



ROYAL SOCIETY of BIOLOGY SCOTLAND

The seventh annual general meeting of the Royal Society of Biology in Scotland Branch Council was held on **Saturday, 14th November 2015, at The Byre Theatre, St Andrews, KY16 9LA**

AGENDA

- 7.0 Apologies for Absence
- 7.1 Minutes of the fifth annual general meeting of the Scottish Branch Council held on Saturday, 15th November 2014, at The Glasgow Science Centre were accepted as an accurate record
- 7.2 There were no matters arising from the minutes
- 7.3 Annual Reports:
 - 7.3.1 Chairman's Report

There have been four Scotland Branch Council meetings over 2014/15 location-wise crossing Scotland from Oban via Dundee to both Glasgow and Edinburgh, with new Branch Council members recruited representing varying aspects of the biosciences sector.

The support we received at the start of 2014, from HQ appointments have both changed significantly:

- Dr Jane Magill has assumed the national role for branches' support.
- Dr Catherine Ball as Science Policy Officer – Cat has moved on but the role still exists and is currently being covered by a. n. other.

These appointments, along with the commitment and support from our volunteer Branch Council members, have resulted in an active events calendar, some of which are identified below:

February

Professor Tim Benton Biology Higher at the University of Dundee (DC/JM)

Peter Wilson Lecture, RSE

March

Society of Biology stand at ASE conference at RGU in Aberdeen.

May

Spring meeting: Loch Lomond

The 20th Annual Teachers' meeting was held at Surgeons' Hall in Edinburgh. The Annual Teachers' Meeting organised by the Scotland Branch of the Society of Biology aims to inspire, challenge and motivate Biology teachers from across Scotland.

June

For the second year, Council organised the Top Biology Student in Scotland Award for

the best Biology undergraduate – on the basis of academic performance and outreach work. The Top students were awarded with their certificates at the Science and the Parliament event in November 2015.

October

During the third Biology Week coordinated by the Royal Society of Biology, Jane Magill, Janice Barr and Kevin O'Dell took part in a series of events representing the Society.

November

Science and the Parliament event. This event is aimed at promoting engagement between members of the scientific community, MSPs and other policy makers in the Scottish Parliament and Government. The 2015 event focussed on the Scottish General Election. In addition to Society of Biology representation at the event, we presented the Society of Biology awards for the 2015 top performing students in Higher Biology, Higher Human Biology, Higher Biotechnology and Advanced Higher Biology.

Looking ahead to the start of 2016, there are significant changes afoot in the way the Branch operates mainly as a consequence of a reduced budget. Several of the main stay events/activities will either be out sourced or will not take place in the same way for example the Peter Wilson lecture, although still taking place, the RSB will no longer contribute. The annual Teachers' meeting will still take place and is scheduled for May 2016. Synapse/ Talk Biology and the Network Co-ordinators are in play and although the management team is comprised of Branch members, the initiative functions out with the Branch. A proposal regarding the formation of a Scotland-based Special Interest Group of the RSB will be presented to Council in December enabling the Society to be fully represented and active in Scotland in terms of Policy, consultation and outreach.

Our busy programme would not of course be possible without our willing volunteer Branch Council members.

I would like to thank them all for their time and enthusiasm over the year (and 2012/13). They have been a dependable source of support and I look forward to working with them all in this my second year as Chair.

Dr Liz Lakin

7.3.2 Treasurer's Report

See appendix 1

7.4 Election of Office-bearers and Branch Council Members:

7.4.1 Treasurer, **Anuschka Miller**, nominated by Liz Lakin, seconded by Jacqueline Nairn, elected *nem con*

Secretary, **David Coates**, nominated by Liz Lakin, seconded by Kevin O'Dell, elected *nem con*

7.4.2 The following Ordinary Members were elected at the meeting:

Janice Barr, nominated by Nicola Marchant, seconded by Anuschka Miller, elected *nem con*

Diane Harbison, nominated by Anuschka Miller, seconded by Nicola Marchant, elected *nem con*.

7.4.3 Three members of the Society put themselves forward to the committee, and were duly co-opted for 2015/16.

Kevin **Kiesworo**

Marcus **Sangster**

Andrew **Spiers**

7.5 There being no other business, the meeting closed

Appendix 1: Scottish Branch Income and Expenditure

Scottish Branch Income and Expenditure to 30/09/2015

Income

Grant form Head Office	£2,500.00	
The Roslin Institute and Royal Sch of Vet Med	£500.00	
		£3,000.00

Expenditure

Travel	£1,427.78	
Hotels	£47.17	
Peter Wilson Lecture	£731.00	
Catering for Meetings	399.76	
		2605.71
Surplus/Deficit		£394.29