

Arboricultural Association

Scottish Branch



Meeting minutes

Wednesday 2 October, 18.30pm, Microsoft Teams

Highlighting indicates **actions**

Present: Simon Stuart (chair), Nick Porter (editor), Ruthe Davies (secretary), Matt Cooper, Calum Braithwaite, Mark Foster and Chris Knapman.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Struan Dalgleish. Ronnie Barker was unable to join the meeting due to technical difficulties. Alan McDowell and Mike Charkow also not in attendance.

2. Minutes from meeting 3 July

Minutes confirmed correct and complete.

3. Officers' reports

Editor: NP reports that there are no articles from Scotland going in to the next edition of the magazine. Two or three articles are lined up for the subsequent edition.

4. Items

Recap of recent events:

- Chris Simpson's training day was well attended with attendees from across the British Isles.
- The AA Conference was reported as very good, most speakers very good with five attendees from Scotland travelling in two cars.

AGM:

- MCo reported that Emma Gilmartin has agreed to do a talk
- **CK** to contact Kevin Frediani to use a venue at Dundee Botanic, potentially with a tour of Camperdown in the afternoon
- **CK** also to get a price for morning coffee and lunch for 40 people
- **SS** to invite John Parker
- Date agreed Saturday 25th January 2025

HQ training for 2025: MCo to compile a full list including the tree risk training and the veteran tree training when he hears back from HQ.

Braco Castle field trip: CK reports that 24 people are currently booked on. Encourages people to car-share where possible to reduce the impact on parking facilities.

Veteran tree event: CK is considering Chatelherault as a venue and aiming for spring or summer 2025. A subgroup to be formed to work on this

5. Any other competent business

- CK reported that he will be delivering two webinars on Scotland's Tree Heritage – part 1 on 18 December and part 2 on 8 February
- Discussion over whether a Christmas social event should be held – concluded that it is too late to do so this year but MC will contact the membership to gauge interest for an event in December 2025 – to discuss at AGM
- Agreed that the next meeting will be held on Zoom due to multiple recent problems with Teams
- MF reported that the climbing subgroup is considering a one-day aerial rescue event in 2025, in addition to climbing competition early in year, before easter. CB commented that we need improved marketing as many people did not hear about the event this year

6. Date of next meeting

Next meeting will be 9 January 2025 at 18.30 via Zoom.