

Minutes of the Yorkshire Branch Butterfly Conservation A.G.M.

Held on Sunday 11 October 2009 at Yorkshire Air Museum, Elvington, York

Members present	Chairman and 52 Yorkshire Branch members
Apologies:	Received from M.Fryer, J Daniels, C H Fletcher, D.Howson, B Nattress, P Millard, R Roach, P Sykes, K Payne and J Payne. M C Frost announced the death of a long-standing Member, Mary Halliwell, wife of our first chairman, Geoff Halliwell ,and tributes were paid.
Approval of Minutes	The minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting were accepted as a true and correct record, proposed by L King, seconded P Kipling and carried unanimously.
Matters Arising	There were no matters arising from the 2008 minutes.
Chairman's report	The Chairman reviewed the busy year and paid tribute to the way the Committee had worked throughout the year, highlighting BC's 40th Anniversary AGM and Members Day hosted by Yorkshire Branch in November 2008. Another highlight was the successful Lepidoptera Group meeting at Bramham in March 2009, a joint BC/YNU event. The Air Museum held its Flightpath event in June attended by 300 schoolchildren with a day of workshops including one on butterfly activities. Catch them young! Membership is still increasing, now around 650 with up to 850 including joint family and group membership. The website is as popular as ever with 84,000 visits in the year, including many from overseas, including Russia. Tribute was also paid to the Committee's efforts in recording, publishing and fundraising.
Treasurer's report	With Paul Davis's unfortunate absence, no financial accounts were submitted, but the Chairman reported that the Branch is in a healthy financial condition.
Acceptance of Accounts	There were no questions from the membership and formal acceptance was left in abeyance. Details will be available on the website and in the next edition of Argus.
Election of Officers Approval of Auditor	Branch Officers All agreed to stand for re-election, as follows:- Chairman: David Baker, proposed M C Frost , seconded R Bedford. Vice Chair: Tom Hubball,proposed T Whitaker, seconded J Westmoreland. Treasurer: Paul Davis, proposed H M Frost, seconded T Hubball. Secretary: Melanie Fryer has given notice to stand down from today, the position is now vacant. All the above names were put to the meeting and carried unanimously. Mark Higham was approved as the Branch Auditor, proposed H M Frost , seconded P Kipling and carried unanimously subject to Mr Higham's acceptance.
Election of Committee	Three ordinary committee members, Terry Whitaker, Rosemary Roach and Paul Brothers, resigned in accordance with the 3 year rotation rule. All sought re-election and were proposed en-bloc by T Hubball, seconded L King and elected unanimously. The Chairman appealed for prospective committee members to come and observe at meetings.
Any Other Business	James Dickinson, BC member and museum-worker, raised the subject of species introductions and cited existing occurrences – Marbled White, Scotch Argus and Silver-studded Blue. The issue was discussed in some depth, with contributions from the floor exploring both sides of the debate. BC guidelines were outlined and any agreed project would require full BC approval and will involve much time and effort. It was suggested that Mr Dickinson submit a feasibility study for consideration and attend a future Committee meeting.
Date and Venue of 2010 AGM	Members expressed satisfaction with the current venue and The Chairman agreed to arrange the date with Yorkshire Air Museum, either 10 th or 17 th October 2010.