



SWBG Annual General Meeting
Subud Centre, St Leonards Bank, Perth
10th September 2024 at 7pm

Present

Apologies

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

No outstanding issues from last year's minutes.

2. Chair's Report 2023 by Louise Ramsay

Louise read out the Chair's Report.

2024 has been a challenging year for SWBG as many of our trustees have been run off their feet in their other lives, although all our trustees have done all they can to progress the cause of beavers in Scotland, We managed to make progress, especially with our educational activities. [REDACTED] has given several more of her excellent talks in Blairgowrie, Perth, Clackmannanshire etc. [REDACTED] gave a talk to Dundee Nature Natural History Society. Campy Growers, from Camperdown Park visited Bamff, facilitated by SWBG.

[REDACTED] has also ensured meetings happen and are minuted, and Celia has done some excellent work as membership secretary, bringing the list up to date and chasing subscriptions. Phil continues to keep us right on the financial side, in spite of some health challenges. [REDACTED] has kept us in the loop with the wider political picture.

We also worked with various members of the public who were upset about beaver dam destruction - undertaking or encouraging reporting to the police, SSPCA and Nature Scot.

We arranged two [REDACTED] talks ("To Beave or not to beave") at the Perth Art Gallery Theatre and the Birks Cinema, Aberfeldy. Both events were sold out and a huge success, thanks to social media work by [REDACTED] and all of you, sharing and retweeting, distributing posters etc. [REDACTED] combines knowledge of aquatic ecology with experience as a fishing guide and threads in [REDACTED]

knowledge of fluvial geomorphology. The combination is astonishingly enlightening, especially in relation to the beneficial inter-relationship of beavers for salmon. Our most recent activity was an appearance at Blairgowrie Highland Games, attended by [REDACTED].

During this year, there has been significant progress in the larger world of beavers in Scotland and SWBG must take some credit for this, given all the work we have done over many years. The Nature Scot report came out on 1st August and at last, there has been some real action on getting beavers translocated around Scotland. Not as much as we would like to see but a significant improvement on previous years. To quote:

- “The report covers a 15-month period from January 2023 to April 2024, with annual licence returns now aligned with management activity from mid-August to end of March.
- There was significant progress with beaver translocations to both Cairngorms and Loch Lomond National Parks as well as multiple reinforcements within range in Tayside, Forth and Knapdale. In total 40 beavers were released in Scotland and 34 animals were moved to licensed enclosure projects in England.
- Records for beavers in new areas point to the population continuing to expand naturally in parts of Tayside, the wider Forth area, into West Lothian and Fife, with some evidence of dispersal from Knapdale and in the Highlands. A survey of the beaver population (excluding Knapdale and Spey) is planned for winter 24/25 to provide an up-to-date assessment of beaver populations.
- In total 85 beavers were removed from conflict sites over a 16-month period, with 90% of these being by trapping rather than by lethal control. This compares with the proportion trapped being 42% in 2022 and 28% in 2021. A total of 122 dams were removed under licence in the same period.
- The number of beavers being lethally controlled (8 over this period) is significantly reduced from previous levels and reflects the effort that has gone into supporting trapping and land managers willingness to try this approach first. Whilst these low numbers are very welcome, it is important to highlight these levels may not be achievable every year, given the population is continuing to expand, that trapping is dependent of the requirement for beaver removal and the feasibility of trapping at these locations and translocation on the availability of release sites.
- Currently there are more release sites available in the Spey catchment and in licensed projects in England, but a forward plan for future release sites is being developed both within the approved range and in new catchments.
- Over this period NatureScot have responded to an increased number of beaver mitigation enquiries again, possibly reflecting the expanding population. We have provided advice, used and promoted well-established mitigation techniques and have trialed new approaches.
- This period was also marked by a series of damaging storms, which brought extreme flood events impacting on communities and land managers at very significant costs. Beaver activity has likely contributed to some of the damage. We discuss the survey techniques we have been trialing to improve detection of beaver burrows and the management challenges.”

We posted a link to this on our website with our own reaction - (only moderately impressed - plenty of room for improvement).

In response to the storms, headlines appeared in the press, emanating from NFUS etc, claiming that beavers were responsible for damage of up to seven figures in value. SWBG responded to this with a measured article on our website, written mainly by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], explaining the history of Strathmore floodbanks, and the much larger role of climate change in these catastrophic flooding events. This has recently been followed by an article by [REDACTED] in the Scottish Farmer

covering roughly the same ground. Work done in the 90s was quoted in both instances, demonstrating that Strathmore farms were already highly vulnerable to flooding well before beavers were there. This all raises questions about the future of agriculture in Scotland in the face of increasingly extreme weather conditions - and relates to the ideas brought to us by Chelsea.

SWBG continues to have many ideas and plans but is currently struggling to bring them all to realisation. We hope that 2024/5 will prove to be a year of accelerated progress.

Many thanks to all of you for your continued support.

3. Treasurer's Report

The credit balance of SWBG's bank account has reduced from c£3,300 at this time last year to c£1,400 at current which is in line with the Trustees' intentions to invest much of the balance in education and provision of information and skills to the public [to further the study, conservation and protection of wild Eurasian beavers] as set out in the charity's purpose of funds.

Around £900 of this reduction is due to one off purchasing of AV equipment which will not be repeated. In other words, the balance has been reduced by c£1,000 in ongoing expenditure.

Other significant expenditures include membership renewals (£410), talks and tours (£1,100) and insurance (£320) together with small ongoing expenses. Around £1300 income was secured, largely through memberships.

This reduction in cash holding, whilst anticipated, highlights the need for continued retention of our valued members and also to secure new memberships together with small but valuable contributions from merchandise and partnerships. With the main events for 2024 now having been completed this cash balance will rise again over the winter assuming normal membership income.

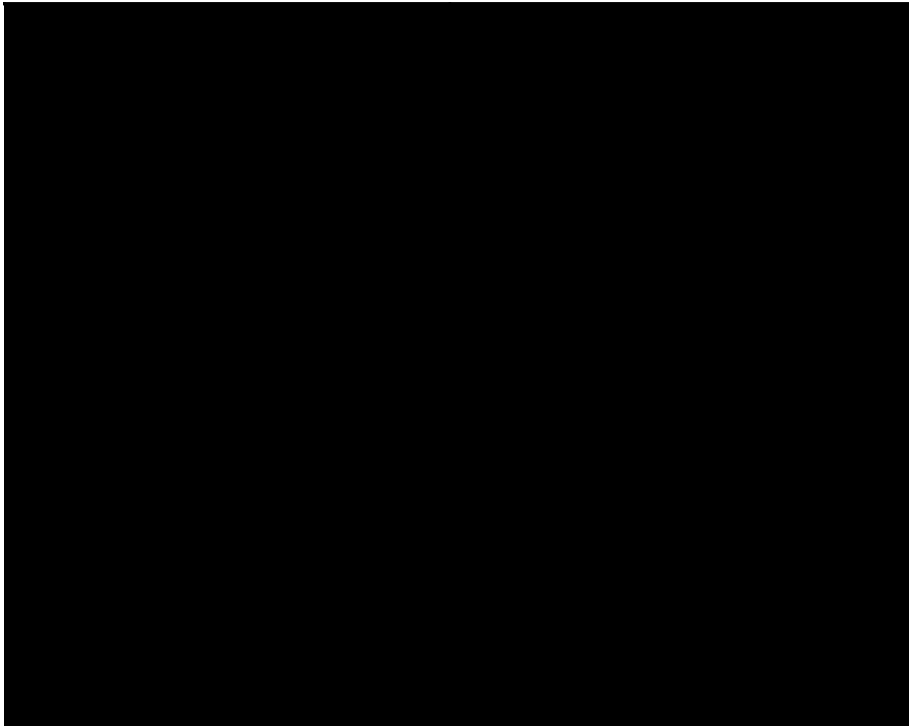
Any additional members and purchases will remain very welcome!

Having not secured any additional grant funding, the day to day income and expenses of the charity remain as were. We continue to retain the services of an independent bookkeeper for good order, including for ratification of our OSCR submission and anticipate remaining to do so.

Priorities for the charity's funds remain as is, that is to further education and conservation. Membership revenue remains the core income stream and 2024/25 may be the time in which the Trustees revisit the subject of value for money for members to maintain and improve this. Expenses for education and outreach activities have been well controlled and agreed in advance through committee meetings.

In summary, the reduction in the charity's cash balance is in line with expectation and intention but does emphasise that additional revenue will be important to maintain similar levels of educational activity over the coming years.

4. Resignations & Appointment of Office Bearers and Trustees



In addition SWBG have a wider list of “advisors” who occasionally attend meetings and have in the past been involved in the group. They are included in the meetings email invite list.

Proposed: [REDACTED]

Seconded: [REDACTED]

The meeting was then closed and the members enjoyed a very interesting talk on Paludiculture from [REDACTED].

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Receipts and payments accounts							
For the period from	Period start date			to	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	01	11	2023		31	10	2024

Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds current period to nearest £	Total funds last period to nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Donations					-	134
Legacies					-	
Grants					-	
Receipts from fundraising activities	484				484	215
Gross trading receipts					-	
Income from investments other than land and buildings	70				70	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities	1,258				1,258	1,088
					-	
A1 Sub total	1,812.13	-	-	-	1,812.13	1,437
A2 Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	1,812	-	-	-	1,812	1,437
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities	1,410				1,410	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	915				915	2,538
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	225
Audit / independent examination	120				120	110
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
Other	113				113	
					-	
A3 Sub total	2,558	-	-	-	2,558	2,873
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	2,558	-	-	-	2,558	2,873
Net receipts / (payments)	(746)	-	-	-	(746)	(1,436)
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	(746)	-	-	-	(746)	(1,436)

Section B Statement of balances

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and bank balances at start of year	2,103				2,103	3,539
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	(746)				(746)	(1,436)
						-	
						-	
	Cash and bank balances at end of year	1,357	-	-	-	1,357	2,103
	(Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	- 0	-	-	-	- 0	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Market valuation to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B2 Investments				
		Total	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (if available) to nearest £	Current value (if available) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B3 Other assets					
		Total	-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B4 Liabilities				
		Total	-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (estimate) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B5 Contingent liabilities				
		Total	-	-

Signed by one or two trustees
on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of
approval

Section C Notes to the Accounts

C1 Nature and purpose of funds (may be stated on analysis of funds worksheets)

To promote, for the benefit of the public, the study, conservation, and protection of wild Eurasian beavers and their natural habitats in Scotland.

To advance the protection and development of suitable natural environment for wild beavers in Scotland.

To further the above, by education and the provision of information and skills to the public including individuals, communities and interested organisation.

C2 Grants

Type of activity or project supported	Individual / institution	Number of grants made	£
Total			-

C3a Trustee remuneration

If no remuneration was paid during the period to any charity trustee or person connected to a trustee cross this box (otherwise complete section 3b)	X
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Authority under which paid £

C3b Trustee remuneration - details

C4a Trustee expenses

If no expenses were paid to any charity trustee during the period then cross this box (otherwise complete section 4b)	
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C4b Trustee expenses - details

	Number of trustees	£
Travel expenses	1	220

C5 Transactions with trustees and connected persons

Nature of relationship	Nature of transaction	Transaction amount (£)	Balance outstanding at period end (£)

C6 Other information

Additional analysis (1)

Analysis of receipts and payments

1 Donations

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Donations	-				-	134
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	-	-	-	-	-	134
	-	-	-	-	-	-

2 Grants

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £			Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	-	-			-	-
	-	-			-	-

3 Gross receipts from other charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Merchandise Sales	53				53	
Membership Fees	1,205				1,205	1,088
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	1,258	-	-	-	1,258	1,088
	-	-	-	-	-	-

4 Payments relating directly to charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Cost of merchandise	49				49	-
Bank Charges	98				98	99
Website Design					-	170
Equipment	30				30	1,413
Professional Membership Fees	420				420	420
Advertising/Events					-	110
Insurance	318				318	
Administration					-	296
					-	140
					-	
Total	915	-	-	-	915	2,648
	-	-	-	-	-	reference error

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Additional analysis (2)**5 Breakdown of unrestricted funds**

	Unrestricted fund 1 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 2 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 3 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 4 - enter name of fund below	Total unrestricted funds	Total unrestricted funds last period
General Fund						
Receipts						
Donations					-	134
Legacies					-	
Grants					-	
Receipts from fundraising activities	484				484	215
Gross trading receipts					-	
buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Membership Fees/Sales	1,328				1,328	1,088
Sub total	1812	0	0	0	1812	1,437
					-	
Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	1,812	-	-	-	1,812	1,437
					-	
Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities	1,410				1,410	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	915				915	2,538
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	225
Audit / independent examination	120				120	110
AGM	113				113	
Legal costs					-	
					-	
					-	
Sub total	2,558	-	-	-	2,558	2,873
					-	
Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
					-	
Total payments	2,558	-	-	-	2,558	2,873
					-	
Net receipts / (payments)	(746)	-	-	-	(746)	(1,436)
Transfers to / (from) funds					-	
					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	(746)	-	-	-	(746)	(1,436)
					-	

Nature and purpose of funds

The General Fund has no specific purpose and represents the income and expenditure of the Charity.

APPENDIX 3



		Independent examiner's report on the accounts v2						
Report to the trustees/members of		Scottish Wild Beaver Group						
Registered charity number		SC042626						
On the accounts of the charity for the period		Period start date				Period end date		
		Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
		01	11	2023	to	31	10	2024
Set out on pages								
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner		<p>The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.</p>						
Basis of independent examiner's statement		<p>My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.</p>						
Independent examiner's statement		<p>In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations <p>have not been met, or</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached. 						
Signed:								
Name:								
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):								
Address:								

*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.

