

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015

The Annual General Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Club was held in the upstairs room at the Barley Mow , 104 Horseferry Road, Westminster, London SW1P 2EE , on Tuesday 19 May 2015 with Chris Storey in the Chair. Sixteen members were present.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from David Fisher.

2. **Minutes of AGM 2014.** The Minutes of the 2014 AGM held on 20 May 2014 which had been published (*Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 133: 165-166 and on the BOC website) were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. **Chairman's Review, Bulletin Editor's Report , Trustees' Report and Accounts for 2014.**

Copies of the document were available at the meeting. The Chairman began by thanking David Montier, who has retired as Hon. Treasurer , for his considerable contribution over the years to the Club. He added that he was delighted that Richard Malin had been elected at a Special General Meeting on 23 September 2014 to succeed David as Hon. Treasurer. The Chairman also thanked the Committee members, and in particular David Fisher and Richard Langley whose respective terms of office would end at the completion of the AGM, and Guy Kirwan, Eng-Li Green and Steve Dudley for their support and work during the past year. He concluded by saying that since the Annual Report went to press the Committee had had further discussions about the way forward for the Club and agreed that whilst efforts could be made to reduce costs etc and preserve the present *modus operandi* of the BOC a successful outcome of this endeavour was far from certain and also did not address the decline in membership nor how best the BOC might operate in the 21st century.

The Committee was firmly of the view that the BOC would only survive if it took imaginative and bold initiatives in the light of the profound digital changes affecting both academic publishing and society in general. And thus rather than managing an inevitable slow decline it was proposed that the BOC should adopt a radically different approach to delivering its principle mission.

The Committee suggests that by embracing the digital revolution the BOC should be able to establish a coherent plan for the future and broaden its 'reach'

and the dissemination of current taxonomic thinking to [a large potential audience](#). The BOC could become an on-line only organization and the Bulletin an open access on-line publication. However many details needed to be thought through and a working group has been set up to produce a detailed proposition which would then be put to members for comment prior to any formal proposal for change.

[sections by Hon. Secretary and Hon . Treasurer and Hon. Editor]

4. Election of Trustees

Mr N. Redman was elected as Vice-Chairman *vice* Mr D.J.Fisher

The meeting also elected Mr . S. Chapman and Mr A. Simmons (*vice* Mr R. R. Langley) to serve as Trustees.

5. Any Other Business

The Chairman on behalf of the Club presented David Montier with a gift in recognition of his very special work for the BOC.