

# British Entomological and Natural History Society

## Annual Meeting 25 February 2023

2.00pm – 4.00pm online via 'Zoom'

### Minutes

**Council/ Trustee Attendance:** Ray Barnett, Zoë Simmons, Ian Masters, Steve Judd, David Agassiz, John Flynn, Les Evans-Hill, Claudia Watts, Robin Knill-Jones, Jon Cole, Derek Stimpson, Martin Albertini, Ian Sims, Andrew Halsted.

Apologies were received from Kieron Brown and John Badmin

**Total attendance:** 54

#### 1 **Minutes of the Annual Meeting 2022**

Minutes to be made available through BENHS website and to be agreed at Members' Day on 25 March 2023. Comments and changes can be emailed to BEHNS Council in the meantime.

#### 2 **Council's Report for 2022**

Prepared and read by Claudia Watts. Available on BENHS website.

#### 3 **The Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2022**

Prepared and read by John Flynn, BENHS Treasurer. Report to be published in the March edition of the Journal, on the website and e-mailed to members. Overall operating surplus was reported to be £51k due to substantial bequests and donations. John Flynn thanked Rodger Hawkins, Tony Pickles and Alan Perch for support.

#### 4 **Reports of the Editor, Librarian and Curator for 2022**

These were not read aloud but have been published on the Society's website and circulated to members by e-mail. Ray Barnett thanked John Badmin, Peter Chandler, Ian Sims, Claudia Watts and John Flynn for report preparation.

The adoption of all reports was seconded by Ian Masters.

#### 5 **Election of Officers and Council for 2023 – 2024**

Council reported to have agreed the creation of the Webmaster officer role, a new Steering Group as well as noting the vacancies of Secretary and Sales Secretary.

2023 council to be confirmed at the Members' Day on 25 March 2023. Council Members recommended by the 2022-23 Council are listed as follows:

PRESIDENT	R.J. Barnett
VICE-PRESIDENTS	S. Judd & Z.M. Simmons
TREASURER	J.P. Flynn

SECRETARY	Vacant
EDITOR	J.S. Badmin
CURATOR	P.J. Chandler
LIBRARIAN	I.R. Sims
ACTING LANTERNIST	M.S. Taylor (S. Lings indisposed)
BUILDING MANAGER	M.V. Albertini
SALES	Vacant
WEBMASTER	L. Evans-Hill

ORDINARY MEMBERS: L. M. Crowley, I.D. Masters, M.S. Taylor, S. Taylor, G. Hedges, A. Spalding, C.M. Watts, R.P. Knill-Jones, S. P. Clancy and A. L. Whiffin.

Council wished a speedy recovery to Steve Lings.

Ray Barnett proposed a vote of thanks from those present for the retiring Officers and Council Members who will hopefully be joining Council as co-opted members in due course: Andrew Halstead, Roger Hawkins, Kieron Brown, Jon Cole and Glenda Orledge. Thanks to Michael Darby and Tony Pickles for their long-standing support.

#### 6 **Questions invited under Bye-Law 26(d)**

None.

#### 7 **Announcement of the award of two BENHS Gold Medals**

Ray Barnett reported that thanks to support by John Phillips and Tony Pickles, BENHS gold medals have been introduced in 2022, with two winners in 2023:

A medal was awarded to Stella Beaven for her work on the understanding of moths and micro-moths as well as the Lepidoptera checklist.

A second medal was awarded to Michael Darby for his work on beetle recording and valuable contribution to the management of BENHS.

#### 8. **Presidential address Part 1**

Part 1 of the presidential address was prepared and read by Ray Barnett, with Part 2 to be shared at Members' Day on 25 March. Highlights included a current total membership of 1041, the highest ever. Thanks were given to Steve Judd and the 2021 council for the delivery of activities across 2022 and those in the last year for overseeing the work. A freelance administrator hired in 2022 to cover administrative support, especially in absence of a Secretary.

Official anniversary editions of the journal were prepared with the aim of celebrating history and the year as well as looking to the future of the society and entomology. BENHS is embracing the use of digital tools to increase reach, in utilising social media, publishing talks on YouTube and sponsoring entoLIVE. Report covered an aim for the society to ensure an increasing diversity in council and publications.

Thanks were given to council members who have supported the maintenance of the Pelham-Clinton building and those delivering workshops and members' days.

Ray Barnett provided reminiscences on members who had passed away in the previous year: David Budworth, John Langmaid, Charles Baker, Robert Palmer, Allan Jenkins, Barry Goater, Dennis Fullwood, Roy Dobson, David Manning, Brian Morrison, Peter Cooke, Adrian Russell, Richard Chadd, John Harper and Nicholas Holford.

Zoë Simmons requested permission to publish address, accepted by Ray Barnett.

#### 9 **Election of Auditors**

Ray Barnett proposed the election of Mr A L Phillips as Independent Examiner of the Society's Accounts for the coming year. Second by Zoë Simmons (council) and Kim Lever (member). Voting by all attending members unanimously in favour.

#### 10 **Any other business**

No other business brought forwards.

#### **Guest speaker**

A guest presentation was delivered by Michael Pocock entitled 'Citizen science: from detailed science on the horse-chestnut leaf miner, through to benefits for conservation and people'.

The video recording of Michael's talk can be viewed on YouTube by clicking [here](#).