

HAMPSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the thirty sixth Annual General Meeting of the Hampshire Ornithological Society, held at the John Stripe Theatre, University of Winchester on Saturday 28th March 2015.

The meeting was held at 13:05 during the Hampshire Ornithological Society Open Day. The HOS President, Chris Packham was unable to attend as a filming commitment had overrun, so HOS Chairman, Alan Snook chaired the AGM.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Chris Packham, John Clark, Glynne Evans, Peter Hutchins and Tony Norris.

2. Minutes from the Thirty fifth Annual General Meeting (29th March, 2014)

The minutes were accepted. Proposed by Ted Barnes and seconded by Brian Sharkey.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

Alan started his report by commending the recently published Bird Report to the audience – yet another excellent piece of work by John Clark and his team. He also pointed out Ed Wiseman's fascinating Checklist of Lymington Birds, which also featured some fine artwork by Dan and Rosemary Powell. Alan went on to thank the artists and photographers who have allowed HOS to use their work in its publications, including the consistently good Kingfisher newsletter. He also announced that there will be another Hampshire Projects meeting, later this year. As well as thanking the members of the committees who had helped with the running of the Society, Alan wanted to point out especially the contribution made by Glynne Evans, who was stepping down as chair of the Scientific Committee, after many years of service. To recognize this huge contribution, Glynne was proposed for Life Membership by John Eyre and seconded by Brian Sharkey. This was supported unanimously by the members present.

During the year, the Society has received two donations on behalf of members who had passed away during the previous year. Roger Jackson made a donation on behalf of his friend John Barron. The Society also received a substantial bequest from the proceeds of David Billett's bird book library. (An obituary to David will appear in the 2014 Bird Report.)

5. Treasurer's Report

The HOS Treasurer, Brian Leach had made copies of the 2014 accounts available to members on entry to the meeting. They will also appear on the HOS website. Brian pointed out that the accounts were again presented on a receipts and expenditure basis, rather than an accrual basis used previously. The 2014 income was down compared to 2013, as 2013 included Gift Aid from 2012 (as well as 2013) and income from Atlas species sponsorship which was essentially a one-off in 2013. The expenses for 2014 were also down compared to 2013, as the 2013 expense included the cost of two Bird Reports, whereas none was incurred in 2014. These factors account for the anomalous net profit in 2014 of £6358 compared to the profit of £257 in 2013.

The Society has £49,506 in its various accounts. Brian said that the Society is in a healthy financial position with sound reserves, but with the publication of the Atlas coming up, these may prove necessary. They also mean that the Society can maintain its £12 pa subscription, which he pointed out, is very good value to members.

The accounts were proposed by Jonathan Mycock, seconded by Phil Budd and accepted by the members present.

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6. Election of President

As Chris Packham's current five year term as Society President was complete, the Management Committee wished to nominate him for a further period of office.

The nomination was proposed by Keith Betton, seconded by Ian Julian and accepted by all the members present.

7. Election of Officers

The list of Officers presented for election was included in the papers for the AGM, which were sent to all members, six weeks prior to the meeting.

The list of Officers was proposed by Mike Wearing, seconded by Ted Barnes and accepted by all the members present.

8. Any Other Business

There was a question from the floor about the number of members in the Society. There are between 1600 and 1700 members (It is difficult to be precise, as there are many joint and family memberships.) Membership numbers are fairly constant year on year.

Members were encouraged to join the Hampshire Birding Facebook page. This is in additional communication option to the existing HOS website, the HOSLIST email list and the goingbirding sightings website.

Techer Jones made a vote of thanks to the various HOS Committee members and invited a round of applause from the audience.

There being no other business, the formal part of the Annual General Meeting was closed at 13:20.

9. President's Address

As our President, Chris Packham was unable to attend, there was no address.

John Shillitoe
Honorary Secretary
March, 2015