

**LINCOLNSHIRE BIRD CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**ADMIRAL RODNEY HOTEL, HORNCastle**  
**21 MARCH 2017**

**Present** 41 members and officers.

**Apologies** Graham Catley, Clive Kent and Stuart Britton. Peter Overton passed on apologies from Mike Daly, who is his replacement as regional rep for the BTO in W Lincs.

**Minutes of 2016 AGM** The minutes are on the website. Accepted as a true and accurate record; signed by Phil Espin. There were no matters arising.

**Hon Chairman's address (Phil Espin)** welcomed everyone and thanked all members attending this 37th AGM of LBC.

The chief business of the bird club is the production of the annual Lincolnshire Bird Report and publication is very close and the 2015 report should be out by the end of this month. As usual producing the report has been a massive undertaking and I'd like to thank everyone involved for all their hard work under the leadership of our editor Andrew Henderson.

PE mentioned the possible sponsorship of a BTO tagging project involving fledgling buzzards. There has been a hold-up in the issuing of licences and we are waiting to see how many birds can be tagged. As an aside to this, John Badley told us of a turtle dove which had been tagged by the BTO at Frampton: details are on the BTO web-site.

PE also thanked John Badley who is retiring from his role of County Recorder south. John has had a tremendous impact on Lincs birding through his development of RSPB reserves Frampton Marsh and Freiston Shore and also in his role as recorder. A man can only do so much and he will be missed as recorder. PE was however especially pleased to announce that Phil Hyde has accepted the offer to replace John as recorder South. Phil knows the south of the county inside out and plays an important part in writing the report and he will be an excellent replacement.

The committee drives the business of the bird club and we are always keen for members who are interested to join the committee and particularly contribute to writing species accounts for the bird report. If any members have any interest at all please put yourself forward. Members put forward all kinds of good ideas on the forum. The fact is that all our committee members are already giving time to the club in various ways and frequently do not have the time capacity to take on additional initiatives. So if you have a good idea you are particularly passionate about why not join the committee and show us how it's done!

Andrew Chick, our very hard working webmaster, would also be interested in hearing from anyone with IT skills who could assist him in managing our website and forum.

At our last committee meeting it was noted that bird club members aged 65 and over are entitled to a £3 discount on the full membership fee of £15 per annum. We do not obtain dates of birth for members so we have no way of knowing if you are due a discount. If you are and would like to receive one, please let our membership secretary Mike Harrison know. No birth certificate will be needed; he'll take you at your word!

While we are talking about discounts, Bill Sterling has brought all our back catalogue of bird reports with him and tonight in a one time offer - they are half price. So if anyone wants to fill gaps in their report library, tonight is the night.

Observant members will note there is a big pile of nest boxes over there in 4 separate styles kindly made and donated by Wally White, a birder from Louth. They are free and anyone can take a couple if they wish. First come first served. I'm sure Andy Clements would like me to remind you of the BTO nest record scheme at this point.

In a couple of weeks time on 1st April and 8th April we are having a survey to look for a lost heronry between Louth and Alford. We are a bit short on volunteers and if you can help out by standing around birding looking for herons on those dates, please have a word with me afterwards.

Hopefully you will have read in our recent newsletter that we are looking for ways to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the club coming up in a little over 2 years time. I'd like to hear from anyone with any ideas about this and the subject will be high on the agenda at the next committee meeting. Personally I think we could do worse than for John Badley to find a twitchable Caspian Plover at Frampton in May 2019. Though I won't complain if it's this year!

#### **Hon Treasurer's report (John Watt)**

The accounts were circulated at the AGM. John pointed out that income had exceeded expenditure by £1970 as we have now caught up with publishing historical reports and only had the cost of one report. Data sales are for a full year this year. We are very grateful to Geoff Mullett for his £250 donation from the sales of his booklet *The Peregrines of Louth* and also to Colin Beck for £50 donated as a result of a quiz he organised.

#### **Report from other officers**

JB wished PH all the best as his replacement; PH pointed out that his job is made much easier by prompt submissions with descriptions if they are needed.

#### **Election of Officers**

No nominations had been received and all officers being willing to continue the committee were reappointed.

**AOB** There was some discussion about upgrading the web-site with a number of possible solutions; as usual, there is a lack of members with the skills and time to help APC and commercial solutions are expensive.

There was also further discussion about the possibility of producing a new county avifauna; as previously, this would need volunteers with time and energy and will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:50.

RJF Carr, Secretary.