

Arboricultural Association - Scottish Branch

Minutes of the Scottish Branch Committee meeting held at The Hawes Inn, South Queensferry on 1st May 2018

Present: Donald Rodger - Chair (DR), Fiona Melville - Vice Chair (FM), Robert Paterson - Treasurer (RP), Ken Harvey - Secretary (KH), Struan Dalgleish (SD), Will Hinchliffe (WH) and Nick Porter (NP).

1. Apologies for absence:

Apologies received from Stuart Leith (SL), Alan McDowall (AM) and Jeremy Davies (JD) .

2. Minutes from the last committee meeting.

Minutes of the 6th March Committee Meeting were approved, and are up on the Scottish Branch page of the AA website.

3. Officers' reports.

3.1 Chair.

DR didn't have anything in particular to say, but said there were several points he would raise relating to certain agenda items during the meeting.

3.2 Secretary.

KH didn't have anything in particular to say, but said there were several points he would raise relating to certain agenda items during the meeting.

3.3 Treasurer.

RP said that the Branch's bank balance stood at £250. He said that HQ are overhauling the financial system and he is hopeful that after the Branching Out Event that the changes discussed can be incorporated into the Branch Manual. He said the benefits of being Opted In outweigh the disadvantages, and hopes that the Branch's events this year will generate decent income.

4. Links with the ICF in terms of promotion and sharing training programs in Scotland.

SD has been in contact with Dr Stuart Glen at ICF. Once our training programme is finalised, he will ask Stuart to email it around the ICF members, (in much the same way we circulate details with RSFS) and the ICF events will be opened up to our members.

5. TRAQ course at RBGE on 29th - 31st May.

WH said that Tom Smiley is coming from the US to run the course, which has sufficient attendees signed up to be viable. The course is being promoted by HQ.

6. Scottish Branch representation on Forestry Advisory Committee.

WH attended the meeting of the FAC on Friday 20th April. He was impressed by how supportive the Forestry industry is of the College (Scottish School of Forestry) and how engaged the college is with the industry. Arboriculture is only represented by the Arboricultural Associations seat on this group. They discussed mapping the ISA Certificate in Arboriculture to a potential SQA qualification. This may make funding available for training

providers to deliver it in Scotland. They also discussed the FAC forming or joining a Curriculum advisory panel for Forestry courses nationwide. As Arboriculture is principally taught alongside Forestry in Scotland, membership of this group is an excellent opportunity to help improve links with courses and promote the teaching of Arb specific modules. DR thanked WH for his efforts with this on behalf of the Branch.

7. Scottish School of Forestry: Potential Internal Decay Testing Masterclass Training Event in November.

FM said this was being looked at for November. Phil Wade from Sorbus International will come up to demonstrate the equipment. Sorbus are running a similar event at another AA Branch (see Training Page on website). Details are still being worked up but she will keep the committee informed of progress.

8. 2018 Branching Out event.

The event (originally to have been held on 5th & 6th March) was postponed due to the extreme weather conditions which would have been prohibitive for many attendees. It is now to be held on 3rd & 4th June. Nobody from the Scottish Branch committee is able to attend. WH suggested we write a report for presentation. RP will send an email to Stewart Wardrop on financial issues and the relevant aspects of the Branch Manual.

9. Scottish Branch representation at Royal Highland Show

KH has been in contact with James McDougall, Promotion and Events Manager at Forestry Commission Scotland regarding a possible presence at this year's show in the FCS tent, along with other forestry organisations, such as ICF, RSFS, Woodland Trust and CSGN. HQ are keen to see the AA represented.

Update: James McDougall has confirmed a place will be available for us, and HQ have confirmed they will assist Scottish Branch as required.

10. Autumn Excursion to Haddo House, Aberdeenshire

SD said Haddo are keen to have us. There are lots of old maps of the gardens, and many good trees to see. SD will follow up with Haddo. He wasn't sure about catering, but all agreed there is no harm in attendees being asked to bring their own lunch, as is normal with other organisations. 27th October has been suggested.

11. Calendar of proposed events.

- TRAQ at RBGE on 29th - 31st May
- Royal Highland Show 21st - 24th June
- A repeat of the "Hazardous Trees - A Practitioner's Guide" is going ahead on 19th and 20th September at Stirling University.
- Haddo House visit possibly on 27th October.
- The Climbing and Rigging Workshop is expected to be run again but a date hasn't been set as yet.

12. ARBmagazine articles

None have been submitted.

13. Any other competent business.

FM suggested that the proposed seminar with Keith Sacre could be deferred to the 2018 AGM. Following a discussion it was agreed that the AGM should be held in North Scotland, and that the Scottish School of Forestry would be the ideal venue. DR thanked FM for her work with SSF earlier this year.

14. Date & venue of next meeting.

Tuesday 28th August at The Hawes Inn.