



Butterfly Conservation
Highland Branch
Note of AGM 14th April 2018



Attendance

Stuart Bence	Erica Beveridge	Barbara Brodie
Ron Chapman	Matthew Desmond	Mary Eagleson
Ian Evans	Margaret Faulkener	Liz Ferrell
Pete Gordon	Malcolm Harvey	Pete Moore (chairman)
Helen Mainwood	Tony Mainwood	Tom Prescott
Ewan Munro	Mary Jane Prentice	Brigid Primrose
Gwen Richards	Dot Ruston	Ron Ruston
Hilary Swift	Britt Taylor	Mike Taylor
Audrey Turner	Bob Turner	Steve Wheatley
Mark Wynn		

Pete welcomed everyone to the meeting

Apologies

Janet King	John Ross	Sallie Jack
Maureen Hammond	James Hammond	Stewart Taylor
Catherine Duncan	Melanie Auchterlonie	Margaret Currie

Minutes of 2017 AGM Approved Mike Taylor, seconded Stuart Bence

Matters arising - None

Chairmans report

2017

Last year there were 22 events in Highland, some of which involved practical conservation.

In March the Bog Squad were in action in upper Glen Affric, digging out ponds for dragonflies and work to raise the water level.

Scrub bashing at Glen Orrin and Polmailly to improve the habitat for Pearl Bordered Fritillary

Highland Branch put in an objection to the planning application for a golf course at Coul Links, Tom put in an objection on behalf of BC. This is an important site for 6 Spot burnet and Mark Young has found some rare micros. The fact that the site is a SSSI is unfortunately not enough to stop development. It is unknown when the planning decision is going to be made.

We had a visit to the Butterfly House in the Landmark Centre at Carrbridge. Tom worked with them at the start of the venture so that they would provide BC info and collection boxes/pin badges. So far £1700 has been raised from these, the money is not kept in the branch but is given to head office. This year another event is being held there but this is aimed at the general public.

Kentish Glory: the Canterbury Christ Church University has made a pheromone for the KG. Last year there was a trial to see which method of distribution was the most successful; only the one in a glass container seemed to work. Tom is looking for volunteers to put pheromones out this year.

New Forest Burnet: the only site for the NFB is in Highland. Annual monitoring takes place of moth numbers and vegetation, especially for Meadow Vetchling the NFB foodplant. It was good to find that numbers were up last year on the previous two years. Seeing NFB was on John Knowler's bucket list and it was good that we were able to facilitate his wish before he sadly died last year.

Dark Bordered Beauty: There are 3 sites for DBB, 2 of which are in Highland. Monitoring takes place at Insh and Grantown-on-Spey. An electric fence was put up to exclude sheep which eat the aspen suckers. Unfortunately some sheep got in and then they were too scared to get out.

Butterflies: After a poor season the large number of Red Admirals saved the day

2018

This year we have 15 events organised, two of which have already taken place. There was scrub bashing in Glen Orrin accompanied by butterfly cakes, and a Micro-moth workshop held by Ross MacIlwrath.

David Barbour stepped down as butterfly recorder; a presentation was made at the Recorders' Gathering at Battleby to mark the occasion.

Monitoring of NFB and DBB is planned.

Small blues are mostly coastal and inland in Strathspey. It is hoped that volunteers will check the inland sites and make landowners aware of the fact that the butterfly is on their land in the hope that the sites are not disturbed.

In 2018 anything could happen! More Commas???

Tom then gave a quick round up of what has been happening to the New Forest Burnet NFB used to appear in the New Forest but became extinct in the 1920's. In 1960 someone walking found the new site (the only site where they are now found) in the remote west. By the 1990s the moth numbers were down to a dozen or so individuals, the food plants Meadow Vetch and Birdsfoot Trefoil were becoming more scarce because of grazing by sheep. A fence was put up and a peak of 12,000 was reached by 2013. However rock falls demolished part of the fence allowing sheep back into the site, and after the fence was repaired by BC volunteers in the winter of 2015 another landslip took out part of the fence again (it also buried tools stashed for running repairs).

A new fence was erected at the NFB site which was part funded by the Highland branch (10%) the remainder coming from Landfill monies. The contract for the fence was taken on by Seamus MacNeil who did an excellent job of erecting the new fence inside the old one for added protection. (See the Chequered Skipper for further details.)

Sadly the population of NFB is very low at the moment, partly due to the appalling weather we have had over the last 2 years.

Tom thanked all who have been involved with the NFB.

Treasurers report (see appendix 1)

Audrey gave the treasurers report. Most income comes from memberships. Expenditure - the greatest expenditure is our contribution to projects (NFB) and there is reserved money for DBB. Other than that the greatest expense is for publication of the Chequered Skipper, although the cost has been reduced as quotes were obtained from Head Office from printers local to them, we went with the cheapest (£174 cheaper than last year). We also saved money on postage as Head Office have a franking machine so pay less per item. The pin badge money although it goes to head office shows up in our books first, but any donations to the Highland Branch stay within the branch.

Election of Committee members

All committee members agreed to stay on and this was supported by those at the meeting.

Highland Butterfly recorders

As previously mentioned David Barbour stood down as recorder. The Vice County moth recorders were asked to take this on for their areas. All said yes apart from the Caithness recorder who wishes to step down, so Phil Davey is taking on the role of butterfly recorder. Audrey Turner and Hilary Swift are taking on the Butterfly recording for VC95 & VC96, respectively, as Mike Taylor who is moth recorder for these two VCs has to deal with 15,000 moth records last year. There is also a central email address that records can be sent to and from there the records will be forwarded to the appropriate recorder.

AOCB - none

Date of next AGM 13th April 2019

After the close of the AGM we were treated to two interesting talks. The first by Liz Ferrell, Scottish Officer for the Bat Conservation Trust On the Co-evolutionary arms race between bats and moths. The second talk was given by Neil Ravenscroft, who gave a talk at the first meeting of the branch in 1993, this time around he gave a talk on the Marsh Fritillary.

Appendix 1

2016-2017	Income	2017-2018
£3,351.07	Total Brought Forward	£3,539.68
£1,731.00	BC subscriptions	£1,851.00
£128.65	Atlas & Book Sales	£110.90
	Pin Badge Sales	1,746.35
£25.04	Vat from Head Office	
£108.50	Donations	£143.00
£1,993.19	Total Income For Year	£3,851.25
	<i>(Income less Pin Badges</i>	<i>£2,104.90)</i>
£5,344.26		£7,390.93

2016-2017	Expenditure	2017-2018
	Head Office Payments – Contributions to Projects	£1,862.12
£28.29	Head Office Payments - Insurance	£29.42
	Head Office Payments – Pin Badges	£1,797.43
£223.00	Head Office Payments – Members Day Contribution	£215.15
	Conservation – Event Costs	£140.82
£32.58	Conservation – Volunteer Expenses – DBB	£175.60
£32.50	Conservation – Volunteer Expenses – Other	£151.91
£31.92	Conservation – Field Equipment	
£361.20	Membership – Newsletter & Membership Postage	£25.62
£834.10	Membership – Newsletter Production	£664.80
	Support Costs – Postage	£28.78
£94.50	Support Costs – MapMate Licenses	£113.20
£127.95	Support Costs - Other	£69.68
£38.54	Management – AGM Costs	
£1,804.58	Total Expenditure For Year	£5,274.53
	<i>(Expenditure For Year Less Pin Badges & Burnet Fund</i>	<i>£2,014.98)</i>
£3,539.68	Total Carried Forward	£2,116.40
£5,344.26		£7,390.93

	Balances Carried Forward	
Restricted Funds - DBB	£1,269.18	
Designated Funds - Burnet	£0	
Unrestricted Funds	£847.22	
Total	£2,116.40	
Fund Name	Dark Bordered Beauty Survey Expenses	Burnet Symposium
Opening Balance	£1,427.96	£1,462.12
Income	£16.82 (VAT Refund)	
Expenditure	£175.60	£1,462.12
Balance Forward	£1,269.18	£0

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