

The SOC

Scotland's Bird Club



79th SOC Annual General Meeting
17:00, 31st October 2015
The Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry

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

- 1 Present** Chris McInerny (President), Ian Thomson (Vice-President), Alan Fox (Hon. Treasurer), David Heeley (Hon. Secretary), c70 Members.
- 2 Apologies for absence** Apologies were received from Friedrich Cornelius, Iain Gibson, Frank Hamilton, Mark Holling and Mike Martin.
- 3 In memoriam: Keith Macgregor** The Chair (Chris McInerny) noted with great sadness the recent death of Hon. President Keith Macgregor. He described the long and distinguished contribution that he had made to the SOC, recalling the many roles that he had held at both national and local level. He concluded with a moving personal tribute to the support and encouragement that he had received from Keith on assuming the Presidency, which met with warm appreciation from the meeting.
- 4 Minutes of the 78th AGM, 1st November 2014** The Minutes for meeting 1st November 2015 were approved without correction. There were no matters arising.
Adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Janet Crummy, seconded by Alastair Whitelaw, and approved without dissent
- 5 Annual Report 2014-2015** The Chair, Chris McInerny (CMcI), presented the Annual Report highlighting the progress that the Club had made over the preceding year, the sound financial state that the Club was in, and the successful activities of the various committees. He noted with satisfaction the completion of the process to convert the club to a SCIO, the increase in membership numbers and the development activity at Branch level. He concluded by thanking all who had contributed to the production of the Annual Report which was an important document for reporting back to members on the way that the Club is managed on their behalf.

In response to a comment from the floor on the different levels of Branch membership, the Development Officer (Jane Cleaver) noted that there was no clear reason why the Lothian branch in particular was able to attract such a large membership (approximately on third of the Club total) compared to other branches close to centres of high population. The proximity of Waterston House might have some effect but this would not hold across the whole area.

Adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by Stuart Rivers, seconded by David Clugston, and approved without dissent

**6 Annual
Accounts 2014-
2015**

The Hon. Treasurer, Alan Fox (AF), presented the Annual Accounts. He noted that these would be the last set of accounts in the current format, representing the final accounts prior to the Club conversion to a SCIO. He noted that the Club was in a sound financial position having recorded a surplus of approximately £2.8k to the end of March 2015. The Club's assets had increased somewhat as a consequence, and it held investments of approximately £360k. He noted the welcome legacies from Margaret Mitchell and Robert Pollock that were received during the year. He concluded by offering his thanks to the Independent Financial Examiner, Sandy Scotland, Jean Torrance at Waterston House, and Elizabeth Robertson of Morton Fraser Solicitors for the work on the SCIO conversion.

Commenting from the floor, David Jardine (DJ) (AF having confirmed that the Club continues to have a leasing arrangement with the Gosford Estates for the access road to Waterston House and a significant proportion of the car park) drew the AGM's attention to the Community Right to Buy Act. As a point of information he noted that, should the SOC Council consider acquiring the leased land at some point in the future, it might be possible to apply a Community Interest test that would enable the land to be purchased through the Right to Buy legislation. The Chair (CMcI) noted that purchase of the land was not under consideration by Council at the present moment, but thanked DJ for his helpful comments which might prove valuable in the future as the Club continues to develop its assets at Waterston House.

Adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Norman Elkins, seconded by Vicky McLellan, and approved without dissent

**7 Election of
Office Bearers**

The President, Chris McNerny noted that he had reached the end of his two year term of office. He stated that he was delighted that the Vice-President, Ian Thomson, was prepared to take on the role of President.

Election of Ian Thomson as President

Nominated: Chris McNerny

Seconded: Janet Crummy

Elected unopposed

Ian Thomson's (IT) election was greeted with acclamation, and Chris McNerny passed the chairing of the meeting over to IT, congratulating him on his new post.

Ian Thomson paid a tribute to Chris, noting his effective chairing of Council through some very difficult issues, and in particular his ability to obtain consensus and to generate a positive and forward looking atmosphere. On behalf of SOC he thanked Chris for his leadership, and concluded by thanking the AGM for electing him as President.

Election of James Main as Vice-President

Nominated: Ian Thomson

Seconded: Paul Taylor

Elected unopposed

The Chair (IT) informed the AGM that the incumbent Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary were prepared to continue in these roles and invited other nominations.

Approval that Alan Fox continue as Honorary Treasurer

there being no other nominations; carried *nem con*

Approval that David Heeley continue as Honorary Secretary

there being no other nominations; carried *nem con*

The Chair informed the AGM that Richard Leslie (Lothian Branch) had been co-opted to Council and sought approval from the AGM that he be elected to Council as an Elected Member, inviting other nominations.

Approval that Richard Leslie be an Elected Member of SOC Council

Nominated: James Main

Seconded: Paul Taylor

Elected unopposed

8 Appointment of an Independent Financial Examiner

The Chair (IT) confirmed 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 IT, noting his effectiveness, recommended that he be re-appointed.

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

Proposed: David Jardine

Seconded: Carol James

Approved without dissent

9 AOCB

A comment was received from the floor noting with appreciation the clarity of the presentation of the management data regarding branch and membership development in the Annual Report for 2014 – 2015. This highlighted the disparity in size of the different branches, especially the large membership in Lothian. This prompted the query as to whether the current branch structure remained appropriate, or whether Lothian (for example) might advantageously be subdivided. The Chair (IT) responded that the issue of Branch Development was a matter of continuing discussion at Council, and that a review of the existing structures would be considered at a future meeting of Council. He noted further that there was no reason in principle why Lothian Branch might not be split into two or more Branches, but this was not an issue that had been discussed at Council thus far.

10 Date and place of next meeting

The Chair (IT) announced that the next Annual General Meeting of the Club would be held at the Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry in 2016 at approximately the same time of year, at a date that had yet to be determined.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 17:30.

Signed:



Date: 24th September
2016

James Main, President