

renew the instructions. Considerable effort was expended contacting individuals and banks to the extent that other membership renewals were neglected. We are now in a handover phase to a new membership secretary and work continues during this period to rationalise membership and persuade lapsed members to "rejoin".

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ANNUAL REPORT for FOR 2014/2015



Scottish Charity No SCO24418



BRISC Annual General Meeting for the year 2014/2015

To be held on Saturday 31st October 2015

at Grant Arms Hotel, Grantown-on-Spey at 13.00 hrs

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes the last meeting
3. Chairman's Report
4. Annual Accounts and Treasurers Report
5. Memberships and subscriptions Report
6. Election of Honorary Officers and Council for 2015/2016
7. Any other business

Notes: to previous table

Excluding the digitisation project which is separately funded, there was a deficit of £2,072 over the year. This is partly due to conference costs of £1350 rolling over from 2013 and our decision to help fund SBIF with regular donations.

Receipts and Payments Comparison 2009 - 2014

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
Membership subs	1640.00	1855.00	2610.00	1070.00	870.00	1650.00
Conf bookings	497.00	588.00	448.00	684.00	1311.00	1130.00
Donations		25.00		415.00	210.00	210.00
Sales	631.00	20.00	30.00	38.00	25.00	14.00
Proj admin/Loan repay	2500.00			300.00	5450.00	
Gift aid						
Bank account interest	18.29	14.24	5.84			
Totals	5286.29	2502.24	3093.84	2507.00	7866.00	3004.00
Payments						
Conference costs	814.37	423.00	1128.80	1241.70	86.60	2056.40
Subscriptions	5.00	10.00	45.00	5.00	90.00	25.00
Newsletter	1066.97	1431.92	1201.94	1487.09	1609.50	1103.99
Members expenses	547.22	422.78	547.20	416.32	404.43	634.28
Website costs		56.23		57.58		59.88
Data Protection Reg.	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00		35.00
Miscellaneous	3244.75	400.00	661.25	618.25	3425.75	1161.88
Bank Acc Tax deduct	3.60	2.75	1.12			
Totals	5716.91	2781.68	3620.31	3860.94	5616.28	5076.43
Excess of Receipts over payments	(430.62)	(279.44)	(526.47)	(1353.94)	2249.72	(2072.43)

Membership report for 2014/15

The membership year runs from the 1st of April to the 31st of March. At the year end, on 31 March 2015, we had 78 confirmed individual members and 23 confirmed corporate members. This is a significant drop from previous years due largely to the bank issues that we originally experienced in 2011. The problems required that we changed bank account and a number of members paying membership by standing order did not subsequently respond to requests for new standing order mandates. In other cases, a new mandate was submitted to the appropriate bank, which did not then

However my increased (paid) work commitments now make it impossible for me to do the job of Chairman as well as I would like, so it is time for someone else to take over.

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

Jonathon Willet Chair

Treasurer's Report for 2014

Treasurer's Final Report for 2014 (1 January - 31 December)			
Unrestricted funds:			
Opening balance at 1st January 2014:		£11014.05	
Income	£	Expenditure	£
Membership subscriptions	1650.00	SBIF donations	500.00
Conference bookings	1130.00	Conference & AGM	2056.40
Donations	210.00	Subscriptions	25.00
Sales	14.00	Newsletter	1103.99
		Members expenses	634.28
		Miscellaneous	31.88
		Data protection	35.00
		Website costs	59.88
		Bursaries & donations	630.00
Totals	3004.00		5076.43
Closing balance at 31 December 2014:			£8941.62
Restricted funds:			
Opening balance at 1st January 2014:			£2293.00
Income	£	Expenditure	£
Digitisation project	0.00	Digitisation project	994.90
Totals	0.00		994.90
Closing balance at 31 December 2014:			£1298.10

Minutes of BRISC 2014 Annual General Meeting Saturday 4 October 2014 at Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park HQ

Apologies: Craig Macadam, Louisa Maddison, Anne-Marie Smout, and Chris Smout.

Present: (includes non-members) M. Beard, B.Boag, J.Caulfield, D.Collis, G. Collis, J.Cooper, D. Davidson, S.Eno, S. Futter, N. Harmsworth, C. Johnston, D.Lampard. J. McIntosh, C. McSorley, L. McTeague, P. Milne Home, J. Mitchell, D. Palmar, J. Palmer, J. Sawyer, J. Stewart, N. Still, R. Sutcliffe, A. Swales, A. Wakelin, R. Weddle, J. Willett, G. Wilson, J. Wormell.

Minutes of the 2012/13 AGM held on 26 October 2013 at Newbattle Abbey College, Dalkeith had been circulated previously and copies were also tabled; they were approved by the meeting without corrections. *The minutes' adoption was proposed by Richard Weddle and seconded by Sarah Eno.*

Chairman's Report for 2013/14

The Chairman's Report for 2013/14 had been circulated previously and no questions were raised on it. The report may be found at: <http://www.brisc.org.uk/conferences/BRISC%20Annual%20Report%202013-14.pdf> There are 7 bursary places for this year; students will report back in the form of articles in the BRISC Newsletter. BRISC will contact other organisations to get funding for other bursaries.

Financial Report for 2013/14

The Annual Accounts had been circulated with the Annual Report; these were produced by the Treasurer, Duncan Davidson. There was a healthy balance of £13,300. However, £1,350 is required for the AGM costs and also some money is needed from this total to pay for the update of the BRISC Biological Recording Source Book and some other projects. There was a proposal to discuss a £5 subscription fee for students at the 2015 AGM; this was met with approval by the attendees. *The Accounts were accepted: Proposer – Brian Boag, Seconder – Graeme Wilson.*

Membership report 2013/14

Membership remains similar to last year with 108 individual members and 31 corporate members.

Election of Honorary Officers and Council for 2014/2015

The Chairman advised that all of the current committee members had been put forward for re-election. The Chair, Jonathan Willet will remain as chairman for another year, but will stand down in 2015. Claire Seymour, the SNH co-opted member, stood down last year; she is replaced by Claire McSorley. Christine Johnston, is co-opted on the BRISC Committee for SBIF. *The Committee Members were accepted: Proposer – Dawn Collis, Seconder – Jim McIntosh.*

Any other business

There being no other matters raised the Chairman thanked the four speakers, Colin Adams, Paula Baker, Gwenda Diack, and Chris McInerny for their interesting and

thought provoking presentations. The Chairman also thanked Gwenda and the LLTNP for providing such an excellent venue for the meeting, and also the BRISC Committee members for their valuable contributions in organising the AGM and Conference.

The meeting closed and the day continued with Field Excursions to:-

- Water Voles in the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. Hosted by Katy Anderson of Forestry Commission Scotland.
- Glasgow University's Scottish Centre for Ecology and the Natural Environment (SCENE) at Rowardennan. Hosted by Prof. Colin Adams, Glasgow University.

BRISC Chairman's Report. November 2014 to October 2015

It has been a quiet year for BRISC as we have awaited developments arising from SBIF and the NBN. The NBN's Atlas of Living Scotland is potentially a very big change in the way that we will interact with biological data online and also perhaps open it up to new audiences. It will be launched in 2016. The new style of Recorder News has been produced and it seems the A5 format has worked well and has saved a great deal on postage without compromising on quality. Well done to our editor Sarah Eno.

AGM

The Conference and AGM were held at the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park HQ. Almost 30 people attended and the speakers were excellent, with lots of good questions and discussion. The field trips to the Rowardennan Field Centre and the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park were blessed with good weather. Many thanks to Gwenda Diack of the Park for helping organise the day.*

BRISC Committee

The committee has met three times in the last year and we welcome back our Secretary Louisa Maddison from her maternity leave. We did miss her. National data issues have often been the main topic of conversation at these meetings and this has led to a joint meeting between the NBN, SBIF and BRISC to agree on a memorandum of understanding defining how our organisations will work together and what exactly we are seeking to achieve with respect to biological recording and data management in Scotland.

The letter to the deputy Environment Minister (mentioned in the last annual report) is in draft and will be sent out after the Conference and it will report back on the outcome of the conference as well as the responses we received from both National Parks regarding their policies and actions to support volunteer biological recording and ensure good data management.

Duncan Davidson is standing down at the AGM as the Treasurer and Membership Secretary. Andy Wakelin has kindly offered to take over the role of Membership Secretary. That leaves us requiring a Treasurer, Duncan is staying on until we can find a new one and he will arrange a formal handover of the accounts. Many thanks to

Duncan for all his work in sorting out the accounts, managing them and making sure our finances are in good health.

Scottish Biodiversity Information Forum (SBIF)

SBIF is moving, but slowly and some of this is due to the old story of a lack of genuine partner buy-in to the project. I am ever hopeful that progress will be made in the coming year on this matter and we can start delivering on some of the actions outlined in the inaugural BRISC conference of 1975. The finalisation of the National Data Flow Pathway is a good start, this was launched on the 16th of April at the first SBIF Conference. The attendance was large, 55 in total (and the attendees young - under 40...), and enthusiasm level high, let's hope this is a taste of things to come. There was also an excellent Citizen Science event on the 5th of May run by SNH, again lots of enthusiasm and lots of great schemes gathering biological data. It is easy to get cynical about national data issues but days like the two aforementioned ones do help to dispel the gloom somewhat.

Bursaries

There were 67 of applications to the 7 bursary places offered this year. Further work is required to secure more funding for this. In the next three years the Glasgow Natural History Society has committed to providing 4 bursaries annually, BRISC has committed to 2 annually for three years and in the coming year an anonymous donor has provided another one.

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.

As with previous years our membership is fairly static, but we are trying to get new members by offering a student membership of £5. This will be put this year's AGM for a vote. 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.

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. So please if you would like to be the next Chairman or Chairwoman of BRISC please do come and speak to me at the conference. If no-one is willing to stand for this post at the Conference, then the committee will seek to find a new Chairman/ woman for BRISC.

I have really enjoyed my time as the BRISC Chairman and found it very rewarding as I strongly believe in what BRISC seeks to do.