



Butterfly Conservation Highland Branch Note of AGM 8th April 2017

Present

David Barbour	Hazel Kay	Dot Ruston
Stuart Bence	Janet King	Ron Ruston
Barbara Brodie	Helen Mainwood	Andy Scott
Ailie Brown	Tony Mainwood	Hilary Swift
Rob Chapman	Pete Moore	Britt Taylor
Margaret Currie	Ewan Munro	Mike Taylor
Matthew Desmond	Brian Neath	Audrey Turner
Mary Eagleson	Mary Jane Prentice	Bob Turner
Ian Evans	Tom Prescott	Russell Wood
Pete Gordon	Brigid Primrose	Mark Wynn (Chairman)
Malcolm Harvey	Gwen Richards	

1 – Welcome and Apologies

Mark welcomed all to the meeting, especially any new members or visitors.

Apologies

David Bell	Jeremy & Jane Fletcher	David McAllister
Barry Blake	Sallie Jack	Bill Slater
Lynn Evans	Maureen & James Hammond	Mary Winsch

2 – Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the 2016 AGM had been previously circulated to the committee for amendments and thereafter they had been posted on the website for perusal/comments. The minutes were taken as read.
Proposed by Bob Turner seconded by Mike Taylor.

3 – Matters arising

None

4 – Chairman's report

Mark started by imparting the sad news that Ray Collier, the first chairman of the Highland Branch of BC, had died and his report focused on Ray's time as chair and future challenges.

The first meeting of the branch took place on 3rd June 1993, so next year will be our silver anniversary. Martin Warren did the introduction, the launch was by Magnus Magnusson and there was a talk from Neil Ravenscroft. Mark heard Neil give an excellent talk on Marsh Fritillary at the Islay Natural Trust AGM recently, so Mark wondered whether we should invite him to talk next year as part of our Highland Branch 25th anniversary.

Ray also established the Highland Biological Recording Group, and along with the other 5 founding members became known at the "Penny Posters" as they met in the Penny Post pub. Sadly Ray is the first Penny Poster to leave us.

Ray was our chair for two years, David McAllister took over for another 2 years, then Jimmy McKellar took over for 15 years. Mark felt that it was now time for him to step down to make way for someone new, and luckily Pete Moore has stepped forward. Mark wasn't sure whether it was the fact that Pete had turned 60 or got married that meant he had more time to take on the roll. Mark fully backed the nomination of Pete who felt would deliver new ideas and reinvigorate the branch for our upcoming silver anniversary and BC's golden anniversary. Not only that but Pete is a committed conservationist, and this is something we need at this time when some of our environmental protection laws may be lost allowing developers to move into special areas.

Mark spoke about "Last Child in the Woods" in which the author, Richard Louv, pointed out that something new and potentially very damaging was happening to children, they were losing contact with nature during their leisure time by retreating into the house. He called it "Nature Deficit Disorder". Ray also believed children needed to understand natural history and that is should be part of the education system. He didn't want natural history to be seen as an eccentric hobby.

Ray was an outstanding communicator, as seen in his articles and diaries in The Courier, Highland News and Guardian. The Courier's obituary said of Ray that "his enthusiasm for wildlife was infectious". Sadly Ray felt responsible for the loss of the Chequered Skipper in England, where he was a Nature Conservancy Warden in Rutland, feeling that he got the management for the butterfly totally wrong. But he was proud of the recovery in Scotland; knowing now that it's a butterfly of open areas rather than an edge species. Perhaps some of the increase in number is due to the recent survey for CS. Luckily £4.6m lottery funding has been announced to help some of England's rarest species and the CS in amongst the beneficiaries.

Mark then went on to thank all of the butterfly and moth recorders, those who walk transects or submit records. The number of records received was down last year, most likely due to the miserable weather and this year is not expected to be good due to the previous last two years weather having a knock on effect. Having said that Mark told us he has seen 3 butterfly species this year: Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell and, amazingly, a Speckled Wood.

Unfortunately, 2 of the VC recorders are stepping down. Brian Neath whose Skye patch will be taken over by Keith Sadler, and his Wester Ross patch by Barry Blake. Tony Mainwood is handing over East Sutherland to Brigid Primrose. As a thank you to Brian and Tony Pete presented them with framed fake moths (made with clay, fabric, paper and wire) by the artist Izumi Segawa. Tony was given a Scotch Annulet and an Annulet in recognition of a study he did on the pair after finding Annulet in a quarry near Rogart. Brian was presented with a Square-spotted Clay and Bordered Grey.

Mark brought to our attention that BC was issuing new postcards asking for sightings of Orange Tip following on from the previous postcard surveys done 20 and 10 years ago. We were asked to take some and distribute to schools, libraries etc.

BC now have 4 pin badges for sale; Emperor Moth, Small Copper, Adonis Blue (Tom teased us that we could sell it as a Scottish Common Blue!), and Marbled White (or Argent and Sable if you wish to make it into a Scottish species!!).

Scottish fact sheets are available to download from the Scottish pages of the BC website. They are for Small Blue, Northern Brown Argus and Kentish Glory.

Finally Mark thanked the HB committee for all their help, especially to Audrey who does so much for us (Membership Secretary, Web Mater, CS editor, and if that wasn't enough Treasurer).

5 – Treasurer's Report

Audrey told us that headquarters were taking over some of the financial duties which should make her life easier. At the moment it is the writing of cheques but there may be more changes later. In future claims, receipts will be sent to HQ and another committee member will email to confirm that these are legitimate.

Audrey presented the financial figures (set out in Appendix 1).

Income is down on last year as there is no grant from Dark Bordered Beauty from the RSPB. Subscriptions have increased to 308, (households) so individual membership will be higher. Our main source of income is the £6 we receive per BC membership.

Thanks to Stuart Bence attending events we have sold more Atlas' and past issues of Chequered Skipper.

Expenditure is lower this year, due to no large purchase of field equipment, unlike last year, and reduced contribution to Recorders and Members day.

Printing and posting the Chequered Skipper is our largest annual expenditure.

Restricted funds can only be spent on Dark Bordered Beauty

Designated funds are from the Burnet conference and is earmarked for fencing.

Overall our finances are good

6 – Election of Committee members

The election of Pete was proposed by Tony and seconded by Bob. This was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

Pete asked if anyone would take over the role of event organiser for next year.

The re-election of the committee was proposed by Hilary and seconded by Brigid. This was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

Pete thanked Mark for his time as chair and thought he had grown into the role, and was glad to see he is continuing on as a committee member. Pete then presented Mark with a framed Richard Lewington print of a Small Tortoiseshell which Mark very much appreciated.

Pete said there were exciting and challenging times ahead, and although it was nice to go out and look at butterflies under Mark's chairmanship there had been an increase in practical conservation work, and looking at planning something he wishes to increase.

AOCB

None

Date and Time of Next AGM

10am, 14th April 2018

After the formal part of the day was closed we were treated to 3 excellent talks

Ailie Brown – The Butterfly House at Landmark, Carrbridge

Pete Moore – Butterflies of Turkey

Mike Taylor – Swedish Butterflies

Appendix 1

2015-2016	Income	2016-2017
£4,470.17	Total Brought Forward	£3,351.07
£1,684.00	BC subscriptions	£1,731.00
£33.80	Atlas & Book Sales	£128.65
£12.40	Paid in error – should have gone to other branch	
£500.00	RSPB Grant - Dark Bordered Beauty Surveys	
	Vat from Head Office	£25.04
	Donations	£108.50
£6.57	Repayment of Bank Charges by Head Office	
£2,236.77	Total Income For Year	£1,993.19
£6,706.94		£5,344.26

2015-2016	Expenditure	2016-2017
£884.50	Newsletter & News-sheet costs	£834.10
£18.00	AGM Notices/Room Hire	£38.54
£7.89	Support Costs	£127.95
£94.50	MapMate licences	£94.50
£33.84	Insurance	£28.29
£51.08	Under recorded area expenses	£32.50
£403.02	RSPB DBB Survey expenses	£32.58
£403.90	Membership Costs (Postage)	£361.20
£438.52	Contribution to Members Day & Recorders Gathering	£223.00
£300.22	Payment of previous years creditors	
£508.00	Field Equipment	£31.92
£12.40	Reclaimed incorrect payment	
£200.00	Contribution to Head Office projects (Bog Squad)	
£3,355.87	Total Expenditure For Year	£1,804.58
£3,351.07	Total Carried Forward	£3,539.68
£6,706.94		£5,344.26

Balances Carried Forward

Restricted Funds - DBB	£1,003.49
Designated Funds - Burnet	£1,462.12
Unrestricted Funds	£1,074.07
Total	£3,539.68

Fund Name	Dark Bordered Beauty Survey Expenses	Burnet Symposium
Opening Balance	£1,036.07	£1,462.12
Income		
Expenditure	£32.58	
Balance Forward	£1,003.49	£1,462.12