Minutes of the 22nd AGM of the African Bird Club held at Natural History Museum, London SW7 at 13.30 on Saturday 16th April 2016

Present
The following members registered their attendance at the meeting:

1. Apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Bruktawit Abdu, Graeme Backhurst, Nigel Birch, Mike Blair, Peter Browne, Joost Brouwer, Moussa Diop, James Ferguson-Lees, David Fisher, Tiwonge Gawa, John Hughes, Geoff Orton, Derek Pomeroy, Bev Randall, Geoff Randall, Momoh Sesay, Alan Williams and Barbara Woodcock.

2. Minutes of the 21st AGM, 11th April 2015
The minutes had been circulated; Bill Quantrell proposed acceptance of the minutes as a true record. Keith Betton seconded this. The proposal was carried unanimously and the chairman signed the minutes.

3. Matters arising
One member commented that the date of this years meeting was ideal in avoiding school holidays. There were no other matters that would not be dealt with by subsequent items.

In his report as Chairman of the Council, Richard Charles (RC) noted that membership at the end of 2015 had increased slightly from 1061 to 1099, with members in more than 60 countries.

In October 2015 Council agreed the ABC strategy to 2020, which was developed by Paul Buckley & Nigel Birch. In summary, it outlines the club’s external ambitions (Conservation awards; networking in Africa, mentoring/capacity building and continuing to see ABC develop as a knowledge source) and commitment to governance & management (membership development, maintenance and expansion of resources, support for and expansion of country representatives; governance in all administration). The Chairman thanked Dr Chris Magin, Conservation Officer, and his colleagues on the Conservation Committee (Julius Arinaitwe, Phil Atkinson, Tim Dodman, Lincoln Fishpool & Peter Jones) for their hard work during the year assessing grant applications. During 2015, £25,400 peer reviewed grants were awarded, funding 13 projects in 8 countries. Since 1996, more than £225,000 grants have been awarded, funding 204 projects in 41 countries and aiding delegates attending 3 Pan-African Ornithological Conferences.

Specifically, the projects funded in 2015 were as follows: Lake Elementaita Environmental Education (Kenya); Infection cycles in Mauritius Parakeet (Mauritius); Fox’s Weaver Survey (Uganda); Vulture Survey in NW Zimbabwe (Zimbabwe); Grauer’s Swamp-warbler Survey (Uganda); Hinde’s Babbler Conservation Month (Kenya); Ornithological Survey of the Nokolo-Koba (Senegal); Nahan’s Partridge Survey (Uganda); Madagascar Pochard Conservation WWF (Madagascar); Kibale Forest Schools Programme (Uganda); Forest Fragment Connectivity in Taita Hills (Kenya); Bird seed dispersion in Sáo Tomé forests (São Tomé); Ornithological Survey of Mount Nilo (Tanzania). Full details of all previous projects which have been funded can be found on the ABC website at http://www.africanbirdclub.org/conservation-fund. A big thank you is extended to our individual project sponsors during 2015. These were: Avifauna/ Daniel Bengtsson; Paul Bristow; Richard Charles; Julian Francis; Paul Lascelles;
Tasso Leventis; March Conservation Fund/ TIDES Foundation; Chris Spooner. In addition, Council thanks all who have supported the Club financially in 2015 – it is much appreciated.

The ABC Bulletin continues to be a very high quality publication, thanks to editors Guy Kirwan and Ron Demey. During 2015, Council has been exploring electronic storage of the Bulletin allowing universal access through the Biodiversity Heritage Library. The aims of BHL are to Inspiring discovery through free access to biodiversity knowledge; and to improve research methodology by collaboratively making biodiversity literature openly available to the world as part of a global biodiversity community. There will be rolling three-year latency to current issue of BABC.

In addition, provision of an ABC eBulletin is in progress. This will be available in Africa first and will be produced by PageSuite. Access will be available from mobiles, tablet and desktop platforms. There will be full e-publication functionality and volume 23.2 of BABC will be road tested.

ABC media-related resources continued to grow in 2015. The ABC website underwent a significant rebuild in 2014 thanks to John Caddick and Southmedia. The AFBID database now has 24,022 images of 2,194 species contributed by almost 1,000 photographers. Xeno-canto contains 18,601 sound recordings of 1,820 species, contributed by 216 recordists. The ABC Yahoo discussion group has more than 1000 participants, ABC Facebook page has 3496 followers and the ABC Twitter account, launched last in 2015, has 396 followers.

Corporate sponsors continue to give significant support to ABC and these are as follows:

**GOLD** Birding Ecotours; Rockjumper

**SILVER** Birding & Beyond; Birding Africa; Letaka Safaris; Limosa Holidays; Safari Consultants

**BRONZE** Akamba African Bird Walks; Ashanti African Tours; Birdfinders; Birdquest; Field Guides Inc.; Lawson’s Birding Safaris; Nature’s Wonderland Safaris; Safarivise; Sunbird; Venture Uganda

At the BirdFair in 2015, £1500 was raised through sale of art and prints, kindly donated by Martin Woodcock, for the Madagascar Pochard Appeal. The Chairman presented a cheque for that sum in October 2015 to Martin Spray CEO of the WWT at Martin Mere, Lancs. More than £1000 was also raised in addition, to support the ABC’s investment in the Taita Apalis Land Lease.

ABC will attend BBWF 2016 (19th to 21st August 2016) with the updated stand as last year. Vice-chairman Paul Buckley will present the ABC lecture concerning IBA’s and the vulture crisis.

Council has initiated links with several young birders groups including the Next Generation Birder’s (NGB) in the UK; the Champions of the Flyway; Youth Africa Birding (YAB). YAB is a group for 16-28 year olds, has a Facebook membership of 300 and recruits throughout Africa. BirdLife SA endorses YAB.

Upcoming events in addition to the BirdFair are the PAOC in Senegal, 16th-21st October 2016. The conference theme is Global challenges: threats and opportunities for birds in Africa. Dr Chris Magin will present the ABC Plenary lecture. The ABC fundraising tour, organised and sponsored by Birdquest, is to Sao Tome and Principe, January 14th-21st 2018 (note the year!).

The Chairman concluded by thanking those who have helped in various ways during the year:

**Events:** Helen Baker, Chris Bowden, Caroline Caddick, Janet Dickson, Charles Gallimore, Bill & Rowena Quantrill, Geoff & Bev Randall, Neil & Jill Thomas, Steph Tyler and Alan Williams. **Bulletin:** Guy Kirwan, Ron Demey, Nigel Redman, and Lionel Sineux. **Website content:** John Caddick, Paul van Giersbergen, Phil Hyde and Chris Abrams. **AFBID:** Kevin Vang & Wojciech Dabrowka of Bird Explorers.

Thanks also to the RSPB for mailing our Bulletins and to BirdLife International for acting as our mailing address.

The Council roles for 2015 were: Chairman – Richard Charles; General Secretary – Phil Hyde; Membership Secretary – Heather Tarrant; Treasurer – Chris Spooner; Conservation Officer – Chris Magin; Corporate Sponsor Officer – Stephen Lowe; Country Representatives Co-ordinator - Nigel Birch.

5. Presentation of the Accounts for 2015 and the Treasurer’s Report
Copies of the Summarised Accounts were distributed at the meeting. Chris Spooner presented the accounts. Gross income for 2015 was £60,755, compared with £49,845 in 2014. Net income was appreciably higher than in
2014, largely due to the outlay by the club on the Taita Apalis project. CS projected an overall loss for 2016 of £3,800 and proposed subscription increases to some categories of membership. These would be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(££)</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Proposed</th>
<th>Postage</th>
<th>Net</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest of the World</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>18</td>
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</table>

Members voted unanimously on a show of hands to accept the subscription increases as presented. Chris also demonstrated the value of Gift Aid to the club:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(££)</th>
<th>Non-UK taxpayer</th>
<th>Basic</th>
<th>40%</th>
<th>45%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subscription</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax recovered</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5.25</td>
<td>5.25</td>
<td>5.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value to ABC</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>26.25</td>
<td>26.25</td>
<td>26.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost to member</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>15.75</td>
<td>14.44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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He further showed the value of legacies to the club, a delicate subject area but one not previously explored. The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by John Caddick, seconded by Nigel Redman and approved unanimously.

6. Election of Trustees
The following Trustees stood down having completed their term of office:
There were none.

The following Trustees agreed to stand for re-election: Bruktawit Abdu, Chris Abrams, Nigel Birch, Paul Buckley, Richard Charles, Tiwonge Gawa, Phil Hall, Phil Hyde, Stephen Lowe, Chris Magin, Geoff Orton and Chris Spooner. All of the above were proposed by Kay White, seconded by John Caddick and unanimously elected as Trustees of the Club.
The Trustees propose the following new Trustee, representing the Next Generation Birder’s: Josie Hewitt.
Proposed by Richard Charles, seconded by Keith Betton and unanimously elected as Trustee of the Club.

7. Election of Executive Officers for 2016
The following have agreed to stand for re-election/election as Executive Officers of the Club: Chairman: Richard Charles; Vice Chairman: Paul Buckley; Treasurer: Chris Spooner; Secretary: Phil Hyde.
These were proposed by Martin Woodcock, seconded by Nigel Redman and unanimously elected.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner
Chris Spooner proposed that ABC continue with Michael Goddard as Independent Examiner for 2016 and John Caddick seconded the appointment. The appointment was unanimously confirmed.

9. Any other Business
9.1 RC thanked the whole of the ABC team for their help and support during the year. in the last 7 years. He concluded by asking all present to consider asking one or more friends and associates to take up ABC Membership.


11. Date and time of the 2017 AGM – Saturday, 1st April 2017 at the Flett Lecture Theatre, Natural History Museum, London.