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The constitution of the Group has been modified to comply with requirements set out by the Charity Commission. The amended constitution was discussed at the AGM on the 14th May in Liverpool and accepted by the membership present. It is printed here in its entirety for all members reference.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NATURAL SCIENCES CONSERVATION GROUP

1. NAME

The name of the charity shall be the Natural Sciences Conservation Group, (or other such name as the Trustees may from time to time decide with approval from the Charity Commissioners).

The Group (hereinafter called "the charity") is an unincorporated association with Charity Trustees elected by its members.

2. OBJECTS

The objects of the charity shall be:

- 2.1 To advance the education of the public in natural science collections conservation.
- 2.2 To promote for the benefit of the public, the highest standards in the conservation, development, preparation, care and display of natural science collections and specimens.

3. POWERS

In addition to any other powers which the Trustees may exercise the following powers in furtherance of their objects.

- 3.1 Power to encourage and develop education, training and research in natural science conservation through publications, regular meetings and seminars.
- 3.2 Power to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions, provided that in raising funds the trustees shall not undertake any

substantial permanent trading activities.

- 3.3 Power to invest the funds of the charity in any of the investments for the time being authorised for the investment of trust funds.
- 3.4 The Trustees shall have the power to provide indemnity insurance for themselves out of the income of the charity provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the Trustees knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty or which was committed by the Trustees in reckless disregard of whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not.
- 3.5 Power to do all such lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects.

4. CHARITY TRUSTEES

- 4.1 Up to eleven Trustees are elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting. There shall at all times be a minimum of four Trustees.
- 4.2 The Trustees shall comprise four officers, viz: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Editor and up to seven other ordinary members.
- 4.3 The Trustees may co-opt such additional members to the committee as it deems necessary from time to time, these co-optees will not be Trustees.

5. MEETINGS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE CHARITY TRUSTEES

- 5.1 The Trustees shall be charged with the organisation and promotion of the group.
- 5.2 The Trustees shall carry out the wishes of the membership as determined at the Annual General Meeting of members.

- 5.3 The Trustees shall meet as a committee at least three times a year in addition to holding an annual general meeting.
- 5.4 The quorum required for any meeting of the Trustees shall be three Trustees or one third of the total number of Trustees whichever number is the greater.
- 5.5 An emergency or special meeting of Trustees can be called to discuss a particular matter with 7 days notice.
- 5.6 The Trustee holding the officer post of chair shall chair all meetings, in their absence this duty can be undertaken by one of the other office posts.
- 5.7 The chair has a right to a second or casting vote when the number of Trustees voting for or against a resolution are equal.
- 5.8 Minutes of meetings shall be taken.

6. TERMS OF OFFICE

- 6.1 The Trustees holding officer posts, viz, Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Editor shall be elected for a period of three years. Ordinary Trustees are elected for a period of two years.
- 6.2 Competent Trustees can in exceptional circumstances be re-appointed after their term of office has ceased but may only be re-appointed if the membership deems them capable of fulfilling their duties.
- 6.3 The Trustees may co-opt members to fill vacancies occurring during a term of office. The co-opted member may serve until the following Annual General Meeting.

7. MEMBERS

- 7.1 Membership is open to all interested in the aims of the Group on payment of the annual subscription.

- 7.2 There are four categories of membership:- Personal, Institutional, Overseas, and Student.
- 7.3 Other than institutional members, all members have full voting rights.

8. SUBSCRIPTIONS

- 8.1 The rates of subscriptions shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting.
- 8.2 Subscriptions are due on the first day of February each year.
- 8.3 Members who fail to pay their subscription within 6 months of the annual subscription date will be deemed to have ceased membership of the group.
- 8.4 The membership of any individual or organisation can also be terminated at any other time for a good and sufficient reason by the committee. The individual or organisation has the right to be heard before a final decision is made.

9. ELECTIONS

- 9.1 Trustees shall be elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting.
- 9.2 Two personal members of the group shall be elected as auditors at the Annual General Meeting.
- 9.3 Only members whose subscriptions are fully paid at the commencement of the Annual General Meeting and with full voting rights are eligible for election or to vote at elections.
- 9.4 Notice calling for nominations for election shall be issued at least 30 days before the Annual General Meeting.
- 9.5 Nominations for election must be received by the Secretary no

later than 10 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. In the event of no nominations being received, nominations can be made from the floor by two members eligible to vote.

10. ANNUAL GENERAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

- 10.1 A general meeting shall be held each year.
- 10.2 The Annual General Meeting shall be incorporated within a conference which promotes the aims of the group.
- 10.3 At least 30 days notice will be given of the date of the Annual General Meeting, stating the time, place and general business of the meeting.
- 10.4 The specific business of the Annual General Meeting shall be that agreed by the members present at the beginning of the meeting.
- 10.5 The quorum for an Annual General Meeting shall be ten individual members or one-tenth of the total number of individual members whichever number is the greater.
- 10.6 Minutes of the meeting shall be taken.
- 10.7 Only members whose subscriptions are fully paid at the commencement of the Annual General Meeting and with full voting rights are eligible to vote on the business of the meeting.
- 10.8 A special meeting for the membership can be called with 14 days notice, stating the time, place and general business of the meeting.
- 10.9 The Trustees may organise other meetings as deemed necessary.

11. COMMUNICATIONS

- 11.1 Members shall receive a newsletter on a regular basis.

12. ACCOUNTS

The Trustees will comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 1993 with regard to:

- 12.1 The keeping of accounting records of the charity.
- 12.2 The preparation of annual statements of accounts for the charity.
- 12.3 The auditing of the statement of accounts of the charity in time for the Annual General Meeting by the elected auditors.
- 12.4 The preparation of an annual report and sending of it together with statements of account to the Charity Commissioners.

13. BANK ACCOUNTS

- 13.1 The group shall maintain one or more bank or building society accounts.
- 13.2 Trustees who hold officer posts shall be designated signatories of the accounts.
- 13.3 Two signatures are required on cheques drawn on the account(s).

14. TRUSTEES PERSONAL INTEREST

Subject to the provisions of clause 3.3 and except with the prior written approval of the Charity Commissioners, no trustee may:

- 14.1 receive any benefit in money or kind from the charity; or
- 14.2 have a financial interest in the supply or goods or services to the charity.

15. POWERS OF AMENDMENT

- 15.1 Subject to the following provisions of this clause, the Constitution may be amended by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds

of the members present and voting at a general meeting. The notice of the general meeting must include notice of the resolution setting out the terms of the amendment proposed.

- 15.2 No amendment may be made to clause 2, clause 3, 4, clause 12, clause 14, clause 16 or this clause without the prior written approval of the Charity Commissioners.
- 15.3 No amendment may be made which would have the effect of making the charity cease to be a charity at law.
- 15.4 The Trustees must:
- promptly send to the Commissioners a copy of any amendments made; and
 - keep a copy of any such amendment with this Constitution.

16. POWER OF DISSOLUTION

If the Charity Trustees decide that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the charity, they shall call a meeting of all members of the charity of which not less than 21 day's notice (stating the terms of the resolution) shall be given. If the proposal is confirmed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, the Charity Trustees shall have the power to realise any assets held by on or behalf of the charity. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the object of this charity as the members of the charity may determine, or failing that, shall be applied for some other charitable purpose.

NOTES

Elections of Trustees are staggered to ensure continuity. Currently, the posts of chair and editor are up for election in 1998, the Treasurer in 1999 and the Secretary in 2,000.

Hardiness of Anthrenus beetle.

The following article is an additional piece for our insert series on Agents of Decay; No.3 Pests.

Please note that follow up articles on any of the subject areas in the series are welcome at any time.


The *Anthrenus verbasci* beetles seem to be back in force this year already (mid Feb.) with some drawers of insects brought in by a visitor and already well infested.

One of the larval skins contained an adult beetle looking fresh and it was decided to turn it into a dry whole mount preparation for video microscopes. After being placed in the freezer overnight it recovered the next morning after 30 minutes at room temperature and was placed in 80% IMS for 8 hours. It was then removed from the IMS to dry out overnight so that it could be mounted the next morning. I fortunately covered it to prevent dust from contaminating it only to find that next day it was wandering around rather unsteadily under its glass cover!

Immersion in Formol acetic alcohol finally stopped its

wanderings. For the time being our nitrogen tank still gives a thorough coup de grace even if they are becoming resistant to other ways of killing them.

*Simon Moore
Hampshire Co. Council Museums*



Effective Freezing Strategies

Simon's article (immediately preceding this one) clearly illustrates the hardy nature of the *Anthrenus* species. Many readers will by now be most disheartened that their easiest, cheapest and least interventive method of pest control (i.e. freezing) has been exposed as severely flawed and unreliable.

Fortunately, considerable research has been carried out in the field of thermal insect eradication methods and specific guidelines established by the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI, 1997) and Mary Lou Florian (Florian, 1997) to ensure effective treatments. The guidelines are largely based on lethal temperatures, and exposure times published in the entomological literature; anecdotal