

GLAMORGAN BIRD CLUB Annual General MEETING

Tuesday 24th April 2012 7.45pm
KNNR

Agenda

- Apologies
1. Minutes of the AGM 19th April 2011
 2. Chairperson's Report on behalf of the Trustees
 3. Treasurer's Report
 4. Election of officers
 - Secretary. Martin Bailey-Wood has two years to run
 - Treasurer. Anne Wilson is acting treasurer
 - Chairperson: Laura Palmer had to stand down mid year, and John Wilson has been acting chairman
 5. Election of Committee members (Trustees)
 6. Appointment of Auditor(s)
 7. Any motions submitted for debate
 8. AOB

No committee members are due to retire by rotation this year. However, there are three vacancies and nominations or volunteers for these would be most welcome.

Following the AGM refreshments will be provided and a quiz will follow.

AGM PROCEEDINGS

- **Number of attendees**
Eighteen members in attendance.

- **Apologies**
Daniel Jenkins-Jones, Wayne Morris, Paul Denning and Janet Dewes

1. Minutes of the AGM 19th April 2011

Two corrections noted: Spelling error of Jake Gilmore. Name correction Janet Seligman should read Janet Dewes

Acceptance of minutes proposed by Dave Bush; seconded by Adrian Murch.
Unanimously accepted, by those present.

2. Chairperson's Report on behalf of the Trustees

Good evening everyone and welcome to the 2012 AGM of the Glamorgan Bird Club. The first thing for me to say is thanks for attending and showing your support.

Membership

The Club continues to be successful as is evidenced by the consistent level of membership at not far short of 300, this being 300 categories including a significant proportion of couples and families and so represents considerably more than 300 bodies.

Obituaries

Once again it has been a sad year due to the loss of two well-loved and well respected personalities in the local birding scene. Firstly we lost Graham Duff, who had been a staunch supporter of the Club for many years and it was he who designed and built the new south pool hide at KNNR. He will be sadly missed. We have had a memorial plaque made and this has been mounted on the door of the hide. Secondly we lost someone who has been involved with the ringing of birds in the area for a long time, Dave Bull. He tutored and brought on many young ringers in his time and even towards the end was still actively ringing birds in Cardiff Bay. They will both be sadly missed.

Financial

Details of the year's finances will be given in the Treasurer's report, but as always the Trustees operate a conservative and prudent financial reserving policy. Each year funds are reserved for the major items of expenditure that we foresee, such as the annual East Glamorgan Bird Report and the four issues of the newsletter. We do not undertake any purchasing or financial commitment unless we have the funds to cover the planned expenditure. There are 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. During the year our submission for the repayment of tax was dealt with by HMRC - details will be given in the Treasurer's report.

The year's activities

The Club's overall performance with regard to meeting its aims has, we believe, been successful. One of our objects is to advance the education of the people of Glamorgan with regard to birds and ornithology. The winter indoor meetings provide informative and educational fora for members. Thanks to Paul Denning we put on an interesting series of 6 indoor meetings for the winter period, most of which were well attended and gave a flavour of the birding experiences to be had overseas and also at home, with the members own night and the ID 'workshop' night providing something different. A number of talks each year are also given to public organisations such as old peoples clubs, the WI and other such organisations, in order to try and educate others about our birds and the enjoyment of studying them. We are grateful to Alan Rosney who gave a number of such 'public' talks during the year.

The regular monthly walks and numerous field trips throughout the year to locations with differing habitats certainly meets this aim by having skilled birdwatchers leading or attending and willing to give those with less knowledge hints and tips on identification and other aspects. We held a total of 20 field trips divided roughly equally between weekends and weekdays. As organiser I try to make these varied, taking in different habitats and locations. There was a bias towards more local trips over the year with visits to some local locations we had not tried before, including some which are featured in the Birding in Glamorgan book. We usually manage to find at least one star bird on most trips! The cost of fuel is a significant consideration these days and so trips further afield require some thought and it is always useful to try and fill vehicles when we car share.

The monthly walks at Cosmeston and KNNR are open to anyone and we encourage people to join the Club and thus to take advantage of the field trips and other aspects of the Club. Thanks go to Adrian Murch who leads the ones at KNNR. We welcome guests on the main field trips as well, so they can have a 'taster' of what to expect by being a member. It has been encouraging to see some youngsters attending both full field trips and monthly walks with their parents, and taking an interest in birds and other wildlife. It was particularly rewarding for the Club to be able to help a young autistic boy from Penarth, realise his dream of going on a 'proper' birdwatching outing with experts and becoming a member of an ornithological club. We did this after having been approached by the charity 'Follow your Dreams'. He came along to one of our monthly walks at Cosmeston and was presented with membership, some beginners optics and other goodies, and a suitable information pack from the RSPB. He was overjoyed with wonderful views through a telescope, of a Buzzard, Green Woodpeckers and a Kingfisher, all obligingly perched in trees. In addition we have had at least one indoor meeting related specifically with identification, and short articles in our newsletter on the identification of, for example, tricky confusion species.

Publications.

A principal aim of the Club is of course to produce the annual Bird Report which is in fact the Recorders report on the status of birds in the recording area over the past year. As editor I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who was involved in it's preparation. I believe it was well received. Our current recorder is David Gilmore and as editor of the Report I work closely with him and the rarities committee in order to ensure that the report is accurate. David is to be congratulated and thanked for the efficient way in which the rarities committee has worked so that results of decisions are issued in good time. With the help of Mark Hipkin from Swansea he is also to be thanked for setting up the excellent central source of information on rare birds in Glamorgan, in the form of the Glamorgan Rarities Committee blog. Joek Roex continued to produce the quarterly member's newsletter and thanks to copy provided to him by members, this continues to provide an interesting read. The committee's thanks go out to Joek for continuing to do a sterling job.

The other publication of recent times was of course the Birding in Glamorgan book. We can report that this has to all intents and purposes now sold out after a print run of some 350. It has thus proved very popular and Alan Rosney and Richard Smith are to be congratulated on producing an excellent book, with the help of course of the volunteers who wrote many of the guides to the sites. A possible update is being considered, as access to some sites has changed.

Research

A considerable number of Club members are involved in surveys which provide data for the BTO. One big survey which came to a conclusion at the end of 2011 was the Atlas project and we are grateful to the large number of people, both members and non-members who undertook to survey OS tetrads in the winter and summer and to everyone who provided so-called roving records. This huge countrywide survey will result in a new national atlas but on the back of this the Club will be producing a new Bird Atlas for Glamorgan. Other surveys include the WeBS [Wetland Bird Survey] and BBS [Breeding Bird Survey], the Common Bird Census and Birdtrack. All birds records submitted to the Club by observers during the year are used to compile the annual Bird Report and are shared with the South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre in Cardiff, under our data exchange agreement with them, and this data is added to what is now a very large and valuable database, which can be queried to provide information for example to developers carrying out Environmental Impact Assessments for proposed developments.

Projects

The Farmland Bird Feeding Project continued thanks to matched funding from CCW and the continued support of the farmer John Evans, who set aside a wide strip of field to grow sacrificial crop for the birds to feed on, and also Adrian Murch who keeps the feeders topped up, and of course the Kenfig ringing group. It has been encouraging to see good numbers of Yellowhammer and Reed Bunting in particular benefiting from this and being present in good numbers, particularly as these are species of conservation concern. Sadly Tree Sparrows, the original target of the project when it started, no longer breed in the Vale at the site where we had a nest box scheme for them.

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

Other activities

We also held another Big Birding Day at KNNR where everyone was welcome to enjoy guided walks, nest box making, a bird ringing demonstration, children's activities, Mrs Wilson's most excellent cakes, and lots more. This was as usual, well attended and raised funds, mainly through refreshments, which were shared equally with KNNR.

Finally I would like to thank the committee for their work and input over the past year. I would like to thank in particular Laura Palmer who took over as chair from me when I stood down 2 yrs ago. She was an enthusiastic occupant of the post but sadly had to stand down herself early in the year so I

have been 'caretaker' chair since then. So many thanks Laura. We do need a formally elected chair. Having previously been in the post for some 14 or more years, I am definitely not standing again. As of this AGM Paul Seligman is also standing down after a good number of years on the committee. I would like to express the committees sincerest thanks to him for all the work he put in which culminated in the Club achieving Charity status - it was a long and quite arduous process, as were the subsequent dealings with HMRC concerning our claim for repayment of tax for those members who gift aided their subs. So many thanks Paul for that and all your enthusiastic and constructive input at committee meetings. Another person to be thanked specifically is Anne who agreed to be co-opted on to the committee to take over the Treasurer role which was not filled at the last AGM after Adrian's retirement. She has done a typically efficient job [as she does with our domestic finances!] and will be standing as formally proposed Treasurer at this meeting. Thanks also to Malcolm James for auditing the accounts again. Finally thanks to you the members for continuing to support the Club and thus allowing it to continue to provide a valuable source of interest for anyone interested in birds and wildlife.

John Wilson - acting chair April 2012

3. Treasurer's Report

Anne Wilson presented the audited annual accounts to the AGM. Main points highlighted were:

Income:

- Subscriptions consistent at around £3000
- Gift aid raised £1000

Out goings:

- East Glamorgan Bird Report was £1000
- Bulk buying of postage stamps was approximately £700
- Indoor meetings cost £160
- Memorial plaque cost £96

Points arising:

Sales of BiG had exceeded covered the costs of printing and binding
Paul Seligman queried the interest percentage. Adrian Murch explained that it was due to the time taken to withdraw from the account

Alan Rosney did clarify that the Giftaid sum was for three years and going forward would be nearer £300 per annum.

Dave Bush thanked the treasurer and proposed the accounts; seconded by Matt Evans, and adoption thereof carried nem con.

4. Election of officers {trustees}

- Secretary: Martin Bailey-Wood still has two years to run so no election necessary

- Treasurer: Anne Wilson has been acting treasurer and was willing to stand. Nominated by Strinda Davies; seconded by Matt Evans. Passed unanimously.
- Chairperson: John Wilson has been acting Chairperson and was not willing to stand for election again. Adrian Murch volunteered. Nominated by Alan Rosney; seconded by Paul Seligman. Passed unanimously.

5. Election of Committee members (Trustees)

- Alan Rosney, Paul Denning & Dave Carrington to stand for re-election. Nominated by Matt Evans; seconded by Adrian Murch.
- Paul Seligman to stand down not standing for re-election

Leaves one vacancy.

6. Appointment of Auditor(s)

Malcolm James was proposed by Alan Rosney; seconded by Adrian Murch. Passed unanimously.

7. Any motions submitted for debate

None

8. AOB

- Dave Gilmore: A suggestion that BiG be updated as a pdf file that could be available on the website. Also the club should be looking at Birds of Glamorgan 2018-2020 and a fund should be set up for this
- Dave Bush: queried whether all members have access to the website and suggested a survey. Alan Rosney added that more than 100 members have their newsletter by e-mail.
- Dave Carrington: Facebook page should have got a mention and the Twitter account now has more than 150 followers.
- Alan Rosney: Website is being updated Christian Jenkins is working on this and is using Wordpress.
- Paul Seligman: Wanted to record the club's appreciation to John Wilson for stepping into the breach as Chairperson at short notice.
- Matt Evans: Asked whether it could be placed on the Agenda of a committee meeting to discuss access to Eglwys Nunnydd Reservoir and approaching Tata as a club for access. Graham Powell mentioned that it should be done as a co-ordinated approach with the Gower Ornithological Society.
- Jake Gilmore: GRC [Glamorgan Records Committee] considerations are on course so the new report should be ready in or around October.

Meeting Closed 9:00pm