

Arboricultural Association

Scottish Branch

Meeting minutes

Thursday 9 April 2026, 18.30pm, Zoom



Highlighting indicates actions

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

1. Apologies for absence: Thomas Brock, Alan McDowall
2. Minutes from meeting January 14 – approved
3. Items
 - a. Ancient tree conference: CK reported that all is going well, bookings are coming in and all speakers still attending as booked. **CK**, **MF**, **MCh** and **SS** will do a recce on Saturday 9 May to plan locations for morning workshops.
 - b. AGM
 - i. Venue: MCo reports that Dalkeith Country Park is provisionally booked – agreed that the booking will be finalised for an estimated 40 people (**MCo**). Agreed to book for coffee on arrival, mid morning coffee, and then lunch.
 - ii. Speakers: **MF** is looking for a second speaker – CK offered a 25 minute talk on ancient trees in Stockholm.
 - iii. Ken Martin award: MCo reports bowl is finished, just waiting on the candidate name. **SS** will put out a request for nominees to the membership.
 - iv. Committee changes: MCh reports that he is stepping down from the committee at the next AGM. Kevin Frediani is interested in joining as vice chair and everyone else is staying on in their current roles.
 - c. Potential events
 - i. **MCo** is looking to arrange an event on Arboriculture and AI with Callum Throw.
 - ii. **MCo** and **MF** are looking to arrange an event on endoscope licensing with Colin Dunlop.
 - iii. **MCo** is looking to arrange an event, or several events, on tree ID – a theory course looking at proper use of keys

- d. Transport to conference: **SS** has raised this with HQ and will press them to circulate the invitation to the Scottish membership.
 - e. Editor's report: **NP** reports that David Traynor is the winner of the Tom Hall award for his article on the Glasgow ash tree.
4. Any other competent business
- a. SS will be representing AA at the Trees & Development conference.
 - b. **MF** proposes a boat trip to Inchmaholm in Autumn.
5. Date of next meeting
- a. Wednesday 12 August @ 18.30 on Zoom – MCo circulated invite.