

British Myriapod & Isopod Group

Minutes of the 1st AGM

**Held at Seacrest Independent Hostel, Dingle, Ireland
On Saturday 13th October at 9pm.**

Present: Keith Alexander, Aoife Brennen, Gordon Corbet, Jim Flannagan, Steve Gregory, Paul Harding, John Harper, Dick Jones, John Lewis (chair), Paul Richards, David Scott-Langley, Helen Read, Derek Whiteley, Imogen Wilde.

The meeting was opened by John Lewis, who congratulated Paul Harding on his recent MBE. He then informed everyone who did not already know that J. Gordon Blower, who was instrumental in starting the group, had died in August.

1. Apologies

Wallace Arthur, Tony Barber and Paul Lee.

2. **Minutes of the Inaugural meeting**, held at St. Mark's College, Saffron Walden on Saturday 29th April 2000 were circulated. They were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

3. Secretary's report (Helen Read).

- Over 130 people are now on the mailing list for the Group, including people from 12 different countries.
- New people are now contacting the Group and asking to be added to the mailing list from the web site.
- The field meeting planned for Easter 2001 had been re-scheduled (to this weekend) due to the foot and mouth outbreak.
- The meeting at Kew gardens had not been organised due to the re-scheduling of the Easter meeting.
- Paul Lee is our representative on Invertebrate Link (formerly JCCBI). It had been requested that organisations on IL write to support the formation of an Invertebrate Conservation Trust. Paul has done this on behalf of the group saying that we welcomed the idea of setting up such a trust and that we have no concerns over membership. However we do have some concerns over payment to affiliate as we have no method of gaining income.
- Craig Slawson set up the web site (www.bmig.org.uk) in January 2001 and continues to maintain it. It has had 467 visitors since January. He is happy to include more information if we send it to him for inclusion.

4. Acting Treasurer's report (Paul Harding).

An interim statement of accounts to 30 September 2001 was circulated. Full accounts will be prepared for independent assessment once the financial transactions of the field meeting have been completed. The balance at 30 September stood at £684.60 excluding any tax or interest.

5. Woodlouse Recording Scheme Report (Steve Gregory).

The information has been passed on from David Bilton, including lots of cards and updated maps. The scheme has been fairly quiet recently. John Harper asked

whether there was any chance of an update to the atlas as there have been many more records since it's publication. Paul Harding explained that several large projects were coming to an end soon and that he hoped that there might be possibility to do something on some of the smaller groups in the next 18 months and this would include millipedes and woodlice. However he also suggested that we should be thinking about getting the information out more quickly in the future via a web site. Gordon Corbet asked if there was scope for some maps to be put in the newsletter where there were major changes. Steve thought this a possibility.

6. Millipede Recording Scheme.

Paul Lee submitted a short written report explaining that there had been little progress on the millipede atlas due to problems of time and health. He thanked Gordon Corbet for being such a conscientious recorder and reminded everyone to continue sending records in. Gordon Corbet pointed out that there should be an announcement that there is an extension to the deadline for records to be included in the atlas so as to encourage people to send information in.

7. Centipede Recording Scheme.

Tony Barber submitted a short written report encouraging people to continue to send records in. Martin Cawley has recorded *Brachyshendyla dentata* and *Cryptops anomalans* from Cork and Dublin respectively.

8. Newsletter Report.

Paul Lee submitted a written report encouraging articles to be sent in as there is very little currently for the autumn edition.

9. Bulletin Report (Helen Read)

Issue 17 was published in the spring and included articles on woodlice in Oxfordshire, the remaining millipede European distribution maps and reports from field meetings. Copies are available from Tony Barber at £4.00. All articles for the next issue would be gratefully received.

10. Election of Officers.

All the Officers retired and all were willing to stand for re-election. It was proposed that they be re-elected en block by Gordon Corbet and seconded by Paul Richards. The officers elected therefore are:

Chairman – Tony Barber

Vice-chairman – John Lewis

Secretary – Helen Read

Treasurer – Paul Harding

Librarian – Vacant

Ordinary members: Wallace Arthur, Dick Jones and Derek Whitely.

Paul Lee and Steve Gregory remain as Recording Scheme Organisers for millipedes and woodlice respectively.

11. Honorary Membership.

It was pointed out that the Group is able to grant Honorary Membership. This had been proposed for J. Gordon Blower but was no longer applicable.

12. Appointment of financial advisors.

This complex issue was being looked into by Paul Harding who will report back at the next meeting.

13. Future meetings.

These are provisionally planned as follows:

Spring 2002 – Youldgreave, Derbyshire.

October 2002 – one day meeting at Kew Gardens

Spring 2003 - Spain (under recorded area that will contribute to the European maps).

Autumn 2003 a normal field weekend in Britain, location yet to be decided.

The idea of a commemorative meeting in honour of J. Gordon Blower is being considered (with a European colleague as a guest speaker) and may be linked to one of the planned meetings listed above.

14. AOB

Information had been received from the British Entomological and Natural History Society about grants that they give for projects on the conservation and taxonomy of British insects and spiders. It is possible that they may give money for myriapod projects.

The meeting ended at 10.00 with a vote of thanks to Des of Seacrest Independent Hostel for providing the venue for the weekend and the AGM; to Derek Whitelely for all his work in organising the meeting and keeping it 'cost neutral' and to Paul Richards, John LeCorney and all their helpers for such a wonder meal.