

**Glamorgan Bird Club**  
**Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting**

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017 - 19:45 Hours  
**Location:** Kenfig National Nature Reserve

**Present:** Andrew Bevan, Sarah Bevan, David Bush, David Carrington, Rebecca Carrington, Garth Crandon, Strinda Davies, Paul Denning, Janet Dewes, Matt Evans, Leigh Forman, Jean Haslam, Rod Haslam, Gareth Jenkins, Gareth Jenkins, Ceri Jones, Wayne Morris, John Moxham, Hilary Perry, Paul Roberts, Alan Rosney, Paul Seligman, Colin Stevenson, Huw Thomas, Anne Wilson, John Wilson.

**Apologies:** Neil Donaghy, Howard Driver, Annie Irving, Andrea Jones, Mike Jones, Ken Miller, Adrian Murch, David Powell.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>
1.	<p><b><u>Minutes of the AGM 26th April 2016</u></b></p> <p>No issues were raised in relation to the Minutes of the 2016 AGM.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Motion: "2016 Minutes to be accepted as a true and accurate record". Proposed: Matt Evans Seconded: Gareth Jenkins Voting: Carried Unanimously</p>
2.	<p><b><u>Chairperson's Report on behalf of the Trustees</u></b> (<u>'Verbatim transcription'</u>)</p> <p>Good evening everyone, welcome to the Glamorgan Bird Club AGM 2017. It is good to see such a healthy turnout. Thank you for your support and thanks also to Kenfig National Nature Reserve for hosting us. I'm very proud to present my first Chair's report, on behalf of the Committee, all of whom work so diligently and enthusiastically throughout the year, in the interests of birds and birding in the east of Glamorgan.</p> <p><b>Membership</b></p> <p>First of all, I'm pleased to say that Club membership for 2016/17 was 263, an increase on 2015/16. Though some members didn't renew, we retained the majority from the previous year, had at least one returning member and attracted several new ones, either through word of mouth, finding us on social media, joining the regular walks or attending Big Birding Day.</p> <p>Membership fees were held at the same level again as last year as the Club's financial position meant there was no need for an increase. By the way, a few members paying by Standing Order are still not paying the correct fee. Please check with Alan Rosney, Membership Secretary, to see if this applies to you.</p>

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**Financial**

It's gratifying to say that the Club's accounts are once more in good order. This is testimony yet again to the diligence of Anne Wilson, who will shortly be giving a full Treasurer's report. You can be assured that the Trustees always ensure sufficient funding is in place before carrying out Club commitments.

**Activity**

The Committee was very active during 2016/17:

***Planning developments***

Developments across the East Glamorgan area that may have an impact on the natural environment, especially birds and their habitat, were monitored closely. We were ready to voice concerns as soon as necessary including on the proposed Cardiff and Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoons, work on common ground near Rhaslas Pond and Wakeboarding proposals at Cosmeston.

***Conservation***

In terms of action that can be taken to help the species of birds on the Red or Amber list with their survival, we've continued to fund and provide winter feeding at Ty'n Y Caeau Farm, with the support of farmer John Evans, to help Yellowhammers and Reed Buntings. Thanks must go to the Club members who regularly check and fill the feeders and to the Ringing Group who monitor our work and were successful in ringing Yellowhammer as well as Linnet, Greenfinch and Goldfinch in 2016/17.

Swift Champions carried out Swift surveys across the East Glamorgan area, in the summer of 2016, to identify sites where they may be breeding, aiming to provide nest boxes if required. A £400 grant from the Welsh Ornithological Society enabled us to have a live Swift monitoring training session, This resulted in club volunteer, Howard Driver, installing 4 Swift nest-boxes (no mean feat) in St Illtyd's Church in Llantwit Major, a hot spot for Swifts.

Alan Rosney, supported by a number of committee and club members, has carried out considerable ground work on a potential bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the installation of a Swift Tower in Cardiff Bay. This exciting development would be in partnership with Cardiff Harbour Authority and Cardiff City Council, supported in principle by the RSPB.

National Nest Box Week in February 2017 saw a productive nest box making session held at Kenfig, involving several Club members. The many nest boxes they made have been distributed and installed across the East Glamorgan area.

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***Publicity and promotion***

John Wilson, in his role as Editor, painstakingly trawled through tens of thousands of records last year in order to produce the 2015 Annual Bird Report. This major achievement was made possible with valuable contributions from the various dedicated section writers. I hope you'll agree that this is an impressive combined effort that collates and preserves the records of so many of us who are passionate about conserving and enjoying the birds of east Glamorgan.

Alan Rosney kept up the creation of the quarterly newsletter with its varied and informative articles, and with photographs of such high standard, from a range of contributors, old and new.

Alongside updating the web site, Facebook and Twitter accounts to provide news and reports of forthcoming and past events, the committee has worked on refreshing and renewing the Membership form and Events Programme card, and on the production of a pull up banner to help raise our profile at public events, such as Cardiff Community Activities Day.

***Trips, talks and events***

The evening events programme organised by Paul Denning, and held at the Kenfig Reserve, was again popular for its range of interesting speakers drawn from within and outside of the membership. These talks included one by Dr Rob Thomas on the effects of climate change on migratory birds and they really are worth attending. I recommend you update your calendars with the 2017/18 programme, including Members Own.

Thanks must go to John Wilson, Alan Rosney, Ceri Jones and Jean Haslam for the series of walks carried out, at an average of two a month, to different locations both in and outside the East Glamorgan area. These include the regular monthly walks at Kenfig that often attract younger members who bring a refreshing interest in the commonplace as well as the less common.

A total of 93 species of birds were seen on the Kenfig walks over the year, with Marsh Harrier being one of the highlights. In addition, at the grateful invitation of the organisers, Alan Rosney led the Dyffryn Gardens Dawn Chorus walk and a walk at Kenfig for Cowbridge U3A.

Attendance on the field trips ranged from six to twenty, with 166 species of birds seen in total across them all. Sixteen Club members attended the popular annual trip to the Portland Observatory, where a total of 102 species were observed over the weekend. Highlights included Ring Ouzel, 5 Yellow Browed Warbler and Corn Bunting. There was also the trip to Scotland, which promises to become as popular as Portland.

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It is worth noting that 115 species were seen in the Glamorgan Bird Club area on the combination of monthly walks and field trips.

Big Birding Day at Kenfig in May 2016 was a success with attendance by the membership and general public alike on guided bird walks. The renowned cake stall, plant stall, book stall and a Bird Lottery enabled us to share a reasonable profit with the Nature Reserve. BBD 2017 is being held at Kenfig on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April. I hope to see you there.

**Personal Statement**

Finally, I'd like to say that over the past year I've been impressed by the dedication of the committee members in carrying out the work of the club on a weekly, if not a daily basis and with such good humour. It's only fair to say that you have a Committee of hard working individuals who have the interests of the club and the conservation and enjoyment of the birdlife of the East of Glamorgan at heart.

I have found every one of them to be generous with their expertise, impressive experience and considerable knowledge and that they are ever ready to carry out tasks on our behalf. For example, the Committee, including Andrew Bevan, Dave Carrington, Wayne Morris and Paul Roberts, reviewed the Expenses and Risk Assessment policies to safeguard the Club and considered the thresholds for unusual sightings on Bird Track. This resulted in John Wilson meeting with Phil Bristow, as the new County Bird Recorder, to amend them to be more realistic for our recording area.

Not all parts of Wales have a bird club. We're very fortunate in that the Glamorgan Bird Club, which has existed for over 26 years, has such a knowledgeable, informed and supportive membership that is welcoming of new members and always willing to share expertise.

I believe the Club has a strong future given membership levels and the Committee's commitment. It's genuinely been a pleasure being Chair over the past year and if I'm re-elected I will look forward to an equally interesting and rewarding year ahead

**Strinda Davies**  
**Chair**  
**Glamorgan Bird Club**

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3.

**Treasurer's Report and adoption of accounts**  
(*'Verbatim transcription'*)

**Income**

1. **Subscriptions** are up nearly £200 with some new and some returning members which is good news.
2. **Books** We have sold the last Birding in Glamorgan book plus 1 donated book and a couple of East Glamorgan Bird Reports (fewer than last year)
3. **Clothing** We have sold 2 items this year
4. **Nest Boxes** We sold 10 nest boxes to the Rudry Common Trust to put up in their area. We also made several more for future use at various sites.
5. **Donations and talks** Some members add on donations when they pay their subscriptions for which we're very grateful and Alan Rosney has not only done the NT Dawn chorus walk at Dyffryn Gardens again but also another walk and a talk. There was also a donation from Alan's Uist Holiday petrol fund!
6. **Gower OS** paid us their share of the various fees for the shared web site.
7. **Farmland Bird Feeding** We were unsuccessful in getting a grant but will try again this year.
8. **Charity Payments and Gift Aid** There is an increase this year in Gift Aid reclaim of nearly £50 plus 2 lots of Easy fundraising totalling £47.50 which is brilliant.
9. **BBD** Not quite as much as last year even though we were outside, which normally catches the passing public.
10. **Indoor Meetings** A slight increase in revenue although again we had to cancel 1 of them.
11. **Swift Project** This was a new project due to Alan's enthusiasm which brought us grant funds from the Welsh Ornithological Society.
12. **Bank Interest** The increase over last year is due to extra interest from the bond where we hold our excess funds.

**Expenditure**

1. **East Glamorgan Bird Report** £40 less costs this year as we ordered less copies.
2. **Admin/Stationery** £40 less this year with no new spending on our notice boards this year.
3. **Internet Costs** Slightly cheaper as we had 1 less domain name to renew this year.
4. **Postage** We've managed a reduction of £130 in costs this year due to bulk purchasing before another price rise and more people having their newsletters by email, especially new members.
5. **Farmland Bird Feeding** There has been no purchase of seed this year as there was plenty left from last year.
6. **Newsletter** A slight increase in unit costs offset by more people having theirs by email.
7. **Clothing** 2 items were bought this year.
8. **Indoor Meetings** A small increase this year as we had a paid speaker again.

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- 9. Travel Expenses** There is an increase this year as the Committee increased the mileage rate to nearer the standard allowance.
- 10. Swift Project** This has been used to buy items for the swift nest boxes which are being put up in our area and other expenses for this project.
- 11. Nest Boxes** We have not spent anything on wood this year but are waiting for a bill for the wood we used at our Nest Box Making session in February.
- 12. BBD expenses** This has risen slightly this year.
- 13. Other Costs** These include the annual Welsh Ornithological Society fee, Insurance costs and Atlas costs which have remained the same as last year.

That leaves us with a surplus of £1,556, up from £376 last year.

**Other Points**

1. The bond matures in June 2017 and I'm sure we will reinvest all or part of it in another bond depending on what projects we have at the time.
2. It was good news about the Easy Fundraising amount but we still only have 13 out of 263 memberships using the site to provide funds for the club. Both Easy Fundraising and Easy Search really are very simple to use and you can find the links at the bottom of the GBC website. It doesn't cost you any extra but helps the Club.
3. BBD - reminder for this Sunday. Effort has been made to publicise it more, including the banner you see outside!
4. Malcolm James has agreed to continue as our Honorary Auditor for another year.
5. The accounts as presented have been agreed with the Auditor who has signed them off as being a true record of the Club's accounts.

**Anne Wilson**  
**Treasurer**

Members expressed satisfaction with the Annual Accounts and Treasurer's Report but several wondered if the Club needed to maintain the current level of Members' Fund balance.

John Wilson explained that the Members' Fund balance had been deliberately accumulated during the build up to the Atlas because the original plan was to publish it in book form, which would have been very expensive. It was later decided to publish it in web format, which meant a much lower cost.

Alan Rosney and Ceri Jones explained that the Club was in the process of applying for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to fund a Swift Tower in Cardiff Bay and also supported by Cardiff Council, Cardiff Harbour Authority and the RSPB. The total required expenditure and non GBC funding available both remained to be finalised, and some initial expenditure may need to be funded by GBC without financial assistance from other bodies. As a result, the Committee wished to retain some of the Members' Fund balance for potential use with this project.

Members present suggested possible additional uses for surplus funds:

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	<p>a) GBC affiliation to LIPU (The Lega Italiana Protezione Uccelli is an Italian charitable organisation, founded in 1965 and devoted to the protection of the country's wildlife with a particular focus on birds);</p> <p>b) In addition to Big Birding Day at Kenfig, GBC puts on an event at Lock's Common, Porthcawl with a view to promoting the Club and attracting new members;</p> <p>c) Including 1 or 2 high-profile speakers in each Indoor Meeting programme.</p> <p>Strinda Davies confirmed that the Committee would consider these suggestions.</p> <p>The following was then put to the meeting:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Motion: "The 2017 Club Accounts to be adopted as a true and accurate record." Proposed: Alan Rosney Seconded: Rod Haslam Voting: Carried Unanimously</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Election of Committee Members (Trustees)</u></b></p> <p>Strinda Davies has reached the end of her three year term and must stand down. Strinda Davies confirmed that she was willing to be nominated for re-election to the Committee. There were no other nominations to join the Committee.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Motion: "Strinda Davies to be re-elected to the committee for a further three years" Proposed: Hilary Perry Seconded: David Bush Voting: Carried Unanimously</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Election of Officers</u></b></p> <p>Chair</p> <p>Strinda Davies confirmed that she was willing to be nominated for re-election as Chair. There were no other nominations.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Motion: "Strinda Davies to be re-elected as Chair" Proposed: Gareth Jenkins Seconded: John Wilson Voting: Carried Unanimously</p>

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	<p>Treasurer</p> <p>Anne Wilson confirmed that she was willing to be nominated for re-election as Treasurer. There were no other nominations.</p> <p>Motion: "Anne Wilson to be re-elected as Treasurer" Proposed: Andrew Bevan Seconded: Paul Seligman Voting: Carried Unanimously</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>Ceri Jones confirmed that he was willing to be nominated for re-election as Secretary. There were no other nominations.</p> <p>Motion: "Ceri Jones to be re-elected as Secretary" Proposed: Wayne Morris Seconded: Anne Wilson Voting: Carried Unanimously</p>
6.	<p><b><u>Appointment of Auditor.</u></b></p> <p>The Club's current Auditor Malcolm James is prepared to continue to audit the Accounts of the Club.</p> <p>Motion: "Malcolm James to be appointed as Auditor". Proposed: Matt Evans Seconded: Gareth Jenkins Voting: Carried Unanimously</p> <p>The Chair expressed her thanks to Malcolm James for acting as the Club's auditor in respect of the 2017 Accounts.</p>
7.	<p><b><u>Any motions submitted for debate</u></b></p> <p>No motions were submitted for debate.</p>

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<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Alan Rosney noted that the Club has now sold its last copy of Birding in Glamorgan and that there is the possibility of a second edition, in print, website or e-book format. After discussion it was agreed by members present that a second edition was a good idea, and it was noted that the most-favoured format amongst members present was a website edition capable of periodic update and integration with social media.</li><li>2. David Bush thanked the GBC Committee for its work for the Club over the preceding year.</li><li>3. John Wilson noted that during 2016 David Gilmore had handed over the reins as County Recorder for East Glamorgan after 8 years' excellent service. A vote of thanks to David was carried unanimously. John Wilson also noted that Phil Bristow, David's successor as County Recorder, is working hard on behalf of the Glamorgan Rarities Committee, including updating the reporting thresholds for East Glamorgan within the BTO's Birdtrack system.</li></ol>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>No further items were raised and the meeting was closed at 20:40</b></p>