



BRISC

BIOLOGICAL RECORDING IN SCOTLAND
Scottish Charity No. SC0224418

BRISC 2005 Annual General Meeting
Saturday 9 April 2005
at The Bute Building, St Andrews University, Fife
11.40 -12.15

Apologies for absence

J K Butler, J Fenton, John Kinross, Paul Kirkland, Craig Macadam, Adrian Sumner, Barbara Sumner, Anna White, Jonathan Willet.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 6 March 2004 at Teviot Row House, Edinburgh

Copy of the minutes were in delegates' packs and had also previously been published in *Recorder News* April 2004. The minutes were approved without any changes.

Proposed Gill Calder, Seconded Brian Boag.

Chairman's Report for 2004

Anne-Marie Smout said that the annual report was included in the delegates' packs and it had also been previously circulated with the January 2005 mailing. She hoped members had taken time to read it already and did not propose to go into the report in any great detail.

However, she drew attention to three main items:

- 1. Membership** – although this has gone up slightly, it is still not very large, and all efforts to increase the membership will be welcomed.
- 2. Wildlife Counts Project proposal.** - Regarding this Anne-Marie Smout was delighted to announce the good news that a bid to HLF for this 2-year project had been successful. BRISC was still to hear if the bid to Scottish Natural Heritage for matching funding had also been successful, but she was very hopeful about the outcome. Additional smaller sums are being sought from other parties.

The Project had been discussed at some length in *Recorder News*, but in summary this is aimed at adopting a structured approach to recruiting new recorders in Falkirk, North Lanarkshire and Midlothian.

- 3. Website** – A new “members only” section has been created and members were encouraged to visit it. Passwords for getting into the site are published in each issue of *Recorder News*

Andy Wakelin said that the website is receiving good numbers of hits, and especially the bumblebee pages are popular. This had prompted the committee to look at extending taxonomic coverage aimed more at supporting and encouraging recording.

Development Project

The Development Officer post will sadly come to an end in June 05, though it was hoped to retain some kind of 'BRISC office' through the Wildlife Counts project officer.

The committee is still investigating funding opportunities for a 'Chief Officer' – this requires serious fund-raising skills, and BRISC is ideally looking to establish a more sustainable presence.

Annual Accounts and Treasurer's Report

Allan Brown presented the annual accounts. These had been examined by Douglas Turner, solicitor with Drummond, Cook and Macintosh. There were no questions and the accounts were approved

Proposed Mark Simmons, Seconded Gordon Corbet.

Annual subscriptions

It was noted that subscriptions have remained unchanged since 1998 at £10 for individual members and £25 for corporate membership.

BRISC's constitution makes provision for a third level: i.e. 'affiliated' memberships. It was noted that there may be a slight problem in defining which bodies this would cover.

Anne-Marie Smout asked for show of hands on opposition to proposal to increase subscription rate. No hands shown.

Thomas Huxley proposed increase of individual subscription from £10 to £15. Seconded by Sara Hawkswell and Peter Maitland. Accepted on show of hands.

Sara Hawkswell proposed increase in corporate membership from £25 to £30. Accepted on show of hands.

Further changes to be discussed by the committee.

Forward planning BRISC advocacy paper

Attempts further to develop the network of LRCs in Scotland have not been entirely successful. However we now have a joint statement with SNH, with copies included in delegates' packs.

Jennifer Davidson was asked to comment and said 'SNH is keen to continue to work with BRISC – the joint statement confirms the importance of data sharing and the need to give support to the voluntary recording community'.

BRISC's view remains that Scotland needs a fully functioning network of LRCs, but it will not be possible to pursue this vision with available resources. Future work will therefore focus on wholly inclusive data sharing mechanisms (i.e. including recording schemes and societies, the Agencies, individual recorders, etc).

Approval of the Joint Statement with SNH, proposed Jon Mercer, seconded Peter Maitland. Approved on show of hands.

Constitution

A minor alteration was needed to ensure that nominations for office bearers are submitted at least one week prior to the AGM. This was approved by the meeting by a show of hands.

Election of Honorary Officers and Council for 2005/2006

Anne-Marie Smout would be standing down as Chairperson of BRISC as from the AGM, having held this position since 1998. She felt strongly it was time for new ideas, directions and energy.

AMS was very pleased to say that Patrick Milne Home is willing to stand. 10 postal votes received in support.

Unanimous vote in favour on show of hands.

AMS then expressed her heartfelt thanks to Mark Simmons for all his work as treasurer and other invaluable input into BRISC over the years. Mark had always generously offered his support and advice on all aspects of BRISC, and he would be sadly missed on the committee.

Allan W Brown has agreed to stand.

Unanimous vote in favour on show of hands.

AMS offered to continue editing *Recorder News* but suggested it was up to the committee to decide.

Thomas Huxley offered thanks from the floor, expressing 'what Anne-Marie has done for BRISC and for *Recorder News* has been absolutely fantastic'.

Sara Hawkswell proposed, Gill Calder seconded re-election of whole committee. Passed on show of hands.

Any other business

Mark Simmons gave short summary of work and achievements and offered thanks on behalf of committee and membership to Anne-Marie Smout.

Alan Cameron's departure later in the year was also acknowledged and thanks expressed for all his work.