



INTERNATIONAL PEAT SOCIETY

- A scientific and technical organization for the study of peatlands and peat -

UNITED KINGDOM PEAT SOCIETY UNITED KINGDOM NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF IPS

A request to each IPS National Committee for 500€ towards the Allan Robertson Grants

Dear IPS National Committee Contacts,

Following the death of Allan Robertson who was Honorary President of IPS for almost 20 years and Chair of the UK Peat Society the IPS has established **the 'Allan Robertson Grants'** in his memory. These will be awarded to young peatland researchers, managers and practitioners in the early stages of their careers (normally under 30 years of age). Allan's family have contributed generously, IPS is matching that funding and *the UK Peat Society has donated an initial €500* totalling enough to fund five awards of €500 each in this first year – a fantastic start. Application is open to all under 30 years of age and is not restricted to members of the IPS. If you teach, supervise or know of anyone who may be eligible to apply please bring the grants to their attention. Further information can be obtained from www.peatsociety.org.

In order to make this new award scheme sustainable, and to support additional activities, the IPS has launched an **Appeal Fund** to raise money to strengthen the venture. Some UK Peat Society members have already given generously and I hope that everyone throughout the IPS will contribute. One UK member gave £500! Others have given sums of £50 and more is coming in. I want to stress, however, that although this initiative was started by the UK National Committee and Allan's family following his death in January 2014 *these grants are an IPS-wide venture and we have to raise money from across the entire IPS family.*

The prospect for these grants is enormous if you imagine how many young researchers, managers and practitioners there are in the many fields of peatlands and peat across the world. These are the future of the IPS and we have to tap into this resource. IPS cannot just give away a couple of grants of €500 each year and disappoint many good applicants. We have to increase expectations and raise more money in order to provide additional grants and even support other activities. To do this it is not possible to sit back and expect the IPS Secretariat to provide the money or even to raise it. This has to be the responsibility of each and every member of IPS – student, individual and corporate. The question is **“can we rise to the challenge?”**

This could be the largest and most prestigious venture that IPS has ever undertaken in its history and it mustn't fail. Allan Robertson's memory is only the vehicle. What is important are the young people who will remember what IPS did for them and attract them into full membership. It is a **win-win-win** situation in which you have to play your part.

Secretary: Professor Jack Rieley
The Pingle, 1 Closes Side Lane, East Bridgford, Nottingham NG13 8NA,
UNITED KINGDOM
Phone/fax: 01949 20920; Email: jack.rieley@btinternet.com

Getting to the hard bit we have to talk money! You will notice I am writing to you as Secretary of the UK National Committee because National Committees are the lifeblood of this Society that enable it to exist and function. NCs recruit most members and organise the events. They are important networks that must be listened to and respected by Executive Board and Secretariat. **The UK National Committee has contributed €500** to the Allan Robertson Grants Appeal Fund this year **and I would like to see every other National Committee giving at least the same amount.** There are 17 National Committees listed on the IPS website and if all of them gave €500 we would raise €8500, equivalent to 17 grants! In addition, National Committees should inform their members of these grants and ask them to publicise them to young peatland scientists and managers.

Unfortunately, the IPS Secretariat is not set up yet to receive donations directly from individual members or companies and at present it is more appropriate that these are collected by National Committees that can then transfer money to the Secretariat. I expect a better and more direct payment system to be put in place as a matter of urgency. If in doubt contact Susann Warnecke or me.

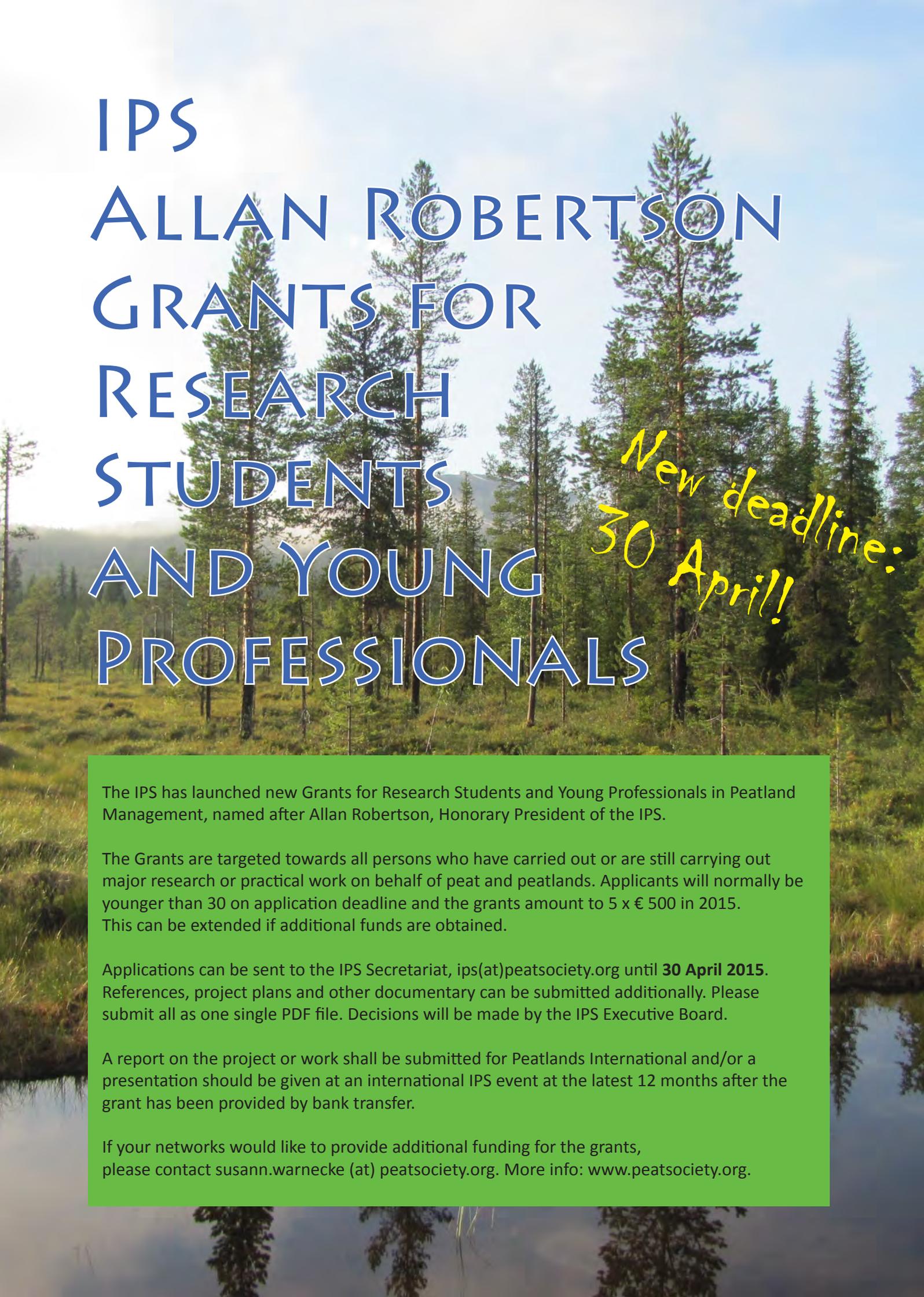
Following up on this procedure I also expect every member of the IPS Executive Board and Scientific Advisory Board to set an example and make personal contributions to the Appeal Fund. I have donated £50 and I suggest €50 be the minimum expectation. A larger amount is most welcome. EB and SAB together consists of 18 persons (I sit on both) that could raise €900, almost enough to provide two more grants.

You can see if successful this appeal could raise more than €10,000 that is the amount I predicted was possible some time ago. **Help to make it happen!**

Best wishes and looking forward to your support and action

Jack Rieley

Secretary UK Peat Society
IPS UK National Committee



IPS ALLAN ROBERTSON GRANTS FOR RESEARCH STUDENTS AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

*New deadline:
30 April!*

The IPS has launched new Grants for Research Students and Young Professionals in Peatland Management, named after Allan Robertson, Honorary President of the IPS.

The Grants are targeted towards all persons who have carried out or are still carrying out major research or practical work on behalf of peat and peatlands. Applicants will normally be younger than 30 on application deadline and the grants amount to 5 x € 500 in 2015. This can be extended if additional funds are obtained.

Applications can be sent to the IPS Secretariat, [ips\(at\)peatsociety.org](mailto:ips(at)peatsociety.org) until **30 April 2015**. References, project plans and other documentary can be submitted additionally. Please submit all as one single PDF file. Decisions will be made by the IPS Executive Board.

A report on the project or work shall be submitted for Peatlands International and/or a presentation should be given at an international IPS event at the latest 12 months after the grant has been provided by bank transfer.

If your networks would like to provide additional funding for the grants, please contact [susann.warnecke \(at\) peatsociety.org](mailto:susann.warnecke(at)peatsociety.org). More info: www.peatsociety.org.