

Butterfly Conservation

Hants and Isle of Wight Branch – 2010 Annual General Meeting

Saturday 23rd October 2010

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from John Mundy, Andrew Brookes, Linda Barker, Tessa Newell, Mike Gibbins and Peter Welch.

2. Minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting.

The minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting were unanimously confirmed as an accurate record.

Proposed: Andy Barker. Seconded: Ashley Whitlock.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes.

Health and safety – the branch is addressing how best to make walks and events accessible to the disabled. The branch wishes to encourage people of all abilities to take part in events but it was felt that a certain degree of mobility should be expected on walks. If participants are very infirm it was felt advisable that they should have an able-bodied person accompany them.

4. Presentation of Accounts.

Arthur Greenwood (Treasurer) presented the accounts for 2009 – 2010. A summary sheet had been circulated prior to the meeting. Total income was £48,528 which was lower than in 2008/2009. There had been a £5000 legacy in 2008/9, otherwise income was consistent with the previous year. Expenditure during 2009/2010 was £47,528 so the branch received £621 more than it spent. There was a higher cost of managing the reserves during the year due to tree works that were necessary following the heavy snow. The branch's contribution to the South East woodlands project finished this year. Investments remained untouched and were valued at £144,490 at 31/3/10.

The accounts had been audited by the National Butterfly Conservation auditors. No significant changes are expected in the 2010/2011 year. Tessa Newell will be stepping down as Branch Treasurer during 2011 and was thanked by all for her hard work and contribution to the branch.

It was proposed that the accounts be formally adopted, and this was carried unanimously.

Proposed: Brian Fletcher. Seconded: Jenny Mallett.

5. Reports for conservation, Information, Records and Reserves Sub-Committees.

a. Conservation sub-committee.

Andy Barker (Chairman of the Conservation sub-committee) listed the members of the sub-committee. He noted that there were two new members, Tim Bernhard and Piers Vigus both of whom were warmly welcomed. Andy explained the existence of Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs). The New Forest, Tytherley Woods area, St Catherines Hill, Selborne and the South Downs are all within BOA's. Organisations are working together to improve the biodiversity within these areas. The fact that these areas are within BOAs may mean that funding becomes more available. Some areas within the New Forest, such as the Wootton Coppice Inclosure, have become valuable habitats for Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary. The species is doing well there, although there are continuing problems with collectors. Pearl-bordered Fritillaries have also had a good year. Dan Hoare is completing the Tytherley woods project now that Kate Dent has moved on. The project has been successful in

prioritising management for butterflies and moths. One of the key estates in the area is now in Higher Level Stewardship and therefore has funding for habitat management work. The committee has committed £500 to establishing more blackthorn hedges in the Selborne area to benefit the Brown Hairstreak. Hedges will be cut on a 3 year cycle and will link Noar Hill with Selborne Common. In the South Downs there is a project forthcoming to benefit the Duke of Burgundy. Hampshire and West Sussex are all good for Dukes. Andrew Brookes has been promoting the cause of White-letter Hairstreaks through his elm project.

b. Information sub-committee

Brian Fletcher described the role of the Information sub-committee throughout the year. The year begins with the earliest sightings of butterflies and these sightings are recorded on the website that is run by Robin Turner. In January a newsletter is published and this is edited by Juliet Bloss. In each newsletter there is a list of new members. The membership secretary is Janet Jones who compiles the list. Throughout the year there are requests for talks on butterflies and moths. As evening meeting co-ordinator, Brian Fletcher organises many talks. The Butterfly and Moth report is produced by Linda Barker. In the Spring newsletter, the events programme for the year is listed. Jenny Mallett and Linda Barker organise the events, and Alison Harper co-ordinates the field trips. Lynn Fomison provides information on health and safety issues. Brian reported that there are a full range of events throughout the year, and urged members to become involved at events that were local to them. These events are very rewarding, and he noted that 18 species of butterfly were seen at the Hilliers Arboretum event, and 20 species were seen at the Longstock event. Janet Jones is also press officer but is likely to move from Hampshire soon. Brian Fletcher will be standing down as Information sub-committee chairman in 2011. Roger Buchanan will be taking on the role. Consequently there is a need for more members to join the sub-committee. Brian was thanked for his hard work in chairing the sub-committee in recent years.

c. Records sub-committee

Tim Norriss started his report by describing the roles of the sub-committee members. Linda Barker is the branch butterfly recorder, Tim Norriss is the Branch Moth Officer and Chairman elect. Mike Wall is the Branch Micro-moth recorder, and Robn Turner is the webmaster. Peter Eeles is IT advisor, Ken Bailey is responsible for data entry and the Butterfly and Moth report. Pam Welch co-ordinates the transects. Alison Harper is retiring from the sub-committee and was thanked for her contribution. Dave Green is the former chairman. In 2009 there were 64,152 butterfly records received by the branch- the highest number received. The branch now holds 1,729,926 records. The branch has contributed to the Moths Count and Butterflies of the New Millennium projects. The UK moth atlas is now imminent. The branch has achieved phenomenal coverage. This is partly due to the efforts of Robin Turner in making submission electronically via the website an easy process. Identification is also made easier due to the various butterfly and moth websites, in particular Mike Wall's Hants Moths website. The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Butterfly and Moth report involves the work of 26 writers, 45 photographers and 8 people entering records on the database, so represents a huge amount of work. There will be a move towards e-communication and access to newsletters (for example) provided via the branch website. There will be system whereby members can "opt out" of receiving paper copies. There will be 2 editions a year of the newsletter, a colour version of which will be on the website. Tim thanked all sub-committee members, the Main committee for its support, and the members who submitted records.

d. Reserves sub-committee

Jenny Mallett reported that snow on the reserves in January had meant no food for the cattle so they had had to be removed. Magdalen is looking good, although grazing is a constant problem. Contact has to be maintained with the 3 graziers. It's a major job taking stock on and off when required. Volunteers have contributed towards the management of the sites, but more volunteers are always needed, if only for an hour or two. 2010 was a good year for Chalkhill Blues on Magdalen with c3800 recorded. The first Dingy Skipper was seen at Yew Hill since 1993. 3 new chalk scrapes were completed at Magdalen in March 2010. Horseshoe Vetch will be plugged in to these. Visiting groups generated income through HLS, there were 25 at Magdalen and 16 at Bentley Station

Meadow. In September Ivan Arnold had contacted the local MP who had visited the reserve. It has now been 21 years since the branch obtained Magdalen and Yew Hill. In 1989 Magdalen was covered in scrub, and now it is mainly cleared. In 1997 the extension was just bare ground, but now in July it is a profusion of colour. In August 2004 North Down was bare chalk, now it is on its way to becoming chalk grassland. In 10 minutes one can see 32 Green Hairstreaks at Magdalen in the hedgerows. The Yew Hill butterflies have done well this year. The reserve is looking good, as is the 9 acre addition to the reserve at Hill Top.

The reports were accepted by members en bloc unanimously.

Proposed: Robin Turner. Seconded: Matthew Oates.

6. Chairmans Report.

Roger Buchanan reported that Lynn will be leaving as Reserves Officer during 2011. The reserves have been transformed due to a lot of people's input, but this effort had been led by Lynn. Lynn will be very difficult to replace, and a huge thank you was due to her. Roger also highlighted the need for a new Treasurer and encouraged expressions of interest. Janet Jones would also be leaving, so someone with publicity skills would be needed too. 2010 events had included social events, photography evenings and new members' day. Roger thanked branch members for their support during his tenure as Chairman, particularly Andy Barker and Jenny Mallett who was a tower of strength for the branch.

7. Election of Committee Members.

There were two members standing down from the Main Committee, Janet Jones and Thelma Smalley. Those standing down but seeking re-election were Andy Barker, Juliet Bloss, Brian Fletcher and Tim Norriss. It was agreed to vote on their re-election en-bloc. Their re-election was accepted by a majority.

Proposed: Andrew Bolton. Seconded: Janet Jones.

Members seeking election to the Main Committee were Andrew Bolton (Proposed: Peter Eeles. Seconded: Andy Barker), and Gary Richards (Proposed: Dave Green. Seconded: Robin Turner). Both nominations were accepted by a majority.

Peter Eeles has been nominated as Branch Chairman by the Main Committee. Roger Buchanan handed over Chairmanship of the meeting to Peter Eeles. Peter thanked Roger for his sterling work during his tenure and presented him with a butterfly print.

8. Health and Safety Matters.

Lynn reported that it had been a very safe and healthy year, so there was nothing to report.

9. Any Other Business.

There was none.

The meeting closed at 14.38 hours.