

British Myriapod and Isopod Group

Minutes of the 14th AGM

Held at Haltwhistle, Northumberland on Friday 25th April 2014

1. Apologies

Keith Alexander, Paul Harding, Des Kime, John Lewis, Angela & Bernard Lidgett, Imogen Wilde

2. Minutes of 13th AGM

These were agreed as a true record, acceptance was proposed by Keith Lugg and Seconded by Peter Nicholson. This was unanimously agreed.

3. Matters arising

- a) Following contact with BRC the newsletter was now being sent in an A5 envelope (saving postage costs from an A4)
- b) We believe that Paul Harding has looked at the location near Huntingdon as a potential field meeting location and it proved too expensive.
- c) Records from meeting still to be sent to Imogen please. There are lots of outstanding records **PLEASE** all send them so that a report can be written.

4. Secretary report

Membership currently stands at 349, and includes members from a wide range of countries. New members are sent the most recent newsletter electronically along with information about who they can contact if they have questions. Frequently this results in a request to receive all newsletters electronically. The Secretary continues to receive a variety of requests for information as well as requests to check/update information on websites, such as the Countryside Jobs Service which has a webpage listing surveys that people can get involved with. We have renewed our corporate membership of Buglife and receive regular information from them throughout the year. We were not able to have a stand at the AES exhibition last year but it would be good to have a presence there if anyone is interested in manning a stand.

5. Treasurers report

See circulated report.

In summary the organisation is in good health and we have sufficient funds to operate and to publish a Bulletin this year.

Paul Harding had asked if there is anything we would like to spend funds on.

If anyone has any suggestions for projects etc. please talk to a committee member.

It was explained that we had agreed at the Committee meeting to review the direction of the group and the current Committee posts in more detail at the autumn 2014 Committee meeting and therefore this might result in some ideas that may need funds.

The Committee had also discussed the proposal that we should join NFBR. This suggestion was put to the AGM and unanimously agreed.

Thanks were given to Paul Harding for putting together the report.

6. a) Woodlouse recording scheme

There continues to be a trickle of records coming in, mostly land hoppers which people seem to be reporting to BMIG because of seeing an article that Tony Barber wrote.

Please keep records coming in as some of those in the atlas are now 20 years old.

Paul Lee explained that the new Status Reviews would require information about any changes in distribution over a 10 year period and this is difficult information for us to provide. Steve Gregory pointed out that, for example, many of the records in Ireland are quite old.

b) Millipede Recording Scheme

As with the woodlice, a small number of records continue to come in. The biggest news of the last year relates to *Chordeuma proximum* which appears to be spreading and has now been found in Yorkshire and East Suffolk, both considerable extensions to the range. Please continue to send records in, even of common species.

c) Centipede Recording Scheme

Cleaning of data has been very slow; there are still lots of duplication and errors. Tony Barber has recently received some updated maps but there are still some issues. Records are missing from people that Tony knows have information, for example those at the Lincolnshire meeting. Tony does now have records from the cave community and also some older records. The atlas is still progressing.

7. Collections and library

These are both housed at Dinton Pastures. There have been a few additions to the library and collections in the last year. The tubes have been checked and topped up. There are still a few gaps.

8. Newsletter

Please continue to send in articles. Paul Lee is always grateful for material and relatively little comes in unsolicited. If you find something new to an area or anything interesting such as specimens with abnormalities etc. do please send in a note.

9. Bulletin

No issue was published last year as there was not sufficient copy. However there is enough this year to produce a volume which will probably be published on paper. The Committee will review the situation in the autumn and now we have a functioning website we will consider again the idea of publishing electronically.

10. Web report

The website was set up by Jim Bacon of CEH and we can now use his templates. Steve Gregory has added lots of links in and new images and tinkered with it to improve it. He would like to have more pictures so if you have any please send them

to Steve, they do not necessarily need to be high resolution. It would also be nice to have pictures of identification features. Mark Robinson offered some. There is opportunity for anyone to help out with the editing process if anyone is interested. There is still some updating needed. Send all information to Steve via his email address.

It was pointed out that the e-book has lots of identification features already illustrated and that we should continue to encourage sales of the books to get them to a wider audience. **ACTION: SG** to make a slash on the home page of the website. Ideally it would be good to sell the hard copies and then some of the information from the e-books could be put on the website. Paul Richards has copies of e-book for sale this weekend too!

11. Election of officers

The Chairman stood down and the Vice Chair took the chair and asked for proposal for Chairman. Paul Lee was willing to stand again, he was proposed by Peter Nicholson, seconded by Wallace Arthur and elected unanimously.

Paul Lee took back the chair and proposed the election of the rest of officers 'en bloc'

Tony Barber proposed Paul Richards as Vice Chair but Paul was not willing to stand.

Paul Richards therefore proposed Tony Barber as vice chair who was willing to continue in this role. Paul Lee seconded this nomination.

Secretary – Paul Lee proposed Helen Read

Tony Barber seconded and Helen was thanked for her support

Treasurer – Paul Harding was willing to stand although he would be keen to hand over if there were any volunteers. Paul Lee proposed this appointment.

Curator/librarian - Steve Gregory proposed Keith Lugg who had been doing this role unofficially for much of the last year. Paul Richards seconded.

Web master -Steve Gregory was proposed by Paul Lee

These officers were unanimously elected 'en bloc' by the members present.

Committee members

The Committee consists of 5 ordinary members (plus co-opted members). These are currently:

Imogen Wilde

Mike Davidson

Jim Flanagan

Peter Nicolson

Paul Richardson

Mike Davidson was not present but had indicated that he was happy to stand for re-election but was also happy to stand down if anyone else was interested in standing. All other Committee members were happy to stand again. There were no other nominations or expressions of interest so Paul Lee proposed these 5 members were re-elected and this was unanimously agreed.

Co opted members

Duncan Sivell agreed to be co-opted as he was organising the next field meeting. Angela Lidgett has also been co-opted to the Committee in recent years and would be this year too.

12. Appointment of financial examiner

Paul Harding normally asks permission to choose a financial examiner to check over the counts. It was agreed unanimously that Paul should have discretion to choose and organise this.

13. Future meetings

April 2015 – Duncan has reserved a booking for 9-12 April (weekend after Easter) in Linlithgow for 15-30 people at an outdoor education centre. The surrounding area is quite industrial so there should be a good range of post industrial sites as well as nature reserves to visit. The Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh would also be good to visit (it was the location for an unknown new woodlouse for the country) and there are also plenty of church yards and Arthur's seat (area of interesting geology). It may be easier for some people to get the train or fly so it is possible we may need some extra transport. Thanks were expressed to Duncan for organising this.

14. AOB

Tony Barber pointed out that several of the centipedes have changed names again recently and reverted to older genera. There was a request for note in the newsletter to summarise this. **ACTION: TB.**

15. Records from meetings

There was a discussion about submitting records from field meetings. We normally agree who will co-ordinate the records and it is very important for people to send their records in. Paul Lee offered to co-ordinate the records from this meeting but warned that he would chase up any missing records! The staff at Seaton Devall are interested to know what was found where on the site so anyone who visited there were asked to give location information with their records too. The gardeners were very pleased that we visited and would be very happy for people to come back at other times for recording. It was noted that they were very welcoming.

16. Thanks to the meeting organiser.

Thanks were expressed to Imogen Wilde for getting permission/permits and contacting various site managers and NE which saved Paul Lee a lot of work. Thanks also to Paul Lee for organising the rest of the meeting and the staff at Saughy Rigg for their general helpfulness.