ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014

The Linnean Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London
Thursday 27th November 2014, **4.30pm**

A G E N D A

Apologies: David Gower, Jon Bennett (to arrive late)

1. Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting

2. Matters arising from the Minutes

3. President's Business
Approval needed for Council agreement (June 2014 meeting) to amalgamate the £5 membership rate for researchers from developing countries with the £10 "student/unwaged" rate.

4. Treasurer's Report

5. Programme Secretary's Report

6. The Editor-in-Chief's Report

7. Grants & Awards Secretary's Report

8. Membership Secretary's Report

9. Newsletter Editor's Report

10. Webmaster's Report

11. Election of President 2015-2018:
Nominations:
Mark Wilkinson, Zoology, NHM
Proposed: Peter Olson, David Gower
Mark is one of the UK's leading systematists, having an exceptional track record in theoretical, methodological (including software development) and empirical research. He has made particularly substantial contributions to consensus, supertrees, missing data, character formulation, phylogenetic support and vertebrate taxonomy, phylogeny and classification. His empirical work ranges widely across comparative anatomy, alpha taxonomy and classification, morphological and molecular phylogenetics, molecular dating, palaeontology, diversification, ecology and conservation. Mark has published empirical research on organisms as diverse as amphibians, dinosaurs, fish, mammals, plants, and eu- and prokaryotic microbes. He has published more than 180 papers (attracting > 7,000 citations) in international peer-review journals (including a remarkable 30 in Systematic

Biology alone). Mark is currently Individual Merit Researcher and Head of Vertebrates Division at the NHM (and holds honorary professor/lectureships at UCL, Glasgow and Brussels) and previously held lectureships in the universities of Glasgow and Bristol. Mark was awarded the Linnean Society Bicentennial Medal in 2001. He has served on many funding and review committees and in editorial roles for several journals. He has successfully supervised 20 systematic biology PhDs and devised and taught several specialist systematics courses to under- and postgraduates. Mark is devoted to (especially collections-based) systematics. He served previously as a Systematics Association Council member 1997-2000 and 2003-2006, and is perhaps the only person to have attended all of the Systematics Association biennial conferences (including EU Biosyst conferences).
http://www.nhm.ac.uk/research-curation/about-science/staff-directory/life-sciences/m-wilkinson/

http://www.bmnh.org/web_users/mw/

12. Election of Officers
Officers due to retire:
Treasurer, Dr Peter Olson, Zoology, The Natural History Museum
Programmes Secretary, Dr Alex Monro, The Natural History Museum
Editor in Chief, Dr David Gower, Zoology, The Natural History Museum
Student Representative, Dr Ross Mounce, University of Bath

Nominations:
Treasurer
Dr Peter Olson, Zoology, The Natural History Museum (3rd term)
Proposed: Peter Wilkie, Rupert Wilson

Programmes Secretary
Dr Alex Monro, The Natural History Museum (2nd term)
Proposed: Rupert Wilson, Mark Carine

Editor in Chief
Dr David Gower, Zoology, The Natural History Museum (2nd term)
Proposed: Mark Carine, Robert Scotland

Student Representative
Luke Parry, Fossil annelids, University of Bristol.
Proposed: Ellinor Michel, Davide Pisani
Luke is a second year PhD student focusing on using fossil and molecular data to understand the origin and early evolution of annelids. The first year of his PhD focused on collecting morphological data from extant and fossil annelids as well as collecting samples on marine excursions for molecular work. Coming from a primarily geological/paleontological background this work gave him a great appreciation for the importance of systematic biology and taxonomy for understanding evolution. He therefore has an interest in maintaining the strength of the field and joining the society as a student council member. It would be a great opportunity for him to learn how professional scientific societies function and how their members can contribute. CV attached.

13. Election of Council Members
Council Members Retiring AGM 2014:
Dr Matthew A Wills, Evolutionary Biology, University of Bath
Dr Wolfgang Wüster, Zoologist, Bangor University
Dr Stefanie Klug, Palaeontologist, Bristol University
Dr Tiina Sarkinen, Botanist, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Dr Michael Kuhlmann, The Natural History Museum

Council Members co-opted onto council during the year and needing formal election at AGM:
Dr Eve Lucas, Botany, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew
Proposed: Robert Scotland, Alex Monro

Dr Ellinor Michel, Zoology, The Natural History Museum
Proposed: Robert Scotland, Peter Wilkie

New Nominations:
1. Dr Diana Percy, Research Entomologist, NHM.
Proposed: Mark Carine, Michael Kuhlmann
Current Position: Researcher, Department of Life Sciences, Natural History Museum
Interests: Taxonomy, systematics, and phylogenetics. Species interactions, particularly co-diversification of plants and insects. Speciation studies using the evolution and radiation of species on islands, and the biogeographic patterns of interacting communities to study natural selection within a systematics and phylogenetic framework.
Publications: http://www.nhm.ac.uk/research-curation/about-science/staff-directory/life-sciences/d-percy/index.html

2. Dr Xavier Aubriot, Botanist, NHM.
Proposed: Alex Monro, Ellinor Michel
A dynamic taxonomist who currently works as Sandy Knapps's RA but has done previous work on Euphorbiaceae in Madagascar.

3. Dr Greg Edgecomb, Zoology, NHM
Proposed: Ellinor Michel, Ronald Jenner
Greg Edgecombe is a Researcher at the Natural History Museum. His taxonomic expertise is in Chilopoda (centipedes) and early fossil arthropods. His research involves the higher-level phylogenetics of Arthropoda based on integration of molecular, anatomical and palaeontologcial datasets, and the systematics of myriapods.

4. Dr Zerina Johanson, Zoology, NHM
Proposed: Ellinor Michel, Ronald Jenner
Zerina Johanson is a Researcher in Early Vertebrates at the Natural History Museum, focusing on the evolutionary transition from jawless to jawed vertebrates, particularly with respect to teeth and dentitions, and the postaxial skeleton. Her taxonomic expertise is in the Placodermi and Sarcopterygii, and early vertebrates in general.

5. Dr Cathy Walton, Population Genetics, University of Manchester
Proposed: Peter Wilkie, Toby Pennington
A major part of my research is aimed at understanding the processes that generate and maintain biodiversity in the tropics e.g. vicariance resulting from historical climatic change and adaptation to new environments. We primarily use molecular population genetics approaches to infer these processes and to identify the distinct taxa generated. For example, recent work has detected multiple, hitherto unknown, taxa of mosquitoes in Southeast Asian and African forests and of flying squirrels and tree squirrels in Thailand. Such information on cryptic biodiversity is important for both the control of vector-borne disease and to develop effective conservation strategies in threatened tropical forests. http://www.manchester.ac.uk/research/catherine.walton/

6. Dr Olwen Grace, Systematics and evolution of the African desert flora, RBG Kew
Proposed: Paula Rudall, Lauren Gardiner.
Dr Olwen M. Grace is a researcher at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Her research interests include the systematics, evolutionary biology, and uses of succulent plants and the African desert flora. Her PhD (University of Pretoria, 2009) and postdoctoral research as a Marie Curie Fellow at the University of Copenhagen focused on developing a hypothesis for the evolution of the genus *Aloe* (Xanthorrhoeaceae). Aloes are diverse, valuable and highly endemic, and are one of the distinctive succulent plant groups of the Old World. Her subsequent research has expanded to other

succulent plant groups in Africa. Their ecological success makes succulents particularly interesting for understanding plant life in extreme environments. Olwen is also interested in using plant systematics to enhance decision making around priorities for research or conservation attention and the emerging area of phylogenetic prediction.

7. Dr Anne Jungblut, Microbial Diversity, NHM
Proposed: Alex Monro, David Gower.
Anne Jungblut is a Researcher in the Genomics & Microbial Biodiversity Division of The Natural History Museum, London. She received her Diplom degree in biological sciences from the University of Konstanz, Germany, and her PhD in microbiology from the University of New South Wales, Australia. Anne has research interests in the systematics and evolution in microbial diversity. Her main research focus is on microbial diversity in the Polar Regions, especially cyanobacteria in Arctic and Antarctic terrestrial aquatic ecosystems using a combination of techniques such as microscopy, enrichment isolation, and sequencing methods.

8. Prof. Beverley Glover, Floral Development, University of Cambridge
Proposed: Tiina Sarkinen, Peter Wilkie.
Professor Beverley Glover came to Cambridge in 1996 following a PhD at the John Innes Centre in Norwich. She worked initially in David Hanke's lab, and so developed an inevitable interest in cytokinins and their perception. However, her main area of interest has always been the evolution and development of floral features which attract pollinating animals. These days she spends most of her time getting money in and sending papers out, but she still finds time to do a bit of lab work, usually on projects involving MYB genes and flower development in one species or another.