

BIG AGM 2015
John Innes Centre
1315 on 23rd July 2015

Minutes

Attendance: 95

Minutes of the 2014 AGM were approved.

Matters arising from the minutes. James Piercy reported that the new logo had been developed and implemented.

Chair's report. James Piercy thanked the committee and Rachel Mason and Sarah Vining for their work during the year. He summarised his Chair's Report (full text on BIG website) noting a growth in membership and social media activity, with university outreach as a particular membership growth area. He pointed out that BIG wish to encourage and support people who have proposals for Skills Days. The Josh Phillips Award to be presented on Friday.

Treasurer's report

Lucy Moorcraft presented the Treasurer's Report. There were no questions.

Election of Officers

James Piercy (Chair), Bridget Holligan (Vice-chair), Lucy Moorcraft (Treasurer) and Ben Craven (Secretary) were re-elected unopposed. James Soper and Cordelia Spalding were elected as Ordinary Members of the Committee.

Any other business

Duncan Yellowlees asked what the pattern of membership growth was. Sarah Vining said that growth was about 10% each year. Membership about 320 at the moment.

Farrah Nazir asked where the BIG Event was to be next year. Rachel Mason said that we have talked to two organisations, but no decision has yet been reached. She said that the equivalent dates for next year were 27-29th July. Elin Roberts asked if the dates were up for negotiation, because of the timing of school holidays. An informal vote showed very little support for a term-time BIG Event. James Piercy encouraged people to let the committee know if they had strong opinions about the date of the BIG Event.

David Hall asked what the Ordinary Members do. Greg Foot and Ruth Perkins described some of the miscellaneous tasks that the Ordinary Members do, in addition to them providing extra input into committee decisions.

Dave Ansell mentioned recent lack of activity on BIG-Chat. James Piercy encouraged people to use it. Sarah Vining said that there are 1200 active BIG-Chat users.

Katie Steckles brought local science communicators' groups to our attention. She has information about where there are local groups. Mary-Clare Hallsworth said that she hoped to set a group up in London. Sam Durbin said that there was a group for presenters in London. James Piercy asked that these groups be advertised on BIG-Chat.