

Arboricultural Association

Scottish Branch



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 8 October 2025, 18.30pm, Zoom

Highlighting indicates **actions**

Present: Simon Stuart (SS), Ruthe Davies (RD), Matthew Cooper (MCo), Mike Charkow (MCh), Chris Knapman (CK)

1. Apologies for absence: CB, TB, NP, RB, AM, MF.
2. Minutes from meeting July 16: two spelling corrections to be made.
3. Items
 - a. 2025 events
 - i. Burghie field trip is next week and there are six bookings currently. **SS** will check if this is viable.
 - ii. MCo's proposed event in October is not going ahead.
 - b. 2026 events
 - i. Hawick Hall field trip – Jon Parker is going to chase up North England branch about this.
 - ii. Ancient tree conference/AGM – CK has a number of proposed speakers and potential venues and is hoping to arrange some sponsorship. There was discussion about inviting Lynne Boddy to speak. **CK** to contact HQ and progress bookings. Subgroup (**CK**, **MCo** and **MCh**) to arrange field trip to venues.
AGM: SS confirmed his intention to stay on as chair for one more year and encouraged volunteers to take the role of vice-chair for a year with a view to succeeding him as chair.
 - iii. TRAQ course – MCo reports that the course will be run by Guy Watson at RBGE on 23-25 March 2026 and can now be booked. It will be the new course which is being launched by ISA in November.
 - c. Transport to conference – HQ did not advertise transport this year. Three people car-shared. **SS** to press HQ on this earlier next year to ensure proper advertising. SS reports that next year's AA conference is in Lancaster.
 - d. Editor's report – NP absent but reported by email that there are two articles from Scottish branch in the next edition, one from David Traynor and one from MCo. CK reports that he is writing a book review for the following edition.

- e. Awards – it was agreed that a request for nominations for the Tom Hall and Ken Martin awards will be circulated in January. For the Tom Hall award, it was proposed that the email should include links to PDF copies of all articles and a webform for voting. MCo will sponsor the Ken Martin award again this year and is still looking for a piece of timber to be turned.
- 4. Any other competent business
 - a. CK is doing a Christmas webinar on 17 December.
- 5. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 14 January on Zoom at 18.30. MCo to send out invites.