

British Myriapod & Isopod Group
Minutes of the 10th AGM
Held on 9 April 2010.
Harwarden, Flintshire

1. Apologies

Jo Smith

2. Minutes of the 9th AGM

These were agreed as a true record and there were no matters arising.

3. Secretary's Report

Membership currently stands at 295. We gained and lost a few members over the year but there was a net gain of 24.

There has been various miscellaneous pieces of correspondence throughout the year including information from Buglife and requests to be involved in projects as part of the National Science week and another web based identification project which we had to turn down due to lack of time and resources.

The Group held a stand at the AES exhibition at Kempton Park in October for the first time, thanks to Jo Smith who put together a display and organised a banner. There was quite a lot of interest and we gained 16 new members directly as a result. The display and banner are now available for others to borrow.

I had quite a bit of correspondence with the London Natural History Society about holding a joint meeting with them, including an identification session but their field meeting organiser has now changed and the new one has yet to get in touch.

A two day Committee meeting was held last autumn because of the level of business that we needed to achieve. Some decisions were made:

- Bulletin – the long term aim for this is to be free and web-based (to disseminate as widely as possible) but with paper copies available via 'print on demand' for anyone who cannot access it electronically.
- Back issues of the Bulletin and newsletter will be made available on the website.
- We had a long discussion about the website and what should be on it. We agreed that BRC would host it.
- Post atlas recording – we spoke about habitat data and a subgroup are continuing to work on this. The long term aim is for the Group to hold the data and manage it.
- Engaging others – we discussed packs, CD's of information and the possibility of applying for an Opal grant.

- Conservation issues – Paul L will talk about this later.

4. Treasurer's Report

A report was tabled. John Newbould has looked over the accounts. Note that the apparent loss between 2008 and 2009 is due to the advance deposit required for this field meeting. In reality the balance has stayed much the same. The report was accepted and Paul Harding thanked for his work.

5. Woodlouse Recording Scheme

132 copies of the atlas have been sold. Some reviews have been published, e.g. in British Wildlife. The list of British species has increased in the last year due to new ones being found at the Eden project (15 tropical species in all, 6 new to Britain).

6. Millipede Recording Scheme

A small number of records are still being received. A batch of information from Ireland, identified by J Gordon Blower is due soon as are some from Fair Isle. At the moment the scheme organiser is not encouraging large numbers of records to be sent in until the issue over the habitat data has been sorted out. *Brachyiulus lusitanus* has been found outside at the Eden project so the identity of previously collected *Brachyiulus* will need checking. SG is checking those in the BMIG collection at Dinton Pastures.

7. Centipede Recording Scheme

See tabled report. Records are still being gathered for the atlas including those from Fair Isle and St Kilda. Information is still being extracted from various written sources such as note books. No new centipede species have been found. TB is working with the Irish Records Centre to swap records.

The atlas has been delayed but the aim is for all records to be in by autumn 2010 so please send any you have in, in any format. Two publications have been completed, the Aidgap key and the Synopsis.

8. Librarian's Report

An audit in the spring confirmed that all were present and correct. There have been a small number of acquisitions, the centipede keys and the woodlouse key. An excel spreadsheet of the entire holdings can be sent to members on request. In order to borrow any books it is necessary to visit Dinton Pastures on an open day or by pre-arrangement.

9. Collection Report

An audit and check of the tubes was carried out in spring. There have been no new acquisitions but John Harper is still compiling some additions. The collection was used in a training workshop held at Dinton Pastures and has also been used to carry out comparative studies on *Geophilus carpophagous* and *G. easoni* and also to look at *Brachyiulus*.

10. Newsletter

The autumn edition was a little late but this was planned as an update on the Committee meeting. There was a slight mix up at BRC (who send out the newsletters) so the booking form for this meeting was not included. One or two people had queried why the newsletter was not sent out electronically, this was discussed at the Committee meeting. Currently BRC fund the production and posting and it was agreed to continue with this while BRC is happy. An electronic version is usually placed on the website as soon as possible. Circulating it entirely by email would make much more work for the Committee in maintaining an up to date email list etc.

The spring edition was a little small – more copy would be welcomed, especially contributions from new or inexperienced members.

11. Bulletin

Volume 24 had been produced and was available at the meeting; the production was a little different this year and was cheaper than previous volumes. The deadline for the next volume is 1st January 2011. Steve Gregory was thanked for his hard work on the layout.

12. Website

The new website, hosted by BRC went on line in January. Some of the information on it is out of date as it was transferred from the old site so Glyn is currently sending in updates. The basic introductory information about the group also needs rewriting to fit the new layout. Glyn will do this. The BMIG newsletters are all on, some of the older Isopod Study Group newsletters are still to be added but need scanning first.

13. Election of officers

Chairman

Eric had given notice that he wished not to stand for re-election as Chairman. He announced that he been honoured to hold the post and had enjoyed doing it but that he was now finding the long drives to meetings difficult.

Paul Lee was proposed as Chairman by Eric Philp and was duly elected.

Paul Lee took the Chair and thanked Eric for his support over the years and his overall contribution to the Group.

Vice Chairman

Tony Barber was proposed by Paul Lee. Tony agreed to stand as vice Chairman on the understanding that he did not wish to be Chairman again. Thus a longer term vice chairman would need to be looked for. Paul Harding seconded Tony's nomination and the proposal was carried.

Officers

The following officers had agreed to stand again and were proposed by the Chairman Paul Lee
Secretary – Helen Read

Treasurer – Paul Harding
Librarian/curator – Steve Gregory
Webmaster - Glyn Collis

Committee Members

There can be up to five ordinary members

Paul Richards
Peter Nicholson
Mike Davidson
All agreed to stand again.

Jo Smith wished to stand down due to pressure of work. Imogen Wilde and Jim Flanagan agreed to stand and in addition Angela Lidgett was co-opted to the Committee.

The Committee members were all proposed by Paul Lee and elected.

14. Appointment of financial adviser

John Newbould had fulfilled this role in previous years in his role as Treasurer of NFBR but he was soon standing down from this position. The Treasurer proposed to ask John or his successor and if neither of these people were willing to return to the Committee for advice. (Post meeting note: John agreed to be financial adviser).

15. Future meetings

Autumn 2010

An autumn meeting will be held in Kintyre 11-18 September. The accommodation sleeps up to 11 and is owned by a Danish Foundation who is offering it heavily subsidised in exchange for survey work carried out on their nature reserve. It will be self catering but Dawn Collis has offered to do the catering. It is located close to the Arran ferry and it is also possible to visit the Isle of Gigha. First priority will be given to people staying all week.

Spring 2011

The BMIG had joined with a consortium of organisations led by Hymettus to bid for funding for our BAP species (3 millipedes and 1 centipede). This bid had been successful and the Group has been awarded £6,500 over the next two and a half years to carry out work on them. All the species are southern in distribution and all the work is due to be done in England; the centipede is from the south west and the millipedes on the south coast. In order to help with this project it is intended to hold the next field meeting in Kent to look for two of the millipedes. If possible some of the grant could be used to subsidise the field meeting, although the details are yet to be worked out. The main problem will be locating suitable accommodation. Easter is very late next year and the weekend after is the May bank holiday so it is proposed to move the meeting to the weekend before Easter, 14-17 April.

Mike Davidson asked if it might be possible to hold a longer meeting (since it is a long way for some people to travel) and PL agreed to look in to the possibility.

Spring 2012

Ireland may be an option.

16. AOB

Tony Barber announced that he had attended a meeting on behalf of the group about non-native species. The non-native species information portal was trying to put together fact sheets on non-native species which includes some from our groups. Anyone interested should contact Tony.

Paul Harding announced that volume 24 of the Bulletin was now available.

Steve Gregory had also brought some older keys which were now available for free.

17. Records from the field meeting.

Please send these to Paul Harding as soon as possible (for all groups, not just myriapods and Isopods). Copies to the recording scheme organisers would be welcomed.

Thanks were expressed to Paul Harding for organising the field meeting.