED! NEW EDITOR FOR THE PTERIDOLOGIST – James Merryweather, our current Editor of the *Pteridologist*, is to retire from the post after the 2007 edition, his tenth! James brought the *Pteridologist* into the world of colour in 1996 and changed the format to its current popular A4 magazine style in 2002. It will be a hard act to follow but we feel sure that there are people amongst our membership that have the skills and drive to take the *Pteridologist* forward. The potential candidate(s) will get support from an editorial team and there is the possibility of help in acquiring any necessary hardware or software. If you would like an informal chat about what is involved, James is happy to be contacted on 01599 566291 or by e-mail: Pteridologist@eBPS.org.uk, or contact Martin Rickard, Chairman of the Publications Subcommittee (Pear Tree Cottage, Kyre, Tenbury Wells, Worcs. WR15 8RN, e-mail: mh.rickard@ntlworld.com).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2006

MINUTES of the 103rd Annual General Meeting of the British Pteridological Society held on Saturday 25th March 2006 at the University of Cambridge Botanic Garden, at 15.30 hrs.

IN THE CHAIR: The President, Dr A.F. Dyer.

PRESENT: Mr R.G. Ackers, Mr P.J. Acock, Miss A. Beaufoy, Mr C. & Mrs D. Brotherton, Mr A.R. Busby, Mr R.J. Cooke, Mr A.J. Dickman, Mr G. Downey, Dr A.J. Evans, Mr R. Golding, Dr Y.C. Golding, Dr M. Hayward, Mr R. Hood, Mr J.F.D. Hubert, Miss J.M. Ide, Ms E. Knox-Thomas, Dr B.E. Laue, Mr A. Leonard, Mr F. McGavigan, Dr S.D. Martinelli, Mr H.W. Matthews, Mrs K. & Mr S.J. Munyard, Mr A.H. Ogden, Mr A.C. & Mrs M. Pigott, Mr T. Pyner, Mrs B. Porter, Mr M.S. Porter, Miss A.M. Paul, Mr M.H. Rickard, Dr F.J. Rumsey, Mr P. Sharp, Mr B.D. & Mrs G.J. Smith, Mr B.R. & Mrs R. Stevenson, Prof. A.C. Wardlaw, Mr G.H. & Mrs M.D. Winder.

Item 1 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Mrs M.P. Ghullam, Dr N.J. Hards, Dr H.S. McHaffie, Mrs J. Neal, Mr L.J. Ponder, Mr R.W. Sykes, Prof. B.A. Thomas, Mrs A. & Mr B. Wright.

President's welcome: The President, Dr A.F. Dyer, welcomed members to the meeting. He thanked the East Anglia group under the leadership of Barrie Stevenson, for the organisation of the day, and made special mention of the 'catering staff', Mrs Karen Munyard, Mrs Gill Smith and Mrs Rosemary Stevenson for the excellent lunch, and the Booksales and Merchandise Managers for bringing their stock to offer members.

Item 2 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the 102nd Annual General Meeting of the British Pteridological Society held on Saturday 19th March 2005, and published in the 2005 *Bulletin* (Vol. 6, No. 4) were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Item 3 – MATTERS ARISING: At last year's meeting, the Secretary reported the Committee's decision to experiment with a smaller Committee. R.G. Ackers commented that as a result of the planning meeting held in December and resignations subsequent to last year's AGM, it had become obvious that difficulties would arise in the future from a lack of members with Committee experience to replace those officers retiring from Committee positions. Although the intention was to review the experiment after two years, it had essentially been dropped.

Item 4 – REPORT OF THE HONORARY GENERAL SECRETARY (J.M. Ide): Like all good leaders of a team, at its first meeting in 2005, the President set out his aims for the Committee. Looking back at them I believe we went a long way to achieving them in 2005 and your Committee continues to work towards them in 2006. I am not going to reiterate them here, but much of what you will hear in this report and those of other officers and appointees reflect the aims the President set out.

Two subjects in particular exercised the Committee during 2005, and several officers and committee members outside Committee meetings.

QUESTIONNAIRE AND PLANNING MEETING: In March 2005 every member received a questionnaire, drawn up by R.G. Ackers, seeking the views of the membership on a wide range of topics. During the year, R.G. Ackers presented the Committee with analyses of the returns, which the President summarised in his autumn letter. Whilst the President expressed a note of caution, pointing out that fewer than 20% of the membership had replied, the results proved interesting and highlighted items for immediate and future consideration by the Committee and its various officers and Committee appointees. It was particularly pleasing to learn that, on the whole, members were pleased with what the Society offers and any critical comments had a constructive bias. The Committee particularly appreciated the offers of help. An immediate result of the exercise was a

planning meeting, by a small working group, in Edinburgh in December 2005 (see report in 2005 *BPS Bulletin* 6(4): 339-440). The meeting was felt to have been of such benefit that it is planned to hold similar meetings at the beginning of each presidency with the results to be formally documented. The questionnaire and its results are to be archived. The Committee would like to thank R.G. Ackers for his work on the questionnaire.

THE SOCIETY'S ACCOUNTING SYSTEM: The other issue that the Committee spent several hours of its time discussing and resolving was the reporting deficiencies of the Society's various accounts that had come to light at the last AGM. It is hoped that this year the meeting will approve the changes that have been made. There are just two points I would like to mention:

For some years the AGM had been held in the autumn of each year, and although this enabled examined accounts to be presented, the AGM was effectively reporting at least a year 'after the event', if not nearly two years for some items. When the change back to a Spring AGM was agreed, it was realised that the current system of accounting would mean the accounts would be presented unexamined. This was still considered preferential to holding the AGM later in the year, and while the present system of accounting is in place and the AGM held early in the year, unexamined accounts would continue to be presented at the AGM. A suggestion to hold the AGM in April has been made and may help this situation.

Secondly, the Committee has agreed a procedure for the appointment of a delegate willing to present the report of an Officer or Appointee who is unable to attend an AGM. It will be incumbent on the officer or appointee concerned and the delegate to ensure that the delegate is aware of the background and the answers to any points in the report thought likely to lead to discussion at the AGM.

PROVISION OF COMPUTERS FOR OFFICERS AND APPOINTEES: On occasions the Society has purchased or provided a subsidy for computer equipment for members working on behalf of the Society. A document, drafted by the Treasurer and agreed by the Committee, sets out the rules and conditions relating to such purposes and goes under the grandiose title, *Rules and Conditions Pertaining to Computer Equipment Purchased or Subsidised by the BPS for a Member to Enable the Member to Perform a Specific Function*. (Identified as Treasurer's document BPS/T/4)

DATA INTEGRITY OFFICER: In these days much data and information is held on computers and is very vulnerable to being lost by computer malfunction. Dr Michael Hayward prepared a discussion document for the Committee setting out the need for a data integrity policy and the ways by which it might be achieved. The matter is still under discussion, but it is anticipated that the Committee will seek to appoint a data integrity officer, who will be responsible for identifying persons holding critical data, ensuring that officers and appointees regularly back up data they are holding, and advising those requiring guidance on data protection.

GUIDESTAR WEBSITE: A new website came into existence in 2005, *GuideStar UK* (<http://www.guidestar.org.uk>). It lists all UK registered charities giving details of the objects of the society, the latest annual report and annual statement of accounts, and provides a link to our own website. We are able to update our entry directly and add further information to it. The Society has been given a password to enable this to be done, but it is not required merely for viewing the site. This is a compulsory listing supported by the Charity Commission.

SOUTHPORT FLOWER SHOW: The tradition of a BPS stand at the Southport Flower Show still continues, with M. Hayward taking over from A.R. 'Matt' Busby in its realisation. The Committee sanctioned the purchase of new display boards, the artwork for which has been generously donated by M. Hayward. We understand that his first 'show' was rated a success and we do urge more members, where possible, to support Michael either by helping or visiting the show. We wish him continued success in future years.

FERN ATLAS SUB-COMMITTEE: With the publication of the new atlas and the need for much recording work before the production of an enlarged version can be contemplated, it was felt that the Fern Atlas Subcommittee could serve no further useful purpose at present and should be wound up. If required, it can be re-formed.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS: It would be wrong to present everything 'in the garden' as rosy, in a report such as this, when there are down sides. It is sad to note the demise of two of the three Specialist Interest Groups in recent years – Foreign Hardy Ferns and Filmy Ferns. Although a goodly number of members expressed an interest in the Special Interest Groups, very few indeed contributed, as I found to my cost when I tried to establish one for Aquatic Ferns. A.C. Wardlaw still battles on with the Tree Fern SIG, but I know he finds it hard going, and he is the main contributor to its newsletter, which is not really the purpose of these groups. May I urge interested members to support the group; I am sure Alastair can suggest ways of doing so.

IN MEMORIAM: Once again I finish my report noting very sadly the passing in 2005 of four of the longest standing members of the Society.

Rodolfo E.G. Pichi Sermolli joined in 1954. His international reputation over a wide field was known to many members of the Society, who will remember him for his particular interest in pteridophyte taxonomy and systematics.

Richard 'Dick' Cartwright, an active member since 1959, took over the Spore Exchange and established the Society's slide collection.

Trevor Walker who joined in 1960, and who died suddenly only recently, was respected for his professional achievements, in particular his work on *Pteris*, *Blechnum* and the floras of Trinidad and Jamaica. Within the Society he was also especially appreciated for his contribution to the BPS, including a successful Presidency, and will in particular be remembered fondly for his personal qualities.

Gerhard Schulze, a German member since 1965, was well known to those who met him at GEP (Group of European Pteridologists) field meetings.

It is a great testament to our Society that such eminent persons in their fields should join the Society and remain with it for the rest of their lives.

We should also remember two other pteridologists who, although not members of the BPS, made very significant contributions to world pteridology, and supported the activities of the BPS when invited to do so.

David Given, a New Zealander, was an international figure in plant conservation who had a major influence on plans to conserve pteridophytes worldwide.

Dennis Adams was a tropical botanist of note. Parts 1 & 2 of the *Fern Gazette* Vol.16 (2000) were produced to commemorate his 80th birthday.

Obituaries are to be found in the 2005 issue of the *Bulletin*, with the exception of Trevor Walker's, which is scheduled for the 2006 edition. [See this issue p. 434.]

CONCLUDING STATEMENT: My eight years as Secretary of the Society have been dominated by administrative organisation. As a result, I believe that a strong Society is now even stronger, the administration being supported by a range of carefully thought out documentation to guide officers, appointees and the Committee. There are just a few wrinkles still to be sorted out and they are already knocking on the Committee's agenda door. When they have been dealt with, I hope that time will become available at Committee meetings for 'talking about ferns', an ambition I had for the Committee but never managed to achieve. I would just say 'Go for it!' and wish the President, the Committee, officers, appointees, new or old-hands, best wishes for a productive and, yes, enjoyable time in post.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who have worked with me during my term as Secretary. The job would have been impossible without their support, and although it is invidious to mention some people and not others, I would especially like to thank ‘my’ three Presidents, Martin Rickard, Alastair Wardlaw and Adrian Dyer. They have all been more supportive than any of you can guess. I would also liked to thank Alison Paul, whose watchful eye in the background kept me on the straight and narrow in more ways than you will ever know! Thank you all very much.

Item 5 – REPORT OF THE HONORARY TREASURER (A. Leonard): A. Leonard made the following comments:

Income:

- The Booksales figure of £200 represented money returned to the main account;
- The Merchandise figure of £377.76 represented credit card charges repaid to the main account;
- Donations were compensation monies paid by the Bank of Scotland for errors made by them.

Expenditure:

- The figure for Subscriptions to Societies of £114 included the annual insurance premium;
- The figure of £494.37 for Merchandise represented monies paid to them through credit card sales.
- Stationery and postage costs appear to be apparently much smaller than in previous years; this is because the cost of the autumn mailing (£508.51) has been reported separately;
- Trustees expenses (£1,072.38) is an item required by the Charity Commissioners.

Fern Gazette:

- We were financially liable to publish two more issues of the *Fern Gazette* for 2005, and the apparent excess of income over expenditure in the balance for the year is thus exaggerated.

Restricted Funds:

- Capital and interest were separated to show more clearly what monies (interest only) are available to distribute in grants; it seems that the Society needs to be more pro-active in attracting applications for grants.

2005 was an exciting year for Publications with the publication of two books and the Society’s sponsorship of the Field Studies Council’s *Fern Guide* chart. Sales of Special Publications did particularly well in 2005. Over half of the 300 *Fern Guide* cards bought were already sold at the time of this AGM, and two thirds of the 500 copies printed of the *New Atlas of Ferns and Allied Plants of Britain and Ireland* had also been sold. Sales of the volume *Polystichum Cultivars – variation in the British shield ferns* were small, but this had only recently been published. It is looking good for Special Publications.

The Treasurer concluded his report with a comparison of the figures of the major items in his first annual report in 1996 with those in today’s statement for 2005. In all categories the figures were well up on those of ten years ago, in particular the rise in subscriptions received from £16,000 to £40,000, which, despite one rise in the subscriptions during this period, represented a big increase in the membership of the Society. All in all the finances of the Society were in a healthy state. (For the examined accounts see p. 430.)

Item 6 – REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY (M.S. Porter): In general 2005 was a good year for membership, numbers rising from the disappointing 758 members of 2004 to the very healthy total of 794 – I think this is our third highest ever number of members. However, on analysis, things are perhaps not quite as they seem. Of the 86 new members who joined the BPS in 2005, 31 were members of the American Fern Society with whom we have an Exchange Scheme. This enables members of the AFS to join the BPS through their home society without having to go to the trouble of contacting a membership secretary overseas and coping with the problems of a different currency. Likewise, members of the BPS can join the AFS simply by contacting me and letting me do the work. This reciprocal arrangement has existed for a number of years with roughly equal numbers of AFS and BPS members using the

scheme. However, just over a year ago the AFS added an extra tick box to their online renewal form enabling AFS members to join the BPS simply by ticking a box (and, of course, paying later!). This has brought about the big increase in Exchange members from the other side of the Atlantic. As a high percentage of these new members have continued their membership into 2006, we must assume they are happy with what they have got from their membership of the BPS. We are delighted to welcome them and hope others will follow their example in the future.

The detailed breakdown of BPS membership for 2005, including a comparison with 2004, is as follows: 33 Complimentary or Honorary members (1 down on 2004), 14 Student members (3 up on 2004), 61 Family members (3 up on 2004), 92 Subscribers (4 up on 2004) and 593 Ordinary members (26 up on 2004), giving, as stated before, a total of 794 members. Losses resulted from the deaths of 6 valued members of the Society, 19 resignations (11 fewer than in 2004) and the lapsing of 48 members (5 fewer than in 2004). Most people resigning gave no reason but some spoke of financial considerations. Three people gave other definite reasons for their resignation – one resigned because the US Government was making it so difficult to obtain spores via the Spore Exchange, another found the articles in the journals either too technical or simply lists of holidays or trips and a third who had joined in early November expected his payment for 2004 to cover 2005 as well. It is not current BPS policy to allow this but it might be worth re-consideration.

In reply to a question, M.S. Porter stated that the all time record membership was 801 in 2001.

A. Ogden suggested that members requiring membership of an overseas fern society with which the BPS had reciprocal arrangements for the payment of subscriptions should be able to indicate this in a 'tick box' on the subscription form, paying the subscription at the same time as their subscription to the BPS. Members paying by standing order need only increase their standing order accordingly. This was acknowledged to be a useful innovation and the Membership Secretary and the Treasurer were requested to consider this.

GIFT AID: When the BPS was registered as a charity it became possible for us to claim Gift Aid on each member's subscription. Thus, the Inland Revenue repays us 28 pence for every pound paid in as membership subscription. The rates are as follows: for each Full Member paying £20 we receive £5.60, for each Optional Member paying £16 we receive £4.48, for each Student Member paying £10 we receive £2.80 and for each Family Member making an additional payment of £2 we receive £0.56.

The few provisos are: (1) Gift Aid is available only to members who reside in the UK, (2) members on whose subscription Gift Aid is claimed must be paying income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the amount claimed, and (3) members whose subscriptions are allowed as an expense in connection with their employment may not claim Gift Aid.

A number of members have written to me saying that because of their financial situation they are unable to give authorisation to claim on their behalf. The number of members who authorise the Society to claim Gift Aid on their behalf continues to increase, if somewhat slowly. Figures for the three years when the Society has been able to claim Gift Aid are as follows: In 2003, **132** members authorised us to claim Gift Aid and the Society benefited by **£673.68**. In 2004, **164** members gave us this authorisation and we claimed **£904.96**. In 2005, **207** members gave us authorisation and we claimed **£1,129 52**.

Item 7 – REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION OFFICERS (F.J. Rumsey & H. McHaffie): F.J. Rumsey had contributed to the production of a new Red-List of British Vascular Plants, which for the first time has ranked species and significant hybrids according to the threat they face. [His own work resulted in ferns being considered for inclusion. *Secretary*] This has formed the basis for proposed revisions to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan process, which he has also been active in delivering. Ferns, as a result, now get greater consideration by the Biodiversity Action Plan and finances for conservation priorities.

The Society has also been active in support of the attempt to persuade the statutory agencies to notify as an SSSI, Smallhanger Waste in Devon, one of the finest sites for *Lycopodiella* in the country and at present at threat of development.

Item 8 – SUBCOMMITTEE (Permanent) REPORTS:

8.1 – MEETINGS SUBCOMMITTEE (P.J. Acock): I feel the balance of the 2005 programme was just right, with something for everyone. Our leaders for the meetings once again did us proud. I would like to pay a special tribute to all these wonderful people who plan and execute the meetings on our behalf. If you had to pay for the expertise and time that our leaders put in, I doubt if you would get half as good a meeting at twice the price. The illustrious band are given the most cursory of descriptions from the Subcommittee and then have to throw themselves into the planning, for up to two years in some instances, and we just enjoy it all with often not the slightest idea how it all runs so smoothly.

All our meetings were well attended this year and, judging from the comments received, greatly appreciated by the participants. Who would have thought sixty would turn up to a meeting on polypods in the New Forest in February! All this was down to the enthusiasm of a new member, Andy Byfield, who approached me with the idea in late 2003. A superb meeting in Catalonia in February was the idea of our Treasurer. Would our Victorian forebears have believed we would be slipping across to Spain for a couple of days to see the magnificent *Asplenium seelosii* and *A. fontanum* from a frozen river? The AGM in Manchester was such a wonderful idea. We had so many new faces joining us and a very good attendance for a gem of a meeting organised by Yvonne Golding and Roland Ennos. Such good company and such good fun over the weekend.

What could have been a disaster in Pembroke turned out to be yet another great meeting thanks to Martin Rickard stepping in at the last minute when our leader for the weekend was suddenly not available. We found out how much expertise the BSBI has in its recorders and how useful they are; we were able to reciprocate by finding a few new records for them. How blessed we are with people abroad who serve the Society so well. John and Margaret Scott put together such a *tour de force* in Philadelphia. What can one say about the places we saw, the gardens we visited and the people. Words fail to describe the generosity of spirit and warmth of companionship that we were able to share with fellow enthusiasts! John and Margaret worked so hard and for this we are so grateful.

Nick Hards always seems able to pull a meeting of interest out of the hat wherever we ask him to hang his hat. He managed to show us the ferns of Oxfordshire and a cultivar for Martin, and the rest of us threw in a few he never knew about. Mike Hayward took over the reins from Matt at the Southport Flower Show with a great stand and now he is going for an even more ambitious programme for 2006. Bryan and Gill Smith said 'yes' to organising a meeting in the Broads thinking it was to be a local meeting but really cut their teeth by turning out a very well organised national meeting, throwing in a few *Dryopteris × uliginosa* for good measure.

I would like to say a very special thank you to Graham Ackers who has hosted the subcommittee in all its deliberations over the years and has very sadly decided to retire this year. Graham has been the backbone of the meetings subcommittee since he joined. He has taken the minutes, steadied the ship, made sure we stayed on course, and lead some of the most superb meetings. He took us to Trinidad and those that went will never forget that trip. The autumn meetings have been such a marvel. I asked him how he had put together the superlative autumn meeting on *Polystichum* and he told me the secret: sheer hard work. But do not despair, he has agreed to lead the 2006 autumn meeting.

We welcome on board Martin Rickard and look forward to another splendid couple of seasons. We really could do with having another person on the subcommittee; although it is only one meeting a year, there are a number of other calls on your time in organising in the background but we could break you in easily.

8.2 – PUBLICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE (Acting Chairman: Dr A.F. Dyer): The subcommittee did not meet during the year but there has been considerable activity which has resulted in the production of all three journals, the publication of two *Special Publications* and enhancement of the website. The questionnaire revealed that each of our publications is rated highly by members, though different members have different preferences. Most of the editors have provided brief reports and these are reproduced below.

BULLETIN (Editor: Alison Paul): The recently published 2005 *Bulletin* was a bumper issue of 92 pages, in spite of hard pruning of some reports. No individual contribution was significantly longer than usual, the increased size being due in part to the number of obituaries, but also, more happily, to having many new members.

The feedback from the questionnaires was interesting, and demonstrated clearly that you cannot please everyone. For example, a few commented that “the cover is outdated” but another said it was “the best cover”. A few find the reports of local meetings of little interest and too long, whereas others like the local interest and find the reports a useful record of where to see ferns. The *Bulletin* is an archive record of the Society’s activities, but it was encouraging to me that so many members do find the *Bulletin* a useful source of information and a good read.

THE FERN GAZETTE (Editors: Mary Gibby & Andrew Leonard, assisted for the Symposium Proceedings by H. Schneider & J.C. Vogel): Parts 1 and 2 of the Proceedings of the Symposium “Ferns for the 21st Century” (*Fern Gazette* Volume 17, Parts 3 and 4, 2005) have been published. Copy was ready for just over half another Proceedings part, and corrections to manuscripts from four authors are awaited. Part 3 of the Proceedings should be ready by April or early May. Three papers are ready for the next standard *Gazette* Part and two further papers are being corrected; which together should make up the Part. It is expected that this issue will be ready by May or June. Papers continue to be submitted for the *Gazette*, and some authors have agreed to write reviews (with thanks to A.F. Dyer) so there is no panic about copy.

It was noted that in the past the average size of an issue was 40 pages. Recently much larger issues have been published. A. Leonard suggested that it should be agreed that 40 pages should be the standard size.

PTERIDOLOGIST (Editor: James Merryweather): I was very satisfied with the 2005 edition of *Pteridologist* despite two minor niggles, both due to production problems, not to content. The printer’s machinery was updated in 2004-5 and was less tolerant of my recently ‘perfected’ output than previously. In the final ‘machine proofs’ the illustrations came out rather wishy-washy whereas they looked fabulous in the one-off desktop proofs I’d been working from previously. I complained, but we could not work out how my computer might generate more appropriate output in time. We resolved it later, so I think I know what to do next time (fingers crossed). Also, the cover unexpectedly had a white border I had not planned or requested. I still prefer the ‘house style’ set at the beginning of the volume; others liked the accidental new look.

Due to fumbling over proofs and thin pictures during the summer holiday (not mine) period, the 2005 issue got delayed a few weeks and, since its due date was later than some people preferred, the delay effect was accentuated for them. The agreement is that the 2006 edition will appear, as intended last year, in mid August. If the Society wishes me to issue it sooner (July?), that would not be impossible and I am willing to do my best to entertain such a request. Please let me know.

The copy collection for the next issue is not overwhelming and, although the deadline is long past, I will still accept additional contributions on the understanding I might have to hold some material over if timing or space become limiting factors.

I wish to acknowledge the assistance I received from A.F. Dyer and Y.C. Golding last year, a happy collaboration that continues. I apologise to them for not having dealt with their editorial corrections to current articles for some time, assuring them that *Pteridologist* 2006 is next on my major projects list; activity will recommence at the end of March or in early April.

WEBSITE (Editor: Anthony Pigott): The Committee continue to see the BPS website as having a very important role in the future development of the Society. Accordingly, we have looked at how best to support the maintenance and development of the website and have started a programme of significant enhancements. A list of enhancements and draft site structure for the future has been drawn up. A re-design of the ‘look and feel’ of the site is underway. In the meantime, a new interim style is being implemented to give the site a fresher and more contemporary look. All new pages will now follow this; existing pages will be progressively converted.

Some recent enhancements have included:

- A new front page. This includes direct links to some of the more popular pages, news of forthcoming events and new items on the website and a featured fern.
- An introductory book list.
- *The Fern Gazette* contents and abstracts are now in place for recent issues.
- Most of ‘*Where To See Ferns*’ has been reviewed and revised by local BPS officers/members.
- A ‘*Fern News*’ page, carrying links to news stories about ferns on the Internet.

A number of people are now helping the Editor with the website; more are always welcome.

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS (Editor: Barry Thomas): Two Special Publications appeared during the year, both of which have been very well received and are selling well:

S.P. No. 7: ‘*Polystichum Cultivars – variation in the British shield ferns*’ based on the text by J.W. Dyce, but made possible and more comprehensive by the editing of Robert Sykes and Martin Rickard.

S.P. No. 8: ‘*New Atlas of Ferns & Allied Plants of Britain and Ireland*’ edited by A.C. Wardlaw and A. Leonard.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS: In addition, the Society sponsored James Merryweather’s illustrated ‘*A Key to Common Ferns*’ produced by the Field Studies Council. This has also been selling well at a discounted price from BPS Merchandise.

In concluding his report, the Acting Chairman said that he would like to point out that this output, which is remarkably ambitious for a society the size of BPS, is only possible because of the hard work of several dedicated members who volunteer to do the work. This includes the editors but also several other people who have assisted with editing, copy writing, proof correcting, distribution, etc. We are deeply indebted to all of them for their contributions. However, we cannot assume that they will all continue indefinitely, so if members want this level of activity to continue, new volunteers must come forward when the need is announced.

8.3 – FERN VARIETIES NOMENCLATURE SUBCOMMITTEE (A.R. Busby): The above subcommittee did not meet during the year. It has been decided that unless an important matter arises in fern nomenclature and needs to be discussed, there is no point in holding meetings.

Item 9 – SUBCOMMITTEE (ad hoc) REPORTS:

9.1 – FERN ATLAS SUBCOMMITTEE: No report. See Secretary’s Report, Item 4.

Item 10 – COMMITTEE-APPOINTED OFFICERS AND MANAGERS:

10.1 – ARCHIVIST (A.R. Busby): I am pleased to report that I have now completed the initial task of sorting through and listing the contents of the Society’s archive. It is a great step forward to have all the Society’s property in one place of safe-keeping and we now know what we have and where any particular item can be found.

All the Society's herbarium material is now at the Royal Horticultural Society's herbarium at Wisley and the material is being professionally mounted and catalogued. I look forward to receiving a copy of what we have at Wisley when this task is complete.

I have sorted through the Society's colour-slide collection and they are now kept in A4 pocketed plastic envelopes and number about 1,500. They are stored at my home because they take up little room and I can store them at something near optimum conditions. Further work needs to be done and I hope to produce a detailed catalogue within the next year.

10.2 – BOOKSALES (S.J. Munyard): Sales were slow but steady. I have purchased three consignments of books offered by members during the year. Purchasing books from shops for Booksales is now rare because of the high prices, but if I see a bargain, I buy it for Booksales. I would still like to give up Booksales as the pressures from work are ever growing and free time is less and less.

10.3 – MERCHANDISE (B.D. & G.J. Smith): 2005 was another busy year for Merchandising. We dealt with nearly 60 orders, which came mainly from the UK, but also as far afield as the USA, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Germany, Netherlands and Taiwan. Overall, sales amounted to nearly £2,000, considerably more than the £800 for 2004.

So why the particular success in 2005? The main reasons seem to have been distribution of the merchandise list with the *Pteridologist*, inclusion of the bargain-priced Field Studies Council Fern Guide, inclusion of BPS Special Publications and selling a number of items (such as old style sweatshirts) at 'sale' prices because previously they had not sold very well. Unfortunately, we became victims of our own success, so that at times we were overwhelmed with orders and found it difficult to cope! I am pleased to say though that Pat Acock has valiantly agreed to take over all sales of Special Publications, which should make life a little easier for us.

Mail order continues to be our main outlet for sales, but we did sell items face-to-face to members by making use of the national meetings at Oxford and Norfolk, the Kew *Polystichum* workshop and at last year's AGM. We also sold items at our local East Anglia and South-East regional meetings, and colleagues in the north again sold a number of items at the Southport Show and at their North-East and North-West AGMs.

We introduced two new ranges – BPS fleeces and eco-friendly BPS address labels for re-using envelopes. Also, thanks to Anne Wright, we continued to add new varieties of her lovely fern greetings cards, and even trialled some fern Christmas cards she had designed. The trials were successful and the Christmas cards are now a stock item.

The current merchandise list (March 2006) boasts some 18 ranges and 36 individual products. The list continues to be available through the BPS website, through routine mailings with other BPS paperwork, and we send out copies when we fulfil orders. Unusually, we do not have plans to introduce any new items during 2006, though we may dip into some of the suggestions that came from last year's questionnaire. And if anyone has any ideas for ferny items they would *really* like to see, please do let us know.

In reply to a question, B. and G. Smith responded that orders could be sent to the Merchandise Manager via the Internet but, as the money is needed before orders are dispatched, these could only be paid for by credit/debit card. There was a problem with card sales in that the charges levied by the bank to process these transactions often meant that BPS was out of pocket on the whole process. The surcharge of £2 added to each of the card sales was not enough to cover the bank charges. Andrew Leonard suggested that a charge of 5% of the purchase price be levied to card customers instead. The Merchandise Manager would consider the best way to rectify this problem.

The President congratulated the Managers on the success they are making of merchandising.

10.4 – PLANT EXCHANGE (R.G. Ackers): Following the distribution of donors' forms with the *Pteridologist* mailing, the Plant Exchange List was compiled and distributed at the end of October 2005.

Statistics for taxa offered are shown below:

Status Code	Plant Status Description	No. in 2003	No. in 2004	No. in 2005
Sp0	Sporeling less than 1 year old	3	10	0
Sp1	Sporeling 1-2 years old	8	13	15
Sp2	Sporeling 2-3 years old	10	13	15
Esp	Established plant	3	11	39
Bul	Bulbil	7	0	0
Rhs	Rhizomes	9	11	1
	Plant status not stated by donor	21	0	0
	Totals	61	58	70

The statistics for participants are shown below:

Category of Participant	2003	2004	2005
Donors (also receive list of course)	8	6	8
List requesters	10	16	19
Total Number of Participants	34	30	27

The higher number of participants in 2003/04 includes those with 'wants', now excluded from the main Plant List and handled separately by including the Wants List in the 2005 *Bulletin*.

Based on the size of the BPS membership, participation numbers continue to be low, particularly considering the opportunity to acquire plants at no cost other than postage. However, this may in part be due to the fact that members often dispose of their surplus plants to other members at our meetings – easier than bothering with packing and postage.

For future years (2007 onwards), the intention is to distribute the donors' forms with the *Bulletin* mailing, which is earlier in the year. This will then allow the Plant Exchange List to be distributed in the spring or early summer, more favourable seasons for growing and distributing plants. It is not known at this stage whether the 'Wants' side of the scheme will continue.

S.D. Martinelli suggested that a wants list might be included on the website, with it being up to each person concerned whether to give their contact details.

R.G. Ackers explained that no Plant Exchange list would be published in 2006 as the number of participants using the exchange is small and they needed time to bring on new plants to exchange.

Item 10.5 – REPORT OF THE RECORDER (F.J. Rumsey): I welcome the production of the BSBI Atlas to which BPS members have contributed data. The fern section of this has now been made available by the Society as a Special Publication and I hope will stimulate recording. A range of targeted recording activities are being planned in conjunction with the meetings programme to re-invigorate this aspect of the Society's extremely scientifically useful activity.

In reply to a question from A.R. Busby, F.J. Rumsey replied that completed record cards should be sent to him.

Several questions and comments were made about the new fern atlas. Publication of the atlas was instigated by A.C. Wardlaw and his co-editor, A. Leonard. An expanded edition with more detailed information about the distribution and ecology of individual ferns had been proposed but there was little point in being in haste to publish it; approximately ten years hence might be a suitable time-frame. During this period, it would be important to motivate and activate the membership to record ferns. A.C. Pigott and P.J. Acock were working together to interpolate recording with the meetings programme. Not all ferns needed to be targeted for recording at the same time, the suggestion being made that the critical groups, such as Dryopteris affinis agg., Cystopteris and selected hybrids should take priority. As the records for each fern were updated, the results could be published on the website. The interesting (and provocative?) comment was made that paper atlases may not exist in the future!

10.6 – SPORE EXCHANGE (B. & A. Wright): The exchange continues to be a popular service offered to members. The breakdown of the data from 2005 is as follows, with the figures for 2004 in square brackets. There were 158 [133] requests received and processed, resulting in the sending out of 2,670 [2,247] packets of spores. Of these, 107 [99] requests were from UK members (England 87 [78], Scotland 13 [8], Wales 7 [13]) and 51 [34] from overseas. This reaffirms the international nature of our exchange. The overseas requests were from Australia 2 [1], Austria 1 [3], Belgium 2 [1], Brazil 1[0], Canada 1 [0], Czech Republic 1 [1], Denmark 1 [1], Eire 2 [2], Estonia 2 [1], Finland 3 [1], France 2 [4], Germany 4 [3], Hungary 1 [0], Latvia 1 [1], Luxembourg 1 [1], Mauritius 1 [0], Mexico 1 [0], Netherlands 3 [2], Poland 1 [1], Spain 1 [1], Sweden 1 [0], Switzerland 1 [1], USA 14 [6]. Out of the 690 [679] taxa on the 2005 list, we had requests for 597 [571] of them.

We have continued to streamline our operation of the exchange and will continue to develop our technique to enable members to receive their spores as quickly as possible after they send in their request. The system proposed in the previous report has been adopted by the Committee and there will be new procedures for the 2006 spore exchange. The spore list will only be sent out to those requesting a list and members will be invited to apply for a list with the autumn mailing. Members will then receive a list by either e-mail or post at the beginning of 2006. The distribution will run through the months of January, February, March, and end in April as before. This will save a considerable amount of paper photocopying. We hope that the extra effort involved will not deter people from applying for lists.

Unfortunately, during the year we have received a number of disappointing donations. We are always extremely grateful for donations, but we find it distressing to receive those that prove to contain either no spores at all or so few spores that we cannot list that taxon. This is made worse by the knowledge that the donor would have spent considerable time collecting what they believed to be an adequate donation of spores. In an effort to help current and potential donors we plan to publish a helpful guide to go out with the spore lists and be posted on the website. We also feel that we have now received enough information on the longevity of spores that we will no longer be requesting this information from members. We are now looking for an opportunity to publish these data in one of the Society's publications and on the website.

Grateful thanks to our loyal band of donors and thanks to all of the patient requesters, particularly those early birds that get caught up in the initial rush period immediately following the publication of the list.

F. McGavigan wished to record that B. and A. Wright organised the Spore Exchange superbly.

10.7 – HORTICULTURAL INFORMATION OFFICER (A.R. Busby): It has been another quiet year with only four enquiries concerning the acquisition or growing of ferns including one query from a non-member. All were dealt with satisfactorily.

All the above reports (items 4-11) were approved, proposed by Miss A.M. Paul and seconded by A.C. Wardlaw.

The President noted that reports from the Regional Groups would not be given at this meeting but had appeared in the *Bulletin*, and he thanked the leaders and others for the considerable amount of work they put into organising the meetings for their groups. For some members this was their main, even perhaps sometimes the only, point of contact with the Society, and their importance should not go unrecognised. Society activities do not just happen; they are the product of imagination and hard work by volunteers from the membership. Without them, the Society would not be the force that it is. On behalf of all the members, he thanked everyone who has worked for the Society in the past year.

The length of this part of the Agenda is a reflection of the diversity and vigour of our activities and, provided we do not over-stretch ourselves, it is reassuring evidence of the good health of the Society. The President was impressed with the energy and enthusiasm shown by the membership, and it bodes well for the future.

Item 11 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEE & INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS:

11.1 – PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS: Before proceeding to the elections, the President addressed the meeting. His comments are reported in full as they explain some important changes in personnel that are occurring at this meeting or during the coming year:

First a word about **Vice-Presidents**. Despite the four vacancies that already exist and the impending retirement of the two remaining Vice-Presidents at next year’s AGM, there will be no recommendations for new nominations until the Committee has reviewed the role of Vice-Presidents. It is intended that the Committee’s recommendations shall be brought to next year’s Annual General Meeting.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS do not need AGM approval and are brought before the meeting for information only, although in some cases they have relevance to elections at this and future AGMs.

Publications Subcommittee Chairman. This post has not been filled in recent years and I and my predecessor as President, Alastair Wardlaw, took on the role in an acting capacity. The role is to oversee, co-ordinate and stimulate all the publication activities, including the website, and to channel advice on all relevant matters from the subcommittee, consisting of the various editors, to the main Committee. I have asked Martin Rickard to take on this role. He has considerable experience of writing and editing publications within and outside the BPS, and no-one is better qualified to look after this aspect of BPS activities, so I am delighted that he has agreed to do this.

I should add at this point that I see Publications, including the website, as one of our main areas of activities, on a level with Meetings, and in the coming year we propose to elevate the post of Subcommittee Chairman to that of elected Publications Secretary, equivalent to Meetings Secretary. For this year, however, it is a Committee Appointment.

Plant Exchange Organiser. Because Graham Ackers is taking on other duties, this post becomes vacant, and I am pleased to report that Jonathan Crowe has agreed to take it on. We thank Graham for the success of the scheme in recent years.

COMMITTEE OFFICERS:

Committee Secretary. The Committee has recognised that the duties of the Secretary have increased as the Society’s activities have expanded, and accordingly, following the retirement of J.M. Ide as Secretary, it has been agreed to split the post into two. The Committee Secretary will service the Committee meetings and the AGM, and the General Secretary will deal with all other, including external, matters. The General Secretary is an elected post covered by the existing constitution. Until the Constitution is amended in the near future, the new post of Committee Secretary will be a Committee Appointment, and I am delighted to report that Graham Ackers has come to the aid of the Society and agreed to serve in that capacity.

Project Officer. I have been conscious of the need for the BPS to be more outward looking, and not simply because we have obligations now that we have charitable status. Although our publications have a wider audience, our meetings are essentially for the members. At a time when there is very little fern research of any kind in universities, the BPS must play its part alongside Botanic Gardens in increasing our knowledge of ferns, particularly British native species. We could make more use of our widespread and knowledgeable membership but we do very little about this. Our fern recording activities have subsided somewhat in recent years, so we are not making new information on fern distributions available. We could, for example, conduct investigations of phenology, research difficult taxa like *D. affinis*, study species of ecological interest like wall ferns or urban ferns, or produce identification keys for sporelings and gametophytes, but we do not. We even have limited funds to help members with expenses for such activities, but they are not used, nor do we seek to increase those funds.

The Committee has agreed that we need someone to co-ordinate and promote such activities and we have created the post of Project Officer. An important part of this role will be to liaise within the BPS, for example with the Recorder, Meetings Secretary and Regional Group Organisers to ensure that properly targeted and executed recording is incorporated into the Meetings Programme. Another role will be to ensure that there is good liaison outside the BPS with other bodies with similar interests, and particularly with the BSBI with whom close co-operation on recording will be mutually beneficial.

To fill this role we have appointed A.C. Pigott, who has the contacts, experience and interests to get this off to a good start. We propose to make the post an elected Officer rather than an appointment. We will then have the Committee members responsible for our three main activities: meetings, publications and projects, in posts of equal, senior status on a par with the Membership Secretary.

Booksales Organiser. We have recently found a volunteer for this but this has not yet gone to Committee so he is not yet appointed.

We are looking for a volunteer to appoint to the post of **Archivist**. Matt is holding the fort for one more year but we do need a successor.

11.2 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE: Two officers retired at this meeting, the General Secretary (Miss J.M. Ide) and the Treasurer (A. Leonard); the Membership Secretary (M.S. Porter) will be retiring at the end of the year.

As noted previously, the Secretarial position has been divided into two. R.G. Ackers has been appointed by the Committee to the position of Committee Secretary, while Dr Y.C. Golding, has been nominated for the position of General Secretary, formally proposed by Prof. A.C. Wardlaw and seconded by M.S. Porter.

The Committee's nomination for the post of Treasurer was Mrs Gill J. Smith, proposed by M.S. Porter and seconded by M. Hayward.

M.S. Porter is continuing as Membership Secretary until 31 December 2006, and is currently working with his nominated successor, Michael G. Taylor, who will succeed him on 1 January 2007. M.G. Taylor was proposed on the Committee's behalf by A.F. Dyer and seconded by F. McGavigan.

All the remaining officers were eligible for and had agreed to re-election.

Of the present elected members of the Committee, Dr Y.C. Golding was retiring. The remaining Elected Committee Members (R.G. Ackers, A.R. Busby, Dr M. Hayward, F. McGavigan and B.D. Smith) were eligible for re-election. Robert W. Sykes (proposed by M.H. Rickard and seconded by M.S. Porter) and Dr Sylvia D. Martinelli (proposed by A.F. Dyer and seconded by

J.M. Ide) were nominated to be Elected Members of the Committee. Both have served on the Committee before and are willing to work again on behalf of the BPS.

Dr N.J. Hards had agreed to be nominated by the Committee for re-election as Independent Examiner for the accounts.

There being no further nominations from the floor, all the above persons were duly elected unanimously, *en bloc*, by the meeting.

Item 12 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

12.1 – PROJECT OFFICER: A.C. Pigott outlined to the meeting his thoughts on his role in the newly created post of Project Officer and how the responsibilities might be developed in future.

12.2 – ROGER GOLDING'S PROPOSED WEBSITE: Member Roger Golding is building a website illustrating the British pteridophyte flora and a proposal was put and agreed that a link should be made to it from the Society's own website. R. Golding still requires more good images of British ferns, preferably digital ones, and a list is available from him on request. It includes a link, with limited information, to allow testing of the website. He hopes to have the website up by the summer. [*Post meeting note: R. Golding's website is now active and can be accessed at <http://www.rogergolding.co.uk/ferns/index.html>*]

12.3 – PRESENTATIONS TO RETIRING OFFICERS: The President had the pleasant task of presenting engraved glass goblets with Outstanding Contribution Award certificates to the three retiring officers as an expression of the Society's gratitude for their exceptional work on its behalf. The President's citations are summarised below.

Jennifer Ide served for eight years as General Secretary. Over that period, the Society's activities have increased and probably only the last three Presidents know the full extent of what Jennifer has done for the BPS. Her attention to detail, her maintenance of continuity from meeting to meeting, her initiatives in bringing matters to the attention of the Committee, and her grasp of the broader picture in which the Committee and indeed the BPS exists, have all oiled the wheels of the BPS administration and co-ordinated its activities.

Andrew Leonard served for ten years as Treasurer, during which time he has been an effective guardian of our financial resources, advising successive Committees on subscriptions and expenditure, administering our funds, maintaining records and preparing statements of accounts. A sound Treasurer is crucial to the well being of any society and ten years is a long time to carry this responsibility.

When he retires later this year, Mike Porter will have served nearly ten years in the low-profile but crucially important role of Membership Secretary. The membership is the Society and an ineffective Membership Secretary would result in chaos and decline but Mike has been meticulous in maintaining records of our membership and administering the subscriptions while at the same time providing the first point of contact with the BPS for many members and subscribers.

Before closing the meeting the President expressed his thanks to the officers and Committee for their support through the year, and on behalf of all of the membership to everyone who had worked so hard to maintain the many and varied activities of the BPS. He again thanked the East Anglia Group team for a splendid day's programme and catering.

There being no further formal matters for consideration the Chairman declared the meeting closed at approximately 16.20 hours.

Jennifer M. Ide
Hon. Gen. Secretary

BPS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2005

2004	ORDINARY ACCOUNT	2005
	INCOME	
£15,699.54	Subscriptions	£15,654.55
602.40	Interest	866.31
1,000.00	Booksales	200.00
116.60	Merchandise	377.76
1,022.76	Inland Revenue Gift Aid	1,129.52
417.76	Donations	50.00
£18,859.06	TOTAL INCOME	£18,278.15
	EXPENDITURE	
3,413.32	Pteridologist	3,601.95
1,418.18	Fern Gazette	3,706.52
4,497.05	Bulletin	3,340.13
620.26	Printing & Stationery	444.24
1,125.26	Administration & Postage	270.05
107.00	Subscriptions to Societies	114.00
0.00	Plant & Spore Exchanges	118.81
317.90	Meetings	517.82
0.00	Merchandise	494.37
911.19	Trustees' Expenses	1,072.38
705.00	Archive Storage	439.75
0.00	Autumn Mailing	508.51
£13,115.16	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£14,628.53
5,743.90	Balance (income minus expenditure)	3,649.61
14,426.76	Brought forward from previous year	20,170.66
£20,170.66	Total in Ordinary Account	£23,820.27
	CENTENARY FUND	
291.78	Interest	291.17
-500.00	Grant	0.00
	Interest brought forward from previous year	1,195.72
-£208.22	Total Interest	£1,486.89
0.00	Donation to Fund	0.00
0.00	171 World of Ferns 171	0.00
	Capital brought forward from previous year	5,583.73
	Total Capital	£5,583.73
6,987.67	Total brought forward from previous year	Fund split (note 6)
£6,779.45	Total in Centenary Fund	£7,070.62
	GREENFIELD FUND	
91.61	Interest	98.17
0.00	Grant	0.00
	Interest brought forward from previous year	1,234.63
£91.61	Total Interest	£1,332.80
	Capital brought forward from previous year	1,051.00
	Total Capital	£1,051.00
2,194.02	Total brought forward from previous year	Fund split (note 6)
£2,285.63	Total in Greenfield Fund	£2,383.80

PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT

0.00	Field Studies Council Key to Common Ferns		-375.00
0.00	New Atlas of Ferns		-2,042.78
0.00	Polystichum Cultivars		-2,022.97
303.39	Interest		346.92
365.41	Offprints		130.66
45.00	124 Fern Names & Their Meanings	101	103.50
34.00	288 Cultivation & Propagation	271	85.00
26.40	804 History of British Pteridology	776	72.78
7.50	425 BPS Abstracts & Papers	404	52.50
30.00	12 CD Rom – BPS Minute Book	5	70.00
0.00	FSC Key to Common Ferns	148	228.00
0.00	New Atlas of Ferns	110	1,521.83
0.00	Polystichum Cultivars	221	440.00
7,265.75	Brought forward from previous year		8,077.45
£8,077.45	Total in Publications Account		£6,687.89

MERCHANDISE ACCOUNT

INCOME			
360.00	Clothing		£650.75
241.23	Stationery		£426.35
195.80	Other Miscellaneous Items		£201.00
£797.03	TOTAL MERCHANDISE INCOME		£1,278.10

EXPENDITURE			
162.12	Clothing		774.21
398.41	Stationery		244.42
7.50	Other Miscellaneous Items		28.50
137.05	Administration & Postage		509.20
£705.08	TOTAL MERCHANDISE EXPENDITURE		£1,556.33

BOOKSALES ACCOUNT

INCOME			
Not available	Booksales		969.90
<u>Not available</u>	TOTAL BOOKSALES INCOME		£969.90

EXPENDITURE			
Not available	Books		367.80
	Postage & Packing		170.26
	Stationery		57.41
<u>Not available</u>	TOTAL BOOKSALES EXPENDITURE		£595.47

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. The accounts reflect the subscriptions actually received in the year.
2. BPS Booksales had an estimated value of stock of £3,551 (£4,153) and capital of £433.43 as at 31 December 2005.
BPS Merchandise had an estimated value of stock of £2,350 (£2,290) and capital of £910.68 as at 31 December 2005.
3. The Society also possesses the following assets:
Back issues of the *Bulletin*, *Fern Gazette* and *Pteridologist* valued at approximately £3,000.
The editor of *Pteridologist* has a computer valued at £1,133.99 in 2001.
4. The Society made no grants in 2005.
5. The numbers of copies of publications are shown on either side of the title.
This year a full audit was not done on the Publications marked with an '*'. The figures displayed were calculated by subtracting the numbers sold from last year's totals.

6. The Society has decided to split the two Restricted Funds into 'Capital' and 'Interest'. The 'Interest' section of the Funds is available for payment as grants.
7. At the end of 2005 the BPS were behind with two issues of the *Fern Gazette*. This represents a financial liability of £3,000 - £4,000.

Gillian Smith, Treasurer

I have examined the accounting records maintained by the Treasurer of the British Pteridological Society for the year ending 31 December 2005, and can certify that the accounts presented to me are in accordance with the books and records.

Dr Nick Hards, Examiner, 3rd September 2006

THE AMERICAN FERN SOCIETY

The AFS invites all readers of this *Bulletin* to join the American Fern Society. You are welcome to visit the AFS website: amerfernsoc.org. Regular members receive *Fiddlehead Forum* five times a year, a newsletter published for those who are interested in growing ferns, hunting for them and expanding their knowledge of ferns. Journal members also receive the scientific quarterly *American Fern Journal*. Membership costs \$19 and \$32 per annum respectively for members residing outside USA, Canada or Mexico, including postage for airmail-assisted delivery. For particulars please write to Dr George Yatskievych, Missouri Botanical Garden, P.O. Box 299, St Louis, Missouri 63166-0299, USA (george.yatskievych@mobot.org). Online credit card payment is now available for the AFS via the AFS website.

AFS SUBSCRIPTION PAYMENTS: Our societies have an exchange arrangement whereby members of the BPS can pay their AFS subscription through the BPS Membership Secretary and *vice versa*. To take advantage of this, prospective members residing in Great Britain should contact Mr M.G. Taylor, Westlea, Kyleakin, Isle of Skye IV41 8PH (Membership@eBPS.org.uk).



photos: K. Trewren

Putative *Dryopteris aemula* × *D. dilatata*, South-West Ireland

A VISIT TO IRELAND TO INVESTIGATE TWO PUTATIVE FERN HYBRIDS

(A GRANT FROM THE CENTENARY FUND)

Financial assistance was provided to enable me to visit Glengarriff Nature Reserve in south-west Ireland in May-June 2006 for the following purposes:

1. To collect a specimen for a chromosome count from the plant that was thought to be a possible *Dryopteris aemula* × *D. dilatata* hybrid when seen during the field meeting of the British Pteridological Society in May 2003.
2. To collect a specimen for a chromosome count from the plant that was thought to be a possible hybrid between *Hymenophyllum tunbrigense* and *H. wilsonii*.

Putative *D. aemula* × *D. dilatata* hybrid

In 2003 a single plant was seen that appeared to be morphologically intermediate between the putative parents (see 2003 *BPS Bulletin* Vol. 6 No. 2, p.90, para. 7 & see pictures, left). A sample was fixed, and later examination revealed abortive spores (see picture, right), but a chromosome count was not achieved due to the lack of cells at the appropriate stage of division.

Unfortunately, the plant no longer exists. Since I saw it in May 2003, there has been some ‘tidying up’ alongside the road which runs into the reserve, and, as a result of repeated strimming, there is now a well-established grass verge where there was formerly rough vegetation. The bushes that formerly grew on the riverbank have also been cut down. This was a devastating blow for me, since I was convinced that the plant was, indeed, the hybrid in question, not least because of its abortive spores.

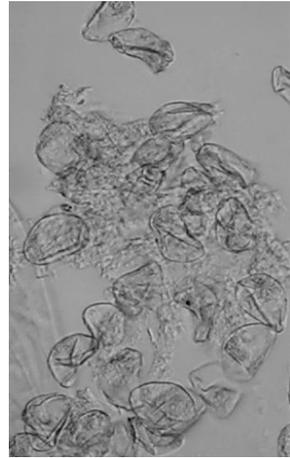


photo: K. Trewren

Spores of putative *Dryopteris aemula* × *D. dilatata*

Putative *H. tunbrigense* × *H. wilsonii* hybrid

The colony that was thought to be a possible hybrid in 2003 was growing on a rock-face only about 50 metres from the putative *Dryopteris* hybrid. Both of the parents are growing on the same rock. Further examination of the colony in 2006 revealed that the combination of characters from the parental species is because both species are growing in the same mat, with the rhizomes intermingling. This gave the impression of a colony in which the fronds arch away from the substrate and curve downwards (*H. wilsonii*), but with toothed indusial valves like those of *H. tunbrigense*.

Dryopteris affinis complex

Although this aspect of the study was not actually funded by the grant, I used the opportunity of visiting south-west Ireland to pursue my interest in the *D. affinis* complex in the area. I travelled extensively, stopping off at places of interest, and collected material from 27 distinctive looking plants. In addition to *Dryopteris affinis* subsp. *kerryensis*, the material included two variants that seem particularly distinctive, and may constitute taxa worthy of nomenclatural recognition at some level.

Many thanks to the British Pteridological Society for providing a grant towards my expenses, although I am very disappointed that the findings of the study, apart from *D. affinis*, were negative.

Kenneth Trewren

OBITUARIES

TREVOR GEORGE WALKER DSc FLS

12 January 1927 – 12 January 2006

Trevor Walker was born and grew up in York, and attended the Archbishop Holgate's School where he was Head Boy. On leaving school he did his obligatory National Service (1945-1948) and chose the Royal Air Force, eventually spending most of his time in India and Singapore.

He had already chosen to go to university, and on returning to civilian life immediately went to Leeds to study botany. The professor there, Irene Manton, had been developing cytological techniques for pteridophytes whereby one could postulate inter-relationships between genera and species by studying the pairing of chromosomes seen in the nucleus at the stage of meiosis. This work had a fundamental significance to the study of their classification and evolution, an aspect on which she had recently published in relation to British and related European ferns. Manton soon gathered around her a number of junior staff and doctorate students whose research interests centred on ferns. That was the atmosphere in which Trevor Walker found himself very early in his career and it was to be fern cytology that Trevor developed and dedicated his research time to for the rest of his life, with Irene Manton as his mentor until her death in 1988.

Having been able to apply her cytology to elucidate the taxonomy of temperate ferns, and having been stimulated by the account of the ferns of Malaya by Prof. Eric Holttum, Manton wanted to look at tropical fern cytology. The island of Ceylon (Sri Lanka) has a rich fern flora, and in 1951 she went there with one of her staff, Dr Arthur Sledge, to bring back ferns to grow in the Leeds University Botanic Garden. Trevor, having graduated in 1952, jumped at the chance of studying for a PhD under Prof. Manton. Using the material then in Leeds he was to work particularly on the genera *Thelypteris* and *Pteris*, and in 1954 he went to Ceylon with Sledge to collect more live ferns, and also learned from Sledge how to prepare good herbarium specimens.

In 1956 Trevor submitted his thesis and was offered a junior lectureship at Leeds. As a result of his PhD studies he was able to publish a new genus related to *Pteris* (*Idiopteris*), and two other papers¹. During his postgraduate time at Leeds he had met another postgraduate student, Molly Shivas, who was working on *Polypodium* and *Asplenium*, and they were married later that year.

In 1957 Trevor, accompanied by Molly, went for a year to the University of the West Indies at Mona in Jamaica on a British Commonwealth University Exchange scheme. He met up with George Proctor, an experienced local botanist at the Jamaica Museum

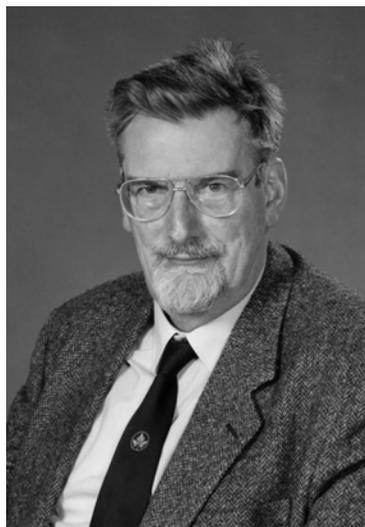


photo © University of Newcastle upon Tyne

Trevor G. Walker, 1993

¹ Walker, T.G. 1957. *Idiopteris*: a new genus of ferns from Ceylon. *Kew Bull.* 11(3): 429–432.
1958. Hybridisation in some species of *Pteris* L. *Evolution* 12(1): 82–92.
1960. The *Pteris quadriaurita* complex in Ceylon. *Kew Bull.* 14(3): 321–332.

in Kingston, and with his help was able to travel widely throughout the island and collect a large array of ferns, sending both spores and plants back to Leeds for later studies².

Trevor returned to Leeds for a further year but his assistant lectureship ended in 1959, and, there being no vacant tenure post there, he was fortunate to obtain such at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne (then still a College of Durham University), where he spent the rest of his working and post-retirement life continuing cytotaxonomic studies on ferns, and travelling extensively in the old and new world tropics to collect material.

It was in his last year at Leeds that I met Trevor. I had just taken up a position at the Natural History Museum to work specifically on the taxonomy of ferns. Although my research interests had not been in ferns, I was aware of 'the Leeds school' and wanted to make contact with people there. As Molly was working on British ferns, I first contacted her and, typical of the Walker hospitality, I was invited to visit them in Leeds. Trevor showed me the living ferns he had sent back from Jamaica and explained his research. His enthusiasm for, and understanding of, tropical ferns, although limited at that time, was sufficient to get my imagination working on future travels.

In the long vacation of 1963, Trevor organised a three-month trip to the University of the West Indies in St Augustine, Trinidad, and asked me if I could join him. We had an exciting three months collecting ferns for the new greenhouses at Newcastle University Botanic Garden, Trevor checking developing spores of each species with his field microscope to ensure they were at the right stage before chemically preserving samples for more detailed studies in Newcastle. During this time I saw a disciplined worker who wasted little time, but always found time to relax and explore his surroundings and in particular to enjoy the local food. The substantial paper³ he eventually submitted on this material was a major part of his DSc.

Two years later, it was my turn to ask Trevor if he could get away from teaching to come to Papua New Guinea with two colleagues from the NHM and me. He jumped at the chance. This was an expedition in the true sense; we spent four weeks on patrol in the Finisterre Mountains in eastern NG, organised with the help of the Forestry Department, PNG, and a similar period on shorter trips from Lae by boat, helicopter and roads – where they existed. In spite of moving on every few days, Trevor would set up his lab bench and microscope to check his material before fixing to ensure he was not wasting his time.

In 1970 Trevor again teamed up with the Natural History Museum and RBG, Kew to collect in Java and Sulawesi. The latter island was particularly productive and more plants were sent back to Newcastle, now with further greenhouses to accommodate Trevor's enlarging collection. Trevor extended that trip to spend a further three months at Bogor Botanic Gardens in Java, where Molly joined him with their young daughter.

Eight years later, Trevor joined me on the Royal Geographical Society / Sarawak Forestry Department survey of Gunung Mulu National Park. From a wide range of forest types and montane scrub in the relatively small area of 53,000 hectares he was able to make a good collection of fern chromosome fixings representing most of the genera found in Malesia.

Two further trips were made to collect ferns, this time again in the New World, to Costa Rica in 1986, where we were able to join a collecting trip organised by Conservation International (CI) from the USA. During this visit Trevor made a special study of the *Blechnum occidentale* complex and made a further visit to Venezuela the following year to

² Results published in Walker, T.G. 1966. A cytotaxonomic survey of the pteridophytes of Jamaica. *Trans. Roy. Soc. Edinburgh* 66: 169–237.

³ Walker, T.G. 1985. Cytotaxonomic studies of the ferns of Trinidad 2. The cytology and taxonomic implications. *Bull. Br. Mus. nat. Hist. (Bot.)* 13(2): 149–249.



photo: A.C. Jermy

Trevor Walker fixing ferns in Costa Rica, 1986

papers at conferences when invited if he felt his contribution was relevant but he would not push to be heard. He held a visiting professorship in the University of Aarhus, Denmark in 1976. He enjoyed his teaching and sharing his experience of other parts of the world with his undergraduate students and supervised (in a kindly and fatherly way) some five research students, two of whom made ferns their career.

Trevor was active in the Natural History Society of Northumbria, and a strong supporter of the role of the Hancock Museum in wider education. A collection of his published papers is held there.

Trevor was elected President of the BPS 1994-1997, during which time he encouraged the Society to capitalise on members' collective horticultural knowledge of ferns in both its meetings and publications. In retirement he joined his good friend, Bert Hennipman, and a group of horticulturalists in Holland to share his skills in hybridising ferns in order to combine the attractive foliage of selected *Pteris aspericaulis* forms for the house-plant trade. Unfortunately, the gene pools available in cultivation and the work involved prevented it becoming an economic venture but he showed the potential.

Trevor was a good plantsman and a keen gardener, growing fruit and vegetables and exotics, especially trees and shrubs. He grew many plants from his own seed for the annual sale of the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG) North East Group (of which he was Chairman and constituency representative on the national Council). He was always keen to share his knowledge – and living plants – with others of similar interest.

Trevor was held in high esteem by his colleagues in Newcastle University. He kept in contact with like-minded botanists around the world, always willing to comment on potential publications, especially for younger researchers. Several have written to say that his comments were made in a gentlemanly and kind way. He and Molly held an open house for any pteridologist passing between London and Edinburgh. He will be missed too by those many gardening friends with whom he shared his knowledge of plants and gardens.

Trevor was a strong family man and during all his travels, in his letters home, shared every day's adventure with his wife, Molly and son, Robert and daughter, Alex. To them we extend our sincere condolences.

A.C. Jermy

collect more cytological material and living plants. He continued to work on this material after his retirement in 1997.

Trevor's dried field collections and cytological voucher specimens are in the herbarium of the Natural History Museum, London (BM).

Trevor Walker's research was fundamental, and whilst new techniques may fine-tune his conclusions they will not change the significance of his research. He had no need to jump onto bandwagons but kept on with his study of the cytology of tropical ferns, receiving financial support from the Nuffield Foundation, UK Science Research Council and the Royal Society of London, amongst others. He gave

Doreen Holly joined the Society in 1979 and was a regular at both indoor and field meetings for many years. I first met Doreen and her husband Keith when they provided refreshments in their North Oxford garden after a Society meeting at Oxford Botanic Gardens in 1983. She had a collection of choice ferns including some particularly good *Polystichum setiferum* varieties, which have thrived over the years despite the rather inhospitable growing conditions (for ferns) in Oxfordshire. It was always a pleasure to meet Doreen and Keith on field meetings and other occasions. She was a gardener and rambler who cared deeply about the environment. She was given a green funeral, which was a celebration of her life and particularly her love of ferns and her enthusiasm for the Society. A poem 'Maidenhair' by Edgar Fawcett was read (reproduced below), *Dryopteris filix mas*, *D. affinis*, *Polystichum braunii* and *Nephrolepis* were in the floral tributes, and fresh young fronds were put in her grave by the family.

Nick Hards

MAIDENHAIR

WHEN deep in some dim glade we pause,
Perchance we mark how winds caress
These lowly sprays of quivering gauze,
Aerial in their slenderness.

The ruffled leaves of vapory green
Fringe mimic branches, fine as thread,
Above slim stems whose ebon sheen
Is always mellowing into red.

Near trees or bushes hardier born,
They group as fragile, where you pass,
As though in shreds a mist of morn
Yet lingered on the balmy grass.

Ah, shadowy ferns, in such frail ways
Your lightsome, flexuous throngs are wrought,
I half am tempted, while I gaze,
To question of my wondering thought

If silvery whispers of the breeze
Have found, as through the woods they went,
In your phantasmal delicacies
Ethereal embodiment!

Edgar Fawcett (1847-1904)

IN MEMORIAM

We were also sorry to learn of the death of the following members (date joined BPS in brackets):

Dr Anthony Griffin of Cornwall (2004)

Mr Malcolm Heywood of East Yorkshire (2002)

Mrs Rosemary Stevenson of Suffolk. Though officially a family member for about six years, Rosemary had been a stalwart member of the East Anglia Regional Group for much longer. She welcomed and encouraged new members, provided excellent refreshments at many local and several national BPS meetings, and gave her husband, Barrie, unswerving support during his ten years as organiser of the Group. She will be greatly missed and we offer our condolences to Barrie.

Mr Graham Thomsit of London (1980)

Mr Bryan Williams of Northants. (1996)

MEMBERSHIP LIST: ADDITIONS AND AMENDMENTS

NEW MEMBERS

- * *new members 2006*, ** *new members 2007*, # *members rejoined 2006*, ## *members rejoined 2007*
- * Ambachtsheer, Mr D., Abbevillelaan 34, 5627 Mz Eindhoven, Netherlands.
Dirk.Ambachtsheer@hetnet.nl
 - ** Benetti, Mr G., Via Cime Di Lavaredo 3, Rovigo, 45100, Italy
 - * Bennett, Mr J.M., 21 Osborn Road South, Fareham, Hants. PO16 7DF
 - * Botanic Gardens, Gampaha, Sri Lanka. indrawansha76@yahoo.com
 - * Byrne, Mr S., 73 Elm Street, Dover, New Jersey 07801-2813, USA. scottbyrne@gmail.com
 - ** Cameron, Ms F., 2 Beech Cottages, Pennybridge, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 7TE
 - * Cooper-Driver, Dr G.A., Landfall, Coverack, Helston, Cornwall TR12 6TF
 - ** Cowell, Mr J., Flat 6, Arnewood Court, Flexford Lane, Sway, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 6DN
 - ** Dace, Mr A.P., 95 Knole Lane, Brentry, Bristol, Avon BS10 6QH
 - * Dassler, Dr C.L., Herbarium, Museum of Biological Diversity, Ohio State University, 1315 Kinneer Rd, Columbus, Ohio 43212, USA. dassler.l@osu.edu
 - ** Dickinson, Dr N., 4 Laurel Close, Haverhill, Suffolk CB9 9DH. neil.dickinson@freeuk.com
 - * Emson, Mr N., 247 Park Avenue, Kingston upon Hull, East Yorks. HU5 4DE. nielemson@yahoo.co.uk
 - * Engelmann, Mr R.A., Holbeinstrasse 27, Leipzig, 04229, Germany. engelmann@uni-leipzig.de
 - * Folkard, Mr H.L.F., The Bungalow, Grindlow, Great Hucklow, Buxton, Derbys. SK17 8RJ
 - * Gee, Mr S.M., Meadow House, Basingstoke Road, Kingsclere, Newbury, Berks. RG20 5NT
 - ** Girling, Mrs W., 24 Pennyacre Road, Teignmouth, Devon TQ14 8LB
 - * Green Jr, Mr D.A., 10929 30th Dr SE, Everett, Washington 98208, USA. DqanJr@NorthendRental.com
 - * Hockley, Mr N.J., School of Agriculture and Forest Sciences, University of Wales, Deiniol Road, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2UW, Wales
 - * Hothersall, Mr D., 28 Croft Bank, Penwortham, Preston, Lancs. PR1 9BH.
denis.hothersall@btinternet.com
 - ## Huge, Mr M., Anemonevej 24, Hareskov, Vaerloese DK 3500, Denmark. huge@mai2.dk
 - * Huggins, Mr C., 19 Sparrows Herne, Basildon, Essex SS16 5JH. chris.huggins@blueyonder.co.uk
 - * Hughes, Dr W.E., Kinlet, Penrallt, Llanystumdwy, Criccieth, Gwynedd LL52 0SR, Wales.
william@mygarden.ws
 - # Husby, Mr C.E., FIU Biological Sciences, OE167, 11200 S.W. 8th Street, Miami, Florida 33199, USA. chad.husby@fiu.edu
 - ** Ingram, Mr T., Copton Ash, 105 Ashford Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8XW
 - * Jaques, Mr D.T., 59 Manor Road, Verwood, Dorset BH31 6DT
 - * Kuntz, Mr D., 1507 Cherry Lane, Uniontown, Ohio 44685-7706, USA. dkuntz@raex.com
 - * Lagacé, Dr J., 471 Chemin de l'Érablière, St.Gerard-des-Laurentides, QC G9R1V7, Canada
 - ** Lewis, Mr P.R., 29 Arlesey Road, Stotfold, Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG5 4HB
 - ** Lucas, Mr D.W. & Miss C. Hodges, Holcombe Hey Fold Farm, Hawkshaw, Bury, Lancs. BL8 4LD
 - * Ludlow, Mr D., 82 Indian Pond Road, Kingston, MA 02364-2003, USA. nludlow@adelphia.net
 - * Lundquist, Mr C.R., 14 Kenilworth Road, Ashford, Middx. TW15 3EL
 - ** Magrini, Dr S., Centro interdepartimentale dell'orto botanico, Univerita degli studi della Tuscia, Largo dell' Universita SNC, Viterbo, 01100, Italy
 - * Marshall, Mr K., 13 Sandon Road, Birkdale, Southport, Lancs. PR8 4QJ
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MEETINGS PROGRAMME 2007

Meetings Secretary: P.J. Acock
Meetings Subcommittee: M.H. Rickard, N.J. Hards, J.M. Ide, R.J. Cooke, P.H. Ripley

- Sat. 24 - Sun. 25 March **AGM & Spring Indoor Meeting – Edinburgh, RBGE**
Leader: Frank McGavigan
- Fri. 3 - Tues. 7 Aug. **Overseas Field Meeting – France/Italy**
Leaders: Paul Ripley & Sebastian Sant
- Fri. 10 - Sun. 12 Aug. **Weekend Garden Meeting – North Wales**
Leader: Martin Rickard
- Thurs. 16 - Sun. 19 Aug. ***Southport Flower Show: BPS Stand**
Further Info.: Michael Hayward
- Sat. 1 - Sun. 2 Sept. **Weekend Field Meeting – Peak District**
Leader: Paul Ruston
- Sat. 29 - Sun. 30 Sept. **Weekend Field Meeting – Lincolnshire**
Leaders: Paul Ripley & Graeme Clayton
- Tues. 2 - Tues. 16 Oct. **Overseas Field Meeting with Hardy Fern Foundation – Dallas, Texas, USA**
Leader: Naud Burnett
- Sat. 3 Nov. **Autumn Indoor Meeting – Wisley, Surrey**
Leader: Jennifer Ide

* *Event supported by, but not organised by, the BPS.*

For further details of these and other meetings of interest to members, including information on accommodation, please see the separate Meetings Programme sheet. This can be sent to overseas members on request and is also available on the BPS website.

REGIONAL MEETINGS

Please note: Regional group meetings are open to all members, so if you are travelling through or holidaying in one of the following areas you would be very welcome to join in. For details of meetings please see the BPS website or contact the regional organisers by e-mail, or by post enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

- Yorkshire** Bruce Brown, 4 Bank Parade, Otley, West Yorks. LS21 3DY
e-mail: Yorkshire@eBPS.org.uk
- South-East England** Paul Ripley, The Coach House, The Old Rectory, Roman Road,
Aldington, Ashford, Kent TN25 7EF; e-mail: SouthEast@eBPS.org.uk
- East Anglia** Tim Pyner [new address not yet available]
e-mail: EastAnglia@eBPS.org.uk
- North-West England** Peter Campion, Lake View, Castle Hill, Bassenthwaite, Keswick,
Cumbria CA12 4RG; e-mail: NorthWest@eBPS.org.uk
- Cornwall** Matt Stribley, 8 St George's Road, Truro, Cornwall TR1 3JE
e-mail: Cornwall@eBPS.org.uk
- Scotland** Frank McGavigan, 12 Glenbank Avenue, Lenzie, Glasgow G66 5AA
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