



BRISC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2004

**held at Teviot Row House, Edinburgh, on
Saturday 6 March 2004 at 12.45 – 13.15**

Apologies

Apologies were received from Dave Budworth, Ian Evans, Jeremy Greenwood, Sara Hawkswell, Barbara Hogarth, Jessie McKay, Ro Scott, Barbara Sumner, Richard Sutcliffe, Andy Wakelin.

Minutes of BRISC AGM 2003

Minutes of previous AGM, held 22 February 2004 were accepted as a true record of proceedings. Proposed by Adrian Sumner, seconded by Richard Weddle.

Chair's Report

Because the Chair's Annual Report for 2003 had already been circulated with the January mailing and also included in delegates' packs, Anne-Marie Smout proposed not to go into details of that report, but instead to look ahead at issues relating to the future of BRISC.

An important area of work for the coming year will be to recruit new recorders and planning for a new project to address this is already underway in co-operation with BTCV Scotland.

BRISC continues to work hard on promoting a national strategy for Local Records Centres and details of this would be discussed under the last agenda item 'Position Statement'.

The BRISC committee is organising a 'Recorders Day' at Cullaloe Wildlife Reserve in Fife aimed at attracting a wide cross-section of BRISC members and their friends, including beginners and experienced recorders alike. Details will be published in *BRISC Recorder News*.

Members will be invited to recommend sites that they would like to see as venues for future recording days. Jonathan Willet offered to propose a site in North Lanarkshire for an event in 2005.

Development Officer's Report

Alan Cameron reported that the main area of work of the Development Project continued to be advocating for Local Records Centres and working to strengthen the network through building understanding and partnerships, particularly with SNH. The project has provided input to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy on the critical role of wildlife recording in monitoring and reporting on biological outcomes and hopes to see this represented in the final document. Members were directed to the published Annual Report for a fuller account of work undertaken.

Membership Report

Alan Cameron reported that the BRISC membership is 144. Individual memberships stand at 99; there are 36 corporate members, and 9 reciprocal arrangements with similar bodies. Current members will be asked to renew their membership in the forthcoming issue of *BRISC Recorder News*, and the twelve individuals who have not re-joined since 2002 will not be contacted again. It will be a priority for 2004 to conduct a membership drive.

Treasurer's Report

Mark Simmons confirmed that the BRISC accounts have been examined and approved. It should be noted that the Development Project is 100% externally funded. Expenditure for the past year slightly exceeded income. This will be an issue in the near future and is under discussion by the committee, which has considered options including increased membership fees and project income. Options for reducing expenditure are difficult to identify but include electronic delivery of *BRISC Recorder News*, though it is recognised that most members prefer to receive a paper copy. However, electronic copies may be more suitable for corporate members and would allow the use of colour. It was proposed that members could be asked to say whether they preferred electronic delivery in the membership renewal notice.

Approval of the accounts was proposed by Jonathan Willet and seconded by Keith Bland.

Website Manager's Report

The website manager Andy Wakelin sent his apologies but members attention was directed to the section on website in the Annual Report.

Ken Watt asked if the web address was prominent enough in *Recorder News*, and Jonathan Willet asked about website access, and whether useful. AMS said that there is scope to make it more useful, for example through listing current surveys and training opportunities. Members input would be critical here.

Richard Weddle asked about *Recorder News* on the website. AMS raised the possibility of having a 'private page' accessible by members only with a range of material including the latest Newsletter.

Election of Committee

The Chair thanked the committee members for their support and help, without which BRISC could not operate.

Lesley Brown is standing down from the committee and she was thanked for her considerable input over five years both as a committee member and as membership secretary.

Due to internal changes in SNH, Geoff Johnson has stood down from the committee and will be replaced by the new NBN Co-ordinator, when appointed.

Jonathan Willet and Jenny Storey have been co-opted from North Lanarkshire Council to share representation on the committee.

All other committee members were prepared to stand again. Adrian Sumner proposed re-appointing the committee members, seconded by Keith Bland.

Anne-Marie Smout has been Chair for the last six years and announced that she will be standing down at the AGM in 2005.

Position Statement on Local Records Centre network

Alan McKirdy, Head of the SNH's Natural Heritage Data Unit, has agreed to Chair a national LRC strategy group and will invite stakeholders to an inaugural meeting on 31 March. This initiative follows from agreement made at the joint BRISC/SNH seminar on the future of the LRC network that was held in Perth in October 2003. Jon Mercer made a well-received presentation on the work of Scottish Borders Biological Records Centre at the Perth meeting and will be invited to provide input on LRC services.

As a contribution to developing a national strategy BRISC has drafted a Position Statement that presents a vision of twelve fully functioning LRCs with at least two staff members, to work alongside satellite centres and managers of datasets covering smaller areas, such as rangers services. The Statement is set out in a leaflet that was circulated to all members prior to the AGM. Two comments had subsequently been received by email, and these were read out. The Position Statement was then approved on a show of hands.

A.O.C.B.

It was proposed that the BRISC Annual Conference may attract more delegates if it were to focus more on recording, although it was agreed that it is best to continue to hold the conference on a Saturday.

Jonathan Willet expressed the gratitude of the BRISC committee and of the membership for all the hard work undertaken by Anne-Marie Smout over the past year.

There was no further business and the AGM closed at 13.15.