



East Scotland Branch

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 28 September 2013, held at SNH Offices, Battleby

Present

Barry Prater (Branch Chairman), Richard Buckland (Membership Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Lothians Group Organiser), Colin Whitehead (Treasurer), Duncan Davidson (Butterfly Recorder and Fife Group Organiser), David Lampard (Angus & Tayside Group Organiser), Helen Rowe (Aberdeenshire Group Organiser), Mark Cubitt (Webmaster), Tom Delaney, Margaret Carlaw, Derek Ogston, Cathy Caudwell, Paul Brooks, Brian Stewart, William Telfer, Gordon Spiers, Bob Pitman, Brian Ballinger, Anne Reid, Elaine Abbot, Fiona Martin, Rose Kirk, Susan McKenzie, Trefor Woodford, Margaret Wilkinson, Ken Knowles, Barbara Knowles, Kenneth Watt, Gerald Lincoln, David Bryant, Vicki Bryant, Reuben Singleton, Malcolm Lindsay, Michael Johnston and Hamish Johnston.

1. Welcome

The meeting commenced at 1.45 pm and the Branch Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked people for giving up some of their lunch break during the annual Scottish Members Day to come to the branch AGM. He pointed out that the size and geography of the branch made it impracticable to hold an AGM every year - in fact the two previous meetings had been in 2010 and then in 2003. This year's meeting would be short, with an agenda which dealt with essential business only.

2. Apologies for Absence

These had been received from Lesley & Eric McCabe, Clare Tarnawska, Kirsty Maxwell Stuart, Barry Caudwell, Ellen Wilson and Dot Dahl.

3. Minutes of Previous AGM (30 October 2010)

Members had been reminded that these were available on the branch website and because so much time had elapsed since the meeting it was not thought necessary to go over them, but from the minutes it seemed to have been a very worthwhile meeting.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reviewed the many positive developments and activities which had taken place during the previous year:

- Membership had increased to 593; in 2010 it was 350 and in 2003 only 169. The Big Butterfly Count in July and August had encouraged many new

members and while this was excellent news, there might be implications down the line for servicing greater numbers of members.

- Once again, surveys and recording work had dominated members' activities. These ranged from the relatively simple Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey, through the more demanding butterfly transects and organised survey work (such as that for the Small Blue) to targeted checks on sites for priority species in the branch's Regional Action Plan, a revised version of which was completed early in the year and could be found on the branch website. This work was facilitated by on-line maps detailing all previous sites for priority species.
- There had been a limited amount of practical habitat conservation work, but plenty of behind-the-scenes activity with farmers, landowners, Local Authorities, etc. aimed at securing important sites for Lepidoptera.
- Good quality research work had been presented and published, including studies of the mating behaviour of the Gold Swift and Ghost Moth and a Scotland-wide survey of the Cinnabar.
- Over thirty public events were held during 2013, many aimed at involving members and introducing butterflies and moths (and BC) to new people. Planning and running activities such as butterfly walks and moth evenings is very time-consuming and inputs from branch members are much appreciated. Events and survey work are often in collaboration with other groups which is seen as a very effective way of working and of spreading the word.
- Publicity had been stepped up considerably. As well as some good coverage of stories in the local press, there had also been an appearance on BBC TV's Midsummer Live broadcast and the branch's Facebook page had developed well during the year - it now having 214 Likes. Members present were urged to sign up to the page as it was such a useful way of telling people things as well as being a powerful publicity tool.
- One consequence of a growing membership and a greater awareness of BC was an increase in requests of many kinds for help, advice and involvement. The need for more members to come forward and help was reiterated.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Colin Whitehead, circulated a summary of the branch's accounts for the year 2012-2013 and went through the figures, making comparisons with the previous financial year. There had been a significant income (£345) from the supply of butterfly data to consultants, newsletter costs had dropped by £207 and subscription income had risen by £608. Against these, there had been a substantial spend on equipment (£883) and also on the very successful photo competition (£221). The overall year end result was a balance of £7638, a rise of £506 on the previous year.

The Chairman pointed out that, despite the fact that BC Head Office had scrutinised and accepted these accounts, the branch membership should also approve them and this duly happened.

There was then a very brief discussion on how the branch might spend some of its funds in line with BC's charitable aims. Suggestions included covering costs associated with branch recruitment, conservation and survey work.

6. Election of branch Committee Members

All of the current committee members were previously elected in 2010 or had been co-opted since then, and so all were due for re-election. While Lesley McCabe had stepped down as Perthshire Area Organiser, all the other members had agreed to continue in their present roles. Despite several pleas for new nominations for committee members, none had materialised, although some people had offered to help with branch activities which was a very welcome development.

The Chairman proposed that all current committee members be elected en bloc and this was approved by the membership present.

The meeting closed at 2.15 pm.

Barry Prater

15 October 2013

Circulation

East Scotland Branch Committee Members

Branch website

BC Scottish Office, Stirling

BC Head Office