



Berkshire Ornithological Club

Minutes of Committee Meeting

held on Wednesday 25th January 2012
at 63 Hamilton Road, Reading

Present: Renton Righelato (chair) (RRi), John Roberts (Treasurer), Mike Turton (Secretary), Ray Reedman (RRe), Ken Moore, Neil Bucknell, Bill Nicoll, Martin Sell, Carole White (CWh), Tim Ball, Fraser Cottingham

RRi welcomed Tim Ball, Martin Sell and Carole White onto the committee.

1. Apologies for absence: Heidi Bailey, John Lerpiniere, Ken & Sarah White, Ted Rogers
2. Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 10th November 2011: under item 10, the action to write reviews of indoor meetings for the newsletter should be assigned to TR not RRe. The amended minutes were approved and signed.

3. **Matters Arising**

Item 8: Trophy purchased.

Item 10: actions to check on radio mics and investigate options for communicating with members not on the internet are outstanding.

Item 13(c): sharing a digital projector would be difficult. Proposal rejected.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

Report circulated prior to meeting:

| | |
|--------------|---------|
| Gen Fund | £19,481 |
| Conservation | £4,132 |
| Atlas | £6,621 |

JR reported that there were sufficient funds available to produce the reports plus sufficient working capital for a further year. Figure for subscriptions is similar to last year. 40 people being contacted about non-payment. JR, HB, RRi and MT met to discuss problems with payments and other issues.

One member has had their annual standing order paid 3 times in 3 months. JR has advised that they should request that the bank stop the payments, seek a refund from the bank and to inform the Club if this is not received. The payments have stopped, but the member has not to date contacted the Club to say whether they have received a refund from the bank, to request a refund from the BOC or to agree that the overpayment should be treated as a donation. Also their subscription due on 1st October has not yet been paid. It was agreed by the committee (with the Treasurer against) that the Club accepts that 3 years subscriptions (2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13) have been received and that the person should be treated as a member for 3 years, even if they have received the money back from the bank.

5. **Editorial Board Reports**

2006/7 Report

RRi reported that the editing had been completed and expressed thanks to all those involved. The report has been sent to Rob Still who has provided quotes of £3,161 (for 400 copies) and £3,381 (for 500 copies). Approx 350 copies are known to be required and the Club still has copies of previous reports remaining. It was agreed that the quote for 400 copies should be accepted. No production date available – likely to be 4-6 weeks from accepting the quote.

2008 Report onwards

Report from KM covering 2008 and 2009 reports circulated prior to meeting.

Action: KM to email BN to remind him to produce 2008 weather report.

Unlikely to get 2008 cover illustration before the end of March.

Consideration to be given to sending 2008 report out with August mailing.

2009 report still awaiting Moor Green, Barn Owl and other reports. SAWs can use data on Atlas website.

Action: RRi to issue usernames and passwords.

Derek Barker has started producing the 2010 report.

There would be a cost saving in combining the 2008 and 2009 or 2009 and 2010 reports, but the production team were keen to publish annual reports.

Articles on other taxa could be included if they were easily obtainable and would be of additional interest to birdwatchers and not to be regarded as an authoritative record. Initially only include dragonfly report. Reason for inclusion to be made clear in the editorial.

Action: MT to produce dragonfly report and send to KM.

6. **Membership Sub-committee Report**

Colin Wilson has stood down from the Membership Sub-committee.

HB doing well on membership processing and sorting out the database.

MT/RRi summarised outcome of meeting held on 13th January with JR/HB to discuss membership processing issues. MT/HB to continue to liaise on streamlining the process of receiving and recording subs and monitoring membership data.

Felt important that membership secretary (or deputy) should have higher profile at indoor meetings, possibly with a 'welcome team'. CWh to sit outside and take subscriptions at meetings. BN/MT to deputise if necessary – will need to have receipt book from CWh. MT will have stock of membership forms at each meeting.

Action: MT to discuss with HB whether it is possible to have a report from the database to help with resolving queries.

Action: MT to ask HB to email names of new members to RRi on the day of the indoor meeting.

Publicity

Arrangements discussed for handling publicity. Basic minimum is that publicity material goes out and major events are publicised and manned.

MT offered to organise leaflets for this year. New version of leaflet printed – thanks to Ruth Angus for producing programme insert. Following people took leaflets and will monitor stock: FC (Dinton hides), RRe (Moor Green, Lower Earley library/centres, EEG, Basildon Park), MT (Woodley & Reading libraries, Beale Park), CWh (Bracknell library), MS (Caversham library, BBOWT, RDNHS).

Action: all to provide any more suggestions on where to put leaflets to MT

Coordination for 25th Feb event at Reading Museum: RRi to coordinate publicity and BOC presence with help from FC.

Action: MT to ask Mike Taylor to make event prominent on BOC website.

Action: RRe to provide publicity leaflets at indoor meetings

Newbury Show: Need to coordinate with NDOC

Action: RRi to contact organisers to see if space in free conservation tent is still available and then contact NB to discuss arrangements.

Need new display stands. Design and quotes produced by Ruth Angus. These are currently with Colin Wilson.

7. **Appointment of President**

This item was deferred until the end of the meeting

8. **Programme Sub-committee report**

Report circulated prior to the meeting.

2012/13 programme:

- David Lindo booking now confirmed. Charging £150. Agreed that we should use Room 109 as normal for this meeting.
- Jackie Garner: Link in with other groups as suggested. Agreed that we should use Room 109 as normal for this meeting.
- Date for Bob Flood could be an issue – to be sorted out over the weekend.
- Possibly put Colin/Ted on the AGM evening.
- Agreed that Quiz should be on 12th December.
- Suggestions for blank dates: More scientific content. BTO speaker – possibly Ian Newton on migration.

Suggestions for following year: Autumn 2013 is date for publication of BTO Atlas. Find out whether BTO would like to publicise this. Naturetrek have 3 speakers available.

Action: all to send suggestions to RRe

BN putting together draft 2012/13 outdoor programme soon. Need to publicise big trips well in advance (e.g. Poland, Spain).

Action: BN to talk to Ken White about dates for his proposed trips.

RRi to coordinate Poland trip in May 2013 – to be included in next newsletter.

Need to include ringing demos in the programme.

Action: TB to supply dates to BN

Arrangements for Padworth Common/Roundoak Piece Nightjar walks need to be checked with TB.

9. **Reports for consideration**

a. Atlas Group update

Report circulated prior to the meeting.

It was agreed that there was no need to transfer money from BOC restricted funds to the Atlas Group account at present, but it was noted that interest from the restricted funds are paid into the BOC general fund.

BOC will act on behalf of the Atlas Group in funding applications.

b. Conservation Officer report:

Brief report circulated prior to the meeting.

Fobney not open at present – very muddy. RDNHS concerned that Reading BC want to seed the area, which may wipe out any natural plant regeneration. Planting plan is shown on the details plan.

Action: RRI to send plan to MS

One Barn Owl box in place, suggestion made that a second box should be erected.

Action: JL to apply to Conservation Fund for funding for more boxes.

Grant application from BBOWT to cover capital costs (but not ongoing running costs) for ringing project at Woolley Firs. £628 awarded from Conservation Fund.

Padworth Common: it was noted that objections had been received from horse riders to the proposal for fencing and putting cattle on to the common to restore the habitat.

Woohampton: Wasing Estates have set up new trust to turn lakes into a nature reserve, but with shooting and fishing being allowed. Meeting held with EA, BBOWT, West Berks Council, Lafarge, and Wasing CEO. Surveys commissioned on mammals, butterflies and dragonflies. BOC expressed concern about proposal to allow shooting. Need to put facts on birds to the new CEO. Three blinds to be put up – one for public viewing and two for BOC access only. Siting and access arrangements to be discussed.

Field Farm: MS reported that a botanical survey had been arranged. Access to be arranged through KM to avoid sensitive bird areas.

10. **Any Other Business**

- a. MS offered to be link between BOC and BBOWT and RDNHS.
Action: MS to pass programme details on for inclusion in BBOWT diary where appropriate.
- b. Swinley Forest replanting: FC had suggested that the restoration team talk to Derek Barker about bird populations and habitat monitoring.
- c. Jubilee River: FC expressed concern over promotion of Jubilee River as a navigable watercourse, primarily for canoeists and potential for disturbance to birds.
- d. Arrangements for sale of original Robert Gilmour painting were discussed. Sale is to be by auction with sealed bids to be in by 28th March, but this depends on newsletter date. JR to bring painting to indoor meetings to publicise sale. Also newsletter article and photo on website. Consider putting article in Birdwatching magazine.
Action: JR/RRi to consider what reserve price should be.
Action: JR to look at alternative of holding a raffle for the painting.
- e. RRe reported that the Ouse Washes trip broke even.
- f. Printing costs: **Action:** TB offered to investigate possibility and costs of doing the printing using his printer.
- g. **Action:** MT to purchase remote presentation controller.

11. **Date and venue for next meeting.**

Tuesday 20th March 2012 at 7.30pm. Venue 63 Hamilton Road, Reading.

7. **Appointment of President**

Neil Bucknell left the meeting.

Following consultation with past chairs and presidents and receiving names from committee members, the committee discussed the candidates and decided to ask Neil Bucknell to take on the Presidency.

It was proposed that, although the constitution states that this appointment is for life or earlier removal/resignation, the appointment could be for a fixed term with the opportunity to extend the appointment if it was felt appropriate and that this was not necessarily against the constitution, so long as it was discussed with the candidates first. The proposal that Neil's appointment be for a 7 year term was approved *nem com*.

Action: RRi to confirm with Neil and announce appointment at the next indoor meeting.