

Minutes of the 2010 AGM

The chairman thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. It looked as though was a record turnout of over 50 people attending, no doubt a result of holding it during the time allotted to branch affairs at the annual member's day. This was a big improvement on the 12 that had attended the previous AGM in 2003. Although quite a while ago, he nonetheless went through the minutes of the previous meeting.

Minutes of previous AGM

This was held in the Guides Centre in Melville Street, Edinburgh in 2003 and was addressed by Michael Usher, chief scientist of SNH, who gave a delightful slide show of some of the most important wildlife areas in Scotland with some excellent photographs of butterflies.

Branch activity included the setting up of a branch Garden Butterfly Survey. The Chair started a discussion on the branch questionnaire, which was sent out to all branch members in a trial run with the 2003 newsletter. Of the 169 sent out, 42 were returned (25%). Comments at the time were that more moth stuff was wanted, a request which has now been amply fulfilled. The questionnaire is now routinely sent out to all new members. This gives the Chair an idea of who are the more enthusiastic ones and what they might be interested in and how they might get involved with the work of the branch.

The number of members at the time was: 146 in 2002 and 169 in 2003. It is now 350.

B. Matters Arising have long since been dealt with.

Members present: Stella Armstrong; Grahame Boath; Jane Bowman; Paul Brooks; Barry Caudwell; Cathy Caudwell; Robert Caragher; Margaret Curry; Jennifer Davidson; Tom Delaney; Keith Edwards; Glyn Edwards; Jane Edwards; Andy Fitchett; Greg Fitchett; David Garner; Jennifer Garner; Fiona Guest; Lesley Henderson; Hamish Johnston; Charlotte Johnston; Barbara Knowles; John Lindesay-Bethune; Daphne Macfarlane Smith; Ian McDonald; Leslie McTaggart; Gerry Mercer; Nick Picozzi; Ian Richardson; Martin Robinson; Andy Scott; Reuben Singleton; Ursula Smith; anne-marie Smout; Chris Smout; Alasdair Sommerville; Norman Still; Gillian Strugnell; Derek Todd; Kenneth watt; Colin Whitehead; karen Williams; Oliver Wilson; Sandy Wilson; Suzan Wilson.

Apologies for absence: Barry Prater; Lesley McCabe; Simon Pinder, John Cowan; Margaret Carlaw; Lesley Evans; Lexa Seagrave; S. Walshaw; Geoff Dunn; Ian Christie; Ramsay Reid; Catherine Fowler; Gavin Forrest; Dick Anderson; Jeff Waddell; R. Handyside; Eddie Paterson; Sarah-Louise Davies; Chris Watkinson; David Haley; Kathleen Brownlie; D & A Ramage; P & G Smith; Ann Brown; Valerie Rolton; Monica Bolton; Joan Trimmer; Malcolm Lindsay; John Bailey; Neil Mackenzie; Pru Williams; Jenny Musker; Ms D. Lytton; Audrey Abelsmith; Joan Smith.

The Chairperson's Report

The Chair then summarised the main activities of the year in the branch.

Last year the branch concentrated its efforts on **survey work**. Namely, the **WCBS, Reg.Act.Plan** and targeted recording for the Millennium Atlas update. He thanked all those who took part in these and asked members to be sure to record any butterflies they saw when out and about during the year as matter of course. This helps with the millennium update, as we need to record even the commonest species for this exercise. Sometimes the commonest ones are the ones that people don't bother with.

Treasurer's Report: our Treasurer, Susan McKenzie gave an aural report of the financial position. Her report appears elsewhere on the website.

Webmaster's Report: Mark Cubitt asked how many members had used the website, with pleasing result that a majority of the members present had visited a few times, for a variety of reasons as it turned out. He then asked if there were any changes that people would like to see. As it turned out, here were few. He finished by asking people to submit material for the website and to feel that they were the owners of the site.

Reports from local organisers

The local organisers from Fife (Duncan Davidson); Tayside and Dundee (David Lampard); and Aberdeen (Helen Rowe) then gave individual reports of the year's events in their area. A résumé of these will appear in the next newsletter. Organisers not present (Barry Prater, Borders and Lesley McCabe, Perthshire) sent in written reports, which will also appear in the newsletter.

Election of office bearers

The Chair then informed the meeting that all the local organisers had assented when asked if they were prepared to continue in their present roles, and if this was agreeable to the meeting, which it was. The Treasurer was also re-appointed but after 16 years in the post the branch organiser was standing down. Barry Prater had agreed to replace Richard Buckland as branch organiser/Chairperson. Also, Simon Pinder, newsletter editor was standing down due to pressure of work. Richard Buckland was prepared to take on this position again after a two year break. These changes were agreed by the meeting.

AOB.

The Chair raised the issue of a possible tie-up with Stirling Council to manage a wildlife site outside Stirling. This site has a colony of Large Heath on it. The committee had taken the view that, despite this site being just over the branch boundary, and into the Glasgow and SW branch, we should be prepared to get this site managed for this BAP species, and should be prepared to give both manual and financial support. Once again this was agreed by the meeting.

The meeting closed after an hour at 4 o'clock. Martin Robinson proposed a vote of thanks to Richard Buckland for all his hard work as organiser over the past sixteen years, which was gratefully accepted by Richard.

There was no time to discuss the timing of the next AGM, but afterwards some members noted that it had worked out well and that it might be a good idea to hold future AGMs of such a large, diverse branch at Member's Days.