

Arboricultural Association

Scottish Branch



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 16 July 2025, 18.30pm, Zoom

Highlighting indicates **actions**

Present: Simon Stuart, Ruthe Davies, Nick Porter, Mike Charkow, Matt Cooper, Chris Knapman, Mark Foster, Ronnie Barker

1. Apologies for absence: Thomas Brock, Alan McDowall, Callum Braithwaite
2. Minutes from meeting April 10
3. Items
 - a. 2025 events :
 - i. Gargunnock field trip was a success – well attended
 - ii. Planned trip with NE England branch – no progress to report yet – **SS** will try again for next year
 - iii. **SS** is planning an October social field trip visit to Burghie arboretum at Forres with a visit to a forestry site in the afternoon
 - iv. Multi-speaker event in October: MCo has provisionally booked RBGE for 21, 22 or 23 October. Simon Richmond from NTSG will speak about the new guidance. **MCo** is inviting the Tree Council to talk about their report on protections for important trees and may invite Ed Pyne and Jeremy Barrell.
 - b. Ancient tree event: CK attended ancient tree conference put on by the Ancient Tree Forum. Proposes organising a Scottish ancient tree event in conjunction with the ATF in June 2026 – one or two days. It was discussed that this event could be fused with the AGM on 6 June – possibly one paid day of talks followed by a second free day including the AGM. **MCo** will contact Chatelherault about availability, costs and capacity. **CK** will contact Dalkeith Country Park about the same.
Subcommittee for this event will be **CK, MCo, MF** and **MCh** – will meet on Tuesday 19 August – **MCo** to send out Zoom invites.
 - c. Transport to conference: **SS** will ask HQ to put out a request for interest.
 - d. TRAQ: **TB/MCo** are organising. The ISA are publishing a new course towards the end of 2026. The event will be held at RBGE, probably in January 2026.
 - e. Editor's report: NP reports that there are three articles for the Autumn magazine – one from MCo about willow taxonomy. Will Hinchliffe has written

an account of Storm Eowyn and the impact on RBGE. David Traynor is writing an account of a field trip to Gargunnock.

- f. LinkedIn group: RD reports that the branch has a semi-dormant LinkedIn group and she has recently taken over the admin role. SS to review the group and consider the potential for resurrecting it.

4. Any other competent business

- a. CK spoke to Chris Simpson who nominates Angus McKay for this year's Ken Martin award. MCo put out a request for a 12-14" bowl blank. RB may be able to provide a suitable piece of yew.
- b. ICF are doing a webinar on 9 October on NTSG guidance.

5. Date of next meeting

18.30 on Wednesday 8 October 2025. MCo to send out Zoom invites.