

Minutes of BRISC 2007 Annual General Meeting
Held on Saturday 23 April 2007
At The Birnam Institute, Birnam, Perthshire
11.50 – 12.30

Present. Chairman, 42 Committee and other members.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Claire Seymour, Jonathan Willet, Sara Hawkswell and Craig Macadam.

Minutes of 2006 AGM

These had been circulated previously and copies were also tabled. They were approved by the meeting without corrections, proposed by Anne-Marie Smout and seconded Gordon Corbet.

Matters arising

There were none.

Chairman's report

The Chairman's Report had been circulated with the January mailing and was also included in the delegates' pack. PMH hoped members would have taken the time to read the report in detail and did not intend to go into great detail here.

- The Wildlife Counts had a new Project officer in John McFarlane, Claire McSorley having resigned in the autumn of 2006 to move to Argyll.
- BRISC had helped North East Scotland Biological Records Centre (NESBReC) to access funding not normally available to them by acting as lead partner. PMH indicated that BRISC would be pleased to assist any other LRC in a similar situation.
- BRISC attended meetings of BTCV's Natural Talent Project in a consultative and advisory role.
- Training events had been confined to those associated with our Wildlife Counts Project.
- PMH suggested that BRISC will probably leave LINK this year – there were no comments from the floor.

Wildlife Counts Project

John McFarlane (WCP officer) gave a brief report. 174 participants had taken part in 2005 and report of the first year was available on BRISC's website. Four events per area (Falkirk, North Lanarkshire & Stirling) were planned this year, plus the big 'BioBlitz', which event would take place over the weekend of 26-27 May, and BBC Landward would be present to film the event. John thanked Craig

Macadam, Chair of the Project Management Team, and BTCV for their support.

Treasurer's report

Duncan Davidson presented the accounts included with the annual report. These had been approved by Douglas Turner, solicitor, of Drummond Cook and Macintosh.

Ro Scott asked how much of the £296 against subscription expenditure was for LINK. DD replied that for 2006/7 it was £271 but, following a review of their subscription levels, this was likely to rise very substantially to something approaching £700.

PMH explained that members' subscriptions are required to pay for BRISC core activities and that obtaining grant-aid for this was very difficult. The proposed increase in the LINK subscription would make it too expensive for BRISC to remain a member.

Membership Secretary's report

Duncan Davidson noted that there were 95 individual members (5 new members, 4 resignations and one conversion to corporate membership), and 28 corporate. There was however a significant sum of unpaid subscriptions still outstanding.

Thomas Huxley asked if reminders for paying subscriptions were issued. D Davidson advised that they were. Anne-Marie Smout suggested that it was important to try and get members to pay by Standing Order. DD reported that Standing Order forms are sent to all, and a good percentage of members do utilize them, and it would be very helpful if all members would complete them.

Only about 38 members currently take advantage of Gift Aid and this is a very painless way for members to enable BRISC to increase its income.

The Chairman requested that those Members who have not done so would consider sending in their email addresses to the Membership Secretary at duncan@dwwd.freeseerve.co.uk. The cost of mailing out *BRISC Recorder News* is much lower now as many members have opted to get the newsletter by email.

No changes were proposed to the level of subscriptions.

Business Plan:

This is being progressed and the intention is to work up and submit grant applications over the next couple of months; in order that our proposals can be put into action. This would include funding for the Wildlife Counts project.

Adrian Sumner asked when this project's funding

finished. The Chairman replied,
August/September 2007.

Jim McIntosh asked about other possible BRISC projects. PMH replied that our principal ones are given in the Business Plan, which is on the BRISC website.

Jon Mercer noted that PMH had secured some Trust funding (around £10,000) for BRISC to pay for a fund-raiser, although there was no progress to report as yet.

Elections

BRISC Committee. PMH thanked Jon Mercer, Jonathan Willett & Paul Kirkland, who were standing down, for all their valuable help and commitment to BRISC.

Two new candidates had volunteered to join the committee:

David Lampard - Proposer. Mark Simmons;

Seconder - Richard Brinklow
Richard Weddle - Proposer. John Mercer; Seconder -
Brian Boag

They were unanimously elected. PMH extended an invitation to any other member to join the committee. No offers were received from the floor. The rest of the Committee were re-elected by a show of hands.

AOB

Adrian Sumner asked about the BRISC Bumblebee Survey. AMS replied that things were changing with the establishment of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, based at Stirling University, who would now – with much greater resources - be the principal leader on this group of insect.

PMH thanked Mark Simmons, Gill Calder and AMS for the successful organisation of the conference.