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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

Title: Secretary's Report 1981-82

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Source: Stansfield, G. (1982). Secretary's Report 1981-82. *Biology Curators Group Newsletter, Vol 3 No 2*, 70.

URL: <http://www.natsca.org/article/1461>

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Secretary's Report 1981-82

Three committee meetings have been held during the year, on 30th January, 2nd April and 10th September and a further meeting is planned for January 1982.

Because the planned Cardiff conference was put back to 1982, no meetings were organised for members during the year apart from the Annual General Meeting in Birmingham on April 12th and a meeting with the GCG at Manchester on 22nd September at the start of the Museums Association conference.

Committee business has included a further consideration of the implications of the Wildlife and Countryside Bill which becomes Law in the New Year. At the time of writing copies of the Bill are not widely available, but when it has been studied, it is planned to hold a seminar in cooperation with the Museums Association to consider how it will affect museums. Comments were sent to the Standing on the section of the report on Conservation dealing with natural history collections. A new constitution has been prepared with the intention of submitting it to the Annual General Meeting in Sheffield. Draft papers have been prepared on the Criteria to be satisfied by museums accepting research collections and a Basic guide to collecting procedures for natural history material for inclusion in the NERC Newsletter. It is hoped to prepare a note for the Newsletter on museum involvement in the identification of animal and plant material for H.M. Customs and some thought has been given to the preparation of advisory notes on the use of pesticides and fungicides in natural history museums.

It is hoped shortly to announce the programme of the conference 'A National Plan for Systematic Collections' to take place in Cardiff from 6th to 9th July 1982. The Conference will be held in association with the National Museum of Wales to celebrate its 75th anniversary, and the Group is grateful to Dr Bassett and Peter Morgan for taking on most of the organization.

The committee has been represented at meetings of the Professional Groups Committee of the Museums Association (now renamed the Professional Consultative Committee); The Working Party on Natural Science Collection Resources; FENSCORE; and the Geology Curators Group. A meeting has also taken place with NERC to consider their involvement with natural history collections.

G.Stansfield, December 1981