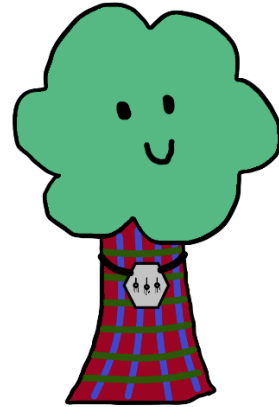


Arboricultural Association

Scottish Branch



Meeting minutes

Wednesday 3 July 2024, 18.30pm, Microsoft Teams

Highlighting indicates **actions**

Present: Simon Stuart (chair), Mike Charkow (vice chair), Nick Porter (editor), Ruthe Davies (secretary), Matt Cooper, Chris Knapman, Callum Braithwaite, Struan Dalglish and Alan McDowall.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Mark Foster and Ronnie Barker.

2. Minutes from meeting 11 April

Minutes confirmed correct and complete.

3. Officers' reports

Editor: NP reports that the next edition of the magazine will have four articles from Scotland. SS reports that there is an article from Julian Morris in addition to these.

4. Items

Pitcarmick/Faskally field trip: SS reported that the day went well with a turnout of around 25 and he has completed a write-up for the magazine.

Sorbus demonstration event: the event was advertised late but had a turnout of 10. Some discussion over whether the branch should be hosting events which advertise a company's products. Concluded that in general the branch should invite companies to be sponsors, rather than run events which are entirely promotional.

Scottish Tree Climbing Competition: CB reported that the event was cancelled due to low interest and the **subcommittee** are working on rearranging for next year. MF is waiting to hear back from Dundee council about using Camperdown Park again. The 2025 event will be around the same time of year but will take care to avoid clashing with the English event again as this reduced interest in the event.

Hazard Tree Inspection: training course to be run by Chris Simpson in August.

Conference travel: so far only 3 people have expressed interest in sponsored travel to the AA conference in September but even with low numbers this can be made to work.

HQ training days: these are to be encouraged but should be planned in advance so we can plan our branch events around them and avoid clashes. MCo will get the dates for 2025.

Braco Castle: CK is arranging a field trip. 19 October agreed as the date.

Veteran Trees event: CK is planning a spring 2025 event, suggests Pollok Park as the venue with a range of speakers on the subject of ecology, veterans, and art. MCo suggests a date in April or May 2025 to catch the early season fungi. A subcommittee for this event was agreed (CK, MCo, MCh, SS, probably also MF) and others are invited to join if interested.

AGM 2025: A number of venues discussed including Dumfries House. MCo suggested inviting Emma Gilmartin to speak on fungal communities in beech.

5. Any other competent business

None.

6. Date of next meeting

Next meeting will be 2 October at 18.30 via Microsoft Teams.