

BSBI COMMITTEE FOR SCOTLAND

Minutes of the meeting held at 2.00pm on Saturday, 23 APRIL 2005 2p.m., Fochabers, Moray
c/o Ian Green.

1. **Apologies:** Ms Lynne Farrell, Ms Heather McHaffie, Ms Jeanette Hall, Dr Mark Watson.

2. **Present:** Dr Stephen Bungard, Mr Alastair Godfrey, Mr Ian Green, Dr Chris Miles (minutes), Dr Richard Pankhurst (Chair). In attendance Mr Jim McIntosh (BSBI Scottish Officer).

3. **Minutes of the meetings of 12th March 2005**

The minutes of the meeting were circulated with the agenda. These were approved with some minor amendments and duly signed as a true record of the meeting.

4. **Matters Arising**

Two actions were continued. There had yet to be a meeting of records committee to bring up the suggestion that rejected records are made available on the website for VCRs to check themselves. The idea of a calendar of botanical events on a Scottish web page had yet to be taken forward.

ACTION: JM to raise issue at records committee

ACTION: JM to explore events listing for web page.

All other action points discharged.

5. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman had nothing to report that would not be dealt with under other agenda items.

6. **Secretary/Treasurer's Report**

Other than preparing the agenda and sending out papers for this meeting there was nothing else to report.

7. **Scottish Officer's Report**

JM had planned and led the Mapmate workshop attended by 19 members (16 VCRs). While this had clearly been a success the committee agreed a course aimed particularly at starters should be planned. It was agreed as well that when available the handbook should be circulated to all Mapmate users as it may help those not able to be at the training.

It was agreed that other training techniques would also be encouraged, for example VCRs tutoring neighbours and notification to beginners of courses run by others.

JM would not become a repository of BSBI data, but perhaps a hub for a discussion group or bulletin board.

ACTION: JM to explore bulletin board idea.

A general discussion on getting the historical data held in many VCs entered onto computer concluded that there were various ways this might be done. This included the VCRs doing it themselves, LRCs doing it or getting grant to pay for data entry. It was agreed that a number of questions required addressing. What data is wanted, how far back should we go, where are there backlogs of such data and how big a task is it. It may be that there is guidance from Records committee about this. JM would attempt to find out what sort of data exists as he goes around meeting VCRs.

ACTION: JM to check if records committee offer guidance on historical data handling.

JM informed the committee that his Steering group had advised against planning a VCR meeting in Scotland this year. This would be put off until 2006 (possibly April).

A SCM training day for BSBI volunteers had been set up jointly with SNH (Lynne Farrell) and held on 16 April. Twelve BSBI members had attended.

JM had liaised with Ro Scott about producing an article about the BAP process for VCRs particularly explaining how they might input to the process. Rare plant registers offered one useful way to influence Local BAP groups.

JM tabled draft proposals for what might appear on a Scottish web page on the BSBI web site (attached). JM sought comment from committee members ASAP. JM would discuss the proposals with Alex Lockton.

ACTION: All to send comments to JM as soon as possible.

JM had meet with Dr Gabriel Hemery the new BSBI Director of development who is line manager for JM and Bob Ellis. JM would circulate his report on April activities soon.

8. Consultations

AG mentioned that he had seen a consultation by the Scottish Executive on planning. He wondered if BSBI might wish to comment on this. This related to Strategic Environmental Assessment of all public plans implementing an EU Directive.

ACTION: CM undertook to check this (the deadline for written comment was 13 April).

9. Liaison with Other Groups

a) Scottish Wildlife and Countryside Link. No further newsletter or correspondence since the last meeting.

b) Scottish Plantlife Link. JM had attended the PLINKs meeting with Gabriel Hemery. This had focussed on a lower plant strategy for Scotland.

c) Plantlife. No report had been received. JM meets informally with the Plantlife officer. It appears there are doubts about the continuation of the Scottish Officer post.

d) BSS Council. No report.

e) SNH. Lynne Farrell submitted a written report which was read by Chris Miles

10. Reports to and from BSBI Council and Committees

a) Council - Richard Pankhurst reported that the treasurer had announced that a large legacy had been left to the Society. The President had given an award to Hannah Graves, a student who achieved the highest marks in the Birmingham University recording and identification course. The death of Peter Thomson, Hon Minuting Secretary to Council was announced.

There were no other meetings reported.

11. Field meetings for 2005 and 2006

Stephen Bungard reported that numbers for this years meetings were high for Skye and Orkney but low at present for Wigtown and Kircudbright. Lynne Farrell's proposal for a meeting on Mull in 2006 was noted. Paul Smith would probably organise a meeting on the Western Isles.

There was some discussion about the need to organise a beginners meeting and how this would best be done. One way was to encourage VCRs to do this perhaps with LRCs support.

12. Scottish Annual Meeting and AGM

Alastair Godfrey reported the progress made in organising this years meeting which would be in the Perth museum. Available space includes the main lecture theatre, seating 98, gallery 1 where there is a central area available for exhibitions on tables and display panels and the library where there is space for the Summerfield book stall. Confirmation is needed of when Summerfield need to set up and what space they require. Tea and coffee is provided by the museum at 50p or could be by PSNS if the museum agree. Final arrangement to be concluded by AG. A table can also be set up at the entrance to allow pre-printed labels to be picked up. The gallery and library remains open to the public. Because of this the curator would like everything set up by 10:00am. It was noted that we normally allow setting up until 12:00. It will be possible to visit the herbarium.

Andy Amphlett has agreed to give the talk. JM would discuss the title with him and agreed to introduce him.

We require two carousel projectors which are usually borrowed from RBGE. JM would check that this was possible.

The museum is charging £70 for the day up to 5pm and £30 for two hours security cover after 5pm.

It was noted that both BSS members and PSNS members needed to be invited. For BSS information is needed for the BSS newsletter in August and a flier for the BSBI news in September. AG to ensure these provided.

The George Hotel in Perth had been assessed and found suitable. A preliminary booking had been made for 60 people for a meal at 18:30. The manager had agreed that tables could be rearranged to allow a slide show at the end of the meal. It was agreed to encourage images to be submitted by CD to JM a week before the meal. It was agreed that members would be charged £20 for the meal. The hotel were offering rooms at £35 single and £50 double which included a £10 reduction if people said they were BSBI members.

ACTION: tasks remaining:

- Finalise speaker and title **[JM to contact Andy Amphlett]**
- Arrange who will introduce the speaker **[JM would introduce Andy Amphlett]**
- Ensure two carousel projectors are available on the day **[JM]**
- Contact Summerfield Books re their space requirements **[AG to liaise]**
- Make arrangements for tea and coffee during the day **[AG to discuss with the museum]**
- Prepare flier to include with BSBI and BSS mailings **[AG to prepare]**
- Receive and acknowledge bookings for exhibits, slides and evening meal **[AG/JM]**

13. Vice-County Recorders

The article in BSBI news about hybrids was noted. Further communication with VCRs about this was expected.

The popUK project run by the University of Sheffield was noted. It is trying to assess if populations on reserves are doing better than those outside reserves.

David Pearman had asked if we would like a note on the editing of Scottish records to which RP had said yes. This would need to be circulated to VCRs and put on the Scottish web page. This would be useful during the Atlas updating project. Chris Preston is happy to remove dots that may be dubious.

It was noted that following the discovery of *Carex salina* there was a need to check the lower edges of salt marshes around the coast.

VC 96 - Margaret Baron has spoken with JM. She is happy to continue short term. Jeff Waddell who is known to Michael Braithwaite has just joined the Highland Botany group and is a possible replacement. He is also moth recorder for VC 96. It was agreed that at present we should consult with David Pearman on making him joint vice county recorder.

ACTION: JM to contact David Pearman.

VC75 – JM had spoken to Peter Macpherson. He didn't know of any active botanists in Ayrshire. David Lang who is a BSBI member is interested. It was agreed to recommend him to records committee.

ACTION: JM to recommend David Lang as recorder for VC75.

14. The Scottish Newsletter

Peter Macpherson now has all copy for this year's newsletter but noted the very late arrival of the exhibition meeting reports.

15. Date of next meeting is set as 24 September at Lynne Farrell's, Blairgowrie.

ACTION: CM to circulate advance details of how to get to Lynne Farrell's with these minutes.

16. A.O.C.B.

It was noted that this years committee meetings have so far had a rather low attendance. RP suggested that we agree next years meeting dates at the next meeting. It was agreed to give a choice over 2 weekends and circulate these ahead of the next meeting for agreement at the meeting.

A vote of thanks was given to Ian Green for hosting the meeting and for providing an excellent spread for tea.

Draft Proposals for BSBI Scottish Webpages:

This is an *indication* of the sort of layout and content that could be developed on the BSBI Scottish Webpages. As many of the pages as possible would contain existing copy, or copy produced for other publications. The remaining pages, other than the home page could be built up over a period of time.

Target audience

Anyone with an interest in Scottish BSBI and botanical issues. Most likely to be Scottish BSBI members and other Scottish botanists.

General BSBI Scottish Home Page

General Standing item

1. The BSBI in Scotland including ref to the Scottish Officer, the Scottish Committee and the Annual Meeting.

Scottish BSBI News - short paragraphs on:

2. BSBI's involvement with Site Condition Monitoring in Scotland
3. What's happening on BSBI's Data Handling Plans in Scotland, include reference to recent MapMate workshop.
4. BSBI Local Change in Scotland

Other news items of general botanical interest

5. State of Juniper in Scotland Report (summary based on report commissioned by SNH).
6. The collated list of botanical events and meetings in Scotland (when available)

Second Level Pages (one link away from home page)

- 1.1 Fuller feature on the Scottish Officer
- 1.2 Fuller report on last year's Annual Meeting, including list of exhibitions.
- 1.3 Program for this year's Annual Meeting (when it becomes available)
- 1.4 More about the Scottish Committee

- 2.1 Fuller report on SCM Work BSBI did in 2004.
- 2.2 Fuller report on SCM Work proposed for 2005, include call for volunteers.
- 2.3 Report on recent SCM Training Workshop.

- 3.1 Report on recent MapMate Workshop

- 4.1 Fuller article on BSBI Local Change in Scotland (when available)

- 5.1 Fuller report on State of Juniper in Scotland Report

- 6.1 Full list of botanical events and meetings in Scotland

Third Level Pages (two links away from General welcome page)

- 1.1.1 Who's who on the Steering Group (just positions and names)
- 1.1.2 Finalised Scottish Officer Steering Group Agreement
- 1.1.3 Finalised Scottish Officer Strategy
- 1.1.4 Finalised Scottish Officer Annual Work Program for 2005
- 1.1.5 The most recent Scottish Officer Monthly Report (agreed by Line Manager)

- 1.2.1 Details of all exhibitions at last year's Annual Report....
- 1.4.1 Who's who on the Scottish Committee (just positions and names)
- 1.4.2 Most recent Minutes of the Scottish Committee
- 1.4.3 Recent Scottish Committee consultation responses

5.1.1 Unabridged State of Juniper Report

6.1.1 Contact details for further information for the various events.....

Fourth Level Pages:

- 1.1.5.1 Scottish Officer Monthly Reports back-issues....
- 1.4.2.1 Scottish Committee minutes back-issues...

Issues:

- Do we need to publish in pdf format to prevent documents being edited?
- Care will have to be taken with material published on web – some editing may be required to remove personal or otherwise sensitive information. (What?)
- Even if as much of the copy as possible is existing material, do I have time to maintain and update content? How much time will it take?
- Does Alex have enough time to put build and maintain website for me?
- Is everyone on the Scottish Committee and Steering Group happy with the proposals?
- Other? Are fellow BSBI employees – particularly Alex happy with proposals?

Jim McIntosh
Scottish Officer
April 2005