

ARBORICULTURAL ASSOCIATION - SCOTTISH BRANCH

Minutes of the Scottish Branch Committee meeting held via Microsoft Teams at 18.30 on 28th June 2023.

Present: Chris Simpson - Chair (CS), Alan McDowall – Vice Chair (AM), Struan Dalglish – Secretary (SD), Nick Porter – Editor (NP), Matt Cooper (MC), Simon Stuart (SS), Mark Foster (MF), Chris Knapman (CK). Mike Charkow (MCh) and Ruthe Davies (RD).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Ronnie Barker (RB)

2. MINUTES FROM THE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes from the last committee meeting, held on the 30th March 2023 have been circulated around the committee and approved. These are posted on the Scottish Branch page of the AA website.

3. OFFICERS' REPORTS

3.1 Chair

CS commented on the busy first half of the year and thanked all those who had help organize and run events so far.

3.2 Secretary

No further comments.

4. ITEMS

4.1 Dunimarle and Culross Visit 14th April

CK provided the de-brief for the successful event held in fine weather.

An article was to be provided for the Arb Mag.

CS thanked CK for his organizing and leading the day.

4.2 TDAG Event 19th May

CS reported the well-organized and well-attended event had been very successful.

Although supported by committee members, it was not a branch event.

RD has provided a write-up for the Arb. Mag.

4.3 Dawyck Field Trip, 17th June

CS thanked Tom Gifford, RBGE Dawyck Garden Supervisor for organizing and leading the tour.

17 had attended and enjoyed the informative day.

4.4 Trees and the Law

MC reported the seminar in Edinburgh City Chambers had been well received by the 45 delegates.

He noted that the event appeared to have made a significant surplus although the final figure was to be determined.

SD had provided an article for the Arb. Mag.

CS thanked MC for organizing and arranging the event.

MC thanked the speakers Charles Mynors and Elizabeth Nicholl, and Joanne at Edinburgh City Chambers for providing the excellent venue.

4.5 Hazard Tree Inspection Course, 22nd and 23rd August

CS reported that the course had, regrettably been cancelled at the request of HQ due to lack of resources.

4.6 Tree Climbing Competition / Workshop, 25th to 27th August.

MF noted some progress had been made.

The event would run for one day, and 26th August 2023 suggested,

Camperdown Park, Dundee had been agreed as a suitable venue by the sub-committee and a visit with Doug Shearer of DCC had been arranged.

Judges and technicians would be re-contacted.

Catering was to be arranged. This could potentially be provided by a sponsor.

Booking, insurance and an advertising flyer would to be organized with HQ.

A price would be set for the day.

Action – MF, CB, AM, MCh, RB

4.7 NTS Mar Lodge Visit, 27th October 2023

The event had been confirmed for Friday 27th October 2023.

NTS had requested a donation be provided by those attending.

Packed lunches would be required.

Booking and advertising would be arranged with HQ.

SS would inform RSFS members of the event.

Action - SD, SS

4.8 AGM 2023, Crathes Castle, Banchory, Aberdeenshire, Saturday 27th January 2024

Formal confirmation of the venue was to be sought with NTS.

The event would be free of charge.

2 speakers were to be arranged.

MF proposed plant ecologist and author Peter Thomas and CK agreed to contact him.

SD proposed lichenologist Petra Vergunst and would contact her.

A Friday night social event, accommodation and catering for the day would be organized.

Action – CK, SD, SS

4.9 Ken Martin Award Nominations

CS requested nominations for the award were emailed to him from committee members.

HQ would be contacted to make members aware of the award and to email CS with nominations.

Action - CS

4.10 I-Tree Conference Dundee 26th June 2024

CS informed the committee of the up-coming event.

He asked the committee to think about potential sponsors for the day.

Action - All

4.11 Taking the Botanic for a Walk, Dundee

MC informed the committee of the proposed event to be run by Dundee University Botanic Gardens next year when material from the garden would be planted-out in suitable locations around the city and surrounding area.

Kevin Frediani, curator of the Garden had enquired if branch members could get involved.

MC would keep the committee up-to date once further details and dates became available.

Action – MC

5 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Scotland's Garden and Landscape Heritage

SS noted the potential for a joint event and visit with SGLH.

Action - SS

Scottish Tree Officers Group

RD discussed the possibility of providing support for STOG.

CS added that financial support would be unlikely.

Arb. Mag.

NP reported that 4 articles from Scotland would appear in the next edition of the Mag.

He added an article to inform readers of the Tom Hall Award (best Scottish article) would be included requesting nominations for the wider membership.

Action - NP

6. DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

CS proposed the next committee meeting would be held on-line via 'Teams', on the 28th September 2023 at 18.30.

Committee Members were reminded to check their availability.

Struan Dagleish
AASB Secretary.