

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Minutes of the AGM of the British Ornithologists' Union held on 1 April 2026 at the University of Nottingham

The meeting opened at 18:00h with a total of 22 members in attendance, five of whom were Trustees of the Union.

Dr Graeme Buchanan welcomed everyone and thanked them for taking the time to join us.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Prof Juliet Vickery.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM

Minutes of the previous AGM held on 2 April 2025 (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 Dr Natalia Zielonka and seconded by Dr Catriona Morrison.

3. Adoption of the Annual Report of Council & Approval of Accounts for 2025

BOU President, Dr Graeme Buchanan, introduced the Annual Report and BOU Honorary Treasurer, Dr Mark Eddowes, the Annual Accounts.

Dr Buchanan provided a summary of the 2025 Annual Report, highlighting key developments during the year.

Thanks were given to Dr Mark Eddowes for stepping in to the Honorary Treasurer role at the last AGM, and the BOU was delighted to have Prof Judy Shamoun-Baranes present the Alfred Newton Lecture, and for Prof Bob Furness to receive the Godman-Salvin prize, at last year's annual conference. The 2025 Early Professional Award was presented to Ollie Padget at the European Ornithologists' Union conference in Bangor, in August.

Last year saw the first three placements awarded as part of the new Undergraduate Summer Placement Scheme, providing financial support for undergraduate students to carry out small summer ornithological research projects which might otherwise be unaffordable.

Four new Support Officers joined us during the year: Josh Coupar-Evans as Conference Support Officer, River Stewart as Social Media Support Officer, Heather Fortune as Blog Editor and Clarissa Santos as Equality and Diversity Support Officer. They joined Ashleigh Marshall, who continued in the role of Journal Support Officer.

IBIS maintained its position as a top ornithology journal, thanks to Editor-in-Chief Jennifer Gill and the team. BOU continues to have a very good relationship with our publisher, Wiley, and are grateful to Dr Arjun Amar, Chair of IBIS Management Committee, for leading a review of Open Access models.

Three conference events were delivered in 2025: the annual spring conference BOU2025 *Frontiers in ornithology* in April, a *Woodland birds* symposium at EOU2025 in August, and the autumn conference BOUasm25 *A day at the museum* in November, at the Natural History Museum, London.

BOURC accepted Egyptian Vulture and Booted Eagle to the British List and transitioned from following IOC to Avilist taxonomy.

Dr Buchanan handed over to Dr Eddowes, Honorary Treasurer, to present the review of the Union's finances.

The BOU maintained a strong and stable financial position during 2025, although picking a single representative figure is difficult. IBIS income remained high – and the actual figure received, after closure of the accounts, was higher than estimated. Over the past 10 years, a steady increase in IBIS income of c. 3.5% per annum is roughly in line with inflation.

Investments again performed well in 2025 with an increase in capital value of £59.1k and further dividend income of £18.6k.

A total of £95k was spent on research grants, including significant spend from the Gibbs and Warham legacies.

All other income and expenditure was broadly in line with previous years.

The adoption of the Annual Report and approval of the Annual Accounts for 2025 were proposed by Dr Rob Robinson, seconded by Prof Jennifer Gill and agreed by those present.

4. Elections to Council

Council proposed that Dr Mark Eaton be re-elected as Honorary Secretary and that Dr Danielle Hinchcliffe be elected as an Ordinary Member of Council to replace Dr Catharine Horswill.

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

Dr Horswill will be co-opted to remain on Council for one year, until Dr Hinchcliffe is able to take up her Council position in April 2027.

5. Appointment of Auditors

The reappointment of Azets Audit Services as the Union's auditors for the 2025 accounts was proposed by Council and agreed by those present

6. Any Other Business

None

Dr Buchanan declared the AGM closed at 18:20h, thanking members for their attendance and continued support.