



Berkshire Ornithological Club



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting for 2010

Held in Room G27, HUMSS Building, University of Reading on Wednesday 10th November 2010 at 8 pm; the President, Gordon Langsbury, in the Chair and 71 Members present.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Colin Wilson, Carole White, Jean Nicholls, Hugh Evans, David Fuller, John Woodard, Liz Crathorne, Heidi Bailey & Ian Saunders, John & Fiona Farnsworth, Angela & Ralph Stafford, Phil & Pam Walkden, Jean South, Ken Bradley, Terry Hemmett, John Mead, Debby Reynolds, Donald Reid.
2. **Minutes of meeting held on 11th November 2009:** the minutes were approved and signed by the President
3. **Matters arising:** there were no matters arising.
4. **Honorary Treasurer's Report and the Club Accounts:** John Roberts presented the audited accounts for 2009/10. There was an excess of income over expenditure of £3,686, made up of £2,368 on the Club's general fund and £1,318 on the restricted Atlas funds. However, if an Annual Report had been produced during the year, the Club's General Fund would have made a loss as the previous report had cost £3,090. Capital in the General Fund stands at £12,033, being the Accounts capital of £17,301 less the Atlas Group capital of £5,268. There is £176 in the General Fund awaiting transfer to the Conservation Fund which at the end of the year stood at £4,801. The Atlas Group Fund and the Conservation Fund are Restricted Funds.

On the income side, subscriptions exceeded £4,000 for the first time with Gift Aid exceeding £1,000, but interest has slumped from £521 in 2007/8 & £168 in 2008/9 to just £28. Room costs were lower than expected as the Club was not charged for two meetings, but John warned that room costs would increase to £2,400 in the current year.

John expressed his thanks to Don Reid as auditor and to Dot Lincoln for all her help in handling subscriptions over the years.

The accounts were accepted unanimously and the meeting expressed appreciation to John for all his work

5. **Changes to the Constitution:** Proposed changes to the constitution on Non-executive Officers and Life Membership were circulated prior to the meeting. Mike Turton confirmed that non-Executive Officers would still appear on the programme card. The changes were approved unanimously.
6. **Election of Officers and Committee:** The Committee's proposal that Renton Righelato, Mike Turton and John Roberts be re-elected as Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer respectively was approved unanimously. There being no retirements by rotation from the Committee this year, no committee members were appointed.
7. **Report of Chairman and Officers:**

Renton Righelato presented the report of the Chairman and officers. He noted that membership continued to increase and now stood at just over 300 individuals or families, twice the membership six years ago. He thanked all those who had contributed to this rise in membership over this period, particularly Ruth Angus and Dot Lincoln and noted that Ruth was taking some time off after 6 years responsibility for publicity. The meeting expressed appreciation to Ruth for all her work. Dot has also signalled her intention to "retire" at the next AGM. Renton outlined the steps that were being taken to carry on the work done by Dot and Ruth by forming a sub-group to handle all aspects of membership and publicity.

Progress is being made on the production of outstanding bird reports with the 2006/7 reports being produced by Colin Wilson. The formation was announced of an editorial board, chaired by Ken Moore, to manage the records database and produce the subsequent reports. Thanks

were expressed to Colin for the work he has carried out as Managing Editor over the last six years. A brief progress report was also given on the work on the next Atlas.

Renton reported on the involvement of the Club in conservation work, highlighting involvement in the development of wetlands at Fobney Island, plans for the lower Kennet Valley, work with the National Trust at Basildon Park and grants made by the Conservation Fund. He expressed the view that this is an area in which the BOC could have and should have a bigger impact.

Thanks were also expressed to all those who had been responsible for the varied programme of indoor meetings and excursions over the past year.

Finally, the Chairman thanked the President and Hon. Secretary for the work that they do for the Club.

The meeting expressed a vote of thanks to Renton for his report.

8. **Birding highlights of 2009/10**

The Chairman's report was followed by a summary of the birding highlights of 2009/10, prepared by Ken Moore and delivered by Renton Righelato. The report will be published in the Newsletter early in 2011.

9. **Any other business:** none was raised.

The President closed the AGM at 8.30pm; it was followed by an illustrated talk by Gordon Langsbury "*The Way of a Wader - British Waders in their Haunts*".