

BRISC Committee Members as of January 2016

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ANNUAL REPORT for FOR 2015/2016



**BRISC in Anagach Woods, Granttown-on-Spey
November 2015** (photo Anne-Marie Smout)



Annual General Meeting for the year 2015/2016
Saturday 29th October 2016 at the Burgh Halls, Linlithgow

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes the last meeting
3. Chairman's Report
4. Annual Accounts and Treasurers Report
5. Memberships and subscriptions

Motion: The corporate membership rate has been discussed by the committee and it is recommended that it be increased to £50.

6. Election of Honorary Officers and Council
7. Any other business

Comparison of Income and Expenditure 2010 - 2015

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Receipts						
Membership subs	1855.00	2610.00	1070.00	870.00	1650.00	1785.00
Conf bookings	588.00	448.00	684.00	1311.00	1130.00	2699.00
Donations	25.00		415.00	210.00	210.00	530.00
Sales	20.00	30.00	38.00	25.00	14.00	6.00
Proj admin/Loan repay			300.00	5450.00		
Gift aid						
Bank account interest	14.24	5.84				
Totals	2502.24	3093.84	2507.00	7866.00	3004.00	5020.00
Payments						
Conference costs	423.00	1128.80	1241.70	86.60	2056.40	2067.86
Subscriptions	10.00	45.00	5.00	90.00	25.00	5.00
Newsletter	1431.92	1201.94	1487.09	1609.50	1103.99	894.91
Members expenses	422.78	547.20	416.32	404.43	634.28	160.55
Website costs	56.23		57.58		59.88	
Data Protection Reg.	35.00	35.00	35.00		35.00	35.00
Miscellaneous	400.00	661.25	618.25	3425.75	1161.88	2633.06
Bank Acc Tax deduct	2.75	1.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Totals	2781.68	3620.31	3860.94	5616.28	5076.43	5786.38
Excess of Receipts over payments	(279.44)	(526.47)	(1353.94)	2249.72	(2072.43)	(766.38)

BRISC Membership Report 2015/16

Current membership stands at 23 Corporate and 68 Individual with 5 Corporate and 1 Individual yet to respond to this year's subscription request. This is much lower than reported last year, but that is the result of a late call for subscriptions being unresolved at the time of that report.

There is going to be a campaign of contacting past Corporate members to see if they would re-join, but the current financial climate may mitigate against a significant increase in membership.

Andy Wakelin
 Membership Secretary

Other news

As you may have remembered from last years report (and the one before that), I said I was standing down and I will be at this AGM. We have identified a new chairperson but they wish a bit of shadowing time

Finally thanks to all the committee who give their time, energy and expertise to BRISC.

Jonathan Willet
Chairman of BRISC
October 2016.

Treasurer's Final Report for 2015 (1 January - 31 December)

Unrestricted Funds

Opening Balance at 1st January 2015			£8,941.62
	Income £		Expenditure £
Membership subscriptions	1785.00	SBIF Donation	2000.00
Conference Bookings	2699.00	Conference & AGM	2057.86
Donations	530.00	Subscription	5.00
Sales	6.00	Newsletter	894.91
		Members Expenses	160.55
		Miscellaneous	48.06
		Data Protection	35.00
		Bursaries & Donations	585.00
Totals	<u>5020.00</u>		<u>5786.38</u>
Closing Balance at 31 December 2015			£8,175.24

Restricted Funds

Opening Balance at 1st January 2015			£1,298.10
	Income £		Expenditure £
Digitisation Project	0.00	Digitisation Project	420.00
Totals	<u>0.00</u>		<u>420.00</u>
Closing Balance at 31 December 2015			£878.10

Notes

The £2000 SBIF donation covers two separate contributions in two financial years
Donations into BRISC include £320 from a collection in memory of Tom Gray

Minutes of BRISC 2014/15 Annual General Meeting Saturday 31 October 2015 at Grant Arms Hotel, Grantown-on-Spey

Apologies: Brian Boag, Louisa Maddison, Claire McSorley, Richard Weddle

Present (includes non-members)

Lindsay Bamforth; David Barbour; Mike Beard; Alan Cameron; Duncan Davidson; Ian Evans; Sarah Eno; Sydney Gauld; Natalie Harmsworth; Christine Johnston; Kerry Mackay; Jim McIntosh; Patrick Milne Home; Stephen Moran; Mark Pollitt; Glenn Roberts; Ro Scott; May Shirktorshidi; Anne-Marie Smout; Chris Smout; Jackie Stewart; Richard Sutcliffe; Andy Wakelin; Jonathan Willet; Graeme Wilson; Ellen Wilson; Mary Winsh; Jessie Wormell

Minutes of the 2013/14 AGM: (4 October 2014 at Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park HQ) were circulated as part of the Annual Report for 2014/15; they were approved by the meeting without corrections. *The minutes' adoption was proposed by Jim McIntosh and seconded by Andy Wakelin.*

Chairman's Report for 2014/15

The Chairman's Report for 2014/15 was circulated as part of the Annual Report and no questions were raised on it. The £5 student membership category has been introduced. A vote on its introduction is not required, but no objections were tabled from the floor.

Annual Accounts and Treasurers Report for year end 31 December 2014

The Annual Accounts were circulated as part of the Annual Report; these were produced by the Treasurer, Duncan Davidson. There was a balance of £10,239 down from £13,300 the previous year, but this reduction was planned. Income from subscriptions has still not recovered to the levels that pre-date the bank issues that stem from 2011. *The Accounts were accepted: proposed by Sarah Eno and seconded by Andy Wakelin.*

Memberships and subscriptions for 2014/15

The Membership Report was circulated as part of the Annual Report. Membership at year-end 31st March 2015 was 78 individual members and 23 corporate members. At the time of the AGM 62 individuals and 7 corporate members had renewed, and considerable effort is being made to recover lapsed members and to issue reminders.

Election of Honorary Officers and Council for 2014/2015

A list of Committee members was circulated as part of the Annual Report. Apologies were tabled to two Committee members whose names were accidentally left off the list during production: Patrick Milne-Home and Andy Wakelin (Website Manager).

Resignations & re-elections: the Committee had accepted Craig Macadam's resignation in January 2015; Jonathan Willet tendered his resignation as Chairman and Committee member at this meeting. The rest of the Committee stood for re-election.

Changes to Honorary Officers: Duncan Davidson stepped down as Membership Secretary, a role that will be taken on by Andy Wakelin. Duncan has indicated he will continue as Treasurer until a replacement is identified. There were no nominations for Chairman. Jonathan Willet continued as Chairman for the rest of the AGM and Conference.

The re-election of the Committee and changes to the Honorary Officers were accepted: proposed by Ian Evans and seconded by Mark Pollitt.

Grateful thanks are recorded to Jonathan, Duncan and Craig for the work and energy they have put in to BRISC.

Any other business

Anne-Marie Smout asked if efforts were being made to find more sources of funding for the bursaries, given their success and popularity in 2015. The Chairman responded that there was an outstanding action against him to take this forward with appropriate organisations.

The Chairman thanked the Grant Arms Hotel for providing such an excellent venue for the meeting, staff from the Cairngorms National Park for their support, the Conference speakers for their contributions, and BRISC Committee members for their valuable work in organising the AGM and Conference.

The BRISC Annual Report for 2014-15 may be found on the BRISC website: <http://www.brisc.org.uk/>

The AGM closed at 13.23 and the Conference opened with presentations and discussions on the subject "Are Regional Data Hubs the Way Forward?"

BRISC Chairman's Report November 2015 to October 2016

It has been another relatively quiet year for BRISC. We have continued to support SBIF and that really has been our main focus. Some of our committee is seeking to stand down, so we are in a phase of transition. Our finances are still healthy and our Conference broke even, we have reduced our newsletter costs and as an organisation are living within our means. We are very much in a "wait and see" phase regarding SBIF's review of biological recording infrastructure in Scotland. It is the best opportunity for something major to happen in terms of gaining full coverage of biological data management in Scotland, well ever! So it is well worth supporting.

AGM

The Conference, "Mind the Data Gaps - Are Regional Data Hubs the Way Forward?" and AGM were held at the Grant Arms Hotel Grantown-on-Spey. Over 30 people attended and the speakers were excellent, with lots of good questions and a lively discussion. The field trips to Anagach Woods on the Saturday and Abernethy Forest were blessed with good weather. Many thanks to Basil Dunlop of the Anagach Woods Trust and Alison Greggans RSPB Community Ranger for taking us on a tour of their sites and the RSPB for the unexpected and very welcome tea and biscuits.

BRISC Committee.

The committee has met three times in the last year, SNH have has to decline attending the meetings now due to staff restructuring. We thank them for their input over the years. National data issues continue to be the main topic of conversation at these meeting.

The letter to the deputy Environment Minister (mentioned in the last two annual report) has become redundant with the SBIF Review, so it has been put on the shelf.

Unfortunately a replacement for Duncan Davidson has still not been found but the committee are working on this. Duncan has very kindly not left us in the lurch but he does need to be replaced imminently. Patrick Milne-Home is also wishing to stand down as well and we thank him greatly for all his sage advice, chairing BRISC and generally being a very helpful committee member. Getting new committee members is a key action for the committee before Christmas. Chris McInerny was co-opted onto the committee at our August meeting.

Scottish Biodiversity Information Forum (SBIF)

I have attended one meeting this year down in Edinburgh in September and the meeting went well and there is a lot of (people) resource being put behind it. If they do get in touch with you please do give them as much time as you can. BRISC may contribute to the review if further funding is required as the committee is very keen that it takes place.

To quote them, "the SBIF Advisory Group has undertaken to drive a review and redesign of the biological recording infrastructure in Scotland in order to inform any realignment of structures and resources necessary to achieve the SBIF vision: High quality species and habitat data will be collected and managed through a sustainable, co-ordinated and integrated local and national framework of organisations, partnership and initiatives. These data will be available to ensure that Scotland's biodiversity, ecosystems and people benefit". For more information see <https://nbn.org.uk/about-us/where-we-are/in-scotland/review/>

Bursaries

Since 2009 twenty one taxa and one practical field course were studied by 46 people. Some are known to be working in ecological fields. We will be inviting the bursaries back to talk about their bursary funded course and how they have used it and where they have been doing their biological recording. Two will be speaking at the 2016 conference.

In the next two years the Glasgow Natural History Society has committed to providing 4 bursaries annually, BRISC has committed to 2 annually for two years and in the coming year an anonymous donor has provided another one. This year we are offering one year's BRISC membership to all successful BRISC bursary applicants.

NFBR.

I have not managed to attend any NFBR meetings this year due to pressure of work. They are continuing to develop and seeking funding to get some posts in place to speed this up. <http://www.nfbr.org.uk>

Membership/ Finances.

Our finances are again fairly static with our income and expenditure for core tasks roughly in balance but our overall capital declining due to the Bursaries and SBIF contribution. The corporate membership rate has been discussed by the committee and it is recommended that they be increased to £50.