

# The SOC

## Scotland's Bird Club



### 81<sup>st</sup> SOC Annual General Meeting 17:00, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2017 The Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry

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

- 1 Present** James Main (President), David Heeley (Hon. Secretary), Andrew Thorpe (Hon. Treasurer), c64 Members.
- 2 Apologies for absence** Apologies were received from Jeremy Wilson (Vice-President), Mark Holling, Geraldine Mercer, David Jenkins and Margaret Jenkins.
- 3 Minutes of the 80<sup>th</sup> AGM, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2016** The Minutes for meeting 24<sup>th</sup> September 2016 were approved subject to a minor correction. There were no matters arising.

**Adoption of the Minutes:**

**Proposed:** Norman Elkins

**Seconded:** Stephen Hunter

Approved without dissent.
- 4 Annual Report 2016-2017** The Chair, James Main presented the Annual Report for 2016 – 2017. The Chair thanked 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:** Alison Creamer

**Seconded:** Vicky McLellan

Approved without dissent.
- 5 Annual Accounts 2016 - 2017** The Hon. Treasurer, Andrew Thorpe (AT), presented the Annual Accounts. This being his first year in post he expressed particular thanks to his predecessor, Alan Fox, and the Club bookkeeper, Jean Torrance for their help and guidance in preparing the Accounts. He also paid tribute to Sandy Scotland, the Independent Financial Examiner. He noted that the Annual Report, of necessity, contained a synoptic view of the financial state of the

Club, and indicated that he would be happy to provide a more detailed spreadsheet available to any member who requested one. The Club showed a surplus of some £45k at the end of the financial year, which compared extremely favourably with a deficit of £25k in 2015- 2016. He cautioned that this must be seen in a wider context as the figures are heavily influenced by legacy income, and his analysis had shown that income and expenditure virtually balanced out over a seven year period. Overall the Club held some £1.5m in assets at the present time and was in sound financial state. Considering investments, he noted that Brewin Dolphin continued as SOC investment managers, and the unit trusts that they manage had produced a healthy surplus, largely due to positive movements in the Stock Exchange. This surplus was an invaluable source of income for the Club. He noted the extremely generous legacy of £20k from the estate of the late Duncan Watt, the winding up of the *200 Club* which had produced a welcome and steady stream of income over many years, and the increase in the Annual Subscription for members, being the first for four years. AT informed the meeting that Council had formed a Finance Committee which would oversee investments, budgeting, capital projects and income streams. He noted that the Bookkeeper, Jean Torrance would be retiring and that Council had agreed to appoint a Finance Officer with a broader remit that would encompass financial planning, budgeting and investment advice. This would provide the underpinnings of the work of the Finance Committee. There were no questions from the floor.

**Adoption of the Accounts:**

**Proposed:** Lesley Creamer

**Seconded:** David Jardine

Approved without dissent.

**6 Election of Council Members**

The Chair, James Main, noted that Alison Creamer was demitting office after three years as an Elected Member of Council. On behalf of the meeting he expressed thanks for her valuable contributions to the work of Council throughout this period.

The Chair noted that Prof. Will Cresswell had been nominated as a replacement Elected Member, and invited any further nominations from the floor. None were forthcoming.

**Election of Prof. Cresswell as Elected Member:**

**Nominated:** Chris Wernham

**Seconded:** Richard Leslie

Elected unopposed.

**7 Election of Hon Secretary**

The Chair, James Main noted that the period of office of the Hon. Secretary (David Heeley) was due to end. He informed the meeting that David Heeley had indicated that he was willing to continue serving and that he was willing to stand for election. Further nominations were invited from the floor, and none were forthcoming.

**Election of David Heeley as Hon. Secretary**

**Nominated:** Melvin Morrison

**Seconded:** David Rackham

Elected unopposed

The Chair thanked David Heeley for his contributions to date and congratulated him on his appointment, which was met with acclamation by the Meeting.

**8 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:** Melvin Morrison

**Seconded:** Joan Howie

Approved without dissent.

**9 AOCB**

There was no other competent business

**10 Date and place of next meeting**

The Chair announced that the next Annual General Meeting of the Club would be held on the Saturday evening of the next Annual Conference in 2018. The venue and date had yet to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at approximately 17:30.

Signed:



Date: 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018

James Main, President