

**GLAMORGAN BIRD CLUB Annual General MEETING**  
**Tuesday 19th April 2011 7.45pm KNNR**

- **Number of attendees**

Eighteen members in attendance.

- **Apologies**

John & Anne Wilson, Paul Roberts, Dave Carrington, Daniel Jenkins-Jones, Wayne Morris

1. Minutes of the AGM 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2010

Acceptance of minutes proposed by Dave Bush; seconded by Alan Rosney. Unanimously accepted, by those present.

2. Chairperson's Report on behalf of the Trustees

**Membership**

The membership currently stands at 293 categories which equates to over 400 individuals. As usual thanks go to Alan Rosney for his work as membership secretary. Currently we are moving to our new membership rates and we ask that people check their rates particularly if they pay by standing order.

**Obituaries**

I am saddened to report that during the last year we have lost 2 long standing members of the bird watching community. Edward George Chappell and Howard Charles Warrender Nicholls both passed away. Our condolences go to their family and friends. Thanks to Cliff Woodhead and Colin Richards for their very personal and fitting obituaries in our newsletter.

**Finances**

The Trustees operate a conservative and prudent financial reserving policy. Each year we reserve funds for the major items of expenditure that we foresee, such as the annual East Glamorgan Bird Report and the newsletter. We do not undertake any purchasing or financial commitment unless we have the funds to cover the planned expenditure. We have no loans and as we own no buildings we do not face unexpected financial outlay such as utility bills, rates or maintenance costs. We have no employees and therefore no need to reserve moneys for any personnel related costs, such as wages or potential redundancies in the event of any future difficulties.

We are soon to be putting in our Gift Aid claim from HMRC for the whole period since we officially became a charity on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2008. The exact amount will be notified later in the year but is expected to be several hundred pounds. If you are a tax payer and haven't signed a gift aid form please consider doing so.

**Events**

Field trips

John Wilson has again done an excellent job of organising year round field trips.

A total of 20 field trips were held, divided roughly equally between weekends and weekdays. Average attendance was approximately 10 with a max of 20 and a min of 3 [an Atlas summer square bash]. We also had 2 joint trips with the Dursley Society, which is now a regular feature, visiting sites in each other's area. Highlights were probably Craig Cerrig Gleisiad last spring with 16 participants enjoying typical Welsh birds, Somerset Levels in Jun, missed by JDW, where Marsh Harriers and Hobbies performed, Portland Observatory weekend of course, and recently the Forest of Dean trip where all target species were seen well. John would like to express his gratitude to Alan for leading 4 trips in John absence. Attendance on average has dropped over the last few years from the heady days of the 'Coedylan minibus' when we had double figures for every trip. Probably due to the changing face of birding with very keen newcomers often getting quickly into the listing/twitching mode when field trips don't always fit in with the year's tick gathering plans. However we still maintain

a steady core of 'trippers' who enjoy the craic and getting out & about together to enjoy a common interest.

Not forgetting throughout the year the monthly walks at Cosmeston and KNNR lead by John Wilson, Dave Carrington and Adrian Murch.

### Indoor talks

In addition to the field trips we have had another excellent season of indoor talks. Paul Denning organised an interesting mix of talks including Iceland by Graham Duff, an insight into Costa Rica by John and Margaret Samuel, the members own evening, American wader ID workshop to help with some of those tricky species and a comprehensive and somewhat poignant talk on New Zealand by Dave Rich.

### Big Birding Day

The club held the second Big Birding Day in October at Kenfig. This year attracted over 300 visitors. Activities included ringing demonstrations, bird box making, bird walks, refreshments and children's activities. Thanks to all the people who helped make it such a great day – especially the KNNR staff.

### **Publications**

Birding in Glamorgan has continued its success and we have now covered publication costs. The 2009 Eastern Glamorgan Bird Report was published in October 2010. In January both publications received an excellent review in BirdGuides by John Lloyd (BTO Honorary Wales Officer). Well deserved recognition for excellent work. Work has already started on the 2010 report.

### **Newsletter**

After taking over as editor Joek has produced 4 newsletters. We would like to thank him for his hard work. If anyone has any articles they would like to put forward for inclusion please pass them on to Joek directly. Don't forget we can save costs, paper and hard work stuffing envelopes by sending out newsletters electronically. Please let us know if you would like to receive your newsletter by email.

### **Treasurer position**

As reported last year Adrian Murch will be stepping down from the role of treasurer and the committee. He took on the role of treasurer in 2008 and our finances have continued to be well documented and sound. He has also contributed to the general running of the committee and as mentioned earlier been a great help with the Kenfig monthly walks. I'm sure Adrian will continue to support the club and be a great asset to bird recording. He has left the finances in order and we do have a caretaker treasurer, however, filling this position on a long term basis is an urgent matter. Anyone who takes on the role will have the full support of the committee and our auditor has offered some training if required.

The accounts were audited by Malcolm James this year and he has kindly offered to repeat this service next year.

### **Projects**

We have continued to work closely with the Local Biodiversity Action Plan partnerships and are represented on all local partnerships.

The farmland bird feeding project at Tyn'n-y-caeau and Lan farms continued. Farmer John Evans sowed a sacrificial farmland bird crop which grew particularly well over the summer and autumn providing food and cover over the winter. Supplementary feeding resumed in December and continued into the spring. The Kenfig Ringing Group carried out eight ringing sessions catching over 300 birds including over 80 Yellowhammers, 30 Linnets and 30 Reed buntings. Sadly Tree sparrows were not seen anywhere in East Glamorgan and the Vale breeding population is assumed to have been lost. However, the club project has clearly benefited many other priority bird species. Thanks are due to CCW who provided grant aid for the work and the Vale of Glamorgan Council who

administer this, club members who recorded birds on the farms, Steve Moon for donating his ringing equipment and John Evans who farms the fields.

Timber previously donated to the club was used to make nestboxes in 2010 which went to Coed y Bedw, the land next to the Prince of Wales and Owl boxes have been given to Rhondda Cynon Taff and Merthyr Tydfil to be put in schools.

The southern 'Arthur Morgan' bird hide, overlooking Kenfig Pool that the club helped fund and build several years ago continued to enhance people's enjoyment of wildlife. This winter, visitors were treated to some exceptional views of Bitterns, Pink-footed geese and even a pair of Otters.

### **Atlas**

This summer is the final recording period for both the BTO and Glamorgan atlases. We are hopeful that we will have enough coverage to start work on writing the atlas immediately. The work put in by our volunteers to get maximum coverage has been overwhelming. The final publication will be an accurate representation of breeding and wintering birds in Glamorgan. The Atlas sub-group has been very busy behind the scenes liaising with volunteers, collecting records from various sources and verifying them. Once this breeding season is over the boring bit starts where we stay inside and stare at computer screens for a few months during the write-up. Thanks go to Wayne Morris and Daniel Jenkins-Jones for the BTO, David Slade for SEWBRc, Rob Nottage and Alan Rosney for the club who make up the Atlas sub-group.

I have to extend personal thanks to the committee. As usual they continue to work totally voluntarily and often go above and beyond the once a month committee meeting, dealing with important issues as they arise.

### **Birding highlights**

Birding highlights in Eastern Glamorgan have been provided by the county recorder David Gilmore and are as follows:

**Slavonian Grebes** in Cardiff and at Kenfig. Two **Leach's Petrels** off Porthcawl. **Bitterns** in Cardiff, Cosmeston and Kenfig with a maximum of 5 at Kenfig during December and January. A **Great White Egret** in Cardiff. Two **Spoonbills** at Kenfig in October. **Bewick's Swans** in Cardiff & Kenfig. **Whooper Swans** at Cardiff Wales Airport & Bridgend. 14 **Pink-footed Geese** at Kenfig. Two **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** off Cardiff Heliport last September were a new species for Cardiff. **Garganey** at Kenfig in last April. Male **Lesser Scaup** at Cosmeston/Cardiff Bay over the winter. **Smew** on the river Taff in Cardiff. **Honey Buzzard** over Cardiff in May. **Marsh Harrier** at Kenfig. Two **Dotterel** at Cefn Cadlan May. **Wood Sandpipers** at the Watermill in Ogmore, Barry Island & Lavernock Pt. **Pomarine Skua** at Sker Sep. Immature **Sabine's Gulls** off Cardiff and Ogmore Est. Adult **Bonaparte's Gull** in Cardiff Bay Mar/Apr 2010 & again Mar 2011. **Ring-billed Gull** in Cardiff Dec. A **Wryneck** in Cardiff Sep. Another first for Cardiff was a **Richard's Pipit** in Oct. **Waxwing** invasion into recording area max 250 in Cardiff in Dec. **Marsh Warbler** at Cardiff Wetlands June was new for Glamorgan. **Yellow-browed Warbler** at Ogmore Oct. Four **Bearded Tits** at Cosmeston Oct. Several **Great Grey Shrikes** found wintering in forestry land Nov 2010 - Mar 2011. **Lapland Buntings** at Kenfig & Sker & **Snow Buntings** at Dunraven, Maesteg & Lavernock.

### **KNNR**

As usual we extend our sincere thanks to Bridgend Council and the staff at KNNR for the use of the venue and their help throughout the year.

### 3. Treasurer's Report

Adrian Murch presented the annual accounts to the AGM, however noted that to date these have not been fully audited, as there is no current auditor of the accounts. The Membership will be notified once the accounts have been fully audited.

Paul Seligman noted that the committee had agreed to adopt the accounts subject to being audited, as there were some small areas that needed to be clarified.

Adrian Murch is meeting with Malcolm James (see section 6) in the week following the AGM.

Accounts proposed by Janet Seligman; seconded by John Samuel.

#### 4. Election of officers

- Secretary: Martin Bailey-Wood proposed by Adrian Murch; seconded by Margaret Samuel. No objections.
- Treasurer: Adrian Murch is retiring from the post and from the committee. No one proposed or volunteered. Adrian Murch agreed to act as treasurer until a replacement treasurer has been found.

#### 5. Election of Committee members (Trustees)

- Christian Jenkins proposed by Laura Palmer ; seconded by Paul Seligman. No objections.
- Nominations from the floor: Strinda Davies proposed by Christian Jenkins; seconded by Dave Bush. No objections.
- (The Chairperson is not due for re-election this year)

#### 6. Appointment of Auditor(s)

Malcolm James has agreed to be nominated as auditor. Proposed by Alan Rosney; seconded by Christian Jenkins.

#### 7. Any motions submitted for debate

None

#### 8. AOB

- Alan Rosney: Newsletters are available by e-mail with the programme card as a pdf. file, but has some spare cards if requested. Also has Membership forms.
- Dave Gilmour: The 2011 Bird Report will be the 50<sup>th</sup> edition. Hopefully this will result in a new format and a bumper special edition. Joek Roex will publish what is finally decided in the Newsletter.
- Alan Rosney: Atlas recording finishes in July 2011, BTO data in October 2011. Dave Slade will validate data. Dave Gilmour noted that there may be some anomalies that need to be checked.
- Dave Gilmour: Glamorgan Rarities Committee, John Wilson is a full member not just an advisor and Rob Taylor is a full member.
- Alan Rosney: Congratulations to GRC on their new website.
- Paul Seligman: Congratulations to Dave Gilmour for bringing together full Glamorgan Rarities Committee.

**Meeting Closed 8:45pm**