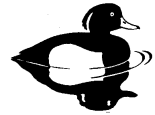




Berkshire Ornithological Club



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting for 2011

Held in Room 109, Palmer Building, University of Reading on Wednesday 23rd November 2011 at 8 pm; the Chairman, Renton Righelato, in the chair and 65 members present.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Brian Clews, Bill Nicoll, Fraser Cottingham, Debby Reynolds, Martin Sell, Gray Burfoot.
2. **Minutes of meeting held on 10th November 2010:** the minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters arising:** there were no matters arising.
4. **Honorary Treasurer's Report and the Club Accounts:** John Roberts presented the audited accounts for 2010/11.

General Fund: John highlighted the increase in subscriptions (arising from the increased rates) and the associated increase in Gift Aid. 243 members have completed a Gift Aid declaration – all members who are eligible for Gift Aid should consider signing the form. The special meeting with Mike Dilger showed a profit and attracted some 50 visitors, of whom 5 joined the Club. Expenditure includes the basic costs for running the Club such as room hire (£184 per meeting), speakers, officers' expenses and the newsletter. No report was produced this year (budgeted cost £3,000), so there is an excess of income over expenditure for the year of £3,731. The balance sheet for this fund shows capital of £15,764, of which approx. £10,000 is budgeted for the production of outstanding reports.

Atlas Fund: This fund had an income of £913 over the year and now has capital of £6,181.

Conservation Fund: Income of £252, mainly made up of donations from members with their subscriptions. Grants made to BBOWT (telescope for Greenham Common) and Basildon Park (nestboxes). The balance sheet for this fund now shows capital of £4,513.

Donald Reid has been unwell and John has passed the best wishes of Club members on to him. The accounts this year have been audited by Daniel Reid and his staff.

John acknowledged the huge amount of work that Dot Lincoln has put into the role of Membership Secretary over the past 15 years, saying that it had been a huge pleasure to work with her.

There were no questions on the accounts which were approved unanimously. The meeting expressed appreciation to John for all his work as Treasurer.

5. **Election of Officers:** Neil Bucknell took the chair for the election of officers. 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. The meeting expressed their appreciation of the work carried out by the Officers.
6. **Election of Ordinary Members of the Committee:** There were 3 vacancies on the Committee, two for three years and one for two years. The Committee's proposal that Tim Ball, Martin Sell and Carole White be elected to the Committee was approved unanimously.
7. **Report of Chairman and Officers:**

Renton Righelato presented the report of the Chairman and officers.

Membership: this continues to increase and now stands at twice the membership seven years ago. Noticeable increases were linked to the change to being a county-wide Club and to the attraction of permits for QMR. Tribute was also paid to the work done by Ruth Angus in publicising the Club and its activities, thereby attracting people to join. Thanks were expressed to Ray Reedman for organising the indoor programme, Ted Rogers and Bill Nicoll for the UK

excursions, Ken White for the overseas trips and those involved in the social events and ringing demos.

Scientific: Atlas surveys were completed this year; work has now started on analysing the data and producing species accounts with the aim of publishing the Atlas in 2013. Thanks were due to Marek Walford and Brian Clews for the work that they do on the county records database. Renton apologised for the backlog of the annual county records, but work was progressing well, with reports for 2006, 2007 and 2008 nearly ready for publication.

Conservation: Grants made to BBOWT (Greenham Common) and Basildon Park. Hugh Netley is working with landowners and Oxford OS on the management of the Henley Road gravel pits with access arrangements now in place. Ken Moore and Adrian Lawson are working with the landowners at Field Farm on the management of this site, particularly for ground-nesting birds. A £500,000 project to re-landscape Fobney Island with pools and scrapes is almost complete.

Renton expressed his thanks to the Officers, Committee and all others who have contributed to the work of the Club. Presentations were made to Ruth Angus for her work as Publicity Officer and to Dot Lincoln for her long service as Membership Secretary and for helping to organise mid-week walks and social events.

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

The Chairman's report was followed by a summary of the birding highlights of 2010/11, prepared by Ken Moore and delivered by Ted Rogers.

9. **Membership Questionnaire**

Mike Turton presented a summary of the findings and proposed actions from the 2011 membership questionnaire.

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

The President closed the AGM at 8.47pm; it was followed by an illustrated talk by Dickie Duckett on his trips around the UK, Romania and Svalbard.