

Glamorgan Bird Club
Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting

Date: 28th April 2015 - 19:45 Hours
Location: Kenfig National Nature Reserve

Present: David Brett, David Bush, David Carrington, Garth Crandon, Strinda Davies, Howard Driver, Matt Evans, Jean Haslam, Rod Haslam, Chris Hodgson, Gareth Jenkins, Gareth Jenkins, Ceri Jones, Wayne Morris, John Moxham, Adrian Murch, Alan Rosney, John Samuel, Margaret Samuel, Colin Stevenson, Anne Wilson, John Wilson.

Apologies: Martin Bailey-Wood, Paul Denning, Janet Dewes, John Duffy, Leigh Forman, David Gilmore, Graham Holmes, Graham Powell, Paul Roberts, Paul Seligman.

Item	Description
1.	<p><u>Minutes of the AGM 29th April 2014</u></p> <p>No issues were raised in relation to the Minutes of the 2014 AGM.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Motion: "2014 Minutes to be accepted as a true and accurate record". Proposed: Gareth Jenkins Seconded: John Wilson Voting: Carried Unanimously</p>
2.	<p><u>Chairperson's Report on behalf of the Trustees</u> ('Verbatim transcription')</p> <p>Welcome to this the 2015 Annual General Meeting and thank you for your attendance and support this evening.</p> <p>Membership</p> <p>Unfortunately our membership number has not risen from last year's low and currently stands at 259 memberships consisting of single, family and concessional memberships. After discussion the Committee have decided not to increase the membership fee at this moment in time but would ask anyone who has not signed the gift aid forms to do so as this is a source of income for the club. These forms can be either be down loaded from the web site or obtained from the Membership Secretary.</p> <p>Financial</p> <p>I am pleased to announce that our accounts are in good order in the hands of Mrs Anne Wilson and the details of the year's finances will be given in the Treasurer's report. We the Committee have kept within our responsibilities as Trustees ensuring that all funds are in place for major expenses such as the East Glamorgan Bird Report and the quarterly news letter and have not undertaken any purchasing agreement or financial commitment without the</p>

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necessary funding being available. As we do not have any loans or own property and have no employees we therefore have no need to have funds in place to cover the cost of upkeep, utility bills or wages. Our submission for repayment of tax as a charitable organisation has been dealt with by HMRC and will be covered in the Treasurer's report.

Club Activities

To keep within the Club's mandate to educate the people of Glamorgan with regards to ornithology both indoor and outdoor events took place over the last year. I would like to personally thank Strinda Davies for leading the monthly walks at Kenfig NNR which are still well attended and many species were observed over the year. The outdoor trips continued as organised by John Wilson. In all 20 trips took place both in and outside the county with trips to the Forest of Dean, Somerset levels, Steart Marshes and the annual trip to the Portland Observatory. The trips have been well attended. Our indoor meetings were also well received. Different guest speakers gave their account and showed excellent photos and videos of their various bird trips both home and abroad. There was also a very informative ID night of confusing species. Thanks to Paul Denning for organising these events. If you wish to improve your birding skills or to attend new birding sites I strongly recommend these events.

Publications

As mentioned earlier it is part of our mandate to produce an annual bird report and I think you will all agree that the editor John Wilson together with the section writers and Richard Smith the photo editor has once again produced an excellent report. Also thank you to everyone whose photos and drawings were used in it. It is pleasing to know that there are a lot of talented people within the club, If you are unsure of entering your records consider using Birdtrack which is a BTO app.

The newsletter under the editorship of Alan Rosney also continues to be an excellent very informative publication with articles such as confusing species and the many articles sent in by the club members. Please keep these articles coming in.

Media

The internet is now the main means of communication for the Bird Club and over the year the website has been updated with a calendar giving information on what is on. Besides the main sightings pages all past newsletters can now be accessed. The face book pages are also well viewed reaching about 220 hits per week. In addition to the main web site many of you are aware that the East Glamorgan Bird Atlas is now on line. This came about with co-operation between the local BTO Representatives Wayne Morris and Daniel Jenkins-Jones, Dave Slade of SEWBReC together with Alan Rosney, Rob Nottage and John Wilson of the Glamorgan Bird Club and with input from David Gilmore the

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County Recorder. After discussion it was decided to compare how other Bird Club had uploaded their atlases online, and it was unanimously agreed the most informative ones were written by Garganey Consulting. We would like to thank Garganey Consulting for their co-operation with the sub-committee in producing an excellent website. Beside those mentioned above this could not have happened without the many records sent in by those who carried out the atlas surveys and records sent in by club members over the years. Obviously too many to mention but a big thank you to all involved.

Projects and activities

After confusion with what is happening within the local authorities so far as the environment was concerned, the Committee decided we could afford to fund the winter feeding at Ty'n Y Caeau this year to help amber species such as the Yellowhammer and Reed Bunting. The Bird Club would like to thank John Evans for setting aside land and planting the crop, and Richard Smith for looking after the feeders. Bird ringing produced mixed results though 162 species were ringed in total.

National bird box week was marked with a bird box making session. Thank you to those who took part. If you have a local school or amenity that would like nest boxes please let the committee know.

Alan Rosney has been leading walks in the RCT area and secured a grant which was used to buy binoculars and bird books to use on walks.

The Big Birding Day held last year was not well attended but managed a small profit which was shared with the club and Kenfig NNR. It was decided to move it to the end of April this year which proved to be a good choice as the bird walks and bird ringing produced a lot of spring migrants. This together with being able to have various stalls outside made it a successful day.

Obituary

Many of you will have read about the recent passing of Steve Moon who was a life member of the club. A lot has been written about Steve's involvement and passion for the environment both as an active member of the Bird Club, Manager of Kenfig NNR and county environmentalist. For those of us who attended his funeral and wake it was a tribute to a person held in such high esteem by so many people.

For the Future

Many organisations have a problem attracting and keeping younger members and we the Bird Club are always looking at ways of doing this as this is our future. Also under consideration is an online version of Birding in Glamorgan which would be a useful and informative addition to the website. The program of bird trips and events has been published and can be seen on the main website as well as on Facebook. Also printed cards are available.

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And finally as Chairperson I would like to give my thanks to all the committee members with the likes of Ceri Jones who has been acting as secretary together with Paul Roberts and David Carrington who work hard behind the scenes to promote the Glamorgan Bird Club within the community. Finally no club could exist without its membership and together with the committee I would like to thank you for your support over the last year.

Adrian Murch
Chair Glamorgan Bird Club

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

Income

1. Subscriptions are down by £70 this year with several people not renewing again.
2. Sales of books EGBR sales are slightly up this year. We sold the last Birding In Glamorgan last year and have not sold any of our other publications. (Birds of Cardiff and Birds of the Caerphilly Basin.)
3. Clothing Sales. We have only sold one item this year.
4. Nest Boxes. We have not sold any boxes this year although we have had a "making session" with committee members and volunteers.
5. Donations and talks. This year we have only done the National Trust walk in May for which we received £50. The rest is donations from members when they pay their subs.
6. GOS paid us their share of the internet fees for this year. We did not bill them last year due to the amount of time taken to set the new system up.
7. Farmland bird feeding. We were unsuccessful in getting the grant this year but decided to fund it ourselves anyway. We hope for better luck next time.
8. Charity payments and gift aid. At the beginning of the year we received our gift aid reclaim of £917 for the previous 2 years and have put in a claim again this year for £464 which has yet to be received but has been included in the accounts as it refers to this financial year. We also got £21 from Easy Fundraising.
9. Big Birding Day This raised a similar amount to last year with sales of cakes, books, plants and refreshments.
10. Indoor Meetings. This income was higher this year as most events were well attended and we had the full number of meetings.
11. RCT Grant. This was a one off grant which was initiated with RCT by a committee member.
12. Bank Interest. This was much higher this year due to a much better rate for the Bond that we put our spare money into.

Expenditure

1. EGBR costs have risen slightly this year.
2. Admin/Stationery costs are down by £50.

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3. Internet costs are down due in part to the new set-up.
4. Postage costs have risen by £400 but we have stamps ready for the next couple of newsletters so next year's costs should be less.
5. Farmland bird feeding costs are substantially down on last year but we have self funded them.
6. Newsletter costs have risen a little but we now send quite a few by email but would like more people to join in to keep our newsletter and postage costs down even more!
7. Indoor meeting costs have risen quite substantially but £62 is due to having paid for the expenses of 2 of the speakers. We hope to cover our costs by asking people to pay for the raffle and their drinks. We also pay for the use of the Centre for each indoor meeting.
8. Atlas. It was decided to put the atlas online rather than in book form and thanks to the hard work of the Atlas committee this was up and running earlier this year.
9. Mileage allowance is up this year due to the regular committee meetings.
10. Nest Boxes. There has not been any expenses for these as the wood has been donated by Topstack and we have only made a small number.
11. RCT Grant. This was used to buy 3 pairs of binoculars for use by participants on the monthly Kenfig walks and any other walks which the committee members organize. There was enough money to also buy 8 RSPB pocket guides to British Birds again to be used on these walks.
12. Scrape sponsorship. In response to a plea from Parc Slip the committee decided to sponsor 2 scrapes which have been named after Steve Moon who sadly died recently although not before receiving a certificate for the scrapes.

Other Discussions

1. Fraudulent Episodes

Some of you will have seen on the Club website that from September 2014 to January 2015 our club bank account had been illegally used by 3 different accounts which set up direct debits in the club's name. I was under the impression that I had stopped any such activity after the first time but it occurred again at the end of the year and in early January. Fortunately this time I have been able to stop any further direct debit activity and the bank has refunded all the money and associated charges. We discovered that our bank details were on our website for all to see so that has been changed. So the Club has not lost any money from this activity and I have been keeping a closer eye on the accounts since then!

2. Bond Deposit

We have again put our spare money into a one-year Bond which should yield another good amount of interest in December 2015 when it matures.

3. Deficit

This year's deficit is mostly due to the sponsorship of 2 scrapes at Parc Slip and the cost of the online Atlas but has been offset by the 2 year Gift Aid reclaim.

4. Balance

The members' fund now stands at £12600 which is £2000 down on last year but still a healthy balance.

5. Easy Fundraising

It would be great if a few more members used this facility when doing their

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	<p>online shopping as the club benefits and it doesn't cost you anything!</p> <p><u>6. The Accounts</u></p> <p>The accounts as presented have been agreed with the auditor who has signed them off.</p> <p>If there are no questions I now require a proposer and seconder for the adoption of the accounts.</p> <p>Anne Wilson Treasurer Glamorgan Bird Club</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Motion: "The 2015 Club Accounts to be adopted as a true and accurate record." Proposed: Matt Evans Secoded: Alan Rosney Voting: Carried Unanimously</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Election of officers</u></p> <p>Chairman</p> <p>Motion: "Adrian Murch to be re-elected as Chairman" Proposed: Strinda Davies Secoded: Matt Evans Voting: Carried Unanimously</p> <p>Treasurer</p> <p>Motion: "Anne Wilson to be re-elected as Treasurer" Proposed: Gareth Jenkins Secoded: Margaret Samuels Voting: Carried Unanimously</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>Motion: "Ceri Jones to be elected as Secretary" Proposed: John Samuels Secoded: David Carrington Voting: Carried Unanimously</p> <p>The Chairman expressed his thanks to Graham Powell for the work he undertook as Secretary during the year.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Election of Committee Members (Trustees)</u></p> <p>David Carrington, Paul Denning and Alan Rosney have reached the end of</p>

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	<p>their three year term and must stand down. All are willing to stand again.</p> <p>Motion: "David Carrington, Paul Denning and Alan Rosney to be re-elected to the committee for a further three years" Proposed: John Wilson Seconded: Gareth Jenkins Voting: Carried Unanimously</p> <p>The Chairman stated that there were still three vacancies on the committee and asked the floor if anyone present was interested in joining. Jean Haslam expressed interest and the following motion was put to the meeting:</p> <p>Motion: "Jean Haslam to be elected to the committee for a term of three years" Proposed: Strinda Davies Seconded: Rod Haslam Voting: Carried Unanimously</p>
6.	<p><u>Appointment of Auditor.</u></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: Alan Rosney Seconded: Rod Haslam Voting: Carried Unanimously</p> <p>The Chairman expressed his thanks to Malcolm James for acting as the Club's auditor in respect of the 2015 Accounts.</p>
7.	<p><u>Any motions submitted for debate</u></p> <p>No motions were submitted for debate.</p>
8.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>David Bush thanked the committee as a whole for its work during the past year.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">No further items were raised and the meeting was closed at 20:20</p>