

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the European Interests Group of Butterfly Conservation held on 28 November 2015 at the offices of NFU Mutual Insurance in Stratford-upon-Avon.**

There was a total of 39 members present.

The Secretary welcomed members, introduced the Committee members present and explained the format for the day.

1. Apologies for absence. Apologies were received from Hilary Raeburn, Terry Whittaker, Crispin Hiney, David Newland, Nick Wynn, Roger Kemps and Andy Burnham.
2. Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting had been previously posted on the EIG website. Acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by Dudley Cheesman, seconded by Greg Herbert and unanimously approved. The Secretary advised the meeting that the Minutes of the 2015 AGM would be posted on the EIG website.
3. The Chairman delivered his report.

The Chairman thanked NFU Mutual for their hospitality.

Following a major membership drive in the winter of 2013/14 membership had increased significantly to over 400 members.

The committee had decided to offer research bursaries to promote the study of European butterflies. These bursaries were principally but not exclusively aimed at younger candidates.

2015 Projects included surveys for *Colias myrmidone* in Romania – one of its last strongholds in Europe. Good numbers had been found in 2 areas but the threat to its habitat are severe. We are cooperating with experts in Germany and Romania to attempt to conserve its habitat.

Mike Williams had led a fund-raising tour to Macedonia in aid of the Hungarian Natural Heritage Trust for whom his tours have now raised over €20,000.

Committee changes : Neil Thompson had retired after many years excellent service and Bernard Watts had been co-opted onto the Committee. We are always looking for more volunteers to help with all aspects of our work particularly with social media.

EIG Trips for 2016 included a visit to the Pyrenees on 24 June and a fund-raising tour to Austria at the end of July.

2017 would be a year to try to kick-start butterfly monitoring in Greece perhaps with the help of the National Parks staff.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented his report ( copy attached )

Lawrie de Whalley proposed adoption of the accounts which was seconded by Simon Spencer and passed nem con.

#### 5. Committee re-elections

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 Martin Davies, Nick Greatorex-davies and Mike Prentice stand down by rotation and all seek re-election. Bernard Watts stands for election having been co-opted during the year. The re-election and election were proposed by the Lawrie de Whalley and seconded by Anne Spencer and approved unanimously by the meeting.

#### 6. Any Other Business

Greg Herbert asked whether a "No " vote in the European referendum would make affect EIG. The Chairman thought it would not.

A member asked if EIG were interested in moths and whether more action was proposed ? The Chairman advised that EIG's remit included moths but that to date there had been more interest shown by the membership in butterflies.

Following the formal business of the AGM members received illustrated talks on "Mediterranean Butterflies" by Martin Davies and "Farming and Butterflies" by Simon Spencer. In the interval between the talks refreshments were kindly supplied by NFU Mutual Insurance.