

Moray Bird Club – the Moray Branch of the SOC

Minutes of AGM held on

Thursday 13 February 2020 at 7.30 pm in Elgin Museum Hall

**Apologies**

Martin Cook; Jenny Cook

**Minutes of last AGM (14 March 2019)**

These were approved by Roy Dennis and seconded by Sarah Creese.

**Chairperson's Report**

David Law (Chair) reminded the meeting of the many club activities over the past year. Five evening meetings were held over the winter, focussing on Capercaillie, the Shiants, Wildflowers of Moray and Wildlife Crime. A roundup of the highlights of the previous month's sightings in the area by Martin Cook was a short feature at the beginning of the meetings. Short talks at the members' evening meeting covered the BTO Website by Melvin Morrison, Bird Ringing by Alastair Young and the North Coast by Richard Somers Cocks. Weekend outings were held at Speymouth, Findhorn Bay, Burghead/Roseisle, Lossiemouth and the next one is planned for Spey Bay. Other activities included the Dawn Chorus outing at Loch Spynie and the Bird Race which was followed by a most enjoyable evening at Inchberry Hall. Finally, there was a successful trip to the Tomintoul area to look for Ring Ouzels. Martin Cook's course for beginners, was very well received and he donated £50 to the club from this. David Law thanked all the leaders who were involved with these activities.

David Law referred to each of the committee members individually, detailed their contribution and thanked them for all the effort they put into this. He also thanked Jenny Cook, who, while not a committee member, helped out considerably at club meetings.

David Law reminded members of the Scottish Birdwatchers' Conference in Elgin on the 21<sup>st</sup> March and said tickets were still available for this. He thanked Richard Somers Cocks and Melvin Morrison for their efficient organisation of this.

Richard Somers Cocks is the Moray Branch representative on the SOC Council and David Law thanked him for this and said that Richard had indicated that he was willing to continue with this.

David Law also reminded members about the SOC Branch Awards given to Martin Cook and Melvin Morrison in recognition of their outstanding work to the club and birding in Moray.

**Treasurer's Report**

Frank Ritchie (Treasurer) presented a breakdown of the Club's finances. He drew attention to the figure for speakers' expenses in the 2018/2019 accounts and that this amount had contributed significantly to the deficit in that year. It had been decided to no longer present a gift to the speaker in addition to their meal and this year the accounts to date were showing a surplus.

## **Election of Office Bearers for 2019 – 2020**

All the office bearers indicated their willingness to serve as committee members for another year. Further nominations were sought from the meeting, but none were forthcoming, and the proposed office-bearers and committee were elected. This was approved by Roy Dennis and seconded by Anne Burgess.

## **AOCB**

David Law explained that there was going to be an SOC Workshop taking place in Grantown in May and a representative was needed from the Moray Branch to go along to it. Although Melvin Morrison said he was willing to go he felt that perhaps there might be others who would wish to go. Anyone interested was to contact Melvin Morrison.

Richard Somers Cocks informed the group that the final preparations for the Scottish Birdwatchers' Conference were going ahead and anyone wishing to go could either pick up an application form from the table at the back of the room or else apply through the SOC online. He indicated that they would need volunteers for various activities on the day such as the selling of raffle tickets, escorting or directing visitors on the day around the building.

Richard Somers Cocks said that all the proceeds from the raffle would go the club, so it was important that the raffle is a success. Melvin Morrison reminded everyone that raffle prizes were still needed.

Alison Ritchie (Secretary)

15 February 2020