

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the European Interests Group of Butterfly Conservation held on 29 October 2016 at 2.10 pm at Benson Parish Hall Oxfordshire.**

There was a total of 29 members present.

The Secretary welcomed members, introduced the Committee members present and explained the format for the day.

1. Apologies for absence. Apologies were received from Marion Thomas, Mike Williams, Ted Benton, Martin Catt, Peter Bygate, Paul Kirkland and Dave Plowman.
2. Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting had been previously posted on the EIG website. Acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by Dudley Cheesman, seconded by Bernard Watts and unanimously approved. The Chairman signed the Minutes. The Secretary advised the meeting that the Minutes of the 2016 AGM would be posted on the EIG website.
3. The Chairman welcomed members, thanked Upper Thames Branch for their hospitality as this was a shared AGM and Members' Day and delivered his Report as follows.

Following a major membership drive in the winter of 2013/14 membership had increased significantly to over 430 members but as this is less than 2% of BC members there is still scope for growth.

Major future expenditure planned is for a printed 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary Newsletter and EIG will also offer annual research bursaries of (normally) £500 to encourage members to work on Red-list species preferably collaboratively with European colleagues and contacts. The bursaries will be aimed primarily at younger candidates.

2016 projects had included an EIG survey in the Montes Universales, further work in Romania on *Colias myrmidone* and funding of a scheme to start butterfly monitoring in Serbia.

Mike Williams led a successful fund-raising tour to Austria and Hungary to support the Orseg Trust in Hungary. His trips have now raised over €25,000 which has enabled the purchase of 20 hectares of prime butterfly habitat.

In 2017 Jude lock is offering a trip to the Pyrenees at the end of June.

The major effort in 2017 will be to try to establish a butterfly monitoring project in Greece. We hope that the National Parks can be encouraged to monitor the butterflies in their area and with the help of EIG's good friends Lazaros Pamperis and Rika Bisa of the Tsoumerka NP we will visit many of the Parks to explain the project.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report

The finances of EIG are once again in a strong position: we ended the year with a balance of £7642 (2014/15 £6875). The Treasurer reported that subscription income had increased by approximately 50% due to the membership drive. Total expenditure for the year amounted to £3777.

A major cost planned for next year is a 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary booklet covering the work of EIG over the first 10 years. This is budgeted to cost in excess of £3000 but will be an important marketing and membership tool.

The Treasurer reported that in future BC Head Office will take on responsibility for maintaining Branch accounts and making all payments which would ease the burdens on Branch treasurers.

A copy of the Treasurer's report will be posted on the website.

Dudley Cheesman proposed adoption of the accounts which was seconded by Simon Spencer and passed nem con.

#### 5. Committee re-elections

In accordance with BC rules one third of Branch Committee members are required to retire by seniority and be eligible for re-election. In addition, any members co-opted onto the Committee shall offer themselves for election at the following AGM Accordingly Simon Spencer, Mike Williams and Dudley Cheesman stood down by rotation and all sought re-election. Marion Thomas stood for election having been co-opted during the year. The re-election and election were proposed by the Nigel Peace and seconded by Martin Davies and approved unanimously by the meeting.

#### 6. Any Other Business

There was no none. Members re-joined the AGM and Members' Day of Upper Thames Branch.