



IUSI North-west European section

International Union for the Study of Social Insects

Spring Newsletter 2013

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Announcements

New officer elections

We're sad to say goodbye to the section's outgoing officers **Prof. Jeremy Field, Dr. Elva Robinson and Dr. Eamonn Mallon** who stepped down from their roles as President, Treasurer and Secretary at the end of 2012. Many thanks to each for their contribution over the past three years, and we look forward to their continuing active participation in the society. Following the new officer elections at the Winter Meeting 2012, **Dr. Mark Brown** will take over as President. Mark is well known for his research on both the evolutionary ecology of host-parasite interactions, and on insect conservation biology. He is a Reader in Evolutionary Ecology and Conservation at Royal Holloway University of London. **Prof. William Hughes** is our new Treasurer. Research in Bill's group focuses on the evolutionary biology of sociality, symbiosis and sex, and he has recently moved from the University of Leeds to the University of Sussex, where he is a Professor of Evolutionary Biology. **Dr. Elli Leadbeater** will take over as Secretary. Elli is currently a Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellow at the Institute of Zoology, where her research focuses on the cognitive basis of insect social behaviour. From June this year, she will take up a lectureship position at Queen Mary University of London.

Subscriptions

We're pleased to announce that there will be no change to our Membership Fees this year, which will remain at £15 for full members, and £7.50 for students. Payment should be made by cheque (UK members only) or by direct bank transfer (UK and international members). Please complete the membership form at the end of this email and either send it by post (if paying by cheque) or by email (if paying by bank transfer) to Bill Hughes (see contact details on the form). For those of you who haven't already paid for 2013, we'd be grateful if we could receive your membership payments by 30th April.

Student Travel Grants

The North-west European section of IUSSI supports student members by awarding small grants for conference attendance. The first round for applications has now closed. The deadline for the second and final round for applications in 2013 is 31st May. See <http://www.iussi.org/NWEurope/studentgrants.htm> for further details of how to apply.

A Spring Clean

Mark Brown writes: I'd like to start my first message to all our members by saying a big thank you to previous officers (and not just our immediate predecessors!) for running such a great Section. Certainly, for me, ever since I joined what was then the British Section in 1997, it's been a welcoming, social and intellectually thriving society. I look forward every

year to our Winter meetings, to be inspired by the latest science, meet the newest social insect researchers, and catch up with my friends. I hope that it's the same for everyone else!

On being asked if I would be prepared to stand for President of our Section - which was a huge honour - I decided that, if I were lucky enough to be elected, I and the committee would take a good look at what we, as a Section, do. The structural questions we've asked ourselves so far are whether we should just continue as usual (what ain't broke, don't need fixin'), evolve in a neo-Darwinian way, or try out some Hopeful Monsters via a bit of saltation.

While we're looking at many other things, the most immediate one, on which we would like your opinion, is the newsletters. A number of people who I've chatted with feel that 2 newsletters a year is one too many, and that the Section would be better served by a single newsletter in September. Alternatively, we might make the spring newsletter a round-up of the Winter Meeting and any changes to Section rules, for those people who were not able to make it to the meeting, and keep the Autumn newsletter for lab news and info about the next Winter Meeting. Or, of course, we can keep the status quo. Fairly soon we'll be setting up a very simple doodlepoll for people to register (or not, if they'd rather!) their views. In the meantime, if anyone has any additional suggestions re: the newsletter structure, please send them to me so they can be incorporated in the poll.

The next 3 years, with the Australian Congress in the middle, should be exciting times, and we look forward to serving you.

Upcoming meetings

IUSSI Northwest section 2013 Winter Meeting will take place at Royal Holloway, University of London. It is currently planned to be a 2-day meeting, and will take place in the week starting 16th December. Further details will follow.

Behaviour 2013 (www.iec2013.com) is a joint meeting of the 33rd International Ethological Conference (IEC) and the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour (ASAB). The conference will be held in Newcastle, UK between 4th and 8th August 2013. This will be the largest gathering of researchers working in the field of animal behaviour in 2013, and the focus spans Tinbergen's four questions: function (behavioural ecology), mechanism (cognition, neuroethology), development and phylogeny. Sharoni Shafir (Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel) is a plenary speaker, and the symposium "Sensation, Communication, and Foraging in Bees", organised by Natalie Hempel de Ibarra and Geraldine Wright, will be of particular interest to insect researchers.

ESEB 2013 (www.eseb2013.com) is the 14th Congress of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology, and will take place in Lisbon, Portugal, from 19th-24th August 2013.

Relevant symposia include “The nature and mechanisms of evolution of species recognition systems”, “Genetics and genomics of host-parasite coevolution” and “Evolutionary consequences of deception”

Apimondia 2013 (www.apimondia2013.org.ua/en) is the 43rd International Apicultural Congress, and will be held in Kyiv, Ukraine, from 29th September to 4th October 2013. A particular focus of the scientific programme will be “Beyond the Hive: Beekeeping and Global Challenges”. Abstract submissions are now open.

INTECOL 2013 (www.intecol2013.org) will take place at ExCel, London, UK, from 18th to 23rd August 2013, combining the British Ecological Society's Annual Meeting with the 11th INTECOL Congress. Plenary speakers include Professor Tim Clutton-Brock and Professor Martin Nowak. Abstract submission is now open.

*More upcoming meetings are advertised on the section's webpage
(www.iussi.org/NWEurope/meetings.htm)*

IUSSI (North-west European Section)

Section website: <http://www.iussi.org/NWEurope>

Membership 2013

1. Please complete your name and contact details (legibly):

Last name

First nameTitle (Prof., Dr, Ms, Mr).....

Address

E-mail address

Membership fees for 2013	
Ordinary Member	Student Member
£ 15.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	£ 7.50 <input type="checkbox"/>

2a. I enclose a cheque (GBP) payable to **Northwest European section IUSSI**

or

2b. I have paid by direct bank transfer

Account name: Northwest European section IUSSI

Account number: 16100247; Sort code: 602462

IBAN: GB86NWBK60246216100247

Swift/IBAN BIC: NWBKGB2L.

Bank Address: NatWest, Main Street, Heslington, York YO10 5ZB

- Please ensure you transfer the correct amount in GBP
- Please use **your name** as the payment description/reference
- Please insert the **date** of the transfer here:

3. Please tick box if you are a new member

4. Please tick box if your contact details have changed since last year

5a. If paying by cheque, please send completed form plus cheque to:

Prof. W Hughes, School of Life Sciences, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9QG.

or

5b. If paying by bank transfer, email completed form to william.hughes@sussex.ac.uk.

Section officers: President: Dr Mark Brown (mark.brown@rhul.ac.uk); Secretary: Dr Elli Leadbeater (ellouise.leadbeater@ioz.ac.uk); Treasurer: Prof Bill Hughes (william.hughes@sussex.ac.uk)