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For \$5 per year spouses of full members can become members of ISBE. Spousal members receive the annual newsletter and information concerning biannual meetings, but do not receive a subscription to the journal. Please see information in any issue of *Behavioral Ecology*.

Society News

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING Zurich 10th August 2000

The President Nick Davies (NBD) said the purpose of the meeting was for the officers to present brief reports, to relay the decisions made at the executive meeting and to give the attending members a chance to raise any issues. Nick then asked Paul Ward to present the Local committee report and thanked Paul for organising a wonderful meeting.

Local Committee report-Paul Ward

Paul said he was happy with the way things had run so far and said that there were 610 registrants and 65 helpers from Zurich at the conference. Paul said that the conference budget target had largely been met and that the slight deficit would be paid for by the University of Zurich.

NBD thanked Paul and his team for all their efforts and Paul received a warm round of applause.

Oxford University Press report-David Prosser

David reported that the Journal *Behavioural Ecology* was doing very well. He reported an increase in the number of manuscripts submitted, an increase in the number of subscriptions, an increase in the impact factor (which had now reached 2.869) and that the number of hits on the journal's website maintained by OUP had reached 2000 per month.

He pointed out that personal subscribers were entitled to free on-line access to the Journal as were library subscribers.

NBD added that *Behavioural Ecology* had a higher Impact factor than *Behavioural Ecology and Sociobiology* and thanked David for his efforts in making the journal a success.

Financial report-Steve Emlen on behalf of Carl Gerhardt

Steve Emlen pointed out that the ISBE not a rich society and the society did not aim to make a profit. He said that the society's finances were in slightly better shape as a result of a small profit made at the Asilomar meeting in 1998. He said that the goal of the society's executive was to keep the cost of the journal and meetings as low as possible.

Editor's report- Ron Ydenberg

Ron introduced his fellow editors Innes Cuthill, Gunilla Rosenqvist and David Westneat to the attending members. He said that in the last year the editors had received 283 submitted manuscripts which was up from 248 in the previous year. The editors had solicited 554 reviews from 444 different reviewers, and that a large proportion of the membership contributed to the editorial review process. After submitting a manuscript the average time to receiving an initial decision was 4 months and that the lag from acceptance to publication was 4-5 months. There was no queue to publication and the acceptance rate for 1999 was 35% and for 1998 was around 40 %.

Ron introduced some changes in the editorial process. These are discussed in detail in the Report from the Editor found in this Newsletter, are summarized as:

- 1) In future authors will be asked to provide a lay summary of their article for publication on the web and the instructions for this will appear in

the next issue.

- 2) In future the editors will operate a double blind reviewing system. So that, in principle, the reviewers will not know who authored the papers that they are asked to referee. The title page and the acknowledgements will be removed from all the manuscripts before they go to the reviewers.

Ron also reported that the success of the journal had meant that the editors were dealing with a lot more manuscripts, and that therefore a decision had been taken to appoint a 5th editor in Europe. He also reported that OUP were committed to introducing a web-based submission procedure which should reduce the administrative burden of dealing with the increase in submissions and may lead to changes in the editorial office.

NBD thanked the editors for their hard work.

Lay Summary Initiative-Steve Emlen (SE)

Steve reported that the idea behind asking authors to submit a 'lay' summary of their accepted manuscripts was to make the science of Behavioural Ecology more accessible to people outside the field (see Report from the Editor- this Volume). He said that the general public would have access to these summaries on the web site for the January issue in 2001. He hoped that all the authors would cooperate since it was in everyone's interest for the public to understand the importance and relevance of our field.

NBD thanked SE for spearheading this idea.

Newsletter editor's report-Bart Kempnaers

Bart reported that it had been a pleasure to serve as newsletter editor and was handing over the torch to Ken Otter who will begin as editor for Vol 13 (1).

He said that the purpose of the newsletter was to provide a forum for discussion as well as reviewing the society's business and any contributions would be welcome. He thanked the executive and all contributors for their help and NBD thanked him for his hard work.

ISBE 2002-Don Kramer

Don was introduced as one of the organisers of the next meeting which will be held at McGill University Campus in Montreal in Canada from July 8th-12th. The conference is immediately after an international jazz festival which will run from 30th June to 7th July. Montreal is the largest city in a beautiful part of Quebec. Pre- and Post-conference tours will be arranged, including whale watching. Accommodation will be offered in University Halls of residence (no air-conditioning) at current rates of \$26 for students alternatively there were many down town hotels close to the campus available at a price per night of between \$75 and \$100.

NBD thanked Don and Luc-Alain Giraldeau for agreeing to host the meeting.

W.D. Hamilton memorial lecture-NBD

Nick Davies reported that the executive had decided that there would be a lecture at every conference in the future in memory of Bill Hamilton, who tragically died earlier this year. There would be a small committee consisting of the president and the local organisers to decide who would be asked to give the lecture each year.

NBD then opened the meeting to the floor for discussion. Several matters were raised for clarification and then NBD closed the meeting by thanking the retiring officers Steve Emlen

(outgoing President), Carl Gerhardt (outgoing Treasurer) and Bart Kempenaers (outgoing newsletter Editor) and welcomed the new officers Walt Koenig (incoming treasurer) and Ken Otter (incoming newsletter editor).

Marion Petrie

Secretary October 2000

REPORT FROM THE EDITOR

One of the most important functions of the ISBE is the publication of its journal 'Behavioral Ecology', now in its 11th year. We (the four Editors: Innes Cuthill, Gunilla Rosenquist, David Westneat, and Ron Ydenberg) reported on the health of the journal at the Zurich meeting, and the highlights of that report are summarized here.

Between us we handled 283 submitted MSs in 1999, up from 242 in 1998. In doing so we collected some 554 reviews (in 1999), from 444 different reviewers. We thank the members of the Society for their co-operation and help in the review process, which was carried out (mostly) without complaint. The overall acceptance rate was just over 40% (and did not depend on which Editor handled the MS).

Those submitting an MS can (usually) expect an initial decision in about four months. Currently, there is no publication queue, so once your MS is sent to the press it is published in a further four months. Therefore, if revisions are handled promptly, your MS can be published within a year of submission.