



NatSCA

Natural Sciences Collections Association

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NatSCA News

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Minutes of the AGM
Natural History Museum, London
Thursday 16th June

1. Introduction

Nick Gordon sent his apologies for being unable to attend the AGM. A chair was required for the meeting and Paul Brown, having volunteered was duly voted in after proposal by Steve Thompson and seconding by Nigel Monaghan.

Meeting was confirmed as quorate.

2. Apologies for absence

Claire Stringer

3. Acceptance of 2004 AGM minutes.

Membership had been directed to look at the minutes of the 2004 AGM in issue 3 of NatSCA News. Donna Young proposed acceptance, seconded by Kate Andrew and accepted by meeting.

4. Matters arising.

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere in agenda.

5. Chair's report.

Submitted by Nick Gordon and read by Paul Brown:

Firstly please accept my apologies for not being at the AGM. The first floor of New Walk Museum has been closed for refurbishment and re-display and opens in a little under 3 weeks and a few issues still need to be resolved.

The year has been one of quiet but solid achievement with hefty issues of NatSCA news with thanks to Vicki Noble, a redrafting of the BCG Collections at Risk packs by Claire Stringer and Sue, Paul and Jo's excellent work in developing the NatSCA sessions for this conference. There has been much discussion over future training and seminars, particularly looking at some more specialised conservation and collections care training as well as the more general seminars. Suggestions subjects for training and seminars are of course always welcome.

As chair the main body of business has been the successful bid to the MLA for a grant to investigate the setting up of a Subject Specialist Network for the natural sciences. This has gained widespread support across the sector and a discussion paper will be circulated to NatSCA members shortly after the conference. This will be followed by a series of regional meetings in September, a national meeting in October and a final report to MLA in November.

A worrying trend over the last few years has been the number of unfilled Natural Science curatorial posts. A number of posts have been advertised and in some cases re-advertised and no suitable candidate found. This happened most recently here at New Walk Museums where no suitable candidates applied for a Senior Curator position. This is a cause of great concern and one I hope NatSCA will be able to address over the next year. To end on a hopeful note, discussions have already taken place with a number of other institutions and Leicester and possibly two other museums will be developing graduate trainee posts for natural sciences curators over the next year.

Once again apologies for my non-attendance and I hope the rest of the conference goes well.

6. Secretary's report

Attendance NatSCA committee 2004-2005

	21.6.04	6.ix.04	11.xi.04	31.i.05	4.iv.05	16.v.05
Nick Gordon	X	X	X		X	X
Kate Andrew	X	X		X	X	X
Paul Brown	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jo Hatton	X		X	X	X	X
Simon Moore	X	X	X	X	X	X
Vicki Noble	X		X	X	X	
Maggie Reilly	X	X		X	X	X
Douglas Russell	X		X	X	X	
Sue Ryder	X	X	X	X	X	X
Clare Stringer	X	X	X		X	
Steve Thompson	X	X	X	X	X	X
Graham Walley	X	X	X			X
Donna Young			X		X	X

7. Treasurer's report

Accounts for the year 30.01.04 to 24.01.05

Detail	Amount	Sub Totals	Totals
Total combined bank balances at 30 Jan 2004		£ 3336.58	

Income

Membership income

172 UK personal memberships @ £15.00	£ 2580.00
65 institutional membership @ £30.00	£ 1950.00
1 Euro memberships total 25 euros	£ 16.90
1 dollar memberships, total \$48	£ 26.42

Membership sub total **£ 4573.32**

Transfers from precursor bodies

Final NSCG funds to d/a	£18365.17
NSCG deposit account to c/a	£ 160.42
Final BCG funds	£ 5558.25

Transfer sub total **£24083.84**

Interest

Bank interest c/a	£ 9.09
Bank interest d/a	£ 335.59

Interest sub total **£ 344.68**

Meetings & conference income

Insect collections meeting,	£ 200.00
Dublin AGM and meeting	£ 4633.70
Prague study trip	£ 3605.00

Meetings sub total **£ 8438.70**

Adverts, sales & sponsorship

Adverts x 2	£ 180.00
Dixon Glass sponsorship	£ 300.00
Sale of back issues	£ 3.00

Misc income sub total **£ 483.00**

Total income **£37923.54**

Expenditure

Newsletter printing	£ 4921.50
Newsletter postage	£ 829.36
Bank charges	£ 29.00
NCCR & data protection fees	£ 135.00
Conference costs	
Insect meeting	£ 529.49
Dublin AGM	£ 3610.10
Prague study trip	£ 3799.91
Committee expenses	£ 539.29
Insurance	£ 745.50
Postage	£ 102.42
Photocopies, envelopes, misc expenses	£ 430.43

Total expenditure **£ 15672.00**

Total income less expenditure at 31.01.04 **£22251.54**

Total Balance **£25588.12**

Bank balances at 24.01.05

c/a 91645722	£ 5344.85	
Business Money Manager d/a 41653636	£20,206.72	
Total combined cash balance at bank		<u>£25551.57</u>
Less 2 cheques for £15.75 and £47.70 uncleared		<u>£25488.12</u>

Notes on accounting year

This set of accounts incorporates the final transfers of NSCG and BCG funds to Natsca, all former accounts are now closed and Natsca now operates only two accounts. For the Dublin meeting, in order to avoid bank draft costs and exchange rate difficulties some meeting fees, dinners and local expenses were handled locally in Euros by Nigel Monaghan with the final balance being repaid in sterling.

Taking away the transferred funds, the total income from activities this year has been £13,789.70 with a total expenditure of £15,672. This is the first full year of operation and so it is the first time we have a clear indication on the costs and income associated with running the new body, although an accident of timing has meant that four newsletters rather than three have been billed to this financial year.

The Insect meeting income and expenditure was spread over two financial years but it made a small (£40) profit, the Dublin meeting made around £1,000 profit, but the Prague study trip made a £200 loss, this was viewed as an acceptable use of charitable funds to support the educational objects.

In the forthcoming year, the expenses of web site design, a new poster and leaflet will be met together with a substantial sponsorship of members to attend the SPNHC meeting, we are not handling the finances for the SPNHC meeting and will do not expect to receive the level of income we would normally handle at our AGM. With substantial reserves transferred from BCG and NSCG, it is the committee's view that we can continue to draw on these reserves to fulfill our charitable objects but to retain a sum equal to a full year's expenditure in reserve.

There is an £100 discrepancy between the banked amounts and accounted for amounts that suggests a typo error but I have not been able to locate it. The accounts are in the process of being independently verified by Velson Horie and I hope he can locate the mistake. 3rd June 2005 K.J. Andrew,
Treasurer

Acceptance of accounts proposed by Jo Hatton and seconded by Steve Thompson. Unanimously accepted.

8. Membership secretary report

Report for membership year 1st February 2004 – 31st January 2005

At the end of January 2004, the total NatSCA membership numbered 239. All except the nine complementary mailings were circulated with renewal notices in January 2005.

At the end of January 2005 the membership statistics were these:

252 paid up members, of which there were

- 12 free mailings (see below)
- 162 UK personal members
- 14 overseas personal
- 50 UK institutional
- 14 overseas institutional

20 new members, all UK personal had joined in the course of the year.

Complementary mailing list

The complementary mailing list has been tidied up and some new mailings added.

The list is:

Organisation	Recipient	<i>Other info</i>
GCG Newsletter	c/o Patrick Wyse Jackson	
Copyright Library	Copyright Receipt Office, British Library	
British Library	Legal Deposit Office	
SPNHC	Andy Bentley	Ichthyology Collection Manager, Univ. of Kansas
Museums Association	Katie Dawson	Information Officer
S.S.C.R.	Jane Hutchison	
UKIC	David Leigh	
MLAC	Viola Lewis	Information Officer
NCCR	Carole Milner	Chair
USA mem' ship help	Chris Norris	Division of Palaeontology, AMNH
USA mem' ship help	Jane Pickering	Peabody Museum of Natural History
Gifts and Exchanges	Smithsonian Institution Libraries	

USA members

In order to make it easier for existing USA members to join up/stay members we have struck a deal with our ex-pat ex-colleagues Chris Norris and Jane Pickering. In return for personal memberships, Chris and Jane have agreed to accept dollar payments on our behalf and then pay us back via their UK bank account. We trailed this for a year to see how it worked. Only two US members took advantage of this arrangement.

Payment of subs - arrangements

We recognise that requiring payment in sterling is a disincentive to foreign members to join as the cost of a sterling draft is very high. We were able to accept cheques in euros as we are able to cash these for little cost and a 25 euro fee will net us approximately £15.00. The cashing of dollar cheques is more complicated and costly. We have been looking at using Paypal to accept on-line payment of fees – this looks to be a promising solution to our problem.

Howard Mendel asked if we had signed up any new American members at the AGM? One such member has signed up by the AGM.

9. Editor’s report

Vicki Noble announced the launch of the website and explained about the Forum and the proposal to restrict it to members. Some discussion followed on the merits of an open Forum (cf GCG and SPNHC) – good for publicity and recruitment.

VN reported that 3 issues of the Newsletter had come out and reminded bursary recipients that they were required to write an article for the newsletter. VN asked the membership if they have already published in the newsletter, would they be willing to have papers on-line

Nigel Monaghan asked if we might have the ability to collect email addresses from interested potential members via the website –we might email out bulletins to these people to let them know what is happening and encourage them to join.

10. Natural Sciences Conservation report

Simon Moore reported that UKIC was now officially defunct but tidying up loose ends before they go. IOC (Institute of Conservation) has an address and website but not yet officially open. Our relationship with IOC is as satellite organisation based on our mixed membership. We are not an accrediting organisation.

SM announced plans for a botanical collections seminar to be held at Kew Gardens on in November. There will be practical sessions plus Herbarium tours. Price to be confirmed subject to costings/sponsor. SM renewed his request for expressions of interest.

11. Election

The Committee, as voted into office at the AGM in Dublin last year, has served for one year.

Service tenures are three years for Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and two years for Editor, Membership Secretary and up to 10 other committee members.

A number of Ordinary committee members will require to be selected next year after their two years’ service, so in order to stagger committee members tenure and to introduce new blood, Committee have asked for two further committee member posts to serve from 2005 to 2007.

Two nominations for committee have reached the Secretary by 14th May 2005 ie 28 days before the AGM.

1. Name of Nominee: Dr Jane Mee from Scarborough Museum, Yorkshire

Proposed by: Kate Andrew of Herefordshire Heritage services
 Seconded by: Professor Peter Davis of Newcastle University

2. Name of Nominee: Dominique Rogers Freelance Conservator based at Ipswich Museum Suffolk

Proposed by: David Lampard of Ipswich Museum
 Seconded by: Simon Moore of Hampshire Museum Services

As there are two vacant committee posts and two names proposed, I now ask the AGM accept and elect these two people onto committee.

Proposed:- Rosina Down

Seconded:-Sue Ryder

Accepted nem.con.

12. AOB

1. There is a proposed study trip for 2007 to St Petersburg, led by John Edmondson of Liverpool Museums. Donna Young presented the following note from John:
In addition a Powerpoint presentation with additional info on the proposal was available for perusal over lunch

2. Steve Thompson proposed a study trip to Stockholm in spring 2006, having spoken with Swedish delegates attending the meeting and received encouragement for the idea. An item on this will appear in the post conference Newsletter.

3. Paul Brown reported that Vicki Noble had intimated her desire to stand down from the editorship at some point over the coming year so a new editor is sought -volunteers welcome.

13. Date and venue of next meeting

AGM 2006 – Liverpool is proposed as the venue, and the time will be late April.

A possible theme might be on formulating new galleries and how we communicate with the public. Following on from this Helen Fothergill initiated a discussion on the need for clarity in the concept and use of the term natural history. Perhaps a topic for discussion at conference next year.

14. Closing remarks – Chair

I wish to thank the SPNHC planning committee for organising our joint conference, the committee consisting of Liz Woznicki; Clare Valentine; Charlotte Stockley; Chris Stanley; Suzanne Ryder; Gemma Robinson; Giles Miller; Kate Edmondson; Adrian Doyle; Paul Davis, Chris Collins and Lorraine Cornish.

Also I specifically wish to thank Sue Ryder for her hard work in producing the NatSCA Leaflet and poster and in organising an excellent Banquet last night

Also I thank Vicki Noble for orchestrating the setting up of our NatSCA website at www.natsca.org. and for her continued dedication to editing NatSCA News.

And last but not least Nick Gordon our absent chair who worked so hard to win the SSN subject specialist Network status for NatSCA.