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NSCG Newsletter

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Venue: New Walk Museum, Leicester

Tuesday 22nd June 1999, 2.00 pm - 2.40 pm.

1. Introduction and consideration of agenda

Item 10 "The Editors Report" was added to the agenda. The agenda was then approved by all present.

Topics listed for AOB consisted of Insurance for Freelancers.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies of absence were received from Vicky Purewal, Tracy Seddon and Kirsten Walker.

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 17th April 1997

Paul Brown presented the minutes of the last annual general meeting. Kate Andrew proposed and Nick Gordon seconded that they be accepted and signed. Bob Entwistle duly signed the minutes as being correct.

4. Matters arising from minutes.

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairs report.

During the last twelve months, the main preoccupation of the group has been the accreditation debate. Myself and other committee members have applied for Fast Track Accreditation. I urge any members who fit the criteria to apply now for FTA, the final date for applications being the end of July 1999. It is by having Professionally Accredited Natural Science conservators that we will raise the profile of Natural Science Conservation. The "Slow Track" standard route for accreditation will take longer and be more expensive. I have been a trial assessor and am on the accreditation appeals panel where I have been able to assure other members of the suitability of at least one Natural Sciences Conservator who has applied for FTA. Our committee discussed at length over whether non-conservation degrees/qualifications should be considered as counting toward accreditation and the committee was spilt. Each application should stand on its own

merits, arguing each case to convince the selection panel. I understand that some members of our group have applied for FTA on this basis. We continue to be part of the National Conservation Council (ex Conservation Forum and Association of British & Irish Conservators or ABC), a combination of Paul Brown and myself have been representing us at meetings.

We have had two meetings during the year, the previous AGM admirably organised by Tracy Seddon and Donna Young and their team and generously hosted by the National Museum and Gallery of Merseyside. I would like to thank all those institutions and individuals involved for a superb event. I'm sure this year's meeting will be just as successful. In February we supported the BCG Geology for Beginners day at Scunthorpe hosted by Steve Thompson, with committee member Glenys Wass giving a lecture. We hope to organise more of these practical "hands-on" days in the future.

We offer congratulations to Vicky Purewal of National Museums & Galleries of Wales for winning the Student Conservator of the Year award for her composition analysis and study of pesticide residues on herbarium sheets and to Kate Andrew who was runner-up for the National Award for Conservation for her work on the wall-mounted Saurian fossils at Whitby Museum.

We are sorry to lose Tracy Seddon and Kirsten Walker from the Committee. Tracy was active in the group from the very beginning and helped to organise two of the early conferences. Donna Young is also vacating the post of Editor due to an outbreak of children. She has done marvellous work over the last few years and we wish the standard to continue. A newsletter is only good as those who write for it so I appeal to all members to support and contribute to it. We now have a new editor!

We have a new membership leaflet and you will find a copy of it in your delegates' folder. Please give your leaflet to an unbeliever and get them signed up. We must continue to grow and although we have a healthy number of members, I believe that there are a lot more interested people who would join if we could reach them.

A number of Natural Science Conservator posts are frozen, two at Ipswich and at Derby Museum and my own post at Ipswich is under threat. Conservation and especially Natural Science Conservation is not having a good time at present. Out sourcing is the money-saving buzzword for employers. There is no substitute for having a properly trained conservator (/ curator) on the premises who knows the collections and cares for them on a daily basis.

I would finally like to thank Nick Gordon for organising this event and to you all for attending.

6. Secretary's Report.

There have been six committee meetings through the year with attendance of members as illustrated below in the attendance log: -

	18.6.98	10.9.98	9.12.98	11.3.99	5.5.99	21.6.99
Kate Andrew	Written & Telephone contributions at each meeting					✓
Paul Brown	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rob Enwistle	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nick Gordon			✓	✓	✓	✓
Simon Moore	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vicky Purewal	✓		✓	✓		
Maggie Reilly		✓			✓	
Tracey Seddon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Kirsten Walker						
Glenys Wass	✓	✓		✓		✓
Donna Young	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

7. Membership Secretary's report.

The Group had 99 members last year plus the British Library subscription, which makes 100. 73 UK personal members, 6 overseas personal mem-

bers, 16 UK Institutional members and 4 overseas institutional members. The corresponding figures for last year are 68 UK personal members, 1 overseas personal member, 10 UK institutional members and 2 overseas Institutional members. We therefore have increased membership by a modest amount, across all categories. We are a small but dynamic organisation but we'd like to be bigger and more dynamic! There are problems with collecting overseas subs, which need to be paid in sterling, and the cost of a sterling draft can be discouragingly high. In order to make it a little easier for potential North American members, one arrangement we employ at the moment is to collect subs in person, so should anyone we know (from the NSCG, BCG, GCG) be going to the States/Canada for SPNHC or other conferences then let us know. Only one commission would only be paid for converting cash dollars to sterling.

8. Treasurer's report.

For period 1st February 1998 - 31st January 1999.

Current account - Midland Bank 1442341

Balance brought forward from 1st February 1998 **£3182.25**

Income

73 UK personal memberships @ £10	£730.00
5 Overseas personal memberships @ £12.00	£60.00
18 Institutional memberships @ £25	£450.00
2 Overseas institutional memberships @ £35	£70.00
Bank Interest	£94.94
Advertising fees	£100.00
Sale of back issues Newsletter	£19.00
Donations	£5.00
Conference	
Registration fees 23 @ £15.00	£345.00
Registration fees 10 @ £20.00	£200.00
Advertising fees	£520.00
Sub total	£2593.94
Total income	£5776.19

Expenditure	
Newsletter production	£194.25
Conference expenses	£752.30
Membership fee to Conservation Forum	£200.00
Committee expenses	£148.70
Total expenditure	1295.25
Balance at 31.01.1999	£4480.94
Actual balance on January 1999 statement	£4480.90

Petty cash	
Income	
Balance brought forward from 1st February 1998	£16.01
Expenditure	
Nil	
Balance (cash in hand)	£16.01

Notes

1. The guidelines from the Charities Commission on the preparation of annual accounts state (p. 4) that for charities with 'neither income or expenditure over £10,000 that accounts must be prepared but may be on a receipts and payments basis'. We comply with this.
2. The UKIC treasurer has now provided a letter (see accompanying document) to say that the funds previously 'held in trust' by us are now transferred to us. By our accounts this was the sum of £1241.23 but UKIC seemed to list in their books the larger sum of £2589.00 as owing to us. Following an exchange of e-mails with Helen Jaescke, the UKIC treasurer, it appears (sadly!) that our figure is correct and the bigger sum is wrong so there are no further funds to be paid to us from UKIC.
3. The accounts were sent to Velson Horie and William Lindsay who kindly acted as auditors and deemed the accounts to be in order. There is no requirement for us to do this but it seems good practice and so is worth continuing.

These accounts and the minutes of the AGM will be sent to the Charities Commission a.s.a.p.

William Lindsey asked what we would spend our money on. MR said that we have spent much of it on the new membership leaflet and the proposed "Ten Agents of Deterioration" book.

9. Proposal to accept the accounts

Jenny Bryant proposed that the accounts be accepted which was seconded by Louise Bacon. The meeting accepted the proposal *nem.con.*

10. Editors Report

Four copies of the Newsletter have been published in the last year (issues 8-11) and continuing with the Ten Agents of Deterioration inserts on Theft & Vandalism, Temperature & Relative Humidity and Light & Ultra Violet, which continue to generate much interest. The next subject will be "Pollution" and please if you have any papers or anecdotes on this subject could you send them to Nick Gordon at The New Walk Museum. Future subjects will be "Physical Forces" and "Custodial Neglect" to complete the Ten Agents. There are plans to publish the inserts as a book with further contributions in the year 2001 and this to be edited by Donna and some of the NSCG funds could be used for this project. Donna has done all the publication in house at Liverpool NMGM even with high work commitments. The cost of outside publishing was explored and found to be too expensive.

Thanks were given also for all those who have contributed articles to the newsletter.

The ISSN number has been assigned for the Newsletter [ISSN 1462-978X] and can be used for the earlier issues prior to the award of the number. We send copies to the British Library, The Getty Library, ICCROM and The Natural History Museum. We will soon have a WEB page available on the Internet that will include contents of the Newsletter and information from the new membership leaflet. There is also a new poster, which can be taken by any member to advertise and promote our work.

Donna is standing down as Editor so who will replace her? Two or three from the same or different organisations can work as a team. NSCG funds (£70-£90) can be made available for a copy of Microsoft Publisher for use by a new Editor.

12. Election to the Committee

Five posts have become vacant and four names put forward prior to the AGM.

Kate Andrew for the post of Treasurer to replace Maggie Reiley. Nominated by Julian Carter and seconded by Louise Bacon.

Three ordinary member posts were available vacated by Tracy Seddon, Kirsten Walker and Kate Andrew.

Adrian Doyle, nominated by William Lindsey and seconded by Lorraine Cornish.

Victoria Purewal, nominated by Angus Gunn and seconded by Aileen Collins.

Maggie Reilly, nominated by Donna Young and seconded by Lindsay Loughman.

An Editorial team was rapidly formulated from the membership present. The Trustee (senior editor) to be Juliet Hay, with assistance from Darren Mann, Matt Stephens and Steve Thompson, collectively nominated by Kate Andrew and seconded by Jo Hatton. [Due to work problems Juliet Hay had to decline the senior editor post and so the duty was handed to Darren Mann.]

As no election was required PB proposed and David Carter seconded that the names put forward be accepted *en block* for election to the committee. The candidates were duly elected *nem.con.*

13. Election of Auditors

MR nominated Velson Horie and William Lindsey to continue as auditors. Passed *nem.con.*

14. AOB.

Insurance for freelancers.

Simon Moore reminded the membership of the competitive insurance cover available from Crowley Colosso for freelance NSCG members for both Public Liability and Professional Indemnity. He reported that a price of £250 for both was quoted by this company which is a very competitive price being at least half that of other quotes. This would be an important saving for our freelance membership and such a chance should not be allowed to pass. Anyone who is interested should contact Simon.

AGM Photo-opportunity:



Conservation of
Bird Mounts

Step 1: Ensure specimen
is deceased.