

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Minutes of the AGM of the British Ornithologists' Union held on 5 April 2023 at the University of Nottingham

The meeting opened at 18:00h with a total of 15 members in attendance, three of whom were Trustees of the Union.

Prof Juliet Vickery welcomed everyone and thanked them for taking the time to join us.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from John E Cooper.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM

Minutes of the previous AGM held on 13 April 2022 via Zoom (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.

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Mr Neil Bucknell and seconded by Dr Robert Hawkes.

3. Adoption of the Annual Report of Council & Approval of Accounts for 2022

President, Prof Juliet Vickery, introduced the Annual Report and Honorary Treasurer, Mr Graham Appleton, the Annual Accounts.

Prof Vickery provided a brief summary of the 2022 Annual Report, highlighting a number of key developments during the year.

The transition between outgoing and incoming Chief Operations Officer was a smooth one, aided by the continued support and guidance of Steve Dudley during a two-month handover period and a further six-month call-off period.

The Union has continued to advance equality and diversity initiatives, including inviting all BOU staff and Council/committee members to display their pronouns, and delivering online conferences that broaden the reach and accessibility of our events.

IBIS continues to perform strongly, with articles published in the journal consistently receiving more online attention than those published in other ornithology journals. The Editor-in-

Chief handover from Dr Dominic McCafferty to Prof Jennifer Gill went smoothly and ensures that the journal continues to be in very safe hands.

Prof Vickery ended by thanking all our fantastic Council and committee members, and BOU members, for the support they provide to the ornithological community.

Prof Vickery handed over to Mr Appleton, Honorary Treasurer, to present the review of the Union's finances.

Mr Appleton began by thanking BOU members for their continued support during the recent years of covid-enforced online-only activities.

During 2022, income generated by IBIS was higher than anticipated, largely due to Open Access transitional agreements negotiated by Wiley. There was a drop in BOU funds of £101,000 in 2022, the majority of which was due to payments for Warham Studentships and Brenda and Tony Gibbs Awards, with an overall operating loss of £15,000, as was budgeted for. During the year, the BOU received a very generous donation of £10,000 which was very gratefully received and will be used to boost funding available via our Small Research Grants scheme.

Mr Appleton closed by saying that the BOU continues to set negative budgets, to enable us to fulfil our role in supporting ornithologists and the science they deliver.

The adoption of the Annual Report and approval of the Annual Accounts for 2022 were proposed by Dr Ken Smith, seconded by Dr Ailidh Barnes and agreed by those present.

4. Elections to Council

Council proposed that Dr Graeme Buchanan be elected as President to replace Prof Juliet Vickery; that Dr Emma Cunningham be elected Vice President to replace Prof Tony Fox; and that Drs Catriona Morrison, Alex Lees and Stuart Sharp be elected as Ordinary Members of Council to replace Drs Francis Daunt (as Chairs of Meetings Committee), James Gilroy (as Chairs of Records Committee) and Rosie Trevelyan.

There being no other names put forward, rule 10.3 applies and the nominations are approved.

Prof Vickery thanked Prof Tony Fox, Dr Francis Daunt, Dr James Gilroy and Dr Rosie Trevelyan for their time on Council, in particular Dr Daunt for steering Meetings Committee through challenging times.

Mr Appleton expressed thanks to Prof Vickery for her sterling work as President over the past four years and referred attendees to a more extensive thanks that would take place at the close of the conference.

5. Appointment of Auditors

Mr Appleton stated that the formal review of the auditors, originally planned for 2022 but which took place in 2023,

found our current auditors, Azets Audit Services, to perform strongly among widely-used firms in the charity sector. Based on these findings, Council approved the continued appointment of Azets Audit Services until the next review of auditors, scheduled for 2026.

The reappointment of Azets Audit Services as the Union's auditors for the 2023 accounts was proposed by Council, seconded by Mr Neil Bucknell and agreed by those present

6. Any Other Business

There being no other business, Prof Vickery declared the AGM closed at 18:15h, thanking members for their attendance and continued support.