

# HAMPSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the fortieth ninth Annual General Meeting of the Hampshire Ornithological Society, held at the St Swithun's School, Winchester on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

The meeting was held at 12:35 during the Hampshire Ornithological Society Open Day. The HOS Chairman Keith Betton chaired the AGM.

## 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Chris & Jo Drew, Sue Lambert, Richard Coomber, Rosemary Billett and Chris Packham.

## 2. Minutes from the Thirty ninth Annual General Meeting (24<sup>th</sup> March, 2018)

The minutes were accepted. Proposed by Ted Barnes and seconded by Jonathan Mycock.

## 3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

## 4. Chairman's Report

Keith Betton opened the meeting by welcoming more than 20 young members who had joined HOS. Their membership was kindly funded by the Cameron Bespolka Trust. We previously only had one Junior Member – Tommy Saunders – and Keith acknowledged his efforts in recruiting many of these new members.

On a sad note, Keith reported the recent deaths of four of our HOS Life Members – Michael Bryant, Ralph Cook, Norman Pratt and John Wood – and one of Hampshire's best known birders, Ron "Chunky" King.

Keith reported that HOS is now one of the largest bird clubs in the country, with 164 new members in 2018. With the very welcome arrival of younger members, there had been events arranged especially for them. These included Bird Camp in conjunction with Wild New Forest, a ringing session and the forthcoming Bird Trail in conjunction with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

Two major surveys had been undertaken in 2018, for Nightingales and Dartford Warblers. Keith thanked all the surveyors and in particular the survey organisers Trevor Codlin and Rob Clements. Coverage was good, but maybe unsurprisingly, the results showed population declines. HOS has taken on co-ordination of farmland surveys for local farmers and the RSPB. Keith invited volunteers to help with this effort. For 2019 and 2020, HOS has won contracts to survey Hen Harriers, Woodlark and breeding waders in the New Forest. This will bring in £35k for HOS Conservation and Scientific funds.

The Conservation and Scientific funds had been used in 2018 to provide grants to support projects involving Curlew and Hawfinch tracking, Swift nest boxes and habitat improvements at the HIWWT reserve at Roydon Woods. Further money will be made available to suitable projects in 2019.

A recent popular innovation for HOS has been the introduction of courses for members wishing to improve their birding skills. Courses so far have included bird song, wader, gull and raptor identification, ornithology basics and bird photography. Members were charge £10 to attend. Non-members were welcome and their £22 fee included HOS membership for the year.

## 5. Treasurer's Report

The HOS Treasurer, Andy Mitchelmore presented the 2018 accounts. These had also been made available on the HOS website. The accounts were shown, as usual, on a receipts and payments basis. Receipts totaled £29,840.20 and expenditure was £29,354.09, giving an excess of £486.11 for the year.

Receipts for 2018 showed a positive trend and were up in all areas compared to 2017, except data sales.

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Andy pointed out that not all of the grants made in 2018 had actually been claimed to date. Also, because of timing of the invoices, the accounts for 2017 did not include an insurance payment in that year. This was actually paid in 2018, along with the 2018 insurance.

Andy thanked HOS member Ian Packer, who is a chartered accountant, for acting as our Independent Examiner – at no cost to the Society.

The accounts were proposed by Brian Sharkey, seconded by Keith Metcalf and accepted by the members present.

## **6. 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. Keith thanked the outgoing members of the committee for their support – Olly Frampton, Jonathan Mycock, Dan Hoare, Mary Macmillan and Phil Budd.

He pointed out that the printed list was updated to show Olly Frampton standing down as Secretary of the Scientific Committee. A new volunteer would be very welcome. The list of Officers for the next year, who are Trustees of the Society, is as follows: Keith Betton (Chair), John Shillitoe (Honorary Secretary), Andy Mitchelmore (Honorary Treasurer), Marcus Ward, Andy Broadhurst, Keith Betton (also County Recorder), Mike Chalmers, Andy Lester, Barry Page, Kay Shillitoe, Nicky Court, Alison Cross, David Brookes, Julianne Evans and Tom Jordan.

Proposed by Phil Budd, seconded by Mike Wearing and accepted by the members present.

## **7. Any Other Business**

There was a question on whether HOS provides any training on Living Record. Keith pointed out that most records are submitted on the BTO BirdTrack app/website, Goingbirding website and Excel spreadsheets, but that Living Record input is accepted as well and will be used for farmland surveys.

Keith was delighted to tell the meeting that the Management Committee had proposed Ted Barnes as a Life Member of HOS. In his role of meeting organizer, he has probably met more HOS members than anyone else in the society. This was seconded by Ian Julian and accepted by members.

There being no other business, the formal part of the Annual General Meeting was closed at 12:55.

## **8. President's Address**

Our President, Chris Packham was unable to attend the meeting.

John Shillitoe  
Honorary Secretary  
June, 2019