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NSCG Newsletter

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In Dundee Best Value reports follow the standard committee report format and are presented to Council through the Best Value sub-committee once approved by the head of department.

After several adjustments at the suggestion of both our Chief Officer and the Review Team Leader our final report, recommending retention of the in-house team, was approved by the council.

We then informed all those who had tendered for the service of the outcome of the review.

As a result of the process, we as a team feel more secure, for the time being, having proved our case. We can concentrate on continuing to provide and improve our services to the Department and ultimately to the public.



THE
NATURAL
HISTORY
MUSEUM

THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

FOR SALE - INSECT CABINETS

We have for sale a number of large insect cabinets - approximate external dimensions 5ft 3in (height) x 4ft 3in (width) x 3ft (depth: front to back). They are double sided and have 80 drawers (will take continental pins) on each side, a total of 160 drawers per unit. Price for each unit: £1,100 (buyer collects). These cabinets are much better value than store boxes.

If you are interested, please telephone or E-mail,

Howard Mendel (Collections Manager), Department of Entomology,
The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD.
Tel.: 02079425079
E-mail: h.mendel@nhm.ac.uk.

The Constitution of The Natural Sciences Conservation Group

1. Name

The name of the charity shall be the Natural Sciences Conservation Group, (or other such name as the Trustees may from time to time decide with approval from the Charity Commissioners).

The Group (hereinafter called "the charity") is an unincorporated association with Charity Trustees elected by its members.

2. Objects

The objects of the charity shall be:

- 2.1. To advance the education of the public in natural science collections conservation.
- 2.2. To promote for the benefit of the public, the highest standards in the conservation, development, preparation, care and display of natural science collections and specimens.

3. Powers

In addition to any other powers which the Trustees may exercise the following powers in furtherance of their objects.

- 3.1. Power to encourage and develop education, training and research in natural science conservation through publications, regular meetings and seminars.
- 3.2. Power to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions, provided that in raising funds the trustees shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities.
- 3.3. Power to invest the funds of the charity in any of the investments for the time being authorised for the investment of trust funds.
- 3.4. The Trustees shall have the power to provide indemnity insurance for themselves out of the income of the charity provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the Trustees knew to

be a breach of trust or breach of duty or which was committed by the Trustees in reckless disregard of whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not.

3.5. Power to do all such lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects.

4. Charity Trustees

4.1. Up to eleven Trustees are elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting. There shall at all times be a minimum of four Trustees.

4.2. The Trustees shall comprise four officers, viz.: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Editor and up to seven other ordinary members.

4.3. The Trustees may co-opt such additional members to the committee as it deems necessary from time to time, these co-optees will not be Trustees.

5. Meetings and Proceedings of the Charity Trustees

5.1. The Trustees shall be charged with the organisation and promotion of the group.

5.2. The Trustees shall carry out the wishes of the membership as determined at the Annual General Meeting of members.

5.3. The Trustees shall meet as a committee at least three times a year in addition to holding an annual general meeting.

5.4. The quorum required for any meeting of the Trustees shall be three Trustees or one third of the total number of Trustees whichever number is the greater.

5.5. An emergency or special meeting of Trustees can be called to discuss a particular matter with 7 days notice.

5.6. The Trustee holding the officer post of chair shall chair all meetings, in their absence this duty can be undertaken by one of the other officer posts.

5.7. The chair has a right to a second or casting vote when the number of Trustees voting for or against a resolution are equal.

5.8. Minutes of meetings shall be taken.

6. Terms of Office

6.1. The Trustees holding officer posts, viz. Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Editor shall be elected for a period of three years. Ordinary Trustees are elected for a period of two years.

6.2. Competent Trustees can in exceptional circumstances be re-appointed after their term of office has ceased but may only be re-appointed if the membership deems them capable of fulfilling their duties.

6.3. The Trustees may co-opt members to fill vacancies occurring during a term of office. The co-opted member may serve until the following Annual General Meeting.

7. Members

7.1. Membership is open to all interested in the aims of the Group on payment of the annual subscription.

7.2. There are four categories of membership:-

- Personal
- Institutional
- Overseas
- Student

7.3. Other than institutional members, all members have full voting rights.

8. Subscriptions

8.1. The rates of subscriptions shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting.

8.2. Subscriptions are due on the first day of February in each year.

8.3. Members who fail to pay their subscription within 6 months of the annual subscription date will be deemed to have ceased membership of the group.

8.4. The membership of any individual or organisation can also be terminated at any other time for a good and sufficient reason by the committee. The individual or organisation has the right to be heard before a final decision is made.

9. Elections

- 9.1. Trustees shall be elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting.
- 9.2. Two personal members of the group shall be elected as auditors at the Annual General Meeting.
- 9.3. Only members whose subscriptions are fully paid at the commencement of the Annual General Meeting and with full voting rights are eligible for election or to vote at elections.
- 9.4. Notice calling for nominations for election shall be issued at least 30 days before the Annual General Meeting.
- 9.5. Nominations for election must be received by the Secretary no later than 10 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. In the event of no nominations being received, nominations can be made from the floor by two members eligible to vote.

10. Annual General and Special Meetings of Members

- 10.1. A general meeting shall be held each year.
- 10.2. The annual general meeting shall be incorporated within a conference which promotes the aims of the group.
- 10.3. At least 30 days notice will be given of the date of the Annual General Meeting, stating the time, place and general business of the meeting.
- 10.4. The specific business of the Annual General Meeting shall be that agreed by the members present at the beginning of the meeting.
- 10.5. The quorum for an annual general meeting shall be ten individual members or one-tenth of the total number of individual members whichever number is the greater.
- 10.6. Minutes of the meeting shall be taken.
- 10.7. Only members whose subscriptions are fully paid at the commencement of the Annual General Meeting and with full voting rights are eligible to vote on the

business of the meeting.

- 10.8. A special meeting for the membership can be called with 14 days notice, stating the time, place and general business of the meeting.
- 10.9. The Trustees may organise other meetings as deemed necessary.

11. Communications.

- 11.1. Members shall receive a newsletter on a regular basis.

12. Accounts

The Trustees will comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 1993 with regard to:

- 12.1. The keeping of accounting records of the charity.
- 12.2. The preparation of annual statements of accounts for the charity,
- 12.3. The auditing of the statement of accounts of the charity in time for the Annual General Meeting by the elected auditors.
- 12.4. The preparation of an annual report and sending of it together with statements of account to the Charity Commissioners.

13. Bank Accounts

- 13.1. The group shall maintain one or more bank or building society accounts.
- 13.2. Trustees who hold officer posts shall be designated signatories of the accounts.
- 13.3. Two signatures are required on cheques drawn on the account(s).

14 Trustees Personal Interest

Subject to the provisions of clause 3.3 and except with the prior written approval of the Charity Commissioners, no trustee may:

- 14.1. receive any benefit in money or kind from the charity; or

14.2. have a financial interest in the supply of goods or services to the charity.

15. Powers of Amendment

15.1. Subject to the following provisions of this clause, the Constitution may be amended by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting at a general meeting. The notice of the general meeting must include notice of the resolution setting out the terms of the amendment proposed.

15.2. No amendment may be made to clause 2, clause 3.4, clause 12, clause 14, clause 16 or this clause without the prior written approval of the Charity Commissioners.

15.3. No amendment may be made which would have the effect of making the charity cease to be a charity at law.

15.4. The Trustees must:

- a. promptly send to the Commissioners a copy of any amendments made; and
- b. keep a copy of any such amendment with this Constitution.

16. Power Of Dissolution

If the Charity Trustees decide that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the charity, they shall call a meeting of all members of the charity of which not less than 21 day's notice (stating the terms of the resolution) shall be given. If the proposal is confirmed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, the Charity Trustees shall have the power to realise any assets held by on or behalf of the charity. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the object of this charity as the members of the charity may determine, or failing that, shall be applied for some other charitable purpose.

Notes

Elections of Trustees are staggered to ensure continuity. Currently, the posts of chair and editor are up for election in 1998, the Treasurer in 1999 and the Secretary in 2,000.

Modified by K.J. Andrew (Chair NSCG) and Mark Thompson (of the Charity Commission) and accepted at the NSCG Annual General Meeting 14th May 1998.

Conservation Focus News and Events from the Conservation World

re:source Launches Manifesto

Resource: The Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries has launched its manifesto. The document outlines the organisation's vision for the future, its objectives and core values, and contains an action plan for the year ahead.

Matthew Evans, Chairman of Resource, stated: "Museums, archives and libraries have a central role to play in sustaining and developing cultural, social, educational and economic well-being. They are rich in flair, creativity and imagination. The task for Resource is to harness and develop these qualities in order to enrich everyone's lives, and to enhance the ways in which the sector is funded, managed, used and enjoyed."

Neville Mackay, Chief Executive of Resource, commented: "This will be a challenging year for us, but we have made a good start. The review of the museum Registration Scheme will be completed by the end of the month, and we will shortly launch a new £600,000 fund to encourage the development of sector-wide work in the regions."

Highlights of Resource's work programme for the next year include:

- Policy reviews on sector-wide issues such as standards, training, stewardship and skills development.
- Developing a new sector-wide education standard as part of a programme to promote education and access.
- Extending the People's Network into museums and archives and working with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to develop cultural content for the World Wide Web.
- Establishing a new fund worth £600,000 over two years to encourage development of sector-wide work in the English regions.
- Developing a research strategy to inform policy needs across all three sectors.

The manifesto will be available on the Resource website at www.resource.gov.uk from 19 July. To obtain a hard copy please telephone Sarah Woodward, Communications Assistant, on 020 7233 4200.