



Provisional Minutes of the 70th

BRITISH HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting

Date: Saturday, 18th March 2017

Venue: Wildwood Education Centre, Herne Common, Herne Bay, Kent, CT6 7LQ

Chair: Chris Glead-Owen

1. Apologies for Absence

Roger Avery, John Cooper, Michael Wise, Jonathan Webster.

This AGM was quorate (20/349).

2. Minutes of the 69th AGM

The Minutes were circulated, proposed as a correct record by Chris Glead Owen, (CGO) seconded by Roman Muryn (RM), agreed unanimously by those present and signed by the Chair as an accurate record of the 2016 69th AGM.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

4. Annual Reports

The Chairman's report for 2016 was circulated at the meeting. CGO summarised the main points and particularly noted that membership had stabilised, and had not declined for the first time in many years. It is hoped that this signals an end to the falling numbers in membership and we wish for an upsurge in subscriptions. The Chairman also stressed the voluntary effort of Council and noted thanks to all. The Secretary is co-opted, now spending time on BHS Amphibian Ladders promoting these to local authorities and developers.

The Chairman noted our desperate search for a replacement Treasurer and indicated that the role takes around 10-man days of effort per year. Anyone interested in this post should approach Council for details of the role.

Other Council officers had contributed to the Chairman's report and he provided a brief overview of each. Of particular note was the new-look website which our Development Officer Mark Hollowell had been working on. The website is now more friendly and functional and he was afforded a vote of thanks for the work he had put into it.

The Chairman thanked those attending, this was one of only a few AGMs held outside of London and the turnout and venue were excellent. The Chairman then made a presentation to Trevor Rose for 12 years service as Secretary; Trevor was continuing in post on a co-opted basis but had stood down at the previous AGM after two terms of office.



5. 2018 Subscription Fees

In accordance with the Constitution, a review of subscription rates was undertaken at the previous Council meeting of 4th February 2017 in preparation for the AGM.

In forecasting income and expenditure, it was noted that hosting of the Journal by Ingenta has now ceased (as of 1st January 2017), and the photocopier contract is due to end on 23rd March 2017 and will not be renewed. However editorial fees are higher as Sarah Berry takes over from Chris Barratt for the Journal. Sarah is a professional editor and will be invoicing BHS for her services rather than receiving an honorarium as was the case for Chris.

We agreed at the AGM last year to increase Print subscriptions for 2017, and based on final membership numbers for 2016, we predict that based on the revised fees BHS will approximately break-even in 2017. In our forecast spreadsheet, we place a value on surplus stock of Journals (unit cost x number unused), and it can be demonstrated that it would only take a small increase in print membership numbers for the balance to become positive very quickly. As always this tends to indicate we should focus on recruitment and membership retention to keep our financial state healthy.

Given that figures indicate we will at least break even, and that we increased our subscription fees at the previous review just 12 months ago, the recommendation is that no changes need to be imposed for 2018.

6. Election of Council for 2017–18

Council for 2017-18 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. Richard Griffiths (4)
Chairman	Dr. Chris Gleed-Owen (3)
Treasurer	Vacant (Mr. Michael Wise (co-opted))
Secretary	Vacant (Mr. Trevor Rose (co-opted))
Research Committee Chairman	Dr. Chris Gleed-Owen (1)
Education Committee Chairman	Ms. Kim Le Breuille (3)
Captive Breeding Committee Chairman	Dr. Simon Townson (1)
Conservation Officer	Mrs. Jan Clemons (1)
Herpetological Journal Editor	Vacant (Dr. Rachael Antwis (co-opted))
Herpetological Bulletin Editor	Dr. Roger Meek (1)
NatterJack Editor	Mr. David Willis (1 – Resigned)
Website & Communications Officer	Mr. Anthony von-Plettenberg Laing (2)
Trade Monitoring Officer	Mr. Jon Coote (3)
Meetings Organiser	Mr. Paul Eversfield (1)
Development Officer	Mr. Mark Hollowell (1)
Ordinary Member 1	Mr. Iri Gill (3)
Ordinary Member 2	Dr. Ian Stephen (3)
Ordinary Member 3a	Mr. Stephen Copley (1)
Ordinary Member 3b	Mr. Roman Muryn (1)



(Election of Council for 2017–18 continued)

Members standing for continuation in their posts:

Education Committee Chairman	Ms. Kim Le Breuilly
Trade Officer	Mr. Jon Coote
Ordinary Member	Dr. Ian Stephen
Ordinary Member	Dr. Iri Gill

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

Treasurer (5)	None received
Secretary (5)	None received
Herpetological Journal Editor (3)	Dr. Rachael Antwis
The NatterJack Editor (3)	None received

The above Council was proposed by Chris Gleed-Owen, seconded by Roman Muryn, carried by majority (19 for, 0 against, 1 abstention).

In absence of nominees, Mr. Michael Wise was co-opted to the post of Treasurer and Mr. Trevor Rose was co-opted to the post of Secretary, to hold posts until replacements are found.

7. Any Other Business

There was none.

The Chairman closed the AGM.