

The SOC

Scotland's Bird Club



80th SOC Annual General Meeting 17:00, 24th September 2016 The Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry

*SOC Scottish Charity Number: SC 009859
A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation*

- 1 Present** James Main (Acting President), Paul Taylor(Acting Vice-President), Alan Fox (Hon. Treasurer), David Heeley (Hon. Secretary), c72 Members.
- 2 Apologies for absence** Apologies were received from Norman Elkins, Biddy Gray, Joan Howie, Carol James, David Jenkins, Margaret Jenkins, Ann Macintosh, Colin Macintosh, Campbell McLellan, Vicky McLellan, Mike Martin, John Savory, Ian Wallace and Alastair Whitelaw.
- 3 In memoriam:
Ray Muray,
Ducan Watt.** The Chair (James Main) noted with shock and great sadness the recent and unexpected death of Council member Ray Murray. He read a moving tribute from past-President Mark Holling that illustrated and highlighted Ray Murray's significant contributions to the SOC and his key role in the birding community in the Borders.

The Chair also informed the meeting of the recent death of Club member Duncan Watt after a long illness and presented a tribute to his contribution to the SOC in Ayrshire.
- 4 Minutes of the
79th AGM, 31st
October 2015** The Minutes for meeting 31st October 2015 were approved without correction. There were no matters arising.

Adoption of the Minutes:

Proposed: Paul Taylor

Seconded: Doreen Main

Approved without dissent.
- 5 Annual Report
2015-2016** The Chair, James Main presented the Annual Report for 2015 – 2016. The Club continued in a solid financial state, and the Club as always was well supported by its various committees. He concluded by thanking all who had contributed to the production of the Annual Report, the staff at Waterston House and the Branch Committees. No questions or queries were forthcoming from the Meeting

Adoption of the Annual Report:

Proposed: Chris Wernham

Seconded: David Jardine

Approved without dissent.

6 Annual Accounts 2015 - 2016

The Hon. Treasurer, Alan Fox (AF), presented the Annual Accounts. On behalf of the Club he offered thanks to the Club bookkeeper, Jean Torrance and to Sandy Scotland, the Independent Financial Examiner. He drew the Meeting's attention to the fact that the Accounts were the first set since the Club assumed its new status as an SCIO, and that this was reflected in a change in the format in which they were presented. Summarising, he noted that the Club was in possession of significant assets amounting overall to some £1.5m with approximately £260k in reserves which equated to more than a whole year's expenditure. He noted the healthy position of sales at Waterston House and concluded that the Club continued to be on a sound financial footing. There were no questions from the floor.

Adoption of the Accounts:

Proposed: Roger Gooch

Seconded: Richard Leslie

Approved without dissent.

7 Election of Council Members

The Chair, James Main, informed the meeting that due to a number of factors such as secondments and changes in status, the situation had arisen whereby vacancies for all three Elected Members to Council had arisen at the same time. He had contacted two of the Elected Members due to stand down and was pleased to note that Alison Creamer was prepared to serve for another one year, and that Bob McGowan was prepared to serve for another two years. The meeting was invited to support this proposal, which it did without dissent.

The Chair noted that Chris Wernham had been nominated as the third Elected Member, and invited any further nominations from the floor. None were forthcoming.

Election of Chris Wernham as Elected Member:

Nominated: David Jardine

Seconded: Richard Leslie

Elected unopposed.

8 Election of Office Bearers

The Chair, James Main noted that he had been in the role of Acting President since the resignation of Ian Thomson. He passed the chairing of the meeting to the Secretary, David Heeley (DH), to conduct the election of President.

DH noted that James Main had indicated that he was willing to stand for election, and that no further written nominations had been received. Further nominations were invited from the floor, and none were forthcoming.

Election of James Main as President

Nominated: Paul Taylor

Seconded: Roger Gooch

Elected unopposed

The Secretary congratulated James Main on his appointment, which was met with acclamation by the Meeting, and passed the Chairing of the meeting back to the newly elected President.

The Chair noted that the election of President created a vacancy for Vice President. He was pleased to inform the meeting that Jeremy Wilson had indicated that he was willing to stand for this position. Further nominations were invited and none were forthcoming.

Election of Jeremy Wilson as Vice President

Nominated: James Main

Seconded: Paul Taylor

Elected unopposed.

The Chair congratulated Jeremy Wilson on his appointment, which was met with acclamation by the Meeting.

The Chair informed the Meeting that the Alan Fox, the Honorary Treasurer, was standing down after many years of excellent service to the Club. He was pleased to note that Andrew Thorpe was willing to stand for this position. No further nominations were forthcoming.

Election of Andrew Thorpe as Honorary Treasurer

Nominated: Alan Knox

Seconded: Alan Fox

Elected unopposed.

The Chair congratulated Andrew Thorpe

The Chair informed the Meeting that David Heeley was prepared to continue in his role as Honorary Secretary and sought approval for the continuation.

Approval that David Heeley continue as Honorary Secretary

there being no other nominations; carried *nem con*

9 Appointment of an Independent Financial Examiner

The Chair noted that it was formally necessary for the Club to approve the appointment of an Independent Financial Examiner on an annual basis. The present Examiner, Sandy Scotland, had indicated that he was willing to continue in this role, and the Chair, noting his effectiveness, recommended that he be re-appointed.

Approval that Sandy Scotland continue as the Independent Financial Examiner to the Club

Proposed: Jeremy Wilson

Seconded: Paul Taylor

Approved without dissent.

10 AOCB

On behalf of the Club, the Chair passed a vote of thanks to Alan Fox on his relinquishing the post of Hon. Treasurer. He noted the significant contributions that Alan Fox had made over a period of some seven to eight years in both the financial management of the SOC and also in leading the process of conversion to an SCIO. He presented AF with a small token of the Club's appreciation.

There was no other competent business

11 Date and place of next meeting

The Chair announced that the next Annual General Meeting of the Club would be held at the Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry on 21st October 2017.

The meeting closed at approximately 17:30.

Signed:



Date: 21st October 2017

James Main, President