

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION - EUROPEAN INTERESTS GROUP (BC-EIG)

Treasurer's Report for the financial year ended 31 March 2016

The Branch ended the financial year 2015/2016 with a bank balance of £7642 (2014/2015 £6875); the current position at 20.10.16 shows £8364 before payment of cheques drawn but not presented of £151. We remain in a strong position, but there are now firm proposals to reduce this figure, more of which later in the report.

Subscription income in the year under review increased by c.50% to £3508 due to a successful membership recruitment campaign, and today we have well in excess of 400 members.

We have to thank Anne Spencer for her work to organize and sell the calendar, and the few remaining polo shirts, the total exceeding £1k with a net contribution of c.£400, driving income for the year to £4544.

Newsletter costs were just under £1k, likewise support of projects in eastern Europe, principally for C.myrmidone; attendance at BCE Europe meetings was c.£600, and UK based meetings, including the AGM, and website support, c.£300. Total expenditure for the year was £3777.

The Thriplow account was finally closed with the balance being used to support members surveying for C.myrmidone.

Our challenge remains to use our funds effectively in supporting members and in surveying, monitoring and conservation projects across Europe. Whilst we continue to support various work in eastern Europe, one project has been proposed that both reflects our work to date and will benefit members and others interested in exploring and helping with our work: it is a booklet to celebrate our 10th anniversary next year.

Nigel Peace, supported by Branch Committee, has proposed the publication of a booklet that will embrace a synthesis of work done over our first 10 years and include guidance on where best it is possible to see a good proportion of Europe's butterflies. The inclusive cost will be in the order of £3k, but allows for a print run that will exceed current membership needs and thus an ability to offer the publication for sale at a reasonable cost to non-EIG members.

The Newsletter is appreciated by all our members for the quality of its content and presentation, and provides a regular link with them. We believe the proposed booklet will reinforce this link and encourage more BC members to join us.

One final point of note is that BC (the charity), advised on the one hand by the Charity Commission and Auditors, and on the other by the pre-existing need to support some branches and their treasurers (some branches have been without a treasurer), will take on responsibility for maintaining branch accounts and making all payments with effect from the next financial year. Branches will still determine budgets and, along with their branch committees, how funds should be spent and treasurers will act as the link with HQ on all matters financial, and remain responsible for reporting to branch members. It will make life easier for treasurers and I am happy with this solution.

I propose the adoption of the Report and Accounts.

Dudley Cheesman, Treasurer

20th October 2016