

# **Minutes of the 20<sup>TH</sup> AGM of the African Bird Club held at Natural History Museum, London SW7 at 13.30 on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

## **Present**

The following members registered their attendance at the meeting:

Jason Anderson, Graeme Backhurst, Helen Baker, Mark Barden, David Barker, Lynn Barton, Phil Belman, Keith Betton, Zul Bhatia, Nigel Birch, Tim Birkhead, Nick Bolton, David Booth, Nik Borrow, Helena Botolph, Andrew Bray, Douglas Buchanan, Paul Buckley, Enid Burman, GW Burman, Achilles Byaurhanga, Aimey Cacaes, Caroline Caddick, John Caddick, David Calder, Stephen Chapman, Richard Charles, Anthony Cheke, Robert Cheke, Anthony Cizek, Andy Clements, Tom Clements, Nonie Coulthard, Chris Cox, John Cutting, Julie Cutting, Mark Cutts, Mike Davidson, Ron Demey, Roger Dickey, Clive Dickson, Janet Dickson, Clive Elliot, John Fanshawe, Fiona Farnsworth, David Fisher, Lincoln Fishpool, Tony Fulford, Paul Gaffan, Martin Gauntlett, Margaret Gauntlett, Tony Gibbs, Ken Goodier, Ulrike Gibson, Phil Hall, AJE Harman, Andrew Harrison, Brenda Hotham, Amanda Howe, BJ Hughes, R Jeffries, Peter Jones, Mike Kings, Mrs N Lawrence, Russell Leavett, Tasso Leventis, Keith Lievesley, Stephen Lowe, Clive Mann, Sarah Marsh, Duncan McNiven, Johannes Merz, David Murdock, Ann Nason, Bill Nicoll, Geoff Orton, Ralph Parkes, Tony Payne, Ruth Payne, David Pearson, Ben Phelan, Stephen Pringle, Bill Quatrill, Rowena Quatrill, Alex Randall, Bev Randall, Geoff Randall, Nigel Redman, Peregrine Raile, Steve Roche, Pat Sellar, Rob Sheldon, Elis Simpson, Rick Simpson, Stephen Spawls, Chris Spooner, Claire Spottiswoode, Rob Summers, Bozena Summers, Rita Swinnen, Imogen Theobald, Roger Theobald, J Thomas, Neil Thomas, M Jane Walton, Don Walton, Kay White, David White, Alan Williams, Tony Wood, Barbara Woodcock, Martin Woodcock, Simon Wotton.

## **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Carolyn Hall, Jeremy Lindsell, Keith Seaton, Joost Brouwer, Kevin Ravno, Jill Warwick, Mike Blair, Mike Edgecombe, Chris Magin, Matthew Boyer, Trevor Rackstraw, Pete Leonard, Ruth Bray, David Tomlinson, Tim Stowe, David Brooks, Wendy Brooks, Chris Bowden, Richard Webb, Steph Tyler, Joan Howie, Bruktawit Abdu, Tiwonge Gawa, Yvonne Savage, Danae Sheehan, John Farnsworth.

## **2. Minutes of the 2013 AGM.**

The minutes had been circulated; Geoff Randall proposed acceptance of the minutes as a true record, and this was seconded by Bill Quatrill. The proposal was carried unanimously and the chairman signed the minutes.

## **3. Matters arising**

There were none that would not be dealt with by subsequent items.

## **4. Report of the Council**

In his report as Chairman of the Council, Keith Betton was pleased that membership at the end of 2013 had increased to around 1200 and he particularly thanked Rockjumper and Ashanti Tours both of whom had offered free ABC memberships to their customers. ABC now has members in 60 or more countries There were 33 Corporate Sponsors in membership under the current scheme. A new Corporate Sponsor Scheme is being revamped for 2014 with 3 grades of membership, Gold Silver and Bronze.

Keith also announced that the Club had supported 178 projects during the 20 years since the club's inception to which ABC's Conservation Fund had contributed over £170,000. He expressed gratitude to those individual members who had made personal donations to support the Club's work. Once again it had been

possible to send books and binoculars to Africa, and he encouraged members to tell the Club if they were visiting an area to which such items could be taken by hand.

The front cover of the Bulletin had been redesigned, working towards an online version being available. AFBID continues to be a success and there are 1000 people registered on ABC's online discussion group and 16,000 people follow ABC on Facebook.

ABC will attend BBWF 2014 (14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> August 2014) with an updated stand this year

Keith welcomed the new proposed African Council members and explained that they would be able to take a full role on Council via Skype and Email when they were not present in the UK

In closing the Chairman thanked everyone who had helped the Club achieve so much in 2013, and said that he was particularly looking forward to 2014 **Council**: The Council roles for 2013 were: Chairman – Keith Betton; Vice Chairman - John Caddick; Secretary – Geoff Orton; Treasurer – Stephen Pringle; Conservation Officer – Chris Magin; and Corporate Sponsor Officer – Richard Charles. During the year, Nigel Birch took on the role of Country Representatives Co-ordinator. Nigel Birch, Phil Hyde and Paul Buckley became trustees and Phil Hyde is taking over from Geoff Orton as Secretary in 2014.

#### **5. Presentation of the Accounts for 2013 and the Treasurer's Report**

Copies of the Summarised Accounts, included as an attachment to the agenda, were distributed at the meeting. Stephen Pringle presented the accounts and reported that 2013 had been a good year for the Club's finances. Income for 2013 was £43,008, an increase of £5,202 over 2012 resulting from a continuing generous level of donations to the Conservation fund. Net Income was £10,864, which was £2,822 less than the previous year, but the expenditure on Conservation Projects had increased from £19,703 to £33,633.

The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Kay White, seconded by Douglas Buchanan and approved unanimously.

#### **6. Election of Trustees**

The following Trustees stood down having completed their term of office: John Caddick, Danae Sheehan; the following agreed to stand for re-election: Keith Betton, Richard Charles, Geoff Orton, Stephen Pringle. The Trustees propose the following new Trustees: Bruktawit Abdu, Nigel Birch, Paul Buckley, Tiwonge Gawa, Carolyn Hall, Phil Hyde and Chris Magin

All of the above were proposed by Nigel Redman, seconded by Duncan McDonald and unanimously elected as Trustees of the Club:

#### **7. Election of Executive Officers for 2014**

The following were proposed by Tony Wood, seconded by Helen Baker and unanimously elected as Executive Officers of the Club: Chairman: Keith Betton; Vice Chairman: Richard Charles; Treasurer: Stephen Pringle, Secretary: Phil Hyde.

#### **8. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Stephen Pringle proposed, Alan Williams seconded the appointment and the meeting unanimously confirmed Michael Goddard as Independent Examiner for 2014.

#### **9. Any other Business**

It was suggested that badges should be provided for all attendees at the meeting and the Chairman concurred.

#### **10. Close of Meeting.**

The meeting closed at 14.00.