

# The SOC

## Scotland's Bird Club

### COUNCIL MEETING 78/03

### 10<sup>th</sup> August 2014 Minutes



Session 78/03 of Council was held at 10.30 hrs on the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2014 at the RSPB Loch Leven, Kinross. The meeting was chaired by the President Chris McNerny, who welcomed the following members: Mike Martin (Hon Secretary), Alan Fox (Hon Treasurer), David Bain, David Clugston, Roger Gooch, Alan Knox, James Main, Ray Murray and David Rackham.

In attendance: Wendy Hicks and Jane Cleaver

#### Action

- |    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | <b>Apologies for absence and welcome</b>                       | Apologies were received from: Alison Creamer, Paul Taylor and Ian Thomson   |
| 2. | <b>Minutes of Council Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2014</b> | The minutes for meeting 78/02 were approved, subject to minor amendments  |
| 3. | <b>Matters arising</b>   | <p>3.3.4.11. Agreed that Branch Awards and National Honours should be an annual agenda item for August meetings. WH confirmed that the office will circulate an email to branch secretaries around March each year with reminder of Branch Awards process/criteria and 1<sup>st</sup> Aug deadline for nominations. All agreed that it is appropriate that serving branch committee members should be excluded from nominations.</p> <p>7. WH has signed agreement with the Environment Agency aimed at helping small organisations such as ours to digitise their archive material. Project pending Heritage Lottery funding (to the EA).</p> <p>10. Confirmed that we would take books to sell at the Rutland Bird Fair</p> <p>12. Confirmed that in due course we would suggest Bob McGowan as a suitable rep for the RSPB Scottish Committee</p> <p>13. Noted that the discussion on satellite tagging sponsorship for Kestrel has been put on hold until next year, after a problem had arisen over licensing. It was agreed that we would honour our commitment next year should the project proceed.</p> |
| 4. | <b>Finance</b>   | <p>1. AF spoke to the a/c circulated. He has met with Sandy Scotland, who has examined and approved the 13/14 a/c, and these have now been inserted to the draft Annual Report. With exclusion of legacy income, our a/c for this year is at similar level to last, although sales income is down a little. AF advised that we are still working steadily towards a break even situation. One legacy from Margaret Mitchell</p>   |

looks like coming in at c£30k, and we have been advised of another from a Mr Pollock, although amount currently unknown.

2. Alan advised that he has drafted a reply on ethical investment following enquiry from Alan Drever.
3. Council is encouraging of us continuing with Sandy Scotland as independent examiner, subject to approval at AGM, but we should consider going for an independent tender for the next year.

5	<b>Annual Report</b>	A number of amendments to the draft were discussed. WH was thanked for her considerable work on bringing things to an advanced draft.	
6	<b>Hon. Secretary Vacancy</b>	CM acknowledged with Council that with MM having indicated his wish to stand down in the spring we were still trying to find a replacement. CM asked members to consider suitable individuals to take on the role. MM indicated that he was content to carry on until a replacement was found, and would be present for the AGM, although he would be on annual leave for the late November Council meeting. WH circulated a draft remit for the Secretary role for consideration.	<b>Council</b>
7	<b>Membership Development</b>	JC spoke to draft promotional material that she circulated, and intended to have completed for the Rutland Bird Fair. She advised of the success of the IoM sponsored week, and it was agreed that we would wish to continue with this for a further year. MM was asked to convey Council's thanks to the IoM committee for support of the observatory in this venture.	<b>MM</b>
8	<b>Photography policy for SOC publications</b>	At the request of Ian Andrews, Council was asked to consider the wording of the Bird Guides policy statement on publication of photographs as a potential for adoption by the SOC. This was agreed.	
9	<b>SOC Re-structure and Constitution amendments</b>	The latest draft of a proposed new structure was circulated. CM advised of the meeting between Management Committee and the solicitors; we would be maintaining as much of the constitution in terms of aims whilst ensuring that we are going to be SCIO compliant. It was noted that we now had agreement from FIBOT for dispensing with our former agreement with them. Council then proceeded to address the draft document and agreed amendments to this to put to the solicitors. It was agreed that should the lawyers indicate any concerns over amendments approved by Council then these should be circulated prior to our commitment to putting a final version to the AGM.	<b>Council</b>
10	<b>Branch Award Nominations</b>	WH advised of the nominations received to date: Ayrshire: Angus Hogg and Henry Martin; Borders: Graham Pyatt and James Lough; Central: Cliff Henty; Clyde: Val Wilson and Iain Gibson; Dumfries: Bobby Smith; Fife: Ian Cummings, David Waddell and Elizabeth Wiffen; Lothian: Rosemary Davidson and Keith Macgregor; NE Scotland: Graham Cooper, Nick Picozzi and Jane Reid. It was suggested that we confirm with branches that serving committee members should not be nominated whilst still in office.	
11	<b>Conferences</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Annual conference: WH noted that we have 65 bookings to date.</li><li>2. Clyde Spring Conference 2015: Ian Fulton is pursuing the Western Infirmary Lecture Theatre (Glasgow Uni) as a venue. The speaker list is largely complete, and the great work and support of the local branch was acknowledged.</li></ol>	
12	<b>AOB</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. CM advised of a meeting at Stirling University the previous week with Chris Wernham and John Calladine of BTO Scotland. There is a commitment to continuing joint involvement in our series of spring conferences. There was discussion on a follow-up to Atlas activities with a focus on Scottish predictions and conservation outcomes, with suggestion that funding support could be sought from the Birds of Scotland Fund. It was felt that we could look to having a BTO rep nominated for Council in a year's time (2015 AGM).</li><li>2. CM advised of discussion with Tom Dougall, and in particular the approaches Tom has made to the Scottish universities. It was agreed that we should thank Tom for his work to date, and request from him a summary of his suggested actions for the future, based on findings.</li></ol>	

3. AF advised of LINK activities and in particular the identification of 30 marine protected areas for consideration. Bird-wise the leading interest here is in relation to breeding Black guillemots and Sand eel breeding areas.

13    **Next Meeting**    30<sup>th</sup> November 2014, 10.30 at RSPB Loch Leven, Kinross

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Chris McInerny, President