

LINCOLNSHIRE BIRD CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
ADMIRAL RODNEY HOTEL, HORNCastle
18 MARCH 2014

Present 24 members and officers.

Apologies Ian Macalpine-Leny, Andrew Henderson, Stuart Britton and Hugh Middleton.

Minutes of 2013 AGM The minutes are on the website. Accepted as a true and accurate record: proposed Terry Whalin; seconded: Andy Sims. All agreed.

Hon Chairman's address (Andrew Chick)

As this was Andrew's final address, he wanted to look back over the past 5 years. One of the aims of the LBC is to encourage an interest in birds and the web-site has achieved that. One of the challenges for the future will be to engage more with a younger audience than we have managed so far. The annual Reports are also a source of satisfaction; the one for 2012 is at the printers and should be sent out soon; particular thanks are due to Andrew Henderson for his work. We have also caught up on the missing years and the "Rare and Scarce Birds for 2003-7" is in the final stages. The quality of the Reports is evidenced by the very healthy sales to non-members. Another of the aims of the club is to further the conservation of birds and the partnership between the LBC and the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership should help, as our records will be available to consultants and thus help with the decision-making process in planning applications. In addition, many of our members are involved in providing sightings for the BTO, whether as part of the recent Atlas, through the BBS or WeBs. Finally Andrew wished to thank all of those who have helped in various ways: there are too many to mention them all.

Hon Treasurer's report (John Watt)

The accounts have been circulated at the AGM and independently audited. Expenditure exceeded income by £3600 as we have paid for the publication of two reports in the year. The bond with Barclays has matured but this type of product has been withdrawn and future interest payments will be much reduced. Those members who pay by direct debit save a lot of work and expense for the club and John asked that more members sign up for this. As indicated in the agenda, it is proposed to increase the subscription rates to cover the cost of the annual Report: the family rate will be £18, individuals £15 and concessions will be £12. This was proposed by John Watt, seconded by Phil Espin and passed on a show of hands with no objectors. The new rates will be effective from next year. The situation regarding a family of concession-holders will be clarified.

Report from Secretary (Robert Carr)

Nothing to report.

Report from Hon Membership Secretary (Mike Harrison)

Current membership now estimated to be just fewer than 300. There is some uncertainty about the figure as a meeting with LWT is still to take place.

Report from Sales Officer (Bill Sterling)

Over £700 has been raised this year and a full statement has been minuted and archived. Although fewer copies have been sold than last year, the effect has been largely offset by the sales being mostly of the more expensive years. (Note added after the AGM: there is a small discrepancy between the figures from Bill Sterling and John Watt; this will be investigated and the situation clarified at the next committee meeting.)

Report from recorders

John Clarkson wished to place on record the appreciation by the recorders for all sightings sent in by members: over 91,000 for 2013 so far. The quality of the data we produce depends on the efforts of members to record and submit sightings of all species, no matter how common. The use of BirdTrack for this purpose is increasing. Although this has its own problems, this data is available to the LBC and future developments are anticipated. Andrew Chick will continue with his role as webmaster and has already had preliminary talks with Nick Moran from the BTO about using BirdTrack.

Election of Officers

The committee members will continue in their present roles, with two exceptions. Firstly, Andrew Chick is relinquishing his role as Chairman; Phil Espin will replace him: proposed by Sheila Jennings and seconded by Andy Sims; passed without objection from the members. Secondly, Andrew thanked Roy Harvey who is leaving the committee; Roy will continue in his role on the rarities committee.

Phil Espin took the chair for the last item on the agenda; he took the opportunity to thank Andrew Chick for his work as Chairman, saying that, "Your energy has rejuvenated the club and all the members owe you a debt of gratitude".

AOB

No items received by the secretary.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:38.

RJF Carr, Secretary.