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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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was assisted in part by a grant from the Local Museums Purchase Fund. Its acquisition makes the museum a significant resource for the study of European butterflies. Those wishing to study it should make contact with the Keeper of Natural History prior to a visit.

Geoff Hancock
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References

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Fish conservation

The Fish Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission (of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature) is currently preparing a policy document entitled 'Fish Conservation: a Worldwide Strategy'. Any BCG members with an interest in this area and who would like to receive or contribute information or be involved in particular conservation projects should contact:

Dr P S Maitland
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AGM 88

Bolton Civic Hall, 15 & 16 April 1988

The 1988 AGM meeting at Bolton will have two themes: non-chemical methods of pest control and computer applications in museums. It has not proved feasible to put together a full meeting on non-chemical pest control, so computer applications has been included to keep members informed of developments in that field at Liverpool Museum, and to have desk top publishing methods reviewed and demonstrated. The full programme will appear in the next Newsletter.

The AGM will be held at 4pm on Friday 15 April; full notification and agenda in the next Newsletter.

BM(NH) Charging Policy - Members' Referendum

Towards the end of 1986, the BCG Committee discussed the problem of charging for services, bench space, enquiries and entrance to the British Museum (Natural History). After a long debate the Committee felt that BCG should oppose all charges for bench space, services, enquiries and consultation of collections.

However, after further discussion, and a vote carried by a majority of one, it was agreed that charging for entrance to the BM(NH) was a matter of personal opinion, and beyond the remit of Committee. At the same time we agreed to support Penny Wheatcroft's IPCS Union initiative by enclosing a letter and petition "deploring the decision to introduce admission charges to the British Museum (Natural History)" in our Newsletter.

The subject was again discussed at our Sheffield AGM in April 1987, resulting in a proposal by Dave Mellor (seconded by Sue Cross) that "the Committee take steps to canvass the opinion of the membership and to seek a mandate" with respect to BCG's involvement and further action over the BM(NH)'s policy for charging entrance to the museum. The motion was carried by a majority vote of about 75 members present at the AGM.

In line with the AGM directive, a ballot of members has been organised; a ballot slip is enclosed with this Newsletter, and members are urged to make their feelings known by mid January for discussion by Committee at their meeting on February 1st 1988.

A vote against the BM(NH) policy will result in further action by your Committee. A vote in favour of the policy will result in the item being effectively removed from the Committee agenda.

For further background reading see BCG Newsletter vol 4 (5) and the IPCS enclosure in that issue (copies available by request).

Derek Whiteley
Secretary

Request for material

The Department of Zoology, University of Tasmania, Hobart would like on long loan (or preferably gift) a mounted specimen of Thylacine or any good skeleton or skin, if anyone has such a treasure they wish to part with! Contact Professor DM Stoddart at Hobart or Rosina Down, Museum of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy, Biology Dept, (Medawar Building) University College, Gower Street, London WC1 E6BT.