

British Ornithologists' Club Annual Review Meeting 2018

The 994th meeting of the Club was preceded by the Annual Review Meeting which was attended by: Miss A. H. Belman, Mr P. J. Belman, Cdr. M. B. Casement, Mr S. Chapman, Mr G. de Silva Wijeyeratne, Mr R. Langley, Mr R. W. Malin, Dr C. F. Mann, Mr D. J. Montier, Mr A. Pittman, Dr R. Prÿs-Jones, Mr R. Prytherch, Dr D. G. D. Russell, Mr S. A. H. Statham, Mr C. W. R. Storey (Chairman).

The Review and the Trustees Report and Accounts for 2018 may be accessed at: <http://boc-online.org/wp-content/uploads/BOC-Report-and-Accounts-2018.pdf>. Chris Storey reported that the administrative year had included implementing the requirements of the new General Data Protection Regulations; integrating the Herbert Stevens Trust deeds into the BOC CIO; finalizing the BOC CIO's banking arrangements and managing the development of the website and the flow of Newsletters and other information.

Richard Malin, Hon. Treasurer, introducing the Accounts for 2018, highlighted the 9% rise in income compared to 2017, a substantial reduction in annual expenditure and the 3% reduction in the Club's assets as a consequence of market conditions during 2018. He added that expenditure in 2019 would inevitably be higher owing partly to a full year of BioOne charges and anticipated publishing costs. The purchase of £100,000 investment units is expected to produce a higher income than current deposit rates. In answer to a question he explained that the Charity Commission did not require the Club's accounts to be formally examined (as the Club's turnover was less than £25,000 p.a.): however, prior to publication and subsequent submission to the Commission the accounts had been independently scrutinised by a fellow Trustee, Tony Statham.

Dr Robert Prÿs-Jones outlined the 2018 talks programme and the rewarding joint conference with the Society for the History of Natural History held in the World Museum, Liverpool. He reported that the year had been very successful with increasing numbers attending the talks at the Barley Mow, augmented by those who watched the talks on YouTube.

In his concluding remarks the Chairman drew attention to the Hon. Editor Guy Kirwan's report on the Bulletin and in particular to the welcome increase in received manuscripts which he suggested might be owing to 'the extra visibility the Bulletin potentially enjoys in its new online home at BioOne'.

Finally Chris Storey noted that the process that began in 2016 was at the end of 2018 coming to fruition: the Club had had its first year of trading as an open-access online journal and the BOC CIO was fully established. However as the Report indicates the Trustees are very much aware of the new territory in which the Club exists. It is a very long way from its beginnings as a gentlemen's dining club. BOC operates in a very crowded market place and it is essential that the Club's activities are distinct, valuable and consistent with its charitable objectives. He said that the Hon. Editor's positive report as to the rise in potential authors plus the increasing numbers attending the Barley Mow talks programme and our joint conferences suggested

that the Club was making a success of the transition. But it is a very uncertain world and, encouraged by Douglas Russell, the Trustees are looking at what the BOC's vision, mission and inclusivity statements might be. Is the BOC an exclusive, closed Club or an open inclusive society, active on the web and in its regular meetings with an engaged, broad-based and committed following? Chris ended by stating that the views of all would be very welcome.