

Minutes of the European Butterflies Group Annual General Meeting held at 2.00 pm on 21 October 2023 at Ibis Hotel Birmingham.

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting which was the first meeting held in person (rather than by video-conference) since 2020.

The Chair introduced the Committee members present – David Moore, Simon Spencer, Dudley Cheesman, Nigel Peace, Mike Williams, Nick Greatorex-Davies, Marian Thomas, Roger Gibbons, Sam Ellis and Martin Davies.

Apologies for absence were received from Bernard Watts, Dave Plowman, Robert Godden, Terry Whittaker, Karen Goldie-Morrison, Kevin Tolhurst, Paul Mapplebach and Malcolm Hull.

The Chair outlined the agenda for the day which comprised the Chair's report, the Honorary Treasurer's report and the election and re-election of Committee members. Following which there would be time for questions.

After the formal business there would be three talks : Sam Ellis would give a brief update on progress on the new Red List of European butterflies. After that Martin Davies would talk on Europe's endemic species entitled "Only found here ! European endemic butterflies in a Palaearctic context."

Following a break for refreshments Roger Gibbons would give a talk " They may fly together and they may look the same but....". (The slides of this talk will appear on the website).

The Chair advised that minutes of the last AGM which was held on 19 March 2022 were posted on European Butterflies Group website and he proposed to take them as read. Simon Spencer proposed that the Minutes were approved and Keith Woonton seconded the motion. The meeting approved the Minutes.

The Chair advised that the minutes of the AGM will be placed on the EBG website. He thanked Jude Lock who diligently and brilliantly manages the website content and Mike Haigh who deals with the technical aspects of the website.

The Chair delivered his report (attached).

The Treasurer had previously posted the accounts on the website and talked members through the current financial position.

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 David Moore, Marian Thomas, Mike Williams and Mike Prentice all stand down by rotation and all seek re-election. Since the last AGM Martin Partridge has agreed to join the Committee. Simon Spencer proposed the re-elections and Martin's election which was seconded by Martin Davies and approved by the meeting.

The Chair opened the meeting for questions. Dudley Cheesman asked the Chair whether, despite Butterfly Conservation's policy, it would be more appropriate for the branch's accounts to be approved by members. The Chair agreed to raise the matter with Butterfly Conservation Head Office. In response to a question from Nigel Peace the Chair agreed to also raise the issue of shortcomings in the membership records.

The Chair closed the formal business of the meeting at 2.30pm.