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## The Biology Curator

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Title: BCG Committee Secretary's Report

Author(s): Not Listed.

Source: Not Listed. (2000). BCG Committee Secretary's Report. *The Biology Curator*, Issue 19, 3.

URL: <http://www.natsca.org/article/816>

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## BCG Committee Secretary's Report

BCG committee has been reviewing the constitution, and has made changes, which now need to be approved and ratified by the membership. The current constitution and the proposed new constitution are printed here to give the membership the opportunity to examine them before the AGM. The purpose of these changes is to try and remove some inconsistencies and to make sure that the constitution reflects the way in which the group actually operates.

Also printed here are the minutes of the last AGM. It is hoped that you will read these before attending the AGM, so that the business of the AGM can be conducted as correctly and efficiently as possible.

The notice for the 2001 AGM and an agenda will be circulated following the next committee meeting, probably in the next issue of *The Biology Curator*, if that issue is printed sufficiently far in advance.

### Minutes of the BCG AGM 2000

Monday 3rd April 2000, Scarborough Spa Conference Centre

1. Apologies for absence: No apologies were made.
2. Minutes of the last AGM:  
Minutes for the 1999 AGM held at the Powell Cotton Museum were not available for presentation and the Secretary offered his apologies for this situation. Since it was pointed out that minutes are not officially required under the Group's constitution, it was suggested that the meeting should proceed without them on this occasion - proposed by Julian Carter, seconded by Steve Hewitt.
3. Matters arising: There were no matters arising.
4. Chairman's report:  
I am pleased to report that we have had another good year with membership holding up well and with a good programme of events including a very successful visit to Leiden and an excellent Molluscs meeting at Oxford University Museum, culminating in this joint conference with the Geology Curator's Group and Natural Sciences Conservation Group. I sincerely hope that this will reinforce our recent trend of widening our influence through close contact with other organisations, particularly GCG and NSCG. We are also currently working towards closer links with SPNHC (The Society for Preservation of Natural History Collections), the Care of Collections Forum and the Guild of Taxidermists. We also now have a

formal link with the UK Systematics Forum through Howard Mendel who will attend meetings of their Entomology Management Group on our behalf, while another of our members, Steve Garland, is now a member of the MA Council.

Your committee has been busy again this year, although increased pressures at work have meant that many of us have been unable to do as much as we would have liked - I certainly count myself amongst them. However I would like to offer particular thanks to Kathie Way for keeping our finances in good shape and for organising a memorable visit to the Netherlands, to Steve Thompson for his sterling work as Secretary and especially to our new meetings organiser, Nick Gordon, who has not only master-minded this conference and the Molluscs meeting but has also taken over responsibility for the documentation cell. Jo Hatton, has performed the unenviable task of minutes secretary with great efficiency and has also provided us with the venue for one of our committee meetings and has been working on some new publicity material for BCG. Howard Mendel has been monitoring Biological recording matters, particularly the development of Recorder 2000 and the funding of Biological Record Centres. Unfortunately, two committee members have resigned during the year - Shona Allan and John Harrison. We would like to thank Shona, for representing Scottish members so well - she has been one of best attendees at committee meetings, despite the long journeys. Thanks also to John for his services to committee, particularly in connection with last year's AGM at the Powell-Cotton Museum.

Special thanks should also go Pat Francis and Kath Berry for all their work in producing the *Biology Curator*. I am sure that you will have noticed how slim recent issues have been and this has nothing to do with their excellent efforts - I am afraid it is simply because we are not receiving enough contributions. The current *Biology Curator* had to be delayed for a few weeks before we could gather enough copy for an issue. However, with Nick Gordon's help, we are hoping to produce a series of 'themed' issues, linked to particular meetings, with write-ups of relevant talks, demonstrations and seminars. We also hope to produce a special 'legal' edition based on updated versions of talks given at the 'Legal Eagles' meeting in Edinburgh in 1998 - Steve Thompson is still beavering away on this. What we do need to revitalise the *Biology Curator* is to find a managing editor that can work alongside our excellent production team of Pat and Kath.

So, what of the year ahead? The next planned event will be a day visit to Kew - a new departure from our usual events - perhaps it is time that we visited more collections near to home. Later in the year, we hope to make our annual pilgrimage to the continent, this time