



# BRITISH HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## 67<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2014

**To be held at Dorothea Bateman Room, Natural History Museum,  
Cromwell Road, London**

The Natural History Museum is located in SW7, easily reached from  
either South Kensington or Gloucester Road or tube stations.

## AGENDA

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 1.00 pm | Business meeting, including:<br>Approval of 2013 AGM Minutes<br>Matters Arising<br>Chairman's Report<br>Treasurer's Report<br>Council for 2014-15<br>2015 Subscription fees |
| 1:40 pm | Speaker<br>Miss Sandra Owusu-Gyamfi<br><i>Save the Frogs - Ghana</i>  |
| 2.15 pm | Break   |
| 2.30 pm | Speaker<br>Dr. Nicholas Caswell<br><i>Serpent genomics: Investigating key snake-related adaptations –<br/>venom, metabolism and loss of limbs</i>                           |
| 3.30 pm | Refreshment break<br>During this break delegates will judge the BHS Photo Competition   |
| 3.50 pm | Presentations<br>YH Presentation<br>BHS Photo Competition   |
| 4:00 pm | Speaker<br>Prof. Mark Wilkinson<br><i>Caecilians: The Final Frontier</i>  |
| 5:00 pm | Close   |



**Minutes of the 66<sup>th</sup>**  
**BRITISH HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**Annual General Meeting**

**Date:** Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2013  
**Venue:** Lecture Theatre B04, 43 Gordon Square, London.  
**Chair:** Jon Coote

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Roger Avery, Frank Bowles, John Cooper, Robert Jehle, Phyl King, Chris Monk, Terry Thatcher.

This AGM was quorate (25/387).

**2. Minutes of the 65<sup>th</sup> AGM**

The Minutes were circulated, approved by all present and signed by the Chair as an accurate record of the 2012 65<sup>th</sup> AGM.

**3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

**4. Annual Reports**

- 4 i) The Chairman's report for 2012 was circulated at the meeting. JC also noted that the Society was in good shape both structurally and financially. JC also explained the new business model of Open Access for the Herpetological Journal, and that Herpetological Bulletins over 1 year old would be open access via our website. Reference was made to government funded research being published. RG noted that the model moves the cost of publishing from the subscribers to the publishers (authors) via a page charge. A further advantage is greater availability of articles to a wider audience which would increase the impact factor.
- 4 ii) The Treasurer's report (1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012) was circulated and a narrative was given by Michael Wise. MW also thanked donators. MW noted the move away from Netbanx in favour of PayPal as an online subscription payment tool.



## 5. Election of Council for 2013–14

Council for 2013-14 was approved as given below.

Council nominees re-standing in post were also voted into office by the membership.

(years served in current term of office given in brackets).

President	Prof. Trevor Beebee (2 - retiring)
Chairman	Mr. Jon Coote (4)
Treasurer	Mr. Michael Wise (4)
Secretary	Mr. Trevor Rose (2)
Research Committee Chairman	Dr. Chris Gleed-Owen (3)
Education Committee Chairman	Ms. Kim Le Breuilly (2)
Captive Breeding Committee Chairman	Dr. Simon Townson (3)
Conservation Officer	Mrs. Jan Clemons (3)
Herpetological Journal Editor	Dr. Robert Jehle (2)
Herpetological Bulletin Editor	Mr. Laurence Jarvis (co-opted)
NatterJack Editor	Mr. David Willis (co-opted)
Website Editor	Vacant
Trade Monitoring Officer	Vacant
Meetings Organiser	Mr. Simon Maddock (2)
Development Officer	Mr. Mark Hollowell (3)
Scottish Group Representative	Vacant
North West Group Representative	Mr. Richard Parkinson (3)
Ordinary Member 1	Mr. David Willis (1)
Ordinary Member 2	Dr. Ian Stephen (2)
Ordinary Member 3	Angelo Pernetta (2)

Members standing for continuation in their posts:

Research Committee Chairman	Dr. Chris Gleed-Owen
Captive Breeding Committee Chairman	Dr. Simon Townson
Conservation Officer	Mrs. Jan Clemons
Development Officer	Mr. Mark Hollowell

Nominees for vacant posts (term of office given in brackets):

President (5)	Prof. Richard Griffiths
Website Editor (3)	None received
Trade Officer (3)	None received

The above Council was proposed by Trevor Beebee, seconded by Chris Gleed-Owen and carried unopposed.



#### **6. 2014 Subscription Fees**

In accordance with the Constitution, a review of subscription rates was undertaken at the previous Council meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> January 2013 in preparation for the AGM. TR provided a forecast of income from memberships and costs of publications. It was noted that as the NatterJack was no longer being produced in hard copy expenditure would naturally reduce. The possibility of open access to the Bulletin was also a factor. After due consideration, Council deemed that subscription charges should not increase for 2014.

#### **7. Any Other Business**

- i) Anne Searight requested email alerts for the NatterJack. TR accepted that whilst this had been done previously, there had been occasions when alerts had not been sent. TR accepted the task.
- ii) Anne Searight asked for details of the forthcoming British Herpetological Symposium. TR would contact SM and email the programme to members.

The Chairman closed the AGM.





# The British Herpetological Society

since 1947

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**President**

Prof. R. J. Griffiths

**Chairman**

Mr. J. Coote

**Treasurer**

Mr. M. Wise

**Secretary**

Mr. T. Rose

*The Herpetological  
Journal*

**Receiving Editor**

Dr. R. Jehle

*The Herpetological  
Bulletin*

**Receiving Editor**

Dr. R. Meek

*The Herpetological  
Bulletin*

**Editor**

Mr. L. Jarvis

*The NatterJack*

**Editor**

Mr. D. Willis

**Website Manager**

Vacant

**Librarian**

Mr. D. Bird

**Development Officer**

Mr. M. Hollowell

**Meetings Organiser**

Mr. S. Maddock

**Trade Monitoring  
Officer**

Vacant

**Captive Breeding****Committee Chairman**

Dr. S. Townson

**Conservation Officer**

Mrs. J. Clemons

**Education Committee  
Chairwoman**

Ms. K. Le Breuilly

**Research Committee  
Chairman**

Dr. C. Gleed-Owen

**Ordinary Members**

Dr. I. Stephen

Mr. D. Willis

Dr. A. Pernetta

## British Herpetological Society

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT for 2013

#### Membership as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013:

UK Full members	273	(293)
UK Ordinary members	79	(80)
UK Family members	15	(17)
UK Student members	49	(48)
YHC members	95	(40)
Overseas members	57	(63)
Fellow & Life members	18	(20)
Institutional members	126	(132)

(figures for 2012 given in brackets)

The figures above show a fall of 5.1% across the membership database. It has been noted that there is a continuing downward trend year on year and in the last six-year period, membership is down 18% overall. Council have been tasked to address this issue for 2014.

We were sad to learn of Prof. John Cloudsley Thompson's death in October last year. John had been a prominent and honorary member of the BHS, holding the post of President from 1991 – 1996. In 2012 John very generously donated £20,000 to the Society which became a legacy with his passing. We are indebted to him and he will forever be an important part of BHS history.

The Research Committee's Student Grant Scheme now has biannual deadlines of 1<sup>st</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> December, with £1000 to spend each year. Grants are typically for travel and other research costs. At the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013 deadline, we received one application, and at the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013 deadline, we received four applications. Grants were awarded to three: Tiago Pinto (£300, herpetofaunal recovery from wildfires, Portugal); Daniela Rosado (£300, Moroccan gecko genetics); Rob Ward (£300, Jersey grass snake and slow-worm status). In 2012 we made a contribution of £1000 to an Institute of Zoology research project investigating UK adder genetics, in lieu of any suitable student applications that year. Christopher Durrant from IoZ has recently supplied us with the final report on that work.



The jointly-badged ARC-BHS Scientific meeting went ahead as usual in December at its regular venue in Bournemouth, and as always was very well attended and a great success. Members who have not attended this event before are encouraged to do so as it really is not to be missed.

The Herp Worker's Meeting was held in Bristol this year, organised by ARC and the ARGUK network. The BHS contributed £500 to the running costs, and was represented in publicity materials, as well as having a table selling membership and publications.

Chris Gleed-Owen has been actively maintaining the BHS Facebook social media page, and using it to communicate with members and others. The page now has 432 members (up from 315 in November 2013), and is an effective way of rapidly communicating announcements and items of interest to the membership and non-membership.

Our Conservation Officer, Jan Clemons, reports that we received two requests for funding from the Land Fund this financial year. Under the Site Purchase category BHS donated £25,000 to Amphibian & Reptile Conservation (ARC) towards the site purchase of Dunyeats Hill in Dorset. This magnificent site is home to all six species of our native reptiles and is widely acknowledged as one of the finest examples of heathland in Dorset. Our donation has now enabled ARC to add this site to their existing suite of reserves and will be sensitively managed for the perpetuation of this outstanding reptile assemblage.

Under the Practical Conservation Project category BHS donated £993.86 to the North Merseyside Amphibian & Reptile Group (NMARG) for plant & equipment hire so that urgent restoration of Merseyside sand lizard habitat at Ainsdale dunes could be carried out. This involved NMARG removing invasive scrub and trees together with the creation of sand patches required for sand lizard egg-laying. This management work carried out by NMARG to restore more open habitat will also benefit Natterjack toads and common lizards.

After many years, it is wonderful to see the Land Fund being used for what it was set up to do over twenty years ago. BHS Council agreed to rename the Land Fund the "BHS Conservation Fund" to encourage bids from other herpetofauna conservation projects and to raise the limit to £1500 for Practical Conservation Projects.

The Captive Breeding Committee, headed by Simon Townson, has been involved in several projects in the past year. These are namely 'Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of the Golden Mantella: Survey of the Breeding Sites in Mangabe, Madagascar' (Madagasikara Voakajy and DICE), which received a CBC grant in 2013 with the main aim to update the status of Golden Mantella breeding ponds. Surveys will confirm presence/absence, estimate population size, assess habitat quality, and evaluate possible harvesting sites for the international trade quota; 'Reptile Care, Health and Welfare', a workshop on reptiles held in Kenya July 2013 by John and Margaret Cooper, University of Cambridge and Wildlife Health Services. The main aim of the workshop was to broaden the knowledge of Kenyans who already work with reptiles, including training for biologists and veterinarians, covering health and disease, clinical and post-mortem examination, conservation, reptiles and the law; and 'Headstarting of Agile Frog tadpoles at the





Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Jersey'. This is a new project which will continue through 2014 and has been awarded a grant of £1000 towards this important work. Partners are BHS, Jersey Amphibian and Reptile Group, ARC Trust and Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust.

The Education Committee, who also run the Young Herpetologists, offered free online membership for the first time during 2013. All YH content is now sent electronically with the exception of the New Member's Pack. Positive feedback has been received from members who have enjoyed the more extensive selection of herp related books and articles and continuation of competitions.

Kim Le Breuilly and Richard Butler attended 6 shows from May to September representing YH and BHS with a table and offering their displays and expertise, a commendable commitment. They have also designed a new leaflet aimed at recruiting more Young Herpetologists.

A significant development for 2013 was the design and launch of a new website for the BHS, our portal to the world. Working with a web designer, Mark Hollowell has dedicated his free time to making this a success. The new website represents a major step forward for the Society - providing significantly updated appearance and content, improved and slicker renewal / joining experience, easier maintainability, an online bookshop and improved stats reporting. The project also included a new, fully functioning membership database – linked to the website. This incorporates numerous tools and features which collectively are enabling us to reduce overall administrative effort and communicate easier with members via email alerts. Further planned improvements and developments in the coming months will help us realise its full potential.

Our dedicated team of editors continue to work tirelessly to delivery arguably our most important asset, our ever-popular publications. The Herpetological Journal team, headed by Robert Jehle, have produced all 2013 issues to schedule and as a result, we see our flagship publication's ISI impact factor rising all the time. In the previous five years, this had risen from 0.66 to 0.81. For 2012 (published mid-2013), our impact factor had jumped to 1.08 and now holds the highest impact factor of any quarterly journal devoted to herpetology.

Another significant development for the Journal was the decision to move towards Open Access. This is now high on our Agenda for the coming year and the details will be rolled out in the coming months.

The Herpetological Bulletin is also in good shape. The new A4 format implemented by editing team Roger Meek, Roger Avery and Laurence Jarvis has generally been well received and it is hoped that the improved paper presentation will increase submission rates and the quality of manuscripts in the future. Acceptance rate for papers is down slightly on the previous year, with 34 papers being accepted from 50 submissions.

At this AGM I will have completed two terms of office as your Chairman. This is a total of ten years, being two five year terms of office. When I first became Chairman the post had been



vacant for some time, and, in my opinion, the Society was poorly served by that ongoing situation, with the then President taking on the role of chairing the Council Meetings. The Society at that time, in my opinion, was in poor health, both financially and scientifically. I hope that members will agree that ten years later the Society is now in robust health, both financially and scientifically.

I see the Chairman's role as the catalyst to enable Council to fulfil its functions. It is a team effort, and the long serving Council Members that I have worked with over the last ten years have delivered the active and healthy Society that you see today. The most hard working member of this team continues to be your Secretary, Trevor Rose.

Last year I requested a volunteer to assist our Secretary in his arduous role. Unfortunately this post remains unfilled. So we are still looking for a London based member who would be prepared to book venues for Council in London, and take the minutes at these meetings. Our Society is run by volunteer members. Without them it would not exist. Please consider this role if you possibly can, it would assist our Society greatly.

The Society continues to develop and it is time for a fresh and enthusiastic Chairman to take on the role. As I leave exciting new developments are taking place and will soon be in position to serve our Members; not least is the extensive renewal of our website. Whilst the efforts for this have been great, resting on the shoulders of only a few, but most notably Mark Hollowell, we can already begin to see the fruits of this endeavour.

I have agreed to take on the role of Trade Officer, in a caretaker capacity, in the absence of this post being filled. This is far less than ideal, but should provide us with some representation with pending legislation that could impact on those of our members who keep specimens. Such suggested and pending legislation is mostly emanating from the European Union now, with less from our own government. In an ideal World we would have representation present in Brussels. If any members have suggestions in this regard, then please contact Council.

Our scientific publications are largely back on track, and well received. They are the principal reason for our national and international recognition. I think that I can say that that they are no longer the cause of concern, as they once were, and are well on track to possibly become fully open access in the future, as I outlined last year.

So, exciting times continue! I shall be stepping down as Chairman, but will still be a member of Council, as Trade Officer. Work continues to improve the Society, and I shall be pleased to continue to be a part of that.

**JON COOTE**  
**Chairman**  
**British Herpetological Society**





# **British Herpetological Society**

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013**

### **Basis of preparation of accounts**

The figures presented in this report are receipts and payments accounts, which show the cash amounts actually received and paid by the society, rather than full "accruals" accounts typically prepared by commercial enterprises. This produces some distortion in perceived profitability due to timing effects.

The BHS is entitled to prepare receipts and payments accounts because of its size. We have chosen to do this because it reduces the administrative burden of bookkeeping and independent examination.

### **Financial position**

The society's financial position has remained strong, thanks in part to a bequest of £20,000 from Professor J L Cloudsley-Thompson, as well as a donation of £9,700 from Peregrine Livefoods, and a further bequest of £7,943 from the late Mr Jeffrey Ball (whose previous bequest of £36,262 was received during 2012). I would like to take this opportunity to thank these benefactors for their outstanding generosity, and also to thank our wider membership for their continued loyalty.

### **Large grants**

A grant of £25,000 was awarded to ARC Trust for the purchase of important herpetofauna habitat in Dorset.

# Main receipts & payments table

To provide detailed receipts & payments information for the period

Event type	CC class 2	CC class 3	Calendar year 2013	Calendar year 2012	Difference
Bal b/f	Bal b/f	Bal b/f	149,868	117,236	32,632
<b>Bal b/f Total</b>			<b>149,868</b>	<b>117,236</b>	<b>32,632</b>
Cash receipt	Voluntary receipts	Membership subscriptions - Individuals junior	80	547	-467
		Membership subscriptions - Individuals Non-UK	2,382	2,504	-121
		Membership subscriptions - Individuals UK	11,581	11,192	389
		Membership subscriptions - Institutions	7,129	8,732	-1,603
		Donations	38,114	36,799	1,315
	Charitable activities	Sales of publications	632	1,524	-891
		Royalties received	40	219	-179
		Events income		590	-590
		Trading		122	-122
	Investment income	Interest	1,020	787	233
		Dividends	868		868
	Borrowing	Loans		0	0
<b>Cash receipt Total</b>			<b>61,848</b>	<b>63,016</b>	<b>-1,169</b>
Cash payment	Costs of Charitable Activities	Cost of publications - printing	-14,910	-15,546	636
		Cost of publications - postage	-4,013	-5,908	1,895
		Events expenses	-832	-693	-139
		Promotional costs	-1,013	-545	-467
		Bank charges & similar	-989	-1,557	569
		Administrative costs - postage & stationery	-140	-245	105
		Insurance	-140	-140	0
		Website costs	-1,360	-931	-429
		Subscriptions to other organisations	-150	-50	-100
		Cost of publications - common	-4,100		-4,100
		Grants paid - Research	-1,000		-1,000
		Grants paid - Events	-1,200		-1,200
		Grants paid - Conservation	-26,155		-26,155
		Cost of publications - online			
		Grants paid - Herpetocultural activities		-3,042	3,042
	Governance Costs	Admin expenses - meetings	-650	-500	500
		Independent Examination fee	-480	-537	-113
		Council member leaving present	-239	-420	-60
	Other Costs	Bank errors	-59		-239
	Activities for Generating Funds	Trading		-259	-59
<b>Cash payment Total</b>			<b>-57,430</b>	<b>-30,374</b>	<b>-27,056</b>
Transfer	Transfer	Transfer	0	0	0
<b>Transfer Total</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>154,286</b>	<b>149,878</b>	<b>4,408</b>

Item **Summary receipts & payments by fund and department**

Purpose

Show cash movements split by :

legal funds (unrestricted / restricted)

management departments (Captive Breeding Committee, Young Herpetologists etc)

Restricted ?	Fund	Pot	Bal b/f	Cash payment	Cash receipt	Transfer	Grand Total
Unrestricted funds	general	Captive Breeding Committee	7,884	-1,000	4	0	6,888
		Chelonia meeting	241				241
		General	69,105	-27,830	51,116	-2,346	90,045
		Meetings		-700		700	0
		Research		-1,000		1,000	0
		Young Herpetologists	3,143	-1,245	80	0	1,977
Restricted funds	land fund			-500		500	0
	recycle4charity		69,348	-25,000	1,081	0	45,430
	herp symposium		147	-155	13		5
	Peregrine			-500		500	0
					9,700		9,700
Grand Total			149,868	-57,430	61,993	-146	154,286



### **Payments made to Trustees during the year**

The following payments were made to Trustees in respect of their services to the Society and to defray general expenses incurred by them on behalf of the Society.

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
To the Secretary, for administrative, print, postage and packing services	250	250
One-off payment to the Herpetological Bulletin's Managing Editor, for editorial services	1,200	0

### **Expenses reimbursed to Trustees during the year**

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
To the Chairman, for travel to Council meetings	383	156
To the Secretary, for travel to Council meetings	43	0
To the Meetings Organiser, for travel to meetings	0	89
To the Treasurer, for travel to banking meeting	3	0



## BHS COUNCIL FOR 2014-15

### Current members

(years served in current term of office given in brackets):

<b>President</b>	Prof. Richard Griffiths (1)
<b>Chairman</b>	Mr. Jon Coote (5 – standing down)
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mr. Michael Wise (5 – standing down)
<b>Secretary</b>	Mr. Trevor Rose (3)
<b>Research Committee Chairman</b>	Dr. Chris Gleed-Owen (1)
<b>Education Committee Chairwoman</b>	Ms. Kim Le Breuilly (3)
<b>Captive Breeding Committee Chairman</b>	Dr. Simon Townson (1)
<b>Conservation Officer</b>	Mrs. Jan Clemons (1)
<b>Herpetological Journal Editor</b>	Dr. Robert Jehle (2)
<b>Bulletin Editor</b>	Laurence Jarvis (1)
<b>NatterJack Editor</b>	Mr. Dave Willis (1)
<b>Website Editor</b>	Vacant
<b>Meetings Organiser</b>	Mr. Simon Maddock (3 – standing down)
<b>Development Officer</b>	Mr. Mark Hollowell (1)
<b>Trade Officer</b>	Vacant
<b>Ordinary Member 1</b>	Mr. David Willis (2 – standing down)
<b>Ordinary Member 2</b>	Dr. Ian Stephen (3)
<b>Ordinary Member 3</b>	Dr. Angelo Pernetta (3 – standing down)

### Members standing for continuation in their posts:

(term of office given in brackets):

<b>Education Committee Chairwoman (3)</b>	Kim Le Breuilly
<b>Ordinary Member (3)</b>	Dr. Ian Stephen

### Nominees for vacant posts:

(term of office given in brackets):

<b>Chairman (5)</b>	Nominee: Dr. Chris Gleed-Owen
<b>Treasurer (5)</b>	Nominee: None received
<b>Trade Officer (3)</b>	Nominee: Mr. Jon Coote
<b>Meetings Organiser (3)</b>	Nominee: None received
<b>Website Editor (3)</b>	Nominee: None received
<b>Ordinary Member (3)</b>	Nominee: Anthony von-Plattenburgh
<b>Ordinary Member (3)</b>	Nominee: Iri Gill