

BOC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

The Annual General Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Club was held in the upstairs room at The Barley Mow, Horseferry Road, Westminster, London SW1P 2EE at 5.30 pm on Tuesday 21 May 2013 with Helen Baker in the chair. Fifteen members were present. Apologies for absence were received from Nigel Crocker, Steve Dudley, David Fisher, Steven Gregory, Guy Kirwan and Robin Prytherch.

1. **Minutes of 2012 AGM.** The Minutes of the AGM held on 12 June 2012 which had been published (*Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 132:137-138 and the BOC website) were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2. **Minutes of 2012 SGM:** The Minutes of the Special General Meeting held on 12 June 2012 which had been published (*Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 132:138-139 and the BOC website) were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. **Chairman's Review, Trustees' Annual Report and the Accounts for 2012.** The document had been on the website for several days and copies were available at the meeting. The Chairman thanked Committee members, Guy Kirwan, Steve Dudley and Eng-Li Green for their contributions and support in 2012. She mentioned in particular Ken Heron Jones and Steven Gregory whose terms on the Committee were ending and were not standing for appointment in another capacity. The Chairman said that 2012 had seen the Club enter into an agreement with the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) under which all the Bulletins (except the most recent five volumes) and Supplements were freely available on the BHL website. The Club also supported two research students, enabling them to attend the International Ornithological Congress of Southeast Asia in Thailand last November. Her concerns remained the falling membership and shortage of volunteers to run the Club.

The *Hon. Secretary* introduced the Trustees' Annual Report. He reminded members that the Club's new Rules, approved at the SGM in June 2012, came into effect immediately thereafter. The Committee had met three times and had continued to conduct much of its business by e-mail. He agreed that the fall in membership was a cause for concern. While the percentage decline was small, it was part of an ongoing trend. There had been three very good evening meetings, with talks on Black Guillemots *Cephus grylle*, colour aberrations in birds and a double bill on John Gould's hummingbird cases and Dr George Murray Levick's unpublished notes on the sexual habits of Adélie Penguins *Pygoscelis adeliae*. In addition, the Club had supported a very successful Natural History Museum and South London Botanical Institute one-day meeting on Allan Octavian Hume last October. The two research students (from Cambodia and Indonesia) supported by the BOC had expressed their appreciation to the Club. Each would receive a free copy of the 2013 Bulletin. The Bulletin continued to go from strength to strength. Volume 132 contained a wide range of interesting, well-illustrated papers. There had not been any new BOC-BOU Joint Publications in 2012. The BOU was currently conducting an on-line questionnaire concerning the Checklist series and he encouraged anyone who had not completed it to do so.

The *Hon. Treasurer* drew attention to the income and expenditure details, which showed a deficit on Unrestricted Funds of £3,499 and a marginal surplus on Restricted Funds of £179 compared with an overall surplus of £808 in 2011. However, that had included over £4,000 non-recurring items. The increase in members' subscriptions had boosted revenue and there was a small increase in investment income but sales were down, primarily because there was no new Checklist in 2012. Expenditure on the Bulletin was c. £1,000 more than in 2011 and grants had been made to the Allan Octavian Hume meeting and the students attending the IOC Southeast Asia meeting.

Stephen Chapman asked whether consideration had been given to making the Bulletin available electronically for those who wish as this would reduce the production costs. The *Hon. Treasurer* said that he had discussed this with Steve Dudley but it did not appear feasible. *Ibis* is produced online by Blackwell but it was most unlikely that they would be willing to take on a journal with a much smaller distribution. Clive Mann asked what had happened to the project to produce the Bulletin on CD. The *Hon. Treasurer* said that only volumes 1 to 40 had been produced on CD (available for sale) and this project had been superseded by the arrangement with (BHL). The *Hon Treasurer* proposed the adoption of the Report and Accounts and this was seconded by Stephen Chapman.

4. Election of Officers and other Trustees. The Chairman proposed that Chris Storey be elected as Chairman, in her place, Robert Prys-Jones be re-elected as Hon Secretary, David Montier be re-elected as Hon Treasurer and Nigel Redman be elected to serve on the Committee in place of Ken Heron Jones whose term had ended. This was seconded by Ken Heron Jones.

5. Any Other Business. There was none.

The meeting closed at 5.54pm.