

British Myriapod & Isopod Group
Minutes of the 5th AGM
Held on 1st April 2005
At Collingwood College, Durham

1. Apologies

John Lewis, Gordon Corbett, John Harper, Imogen Wilde, Dawn Collis

The Chairman introduced the AGM with a few items of news: Matty Berg from the Netherlands wished to join the group and a copy of the centipede atlas had been requested by a researcher in Romania if anyone had a spare copy.

The Chairman expressed our grateful thanks to Val Standen for organising such an excellent meeting. As he was standing down as Chairman he also thanked the Secretary and all other members of the Committee for their work in the last few years. He then passed over to Steve Hopkin who chaired the meeting from this point.

The new chairman then thanked Tony Barber for his work as Chairman.

2. Minutes of 4th AGM.

One item was still outstanding – the accounts had not been sent to the BENHS for examination. **ACTION: PH**

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed as such.

3. Secretary's report (Helen Read)

- BMIG currently has 221 members. Most are individuals but there are a few institutional members. As well as the UK we have members from 15 European countries and an additional 7 world wide.
- The British Entomological and Natural History Society annual exhibition is to be held in London on 12th November. It is hoped that the group will have a stand. Any offers of help would be welcome.
- A questionnaire was circulated by email to those members expressing interest in being regional co-ordinators. Some replies had been received and this would be discussed further at the autumn committee meeting.
- The Group had obtained financial support from English Nature for undertaking some survey work on the millipede *Trachysphaera lobata* on the Isle of Wight. The work had been carried out in January and a report was submitted to English Nature which will be published in the future as an EN research report.
- Craig Slawson was thanked for acting as web master for the BMIG website.

The secretary was questioned about including pictures on the website and replied that this was planned and pictures had been offered. As with other items regarding the website this depended on the time available to the web master but offers to help him were being made.

4. Treasurers report (Paul Harding)

A record of the accounts for 2004 was presented; the balance at the end of the year was £348.79. The treasurer noted that although it appears that there was a deficit in 2004 this is because of spending carried over from the previous year. He also noted that approximately £250 is tied up in Bulletin stock although this is slowly clearing.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his unenviable job!

5. Woodlouse recording scheme (Steve Gregory)

This year has been even quieter than recent ones regarding records. The atlas is not in the pipeline for revision just yet although getting the data onto the NBN website might be a priority.

5a. Librarian's report (Steve Gregory)

The library now has a good range of publications and Steve Hopkin has recently donated some key woodlouse publications which have filled some major holes.

5b. Collections managers report (given by Steve Gregory)

John Harper has been making good progress with the collection and was due to pass responsibility for the collection to Steve Gregory at this meeting. However, there is still some work to do and the collection will be handed over at a later date. Thanks were expressed to John for his hard work with this.

Eric Philp pointed out that the British Bryological Society has a voucher specimen for each species for each vice county and that this should be aimed for with our collection. SG pointed out that space was at a premium at Dinton Pastures and so this would probably not be possible in the short term, however it was aimed to have specimens from around the country in order to give an indication of regional variation and we could build from there.

It was agreed that the above two reports should be on the agenda for the next AGM.

6. Millipede recording scheme (Paul Lee)

PL and PH visited BRC last year to try and get some progress on the atlas. Since then PL has been regularly reminding BRC that he is waiting for the analysis of the habitat data but progress has been slow. The species accounts cannot be completed until the results of the analysis are known. PL had been promised in an e-mail from BRC that statistical analysis would begin in w/c 4th April 2005.

ACTION: PH agreed to 'lean heavily' on the relevant person at Monks Wood.

There have been relatively few new records submitted to the scheme over the last year but a new polydesmid sp. has been found in Kew gardens and Craig Slawson had collected *Chordeuma proximum* in Staffordshire, a new vice county record. The Linnean Soc. synopsis is to be revised in the next two years.

The *Adenomeris* found at the field weekend last year has been confirmed as *A. gibbosa*. Future meetings in Bucks may be planned next winter to look for it in more sites.

7. Centipede recording scheme (Tony Barber)

TB reported that the scheme is very quiet at the moment. He requested that everyone send in their records from field meetings or failing that the specimens should be sent to TB for identification.

Scutigera coleoptrata has now been found in both Jersey and northern France away from houses. It should be looked for out of doors on the south coast where boulders at the base of cliffs provide the most favourable habitat. Eric Philp had found what may have been a cast "skin" of this species in Kent.

The centipede AIDGAP key is in need of some new drawings and a 'mock up' of a synopsis has been put together to give some stimulation for this project.

PH asked if anyone from Monks Wood had been in touch regarding the unprocessed data. As the answer was no PH agreed to contact Monks Wood about this too. **ACTION: PH.**

The centipede checklist is on Mapmate and the NBN. The millipede checklist is on NBN but the **M**apmate version has some errors.

8. Newsletter (Paul Lee)

Two editions had been published over the last year as usual. BRC have been excellent in getting the newsletters out promptly and PL thanked Gavin Broad and his team for this. A request was made for more copy, which is always needed. Congratulations were expressed to PL on a 'good read'.

9. Bulletin (Tony Barber, Helen Read & Steve Gregory)

Despite altering the deadline for copy to 1st February there was not enough received this year to produce a Bulletin. The Committee had decided to have one last push to see if one could be issued for 2005 and a deadline of the end of August had been set. PLEASE look out those almost finished articles! It is planned to return to the 'old' style of production as the new version had proved too expensive.

Wallace Arthur asked if there were a minimum number of pages. It was stated that there was not, usually at least 6 articles were needed although this did depend on their length. It was pointed out that articles are peer reviewed and that there is a miscellanea section for smaller notes.

10. Changes to constitution

As announced in the recent newsletter the Committee had recommended altering by-law 1. regarding the Committee. This previously read, 'The elected officers shall comprise the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, Recording scheme Organisers (if not otherwise elected) and up to three other elected or co-opted members.'

It was proposed to alter the last line of this to read, 'and up to five elected or co-opted members'

The change was proposed by Paul Richards, seconded by Desmond Kime and passed unanimously.

11. Election of Officers

Tony Barber had given notification of his wish to retire and proposed Steve Hopkin for the post of Chairman, this was seconded by Helen Read. Steve Hopkin was duly elected.

The remaining officers were elected as follows:

Vice chairman – Tony Barber
Proposed by Paul Harding
Seconded by Shona Turnbull

Secretary – Helen Read
Proposed by Tony Barber
Seconded by Peter Nicholson

Treasurer – Paul Harding
Proposed by Steve Gregory
Seconded by Wallace Arthur

Librarian – Steve Gregory
Ordinary members – Eric Philp
Paul Richards
Wallace Arthur
Desmond Kime
Proposed ‘en bloc’ by Shona Turnbull
Seconded by Peter Nicholson

Paul Lee, Tony Barber and Steve Gregory remain as Recording Scheme Organisers for millipedes, centipedes and woodlice respectively.

It was also agreed to co-opt the organiser of the next AGM meeting to the Committee (Glyn Collis)

12. Financial examiner

The treasurer of the BENHS was proposed as financial examiner of the accounts by Paul Harding and seconded by Eric Philp.

13. Future meetings

Glyn and Dawn Collis offered to organise the field meeting for 2006 in Ayrshire, probably based at the Scottish Agricultural College in Ayr. Easter is late next year so there was some discussion over suitable dates. It was agreed to keep the weekend after Easter as a first choice but that if this was problematic for accommodation the weekend before Easter was the best alternative.

PH had produced a list of previous meetings and plotted the locations on a map. Some discussion ensued and Mark Winder offered to look into the possibility of a meeting in south Wales for 2007.

14. AOB

- a. Steve Hopkin offered to start a BMIG members' email discussion group. Anyone who would like to be included should send Steve an email at s.p.hopkin@reading.ac.uk.
- b. All records from the meeting should be sent in the first instance to Val Standen who will then pass them to the scheme organisers as well as site managers. They can be sent by email if wished: valerie.standen@durham.ac.uk.
- c. A new myriapodological journal is due to be launched soon for German speakers called Schubartiana.
- d. The International Congress of Myriapodology will be held in July 2005 in Bergen, Norway.
- e. Various publications were available to participants at the meeting and there were a few items to look at.

The AGM was followed by an interesting talk by Desmond Kime, assisted by Steve Gregory. Together they outlined the findings so far of the field trip to Galicia in 2004 which seems to have resulted in an astounding number of new species of millipede, both to the area and new to science.