



BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND SCIO SC016283

**Minutes of the AGM, chaired by BSS President Prof Jonathan Silvertown, RBGE,
Thursday 15 May 2025 at 19.00 hrs**

30 members were present. Council members present: Jonathan Silvertown, John Grace, David Chamberlain, Richard Wilson, Maria Chamberlain and Richard Milne.

There being more than 15 members present, the meeting was quorate with 30 members present.

1. Welcome, apologies for absence and management of the meeting

Jonathan Silvertown welcomed everyone.

Apologies were received from Fiona Maguire, Sim Tang, Jim McIntosh, Jill Thompson, Rachel Thomas, Hamlyn Jones, Greg Kenicer.

2. Minutes of the last AGM (16 May 2024)

These had been displayed on the members' area of the BSS website. No comments were received. The minutes were proposed by John Grace, seconded by Richard Wilson and accepted by a show of hands.

3. President's annual report 2024 – 2025 (Jonathan Silvertown)

- **New website:** the Society has developed a new website during the year www.botsoc.scot. The front page hosts a clear link to enable new members to join easily. Thanks to Richard Wilson for his hard work.
- **Membership:** Membership has continued to rise, particularly amongst students. Maria Chamberlain and Fiona Maguire were thanked for their work in their shared role as Membership Secretary.

Type of membership	2024	2025
Standard	194	197
Student	47	68
Total individual paid membership	241	265

- New membership software, **myClubhouse**, has been adopted. This is a secure site compliant with GDPR requirements and simplify management of membership and collection of fees. Members receiving an email from botsoc.scot asking them to login, should do so using their **email as a username**. A one-off password reset will be required. Thanks to Richard Wilson for setting this up.
- **Plant Pub:** Meetings at the Wash Bar, The Mound, Edinburgh on the 2nd Thursday of every month were introduced and were popular in the winter months. They will recommence on

11th September 2025.

- **BSS Lectures live and then on You Tube:**

There were 12 lectures added to BSS YouTube channel which has 80 more subscribers this year than last. Thanks to Maria Chamberlain for organising the lecture programme and Jim McIntosh for editing videos.

- **Field Meetings:**

The activity calendar is now on the BSS website where it can be updated regularly. Events with capacity restrictions can also be booked from here and terms and conditions for participation accepted.

- **Students:**

We continue to have an active student group. **Student News** is available on the website. Thank you to Katie Ricci for her work in representing students on the Council. Toby Cullen is standing to replace her in the coming year.

There were seven strong entries for the thesis prize; two were outstanding and both were awarded £200 and were published in BSS News.

There were three applications for training grants which have been awarded.

We continue to support Botanical University Challenge. This year teams from both Edinburgh University and RBGE took part, Aberdeen are through to the semi-finals which will be held in Cambridge in August.

- <https://botsocscot.wordpress.com/> **Plant of the Week:**

Plant of the Week continues to enjoy world-wide success and with nearly 300 species recorded is a resource available through the web site.

Contributions of 1000 words, accompanied by appropriate images of members' personal choices, are welcome.

Plant of the Week also includes fungi, honorary plants in this instance.

Thanks to Chris Jeffree and Richard Wilson who have provided many of the images.

Help with creating an online index would be appreciated.

- **Plant Ecology and Diversity (PED)**, BSS science journal, in common with many other journals is now available on-line only at a subscription of £10 pa. It is also available through university on-line libraries.

In 2004 17 papers were published, of which BSS president Jonathan Silvertown's top pick was on the volatile emissions of *Calluna vulgaris*.

- **Urban Flora of Scotland project (UFS) –**

A special issue of Urban Floras was published in PED.

BSS have funded a 400 page colour book, **The Urban Flora of Scotland**, which will be published by Pisces.

Although new records are welcome, for analysis purpose the cut-off date was 2024.

The Field Studies Council will publish part of the study as part of their ID field guides, helping to increase public engagement. Although BSS will not be actively selling the guides it is hoped that a small amount of money may come back to the society.

- **BSS News**

BSS News has a new look, thanks to Emma Quinn for producing the improved issue.

Edited by Jonathan Silvertown and Chris Jeffree BSS News comes out twice a year and both promotes the Society and informs members of its activities. Contributions on anything botanical are welcome; poems, crosswords, art and jokes are as welcome as prose. Fungi are honorary plants.

- **Thanks to Council** Jonathan thanked all the Council, those attending the AGM and all those who contribute to the smooth running of the Society.

4. Treasurer's Report. As Treasurer Sim Tang was unable to attend the AGM, David Chamberlain, past treasurer for 25 years stood in as proxy. The accounts are for the AGM only, they will be duly audited and submitted to OSCR for verification.

BSS Accounts 2024-2025 – Income and Expenditure

Income		Expenditure	
Subscriptions	£5,504.43	Lectures	£890.91
Donations	£745.81	BSS Newsletter	£4,029.54
Editorial Subvention (PED)	£3,380	PED Journal editing	£2,936.00
Royalties (PED)	delayed	Student awards etc.	£3,728.62
Investments	£6407.58	Admin software	£930.20
		Governance	£1076.35
Totals	£16,037.82		£13,591.62

Summary of BSS Accounts 2024-25 – Assets

	2024 -205	2023 -2024
Cash, Current a/c	£7,572.22	£26,131.08
Cash, CCLA Deposit a/c	£8,976.66	£11,766.97
Investments, CCLA	£220,353.95	£186,122.77
Gross Assets	£236,905.83	£224,020.82
Interest received	£6,407.58	£5,332.02

Key points from the Treasure:

- Subscriptions cover about 1/3 expenditure the rest is from BSS resources
- Cash has been reduced in favour of investments to increase the interest gained
- The Douglas Malcolm bequest will be spent on future conferences.
- Royalties from PED have been delayed but Vol. 17 has just been published
- The assets are strong with an investment income of £6,407.50
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Jonathan Silvertown proposed to accept the accounts, Chris Jeffree seconded. The accounts were accepted.

5. Resolution: Proposed Subscription increase

As membership subscription rates have not increased for 20 years, in order to keep pace with inflation, it was proposed that ordinary membership be increased from £20 to £25 pa, Student membership should remain at £5 pa and digital journal subscriptions should be £10 pa.

Proposed: Jonathan Silvertown
Seconded: Richard Wilson

Votes in favour: 29
Votes against: 0
Abstentions: 1

6. Elections/re-election of BSS Council members

There were no questions and voting to accept or reject Resolutions A, B, C & D followed.

Resolution A: BSS Council proposes the re-appointment of Council members who **have not reached** the end of their current 3-year term.

David Chamberlain (re-elected 2023)

Maria Chamberlain (re-elected 2023)

John Grace (re-elected 2023)

Liz Kungu (re-elected 2023)

Richard Milne (re-elected 2023)

Laszlo Nagy (re-elected 2023)

Jonathan Silvertown (elected 2023)

Sim Tang (elected 2023)

Resolution A was proposed by Richard Wilson, seconded by Julia Wilson and accepted unanimously.

Resolution B: BSS Council is proposing to re-elect those Council members who **have reached** the end of their current 3-year term.

Brian Ballinger (re-elected 2022)

Hamlyn Jones (re-elected 2022)

Resolution B was proposed by Jonathan Silvertown, seconded by Maria Chamberlain and accepted unanimously.

Resolution C: BSS council proposes that the following be elected as full members of council:

Toby Cullen

Chris Jeffree

Fiona Maguire

Resolution C was proposed by Jonathan Silvertown, seconded by Barbara Richardson and accepted unanimously.

A unanimous vote of thanks was given to

Jill Thompson for all her work as previous president of BSS.

And to Katie Riccio for her work as Student rep.

Both of whom are standing down from their roles.

The new BSS council will meet on 5th June 2025

6. Any other competent business

Maria Chamberlain reminded everyone of the BioBlitz on 22nd June 2025 in the Queen's Park. We are hoping to find 900 species to celebrate Edinburgh's 900th anniversary. All welcome.

David Chamberlain thanked Jonathan Silvertown for steering BSS over the last year.

The meeting was closed at 19:36.

www.botsoc.scot