

**BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION EUROPEAN INTERESTS GROUP
(BC-EIG) Treasurer's Report for the financial year ended 31 March 2015**

The Branch (BC-EIG) finances remain strong, and the challenge to reduce the level of funds held remains. We have given a commitment to the BC Treasurer to conform to the Charity Commission's guidelines of about 6 months at current usage.

However, in the year to end March 2015 we again spent more than our income leading to a reduction (loss) of £1556, and funds carried forward of £6875.

Income from Subscriptions was significantly higher than the prior year (£2310 cf £908) due to increased membership numbers but, more importantly, by the reduction in the 2013/2014 figure as a result of back payment to HMRC following their decision that the Branch does not qualify for VAT zero rating. Sales of Calendars and Polo Shirts increased marginally from £779 to £850. There was no conference income (Digne Conference £440 in 2013/2014). Total income was £3230 cf £2277 in 2013/2014.

Expenditure showed considerable variation against 2013/2014 with the costs of the Digne Conference replaced by further costs (£1207) associated with the BC International Symposium held at Southampton University (travel costs for individuals from eastern Europe and a speaker plus hosting the reception). In addition, the costs for the new format Newsletter amounted to £1092, and a 'one-off' leaflet to attract new members £1087 (included under the Membership Costs – AGM & website figure of £1275). There was little change in other costs. Total expenditure amounted to £4786 cf £4495 in 2013/2014.

The Balance Sheet shows Total funds of £6291 at year end cf £8607 in the prior year, with a Debtors figure of £584 (uncleared expenses). The Thriplow Account carries forward a small balance of £345 that is due to be used in the current year, allowing us to close the account.

At the last AGM some concern was expressed regarding costs for the planned upgrade to the Newsletter. There has been widespread support for the quality of information and presentation of the Newsletter and Committee has confirmed that it wishes to continue with this format; each Newsletter costs about £500 and is seen as good value.

Thus, our current budget shows an annual cost of £1000 for the Newsletter, routine operating costs of £1500 and a further contribution to supporting project work in eastern Europe, particularly *C.myrmidone*, of £2500, leading to an anticipated spend of £5000 in 2015/2016, and an annual reduction in funds of £1500/2000.

I propose the adoption of the Report & Accounts.

Dudley Cheesman

4th November 2015