

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Minutes of the AGM of the British Ornithologists' Union held on 27 March 2013 18:00 at University of Leicester

President Dr Gill welcomed everyone to the AGM. A total of 26 members attended the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Prof John E Cooper and Dr Shelley Hinsley.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM

Minutes of the previous AGM held on 4 April 2012 at the University of Leicester (published online <http://www.bou.org.uk/BOU-2012-AGM-minutes.pdf>) were approved and signed as a true record of that meeting.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. Adoption of the Annual Report of Council & Approval of Accounts for 2012

Dr Gill highlighted the fact that the BOU had run two successful conferences during the year.

The on-going Strategic Review had highlighted the need to engage more with the ornithological community, and Mr Dudley had spent a lot of time developing social media and other online content. This work is now proving very successful and our Twitter feed in particular is highly regarded throughout our community.

With reference to the accounts, Mrs Evans commented that although the BOU was currently in a sound financial position, the uncertainty surrounding open access publishing and the as yet unknown spending recommendations from the Strategic Review, meant it was prudent to maintain a good level of cash reserves. This said, Council had recently approved £70,000 to be invested and would free up more funds for investment if thought desirable.

Dr Pearce-Higgins asked for the reason in the drop in *Ibis* income in 2012 compared to 2011 and whether this was a cause for concern. Mr Dudley explained that the drop seen in 2012 was solely due to a reduction in sales of the back issue content of the journal. This

additional income stream was always known to be short-term and reliant on institutes freeing up library shelf space by buying in online back content of journals in order to remove the printed version from their library holdings. Baseline subscriptions remain unchanged year on year and the forecast remains for these to be maintained.

The adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2012 was proposed by Prof Jeremy Wilson and seconded by Prof Chris Perrins.

4. Elections to Council

Council proposed that Dr Shelley Hinsley be elected Vice President and Dr Helen Baker and Dr Karl Evans be elected as Ordinary Members of Council, to replace Dr Tom Pizzari, Dr Gavin Siriwardena and Dr Claire Spottiswoode.

There being no other names put forward (rule 10.3), the nominations were approved.

The President welcomed the new members and thanked those retiring members for their hard work on behalf of the Union during their time in office.

Finally, Dr Gill thanked members of Council and the committees for their valuable work over the year.

5. Reappointment of Auditors

The reappointment of Alliotts Chartered Accountants was proposed by Dr Rob Robinson and seconded by Neil Bucknell.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

In closing the meeting Dr Gill thanked Mrs Angela Langford and Mr Steve Dudley for their continued hard work for the Union during the year.

Dr Gill declared the AGM closed at 18:20h and thanked members for their attendance.