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## **NSCG Newsletter**

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annual conference would be a good idea and should encourage overseas members.

An annual conference would take into account zoology, botany and geology comprising: one day of talks for each discipline group, plus one on general matters - preventive, risks, buildings etc. This would total three days [meaning that those who only have enough funding/time to attend one day can do so without having waste time on other unwanted disciplines.]

Additional 2 day workshop involving technical specialist talks and practical demonstrations and/or half day practical courses in either zoology, botany, geology by rotation each year.

The conference will also give a chance for all the various sub-committees to get together while visitors go on a local Jolly and for conference organisers to have a breather.

Certificates for workshop attendees could be awarded, to add to their CVs.

#### Reasons for possible merger.

Presently we are in separate groups with little or no influence on policy makers and funding sources. I feel that as one group, something like SPNHC, we will have a much better chance of making our stronger voice heard where it matters.

Membership is confusing. Having to pay three different subscriptions, having three separate AGM'S, conferences and, for some of us, having to attend all those separate committee

meetings up and down the country is just so wasteful of time, money and logistics (like the dating of AGMs not to clash with other groups). Intending members from abroad would feel much happier about joining one organisation than having to decide which of the three (or more) suits them best and that one large annual conference would attract many more members from outside the UK. Perhaps a Joint membership of NSCG, BCG, GCG each sharing out the monies, for overseas members might make this easier?

One reason there is so little material for the newsletter, I have been told, is that authors are not interested in submitting to a newsletter that has a small circulation. At least the membership and newsletter circulation continues to augment.

In the meantime a sub-committee has been set up to investigate ways forward. I would urge members to think about the above proposals and send their views and ideas to Kirsten (chair) at the Horniman Museum.

This paper is just a suggested starter for drawing our organisations closer together and members' views are required. I hope that as natural science conservation and the desire for accreditation become stronger in the UK this proposed organisation will continue to take the steps to further such causes.

*Simon Moore*

*aka Steve in the MA Journal!*

## A New Working Party

At the NSCG committee meeting on 24 July, a new working party was set up to consider the feasibility and desirability, or otherwise, of developing formal links with related organisations, namely BCG and GCG. Its point of reference will be the aims of the NSCG and whether or not we would further or fog those aims by a merger with another group.

The NSCG was initially set up as a Section of UKIC. Following restructuring of the latter and the prospect of Section Members having to become full UKIC members (with a resultant prohibitive increase in fees) the Section/Group decided to opt out of UKIC and go it alone. Some concern has since been expressed about

the Group needing a stronger voice, more support and greater opportunity for shared meetings and publications with related groups.

We also need to consider whether or not to apply for charitable status.

Please send your ideas, suggestions, comments etc to any of the Working Party members, by phone, fax, surface mail, email, whatever, BEFORE 10 OCTOBER. We would like to present a comprehensive set of options in the next Newsletter, with a view to then holding a membership ballot.

The Working Party consists of the following committee members, Nick Gordon, Simon Moore, Tracey Seddon, Wendy Simkiss and Kirsten Walker (addresses on page 28).

