

Glamorgan Bird Club AGM 2013 Kenfig Nature Reserve Centre 23/04/13

Present

John Moxham, David Carrington, Adrian Murch, John Wilson, Anne Wilson, Graham Powell, Paul Denning, Rod Haslam, Jean Haslam, Greg and Sue Page, Howard Driver, Strinda Davies (Minute Taker), Garth Crandon, John and Margaret Samuel, Leigh Forman, David Gilmore, Richard Smith, Wayne Strong, Nicki Sunter, Darren Coombs, Tim Adcock, Stuart Hardcastle, Paul Denning, Nigel Williams, Gareth Jenkins, M P Callaghan, Colin Stevenson, David Bush.

Apologies

Matt Evans, Paul Roberts, Martin Bailey-Wood, Gareth Jenkins. It was noted that Martin Bailey Wood had been in hospital.

1. Minutes of the 2012 AGM. No issues raised . Minutes accepted as a true record - proposed by Paul Denning seconded by John Wilson.

2. Chair Persons report on behalf of the Trustees

Welcome to this the 2013 AGM of the Glamorgan Bird club and thank you for showing your support by your attendance this evening

### **Membership**

The club continues to enjoy a membership of 278 categories made up of single and family packages, which represents over 300 members.

### **Financial**

Details of the year's finances will be given in the Treasurers report, but as in keeping with our Trustees responsibilities we continue to operate a prudent financial reserving policy, which ensures that funds are reserved for major items of expense such as the East Glamorgan Bird Report and the quarterly newsletter. No purchasing or financial commitments are undertaken unless we have the necessary funds in place to cover any planned expenditure. We do not have any loans and as we do not own any buildings we do not face unexpected financial outlays such as utility bills rates or maintenance costs. As the club has no employees there is no need to reserve funds to cover such costs as wages or potential redundancies. Our submission for the repayment of tax as a charitable organisation has been dealt with by HMRC and the details will be given in the Treasurer's report

### **The year's activities**

In accordance with the club's mandate to advance the education of the people of Glamorgan with regards to birds and ornithology the committee believes it has been successful in carrying out these aims. The winter indoor door events which were well organised by Paul Denning have been both entertaining and informative with speakers giving illustrated talks on their various overseas birding experiences and also a very well

attended and informative talk on Gull Identification by Dave Rich. The monthly bird walk for beginners continues to be supported with an average of 19 to 20 at Kenfig NNR and increasing interest at Cosmeston Lakes which is led by John Wilson. These walks are open to non bird club members who are also welcome to come on the various field trips. I would like to convey my personal thanks to Strinda Davies and David Carrington for standing in for myself in leading some of the walks at Kenfig NNR over the last year. With possibly the wettest year in memory it became necessary to cancel some of the trips due to flooding to the sites that were planned to visit but other trips went ahead. The trip to Portland was once again an enjoyable weekend both birding and socially with the star bird being a Subalpine Warbler. Also a record attendance of 27 attended the Forest of Dean trip and were treated to excellent views of Goshawk. My thanks once again to Paul Roberts for leading the Ogmere estuary trip and Alan Rosney for leading the Chew Valley Lake trip in John Wilson's absence, also to Mark Hipkin for meeting the trip at Worms Head and getting everyone on to the Long-tailed Duck offshore, but as always our thanks to John Wilson who organises these events. For anyone who wishes to improve their knowledge of bird skills and places to go birding these trips are highly recommended - details are published on Facebook and in the newsletters,

### **Publications**

As written in the club's constitution one of its requirements is to publish the Annual Bird Report and 2012 saw the publication and launch of the fiftieth edition. This was marked with a very successful evening with many past and the present county recorders present. Very interesting talks were given on its history by John Wilson and Richard Smith together with Alan Rosney on future publications. I should also mention the hard work put in by Mrs Anne Wilson and other ladies who put on an excellent buffet. The work continues on this years report with John Wilson as editor together with David Gilmore the current county recorder who works with John to verify the records. There are vacancies for section writers at the moment - interested parties please contact John Wilson. Another vacancy has arisen with the retirement of Joek Roex as editor of the quarterly newsletter our thanks to Joek for the excellent way the newsletter has been published over the last three years.

### **Projects**

The club has been involved within the community particularly with its scheme to provide nest boxes to local schools and also to replace damaged boxes at Ty Hafan Hospice besides helping a local Guide Troop with one of their projects in assisting the guides make their own nest boxes. Again my personal thanks to everyone involved with firstly making the boxes and also to everyone who has gone to various locations to put these boxes up. Another ongoing project is the Farmland Bird Feeding project at Ty'n-y-Caeau Farm which continues with thanks to John Evans whose field the sacrificial crop is planted on and with funding from CCW which enables the club to supplement the winter feed. The weather has had a big impact with the crop and also with the ringing but it is pleasing to report that good numbers of birds used the field especially birds of concern such as Yellowhammers and Reed Buntings and a first for the site a female Brambling. Again this

can only be carried out with the help of volunteers so thanks you to Annie and Paul and to Steve for keeping the feeders topped up. Also we continue to work with the local authorities within the region whereby the club is represented on each of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan Partnerships.

### **Last but not least**

Besides the traditional method of passing information the Bird club now enjoys a regular following on Facebook and Twitter as well as some mentions in the local press. This is due to our press officer Graham Powell who since becoming a committee member has promoted the Glamorgan Bird Club where possible. It would also be amiss of me not to mention our treasurer Anne Wilson who has done an excellent job in maintaining the club accounts to a high standard, also Martin Bailey- Wood our secretary for the manner in which he has carried out the secretary's duties. Finally no club can survive without its membership so I am sure the Committee will join me in saying thank you to you for the support that you have given us over the last year

Adrian Murch

Chair Glamorgan Bird Club

### 3 Treasurers Report

#### INCOME

3.1 Once again subscription income more or less constant at £3000

3.2 Gift aid – repayments are almost half of last years because the claim was only for 1 year with a few exceptions

3.3 Book sales – BIG sales down by 2/3rds (only a few left) but the sale of EGBR is up a little.

3.4 Donations and talks – income made up of a combination of payments for talks given by Alan Rosney and John Wilson to outside groups but also a few members gave a donation with their subs . We also sold several bird boxes made by the committee members to a guide group which raised £60

3.5 Farmland bird feeding project - this money comes from CCW and covers the cost of bird seed and rings for the bird ringing group. This amount is reducing each year from 2013/14

3.6 Indoor Meetings - these just about break even.

3.7 Big Birding Day - did very well with sales of cakes, plants, donated books and bird boxes

#### EXPENDITURE

3.8 EGBR- this year due to the special 50<sup>th</sup> edition the cost was an extra £300.

3.9 Admin/stationary costs have been halved this year.

3.10 Internet costs – this was higher than last year due to the cost of trying to set up a new web site although half the fees were paid by GOS.

3.11 Postage - despite buying stamps in April at the old rate for the newsletter, costs have risen and posting the report cost over £300

3.12 Indoor meetings – we have to pay for the hire of KNNR Centre and we are so reliant on people paying a small charge for the refreshments and raffle.

3.13 Newsletter – these cost have reduced by nearly £60 due to some people having their newsletter by e-mail. This is welcomed and thanks were given to those that do so.

3.14 Mileage allowance – this is up on last year as the policy came into effect part way through the year only.

3.15 Clothing - a drastic decrease in the amount of clothing sold this year

3.16 Other – this includes the purchase of a projector for the club to be used at indoor meetings and for talks. A telescopic ladder was also bought for the club's use in putting up bird boxes for various groups and organisations.

Other Discussion – this years excess of £632 is considerable lower than last years which was £2,275. However the extra cost of the Annual Report , purchase of the projector and ladder and increased postage as well as less BIG sales and less gift aid can account for that decrease. For standard items of expenditure (EGBR, newsletters postage, internet, insurance etc ) and ignoring one of expenditure comes to around £3,500 whereas the subs bring in £ 3,100 and do not cover the basic costs .

This year we have put some of the built up funds into a bank bond and the increase in interest is noticeable. This bond may continue for another year if we feel that the money is not needed for any current projects. The audited accounts where approved and accepted - proposed David Bush seconded by John Moxham.

4. Election of officers - there were no officers due for re-election

5. Election of committee members - Paul Roberts, Graham Powell and John Wilson were re-elected. Proposed Richard Smith seconded by David Gilmore. There are vacancies for the committee but no nominations where received. Alan Rosney volunteered to be the newsletter editor.

6. Appointment of Auditor - Malcolm James was appointed as auditor - Proposed by Alan Rosney seconded by by John Wilson. It was agreed that the Club would offer to pay mileage allowance incurred by the auditor.

7. Motions for debate - No motions had been submitted

8. AOB.

8.1 Nicki Sunter requested that the Club Programme Cards be issued earlier in the year to enable employed members to plan and book their leave around bird walks.

8.2 Website - John Wilson explained that our initial plans shad been unsuccessful due to capacity and time pressure of the committee members who had volunteered to take on the task. JW was looking into alternate solutions: blog sites, Weebly etc. JW to host a meeting of interested

committee members to consider options and agree a way forward. There was discussion on log-in as a means of managing the posting of sightings.

8.3 Dave Bush moved a vote of thanks to all the committee including for the regular bird walks. It was noted there was a thriving membership as a result of all the hard work.

8.4 Alan Rosney moved a vote of thanks to Paul Roberts for his work on the Coity Wallia Common installing nest boxes in the sessile woodland.

8.5 Appeal was made for wood - marine ply or 6x1 rough sawn planks.

No further business the meeting was closed

Next AGM Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2014