

SOC Tayside Branch
AGM minutes for 7th April 2022 by Zoom at 7.30pm

Present at meeting: Anne Reid, Barry Caudwell, Cathy Caudwell, Jeremy Greenwood, Jon Cook, Stuart Will, Mike Sedakat, Colin McLeod, Maria O'Neill, Alan Barclay, Ron Lawie, Rod Cain, Jenny Blain, Andy Wakelin and Rachael Wilbourn.

1. Apologies for Absence: Brian Brocklehurst, Ron Downing
2. The minutes were approved. Proposed by Mike Sedakat, seconded by Maria O'Neill.
3. There were no matters arising

4. Chair's Report

Anne presented the chair's report. Overall, the year has been good but uneventful given the circumstances. Joint meetings with Fife branch have well attended (albeit, there were fewer Tayside members compared to Fife). The future is looking bright though, with meetings in person being arranged this year as well as some progress with branch communications.

5. Secretary's Report

Rachael presented the Secretary's report. The key points to note are as follows:

- Membership has increased steadily despite no outings being arranged and few members joining branch Zoom talks.
- No SOC outings planned due to restrictions.
 - Jeremy Greenwood noted that outings are valuable for members and a formal arrangement should be sought with ADBC. The committee agreed and while there is a verbal agreement with ADBC, it needs to be formalised and circulated to members.
- Another Christmas social will be arranged this year at the Queens Hotel.
- All members agreed that annual bird race would be worth arranging (with Fife branch welcome to join in).
- An update was provided on branch communications and a new system for having a branch mailchimp account is currently being explored.
 - Some members mentioned they are still not receiving all branch email communications despite opting in (e.g. AGM invite, talk details and reminders). In addition, members still believe there should not be an opt in process, but an opt out, since part of the membership is to receive communications.
- A new venue has been found and two indoor meetings have been booked for winter (Sep & Dec meetings). There are some accessibility issues (e.g. steps into building and down to toilets) which were raised but the advantages are free parking near to and at venue; refreshments available by donation, and the ability to have people join online at the indoor meetings. Committee have asked for feedback from members following the first meeting.
 - It was noted that Andy Wakelin and Jenny Blain both have experience with setting up Zoom calls at indoor meetings and can help if need be.
 - If the venue turns out to not be suitable, Rod Cain suggested St John, St Andrews Ambulance or British Red Cross venues may be suitable.

Action: formalise outings with ADBC and provide details to members

Action: inform HQ about continued email communication issues

6. Treasurer's Report

There were no transactions this year and therefore zero balance change. Given this, no report was provided. The invoice for the new venue will be paid by HQ.

Action: submit excel datasheet to HQ

7. Elections:

Scott Paterson has stepped down as Perth and Kinross recorder. HQ have advertised for his replacement. Stuart Will has also stepped down as Treasurer. No nominations were received but members were reminded to contact Rachael regarding volunteers/nominations for the vacant positions.

All remaining committee members are willing to stay on committee, which members approved.

Anne Reid: Chair

Rachael Wilbourn: Secretary & Branch Representative.

Jon Cook: Angus & Dundee bird recorder

Ron Downing: General Member

Mike Sedakat: General Member

Maria O'Neill: General member

8. Future meetings.

Members were notified that the branch committee have decided to restart face to face (F2F) meetings this winter with two dates booked with the new venue for 1st September and 1st December. A booking invoice will be submitted to HQ in advance.

The September meeting will have a local focus, and member contributions were requested for the December's F2F members night.

9. AOCB

Members were reminded of upcoming NE Scotland branch MOTUS talk happening on 11th April at 730 pm over Zoom.

Meeting closed at 8:17pm