

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Minutes of the AGM of the British Ornithologists' Union held on 29 March 2017 at the University of Warwick

President Prof Hamer welcomed everyone to the AGM. A total of 44 members attended the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from John E Cooper and Helen Baker.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM

Minutes of the previous AGM held on 6 April 2016 at the University of Leicester (published online <https://www.bou.org.uk/about-the-bou/rules-annual-reports-agm-items/>) were approved 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 2016

President, Prof Keith Hamer, introduced the Annual Report and Honorary Treasurer, Mrs Julianne Evans, the Annual Accounts.

Prof Hamer commented that it had been another good year for the BOU. He highlighted the continued success of IBIS and that this had been further strengthened by a series of strategy meetings to help improve performance across all areas of the journal. He thanked all those who took part in this, especially the editors who continue to deliver an excellent journal.

The Union further consolidated itself as leader in science communication, particularly social media, within our sector thanks to the continued hard work by the Engagement Committee and Mr Dudley.

After the dissolution of Union's taxonomic sub-committee in 2015, work progressed during the year on the adoption of a new taxonomy for all BOU activities. A Council delegation joined with the Records Committee and considered four global taxonomies submitted to us. At the end of the year, and as announced in January, the decision to adopt the IOC World Bird List from 1 January 2018 was made. Prof Hamer thanked all those involved in reaching this

decision, with particular thanks to the four taxonomic groups who submitted their proposals for our consideration.

Mrs Evans reported that the Union performed better than forecast thanks largely to IBIS. She stated that the Union remained over-reliant on income from our journal. Other income streams were in decline, BOC income now lost and increasing conference costs placed increased financial pressures on the Union. A full financial review would be undertaken in the summer by the outgoing and incoming Treasurers and the Senior Administrator.

Mr Alan Barclay asked how IBIS got its income. Prof Hamer replied that income was largely from institutional subscriptions managed by our publisher, Wiley, with whom we had a profit-sharing contract. Mr Dudley added that membership income was separate to journal income as seen in the accounts.

The adoption of the Annual Report and approval of the Accounts for 2016 was proposed by Dr Lucy Wright and seconded by Dr Rob Robinson.

Finally, Prof Hamer thanked members of Council, the Union's committees and its staff for their valuable work over the year.

4. Elections to Council

Council proposed that Mr Graham Appleton be elected as Honorary Treasurer, Dr Juliet Vickery be elected as Vice President, Dr Hugh Wright be elected as an Ordinary Member of Council to Chair the Engagement Committee, and Dr Will Cresswell be elected as an Ordinary Member of Council.

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, Mrs Julianne Evans, Dr Shelley Hinsley and Dr Karl Evans, for their hard work on behalf of the Union during their time in office.

5. Appointment of Auditors

Following the decision to change auditor as reported at the last AGM, Rawlinsons (Peterborough) had been used to audit the 2016 annual accounts and report and Mrs Evans and Mr Dudley were very pleased with the service provided. Mrs Evans proposed Rawlinsons be appointed as the Union's auditors, seconded by Dr Nigel Clark.

6. Any Other Business

Prof Hamer highlighted the BOU John and Pat Warham Studentship which had been launched in the last week ahead of the conference. This was funded from the legacy left to the Union by the estates of the late John and Pat Warham and should prove to be an exciting departure for the BOU. He encouraged seabird researchers to check the website for information and encouraged applications.

The President presented Mrs Evans with a Robert Gillmor Ibis print as thanks for her time as Honorary Treasurer.

Prof Hamer declared the AGM closed at 18:14h and thanked members for their attendance.