



## **Berkshire Ornithological Club**

### **Minutes of Committee Meeting**

held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2013  
at Park House, University of Reading

**Present:** Neil Bucknell (president & acting chair), Mike Turton (Secretary), Bill Nicoll (Treasurer) Ray Reedman (RRe), Carole White, Martin Sell, Tim Ball, Becky Thomas, Iain Oldcorn, Ted Rogers, John Walker

1. Apologies for absence: Renton Righelato (RRi). .

2. **Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

The minutes were approved and signed.

3. **Matters Arising**

**Item 3(6):** Article for newsletter outstanding.

**Item 6 (Ringing demos):** No other groups doing public demos.

**Item 10:** Offer accepted by Tony Knight

**Item 14 (data projector):** RRe to pursue this.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

Report circulated prior to meeting.

Gift Aid: form to chance contact details has been lost by the Inland Revenue. Turnaround is also very slow, so it is possible that the Club may not be able to reclaim any Gift Aid this year. Claim to be carried forward to next year if necessary.

Santander Reward Saver Account: Application delayed because Santander keep requesting more information not requested on the form. BN to send the information requested, but register a complaint if they continue to ask for information.

As part of the ongoing correspondence with Santander, the Committee confirmed that the structure of the Committee is as laid out in the constitution.

Club finances are healthy. The projected costs of publishing 2009 and 2010 reports are included.

The Committee agreed the reappointment of Donald Reid Limited as the independent examiners for this financial year.

5. **Editorial Board Report**

Report circulated prior to meeting.

The 2009 & 2010 Reports will not be ready for distribution with the August member mailing.

**Action:** Anyone willing to help with final editorial work as listed in the report to contact RRi.

6. **Programme Sub-committee report**

Report circulated prior to the meeting.

A few minor details still to be sorted out on 2013/14 programme. RRe will then pass programme to TR for production of programme card.

Still need volunteers to take charge of trips. Mid-week trips are not always on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in the new programme.

## Bird Fair

17 bookings to date, more tickets available.

### 7. **Conservation**

Conservation report circulated prior to the meeting.

Fobney: very good publicity from opening ceremony.

Padworth Lane: 1-3 pairs Little Ringed Plover nesting in an area used for car parking and dog exercising. Concerns raised with Canal & Rivers Trust (new site owners) who responded very quickly and were very helpful. TB & Ken Moore in discussion with CRT ecologist over future plans for the site. The Committee expressed their thanks to TB and Ken Moore.

Winter Wonderland: Further to the information in the report, an update was received from RRI to say that the area (Whitmoor Bog) is pretty much degraded already, with adjacent housing estates. The site is also next to the sewage works. BOC will not raise any objections to the planning application.

### 8. **QMR Agreement**

A new agreement for access to QMR has been signed. No changes to existing agreement. Annual payment set at £1.

### 9. **AGM**

Discussion document on elections circulated prior to the meeting. Terms of office for BT and CW come to an end at the AGM. Both have served less than 3 years, but would exceed the 3 year term if re-elected. It was agreed that the Club should abide by the constitution, meaning that neither are eligible for re-election this year.

Consideration needs to be given to changing constitution to allow 2 consecutive 3-year terms of office to ensure some continuity on the committee and allow some flexibility in cases like this.

TB has offered himself for election as chair at the AGM. If elected, his place on the committee will need to be filled after the AGM for 1 year. Proposal is that BT be co-opted back on to the committee for 1 year.

Possible candidates for election to the committee were discussed.

**Action:** MT to review list of members who have volunteered to help.

**Action:** TR to email membership asking for volunteers.

### 10. **Events**

#### University Bioblitz

The Club's stand was quiet, but that the university has taken an interest and the event may be repeated. RRe took some orders for the Atlas and sold some Bird Fair tickets.

#### Earley Green Fair

Stand organised so long as Ruth Angus can provide gazebo. RRe & CW to be on stand; MS will be available to cover for short periods if required.

### 11. **August mailing**

Timetable and list of contents circulated. TB is able to do printing within timescale.

Will need to staple multi-page documents – this will probably only be the newsletter.

**Action:** MT to consider using email for as much of this mailing as possible in future years.

12. **Reports for consideration:**

Atlas Group update

Project is now fully funded. Atlas sales are now generating funding for conservation projects.

Sales: 180 – 190 to date. Pre-publication offer ends at end of June. There has only been local publicity so far – national advertisement to be put out shortly.

All species accounts have been updated and had a first edit. Now going through full check with records committee.

Introductory sections updated/written. Where to watch Birds... section initial design looks good.

Aim is to get all content to Rob Still by end of July for design work; however this is probably being over-ambitious.

Still aiming for publication by the end of the year.

13. **Any Other Business**

Membership Secretary's Report

5 new members.

Utilising Social Media

BT circulated briefing note on using Facebook and Twitter.

Facebook presence could either be as a closed page (for members only) or an open page which is good for Club publicity. This can be used to advertise/remind people about forthcoming events.

BT willing to be administrator for a Facebook page – has experience of managing similar pages for other groups. Also need a backup administrator.

The creation of a Facebook page with BT as administrator was approved. Needs to include links to the BOC website & Berksbirds. Also needs links on these websites to the Facebook page.

**Action:** BT create page

**Action:** BT to produce short note for newsletter to promote the Facebook page.

**Action:** BT to provide regular updates to committee on what is being posted.

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

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013 at 7.30pm, Park House University of Reading.