

Minutes of 13th AGM

Held on Friday 12th April 2013 at Scamblesby, Lincolnshire

Present: Kevin Clements, Mike Davidson, Jim Flanagan, Steve Gregory, Paul Harding, Angela Lidgett, Keith Lugg, Peter Nicholson, Helen Read, Val Standen, Imogen Wilde, Paul Lee

1. Apologies

Keith Alexander, Tony Barber, Des Kime, Paul Richards, Stephen Sutton, Una Garland, Mark Telfer

2. Minutes of 12th AGM

These were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Peter Nicholson, seconded by Jim Flanagan and agreed by all. There were no matters arising.

3. Secretary's Report

The group currently has 341 members on the mailing list. There had been a small amount of correspondence during the year including with Buglife (we remain members of Buglife).

4. Treasurers report

This was circulated. Over the year it appears that the group made a loss but this is due to money paid out in relation to the Opal grant. Incoming money is due from the NBN data cleaning contract that Paul Lee is working on with BRC.

Adoption of the financial report was proposed by Mike Davidson, seconded by Val Standen and accepted by all.

5. Recording scheme organisers reports

These were circulated. Tony Barber was not present to ask questions, however there were none. There will be a discussion about online recording tomorrow together with the website.

6. Librarian and collection managers report

Not much to report. An annual check up visit is carried out in October when a few books are added and collection checked.

7. Newsletter.

The spring and autumn editions were published and there was plenty of material. Copy from new members is encouraged and always welcome. We are grateful to BRC for printing and posting them out. Newsletters are now available for download from the website. There have been several queries as to whether members could receive theirs electronically, however, there are issues associated with this in relation to maintaining email addresses up to date and sending out (spam filters can be over active). Paper versions are also probably better read than electronic versions. However it was noted that CEH post the newsletters out in A4 envelopes and with the current postage prices it would be cheaper to fold and post as A5.

ACTION: HR to raise with BRC

8. Bulletin report

Bulletin 26 was published at the very end of 2012 and was distributed in early 2013. It was a rather slim volume but included some interesting articles. Many thanks to Steve Gregory for all his work on the layout, sending out proofs etc. Also to Paul Harding who organised the printing, mailed out copies and handled the sales (see separate report on the finances).

The copy deadline for volume 27 was 1st February. It came and went without any flurry of items being submitted! Since the last volume was rather a struggle to get enough copy we have decided not to produce volume 27 in 2013 but to collect material for 2014.

The website is now in a better position to solicit copy and, depending on how the website progresses in terms of updating, the option to publish electronically may be more realistic in the near future. The Committee will discuss this more when the website has been operating in its present form for longer.

9. Website.

This has been newly refurbished and is now operational. Steve has put in a lot of work, Paul Lee and Helen have also worked on it. Jim Bacon will come tomorrow to talk about it more. We will be looking for volunteers to fill in some gaps and to help keep it up to date, volunteers will need training to do this which is most likely to be at CEH Wallingford.

Photographs are needed, both species and some field work pictures. If anyone has any we could use that would be great. Regarding the crediting of photographs: PR has water marked his pictures which reduces the risk of use without permission and credits the author without covering important parts of the photographs. BRC are keen that the website is not seen as advertising but that authors are credited. We will be looking to produce a set of guidelines to help this in the future (together with Jim). Jim has been very good at setting up a series of help pages available for editors which are really helpful. We now need to decide who and how we update pages on the website.

Members were asked at the meeting if they had seen the new website and most had. It was agreed that it looked good. KL expressed the view that it was really useful to have verifiable photographs of species. SG explained that uploading of photographs requires special access and that they need to be re-sized into the right format.

Jim has been exceptionally helpful and given us lots of added value from extra features, he will be formally thanked the following evening.

10. Election of officers

The Chairman stood down and as the Vice Chair was not present the Treasurer took the chair and asked for proposals for Chairman. Val Standen proposed Paul Lee, Imogen seconded and Paul was elected unanimously. Paul Lee took back the chair.

The remaining officers (except webmaster) had all agreed to stand (no information had been received from Tony Barber to the contrary so it was presumed that he was happy to stand) and there were no other nominations.

They were proposed en bloc by Paul Lee who being chairman needed no seconder, they were elected unanimously as follows:

Vice Chairman – Tony Barber
Secretary – Helen Read
Treasurer – Paul Harding
Librarian/collections manager – Steve Gregory

Webmaster: In the past Glyn Collis had been our webmaster but he had not been involved in the recent developments and has not made contact although he was copied in to early correspondence. At the moment the website is still being developed and eventually an editorial panel or an editor working with a small group of people may result. It was agreed that SG, PL and HR will remain as an editorial panel for the forthcoming year to see how it develops.

The current Ordinary and Co-opted members were willing to stand again as follows:

Mike Davidson
Jim Flanagan
Peter Nicolson
Paul Richards
Imogen Wilde
Angela Lidgett (co-opted)

Keith Lugg expressed an interest in helping with the collections and he was proposed as a co-opted member.

There were no objections so all the above were elected unanimously, including Keith Lugg.

11. Financial examiner

Depending on developments regarding BMIG's affiliation to BENHS, it may be appropriate to change the financial examiner from John Newbould (of NFBR) to John Flynn (of BENHS). PTH asked that he should be given discretion to ask whichever was appropriate at the end of 2013. This was agreed.

Val Standen asked if we needed a financial examiner. HR agreed to check the constitution. [Post meeting note: The constitution states 'An independent examiner shall be elected at each annual general meeting for the following year'.]

12. Future meetings

Spring meetings

PL had asked in the newsletter if there were any preferences for the type of venue because we are increasingly finding it difficult to find suitable locations for the field meeting. The options are to aim for the cheaper end of the market (bunk house type accommodation with shared rooms) or paying more for single en-suite rooms. No responses had been received via the newsletter request. PH had analysed preferences for this meeting which revealed a roughly 50% split.

Mike Davidson had done some research on potential locations in Scotland and these were presented to the meeting. After some discussion it was agreed to try for the cheapest option of Innerwick near Dunbar as long as meals could be catered for.

Dates for the field meeting: It was agreed to circulate a sheet of dates for people to express preference.

ACTION: HR

Autumn meeting:

There had been a suggestion to go to the Royal Parks in London for a Committee meeting and then have a two day meeting linked to it with people staying in their own accommodation nearby. Another option would be to have this as a spring meeting in another year.

This autumn it was planned to hold the committee meeting in Leeds or Sheffield with a potential option to have a tour of the collections afterwards (if at a museum). Non Committee members would be welcome to come along for the tour.

PH also mentioned another option for the Easter field meeting, a Roman Catholic retreat near Huntingdon which is very inexpensive (£45 per day) and there are lots of good habitats nearby.

ACTION: PH to explore for the following year.

13. Any other business

i) Eric Philp had passed away earlier this year. Eric was our chairman for many years and was very active at the Canterbury meeting. He played a big role in many different Societies, was especially active in Kent and will be greatly missed by many people. A minute of silence was observed in memory of Eric.

ii) Stephen Sutton made contact prior to the meeting and offered to send copies of the woodlouse key with illustrations by Hilary Burn. Copies of these were available at the meeting signed by Stephen (and Paul Harding also signed some).

iii) BMIG had received an invitation from Buglife to the Grand Opening of the Alan Stubbs Library on Wednesday 19 June. If any members would like to represent BMIG please let Helen know.

14. Records from the meeting

It was agreed that it would be easiest to have one point where the records are sent and Imogen agreed to do this and subsequently to pass them on to the scheme organisers and site owners/managers. Please send on spreadsheets if possible and include records of everything – not just Myriapods (however please specify what group the record comes from it is if not a Myriapod/Isopod!). Both of Imogen's email addresses are fine to use.

ACTION: All

The write up for the Bulletin was discussed because this ideally needs local knowledge but also comments from scheme organisers. It was agreed that Imogen would write the introduction and then the scheme organisers would add comments. All records will be checked by the scheme organisers before being sent to site owners/managers.

ACTION: IW and scheme organisers

15. Thanks to meeting organisers

Thanks to Imogen and Jim for arranging the accommodation, catering and sites, also to Paul H. for dealing with bookings and collecting the money.

Meeting closed at 21.40.