



## Butterfly Conservation European Interests Group Rules

### 1. Name

The Group shall be called the “Butterfly Conservation European Interests Group”.

### 2. Objects

The objects of the Group shall be the same as the objects of Butterfly Conservation, and within these objects, the Group shall transact such business as may be appropriate for the benefit of the Group, and BC, and the furtherance of its aims.

The group will:-

1. Circulate information on European butterflies and moths to members and partners in Europe.
2. Encourage recording of butterflies in Europe and facilitate contact with recording schemes and encourage the local atlases that are planned in several parts of Europe.
3. Publicise the plight of butterflies and moths in Europe where changes in agriculture, particularly land abandonment are a huge threat.
4. Help set up projects with partners in Europe.
5. Provide a skilled volunteer resource for European nature conservation organisations such as national parks.
6. Assist the work of Butterfly Conservation Europe (BC Europe) and act as ambassadors for BC in Europe with partner organisations.
7. Work with partner organisations in lobbying in Europe.

### 3. Membership

- 3.1 Membership of the Group is open only to members of BC.
- 3.2 Categories of membership shall be the same as for UK membership.

3.3 Membership may cease for the following reasons:

- (a) resignation of the member from BC
- (b) resignation of the member from the Group element of the member's UK membership
- (c) failure to pay the annual subscription within the required period
- (d) by decision of the Group committee and subsequent approval of Council, where the member is judged to have behaved in a manner not consistent with the aims of the Group, contrary to the orderly running of the Group or at variance with the needs and aims of the conservation movement in general. Any member excluded under this Section shall have the right of direct appeal to Council, whose decision shall be final.

**4. Management**

4.1 The control and management of the Group shall be the responsibility of the Group committee. The committee shall comprise of a minimum of three persons: Chairman, Secretary and Membership Secretary. The number may be increased to a maximum of fifteen by the addition of such Officers as may be appropriate from time to time. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer must be members of the Group.

*The first members of the Group committee shall be –Simon Spencer (Chairman, Membership & Newsletter Editor), Mike Williams (Vice-Chairman & Trips co-ordinator), Neil Thompson (Treasurer & Webmaster), Ian Duncan (Minute taker etc), Nigel Spring and Nigel Charles (Committee members) Secretary vacant.*

4.2 At each Annual General Meeting (AGM), one third of the Group committee members in seniority rotation and any members co-opted onto the committee since the previous AGM shall retire and be eligible for re-election. Any member may propose another for election to the committee at the AGM, provided that the Secretary is advised in writing of the proposal at least twenty-one days before the meeting. The Group committee may, at its discretion, accept proposals at shorter notice.

4.3 Meetings of the Group committee shall be held as frequently as the committee deems necessary. Meetings should include declarations of interests and a financial statement. Any member of the committee may request that a meeting be called to give a decision on any matter which they feels warrants it. It shall be on the discretion of the Chairman as to whether to call such a meeting, but they shall do so if three committee members support the request.

- 4.4 If a consensus cannot be reached, a vote shall be taken on a show of hands. In the event of a tie, the Chairman shall have a second, casting, vote.
- 4.5 A quorum of the Group committee shall be one third of its members, with a minimum of three, of whom at least one must be the Group Chairman, Vice-Chairman or the Group Secretary. One of these three shall chair every meeting.

## **5. Powers of The Group Committee**

- 5.1 The Group committee shall have the power to control and manage all business of the Group for the benefit of the Group. The functions shall include:
- (a) Approval of expenditure via Head Office and Executive Group as appropriate
  - (b) the maintenance of Group records
  - (c) co-opting additional members as necessary
  - (d) establishment of sub-committees
  - (e) co-operation with such organisations or individuals as is necessary and invitations to representatives of such bodies or such individuals to attend committee meetings on a non-voting basis
  - (f) issuing periodic newsletters
  - (g) removal of members under 3.3 (c)
  - (h) any other lawful act for the benefit of the Group
  - (i) The Group Committee shall keep minutes of its meetings and forward a copy to BC.
- 5.2 These powers are delegated by Council, and shall be exercised to conform to any regulations imposed by Council, to be set down in the Branch Handbook.

## **6. Sub- committees**

- 6.1 Any sub-committee appointed by the Group committee should have the power to act on behalf of the Group committee, subject to its directions. Any expenditure must be approved by the Group committee and Executive Group before it is incurred. The members of any sub-committee of a permanent nature shall be subject to the same retirement and re-election rules as those applying to the Group committee.

## **7. General Meetings**

- 7.1 Annual General Meetings shall be held within 15 months of the previous AGM. The election/re-election or removal of Officers and the approval of the annual accounts shall take place at the AGM.
- 7.2 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called at the discretion of the Group committee upon receipt of a written request supported by at least thirty members of the Group (or all members if the total number of members is less than thirty) specifying the full reason for the request. Not less than twenty-one days notice of such a meeting, giving details of the reason for the meeting, shall be sent to all members of the Group and only the business as is stated in the notice shall be transacted at the meeting.
- 7.3 The Chairman or a representative appointed by him/her from the members of the Group committee shall preside at all General Meetings at which a quorum shall be ten members, including members of the Group committee (or one third of the membership, with a minimum of three, if the total number of members is less than forty-five). All decisions shall be on a show of hands and shall not be carried unless at least two thirds of those voting are in favour.

## **8. Finance**

- 8.1 The Financial Year of the Group shall run from 1<sup>st</sup> April in each year to 31<sup>st</sup> March in the following year.
- 8.2 The Group committee shall conform to any regulations imposed by Council on financial administration or trading.
- 8.3 Requests for expenditure require approval by any two members of the committee via email to Head Office. Cheques will be raised by head office.

## **9. Dissolution**

- 9.1 In the event of dissolution, no member shall be entitled to a refund. After discharge of any properly incurred Group debts, which must be within BC's charitable objectives, any residue of funds and all other assets of the Group shall be disposed of at the discretion of Council.

## **10. MISCELLANEOUS**

- 10.1 No change to these rules may be made other than at a General Meeting. Any proposed change from a member who is not a member of the Group committee must be notified in writing to the Group Secretary at least twenty-one days before the relevant meeting. All such amendments to be approved by BC in advance. No changes should affect the charitable status of either BC or the Group.
- 10.2 All new members shall be entitled to receive a copy of these rules by email and any member may request a printed copy upon payment of a fee of 50p to cover costs.
- 10.3 Group members and non-members working under the auspices of the Group must follow any instructions of the appointed leader at any function and of any responsible third party, such as a landowner or reserve warden. Group members must always conduct themselves in a manner so as to reflect credit upon the Group and BC.
- 10.4 The Group shall use its best endeavours to promote BC and to maintain a recognisable identity by using the BC logo and position statement, in addition to any Group logo on letter-heads, brochures, leaflets, etc. The Group shall also comply with any directives issued through established channels by the Council and follow any recommendations.
- 10.5 No rule shall be valid if it is not in accordance with BC objects, policies and regulations at national level.