

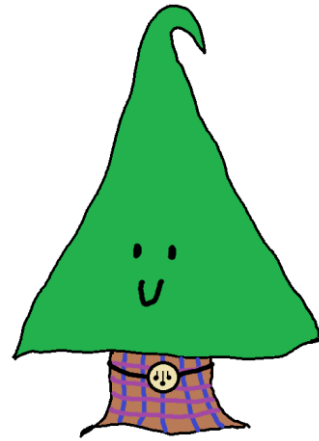
# Arboricultural Association

## Scottish Branch

### Annual General Meeting 2025 Minutes

Saturday 6 June 2026

Dalkeith Country Park



Committee members present: Simon Stuart, Ruthe Davies, Nick Porter, Thomas Brock, Chris Knapman, Mark Foster, Matt Cooper and Callum Braithwaite.

Other members present: Jane Begg, Tansy Lee Moir, Will Hinchliffe, Russell Miller, Chris Simpson, Jim Chambers, Adam Scott, Struan Dalgleish, Eamonn Wall, Angus McKay, Emma Gilmartin, David Treanor, Kevin Frediani, Carla Padilla and Joseph Burns.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Mike Charkow, Ronnie Barker and Alan McDowall
2. **Minutes from 2024 AGM:** these have been on the website for review. Approval of minutes proposed by Matt Cooper and seconded by Eamonn Wall.
3. **Officers' reports**
  - a. Chair: Simon Stuart, Chair thanked the committee for their work throughout 2025. He reported several successful events in 2025 – the AGM in Dundee, visits to Burghie and to Gargunnock, and much of the planning for the ATF Summer Forum on veteran trees. He reported that moving the AGM to summer has had a mixed reception but overall is considered a positive move.
  - b. Secretary: Ruthe Davies, Secretary reported that in 2025 the AA had 167 members in Scotland, a loss of two members compared to 2024, bringing in an annual membership income of £25,027.99. She reported that Scotland's events in 2025 cost a total of £5,248 and generated £5,935 in income which means a total profit of £687 from branch activities.
  - c. Editor: Nick Porter, Editor reported a total of eight articles in the magazine from the Scottish branch in 2025: a piece on lichens by Petra Vergunst; a write-up of the visit to Braco Castle by Julian Schad and Chris Knapman; an article on the Argyle Street ash by David Treanor; an article about biodiversity in Salix by Matt Cooper; a piece on Storm Eowyn by Will Hinchliffe; a write-up of the branch visit to Gargunnock by David Treanor; a follow-up article on the Argyle Street ash by David Treanor; and a piece about sycamore by Matt Cooper.
4. **Appointment of Committee**

Mike Charkow stepped down from the committee. The chair thanked Mike for several years of service.

Four new committee members were elected: Kevin Frediani, Carla Padilla, Joseph Burns and Adam Scott. Election of the four new members was proposed by Chris Knapman and seconded by Matt Cooper.

Committee members Simon Stuart, Ruthe Davies, Nick Porter, Matt Cooper, Callum Braithwaite, Mark Foster, Chris Knapman, Ronnie Barker, Alan McDowall and Thomas Brock were all re-appointed to the committee for 2025.

## **5. Committee officers**

The four branch officers for 2025 were Simon Stuart (chair), Mike Charkow (vice-chair), Ruthe Davies (secretary) and Nick Porter (editor). Mike Charkow stepped down from his role and Kevin Frediani was elected to take this role. The other three officers remain in post for 2026. The election of the four posts was proposed by Matt Cooper and seconded by Mark Foster.

The Chair reported that he intends to stay in post for one more year and step down at the 2026 AGM.

## **6. Any other competent business:**

- a. ATF Summer Forum: the Chair reported a very successful event was held earlier in the week, the ATF Summer Forum on veteran trees. The ATF are looking to establish a new branch, or network, in Scotland.
- b. VetCert: Matt Cooper is collecting names of people interested in taking the Vetcert training in Scotland. Emma Gilmartin reports that members can see the standard of training at Vetcert.eu and must submit their prerequisites to AA to register their interest.
- c. AA conference: the Chair asked anyone interested in sharing transport to conference to contact him. Nick Porter will be speaking at the conference.