



Minutes of the BSBI Scotland Annual General Meeting

Chaired by Lindsay Mackinlay, Chair BSBI Committee for Scotland (CfS)

12.30 Sunday 1 November 2020 by Zoom on line

1. Welcome

Lindsay Mackinlay welcomed everyone attending the first BSBI Scotland AGM online. All BSBI members are entitled to vote at the AGM.

2. Minutes of the BSBI Scottish AGM 2019

Minutes of the BSBI Scottish AGM 2019 have been displayed on the website and were displayed in Lindsay's PowerPoint. No amendments have been received. The minutes were approved, proposed by Liz Kungu, and a show of hands and seconded by David Elston, and a show of hands.

3. Committee for Scotland – composition and elections.

BSBI Committee for Scotland 2019-20

- Lindsay Mackinlay (Chair)
- Vacant - (Vice-chair)
- Liz Lavery (Secretary)
- Aileen Meek (Field Meetings Secretary) - Retiring
- Natalie Harmsworth – Retiring
- Liz Kungu (also BSS) - see Nominations
- Alan Walker – see Nominations
- John Crossley
- David Elston
- Ron Youngman

Two members retired - Aileen Meek, Field Meetings Secretary and Natalie Harmsworth, organiser of the BSBI Photographic Competition. Lindsay thanked them both for all their hard work.

Representatives:

BSBI staff:	Jim Mcintosh (BSBI Scottish Officer)
SNH (<i>now NatureScot</i>):	Iain MacDonald/Sarah Smyth
Plantlife:	Alistair Whyte
National Trust for Scotland:	Dan Watson

A number of organisations have representatives on the Committee for Scotland. Lindsay thanked them all for their very valuable contributions to the committee.

Two members were due for re-election: Liz Kungu and Alan Walker proposed by Lindsay Mackinlay, seconded David Elston and approved unanimously by an electronic yes vote of 53.

Two new members were proposed for election: Andrew Rowley, who has been acting as Young Persons Representative, and Matt Parratt, formerly a member of BSBI Council and BSBI Conifer Referee, proposed by Liz Lavery and seconded by Lindsay Mackinlay and approved unanimously by an electronic yes vote of 49.

BSBI Committee for Scotland 2020-21:

- Lindsay Mackinlay (Chair)
- Vacant - (Vice-chair)
- Liz Lavery (Secretary)
- Liz Kungu (also BSS) – re-elected
- Alan Walker – re-elected
- John Crossley
- David Elston
- Ron Youngman
- Andrew Rowley – new member
- Matt Parratt – new member

4. Chair's report

Lindsay likened 2020 to wading through dense tussocks of *Molinia* grass. Because of Covid-19 there were

- No formal field meetings in 2020.
- No formal field training in 2020.
- No summer meeting in the Borders.
- No physical Scottish Botanists Conference and chance to meet up with old & new friends in person.

BUT

- Lots of data digitisation, validation and uploading for Atlas 2020 took place...
- Lots of opportunities to explore your local area and collect more records!
- Zoom meetings galore
- A new BSBI Strategy, Governance plans, Committee meetings and the last Council meeting.

And you can still spend too much money on that *really* nice book at Summerfield Books online!

Committee for Scotland: 'Campaigns'

Coul Links Update: On 21 February 2020 the Scottish Government announced that the plans were refused due to the unacceptable impact on the natural heritage value of Coul Links.

NTS Restructuring Concerns: Several key ranger posts saved but sadly many countryside posts have also been lost. NTS are guardians for many iconic places in Scotland for example Glen Coe, Ben Lawers, Iona and Mar Lodge.

Outreach Activity

- Engagement with younger audience, up to 30 yrs old - Jay Delves and Andrew Rowley were co-opted on to the committee in January. They have come up with

some great ideas; Jay with suggestions about mentoring for new botanists, and Andrew about advertising BSBI to students, he is producing an *Introduction to the BSBI* video for university students. Jay has had to stand down from the committee for now but we very much hope she will have time to join us again at some point. A very big thank you to them both.

- Faith Anstey is working on a new beginner's guide *Start to Identify Composite Flowers* which she hopes will be out in 2021. This will compliment her excellent beginner's guides to *Grasses, Sedges* and *Identifying Wildflower Families*.
- Aileen Meek is working on a webinar on Plant Families; being able to recognise common plant families is the easiest way to begin identifying wild flowers and get into botany.

5. Scottish Vice-county Recorders News

In Memory: Very sadly George Ballantyne passed away this summer. He was VCR for Fife and Kinross for 51 years, latterly jointly with Sandy Edwards. He was an expert on brambles and Scottish referee; author of *Wild Flowers in Fife and Kinross: A Concise Checklist* and had almost completed a *Flora of Fife and Kinross*. It is hoped that this can be completed with the help of his family. A full obituary will appear in the BSBI News.



George Ballantyne and Sandy Edwards at the Annual Exhibition meeting

Special thanks to:

- Alan Silverside, who retired at the end of last year as Wigtownshire Recorder after 42 years.
- Pam Murdoch (Dunbartonshire) & Carl Farmer (Joint Argyll) who both retired before the end of Atlas 2020 but completed fieldwork for it.
- Barbara Sumner (Midlothian) who will retire at the end of 2020.

Further Updates:

- Michael Jeeves started as Wigtownshire (Vc74) VCR during the summer, after retiring as VCR in Leicestershire a few years ago before moving up to Newton Stewart.
- Andy Amphlett has retired from Banffshire and moved over to help Adam Fraser in East Inverness-shire (our biggest VC, Vc96), but leaving a Vacancy in Banffshire Vc94

- Robin Cowe is the new VCR for Berwickshire Vc82.

Current vacancies:

- *Banffshire Vc94*
- *Midlothian Vc83...at end of 2020*
- *Dunbartonshire Vc99*
- *Argyllshire Vc98 joint with Gordon Rothero*

6. Scottish Newsletter

2020 was the first time in 40 years that there has been no printed Scottish Newsletter, but it is published on the website <https://bsbi.org/scottish-newsletter>. Lindsay thanked the editor Angus Hannah for producing another excellent Newsletter. Angus will welcome contributions for the next edition by the end of February 2021.

7. Field meetings

Depending on Covid restrictions it is hoped to reschedule the 2020 programme of field meetings in 2021. We are open to offers of other field meetings. Ideas more field meetings and field group activities will be discussed at the next CfS meeting. Plans for the next BSBI Annual Summer meeting in Scotland are moved to 2022.

Proposed Field Meetings Programme 2021 Bookings will be essential on all meetings.

Date	Place	Leader
30 April – 3 May	<i>Taraxacum</i> training and recording workshop, Portpatrick, Wigton (v.cc.74, 75) Friday to Monday. Specialised.	John Richards
8 May	Rothesay, Isle of Bute (v.c.100); General. Saturday	Angus Hannah
24 June	Muir of Ord (v.c.106). Urban Flora recording. Thursday.	Brian Ballinger & Mary Dean
26 June – 2 July	Barra Islands, Outer Hebrides (v.c.110). Recording. Saturday – Friday.	Paul Smith
24 July	Glenshee & The Cairnwell (v.cc.89, 92). General. Saturday.	Martin Robinson
25 July	Grasses, sedges and rushes, Ben Lawers (v.c.88), A joint meeting with NTS & PSNS. Sunday. Training.	Dan Watson & Faith Anstey

8. Date of next AGM – ?

9. Any other business

- David Welch and Angus Hannah have taken over from George Ballantyne as Scottish Brambles Referee.
- Aileen Meek agreed to continue taking emails about field meetings for now until a new contact is arranged. She is still on the Outreach committee.
- Jim McIntosh is working with George Ballantyne's family to transfer his collection of Bramble specimens to RBGE.

Lindsay thanked the CfS (Committee for Scotland) members, VCRs, BSBI staff, committee and board members. Thanks also to all volunteers and to NatureScot for their continued financial support.