

# Arboricultural Association

## Scottish Branch



## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 9 January 2025, 18.30pm, Zoom

Highlighting indicates **actions**

Present: Simon Stuart, Ruthe Davies, Nick Porter, Mike Charkow, Matt Cooper, Struan Dalglish, Ronnie Barker, Mark Foster, Alan McDowall and Chris Knapman.

1. Apologies for absence: Callum Braithwaite
2. Minutes from meeting 2 October: accepted
3. Officers' reports
  - a. Chair
  - b. Secretary – agreed to remove officer reports section from agenda in future – will include an editor's report as a standard item instead
  - c. Editor – 2 articles on Braco Castle, article on lichens, and NP to write up AGM
4. Items
  - a. AGM:
    - Speakers and venues sorted.
    - **CK** to clarify talk titles for programme.
    - **SS** to have programme edited to change meeting time from 10am to 9.30am.
    - Ken Martin award: agreed that it will be awarded to Kevin Frediani. **CK** to contact Kevin and ask for a bio. **MCo** to speak to Chris Simpson and local wood turners to obtain the bowl. **RD** to put the Ken Martin award on the agenda in summer this year to avoid the last minute rush.
    - SS reports that John Parker hopes to make it to the AGM but is still unsure.
    - Social event: MF recommends hotels around the V&A area as there are several and they are cheap. Agreed that **SD** will book the Trades House pub for dinner at 18.30 the night before. **SS** to contact HQ to disseminate details of social and ask them to enquire about interest. **MCo** to speak to Chris about the Ken Martin award – agreed that Kevin Frediani will be the recipient. **CK** will contact Kevin and ask for a bio. Ken Martin award to be minuted in summer this year to avoid the rush.
    - 2025 AGM: **CK** to look into Dalkeith Country Park as a venue for the following AGM.
  - b. 2025 events:

- **SS** wants more cross-pollination between branches. Is looking to organise a joint event with the north-east England branch to Burgie Arboretum as a spring field trip.
  - **CK** looking into Gargunock for a summer or autumn field trip.
  - **MCh** researching Crichton in the borders for a potential field trip.
  - **NP** reports that Forest Research in Roslin have had a large refurbishment and he suggests arranging a tour of their facilities in autumn.
  - CK has offered to do a Veteran Tree event but is putting that on hold for now because the ATF are running a course this summer.
  - Tree climbing comp: **MF** in discussions with **CB** – **AM** willing to contribute too.
  - MC hoping to bring Vetcert and TRAQ to Scotland but probably not this year.
  - SS suggests an event to present the BNG matrix when it is ready.
  - **MCh** has a contact (Mark Dunteman) to run a technical talk on risk management at some point.
- c. Changes to committee – SD stepping down. Thomas Brock from the RBGE is putting himself forward to join the committee. No changes in officer roles.
  - d. Tom Hall award – NP encourages people to vote.
  - e. Slack – **MCh** proposes the use of Slack or other collaboration software to run committee business – will look into this further and make a proposal
  - f. Meeting software – agreed that we will continue to use Zoom for now and **MCo** will set up the meetings.
5. Any other competent business
    - a. MCh proposed volunteers should be allowed to join committee at any time and should not have to wait until the AGM. Agreed that volunteers can be seconded onto the committee at any time and will be put forward and officially joined at the following AGM.
  6. Date of next meeting – April 10 at 18.30 on Zoom (**MCo** to organise)