

Moray Bird Club – the Moray Branch of the SOC
Minutes of AGM held on
Thursday 9 March 2023 at 7.30 pm In The Gallery, Elgin Library

1.Apologies

None

2.Minutes of last AGM (10 February 2022)

These were approved by Jen Graham and seconded by Richard Somers Cocks.

3.Chairperson's Report

The Chairperson's Report was given by Martin Cook.

The Club's last AGM was held in February 2022.

There has been a change of venue since then to The Gallery, Elgin Library.

There were five in-person meetings held:

13 October -Martin Cook – Thirty Years On- the New Birds of Moray and Nairn

10 November – Glenlivet with Mark Johnston

8 December – Restoring the Wild – reintroducing Birds and Mammals at home and abroad with Roy Dennis

12 January – The Cairngorm Connect Predator Project with Kenny Kortland

9 February – Citizen Science and Sea Ducks. The Moray Firth SPA Surveys with Jen Graham

At the start of each of these talks Martin Cook provided an update on recent sightings for the last month.

There was a very good turnout at these meetings.

The SOC also provided six Zoom meetings.

There were five outings:

16 October - Findhorn Bay led by Richard Somers Cocks

13 November - Cloddach Wetlands led by Martin Cook

10th December – Lossiemouth led by Melvin Morrison

28 January - Spey Bay led by Martin Cook

18 February – Burghead to Cummington led by Richard Somers Cocks

All these outings were well attended.

On 21 May the Big Birdwatch was held. Nine groups took part either individually or in small groups over 12 hours. 119 different species were recorded on the day. The groups met for a social evening at Inchberry Hall afterwards.

On the 18 March the SOC/BTO annual conference took place in Elgin Town Hall. There were approximately two hundred bird enthusiasts who attended. This was a big success. Martin Cook thanked Richard Somers Cocks and Melvin Morrison for their sterling work both in preparation for the event and at the event which ran smoothly throughout.

There were also thanks given to Alastair Young who represented the Branch when he attended a SOC Branches' Workshop in Grantown on Spey. He reported back that many of the things suggested there, we were doing already in our Branch.

Martin Cook thanked David Law who had been the Chair at the beginning of the last season for his work during the pandemic and also chairing the Zoom Meetings. He also thanked Frank Ritchie for providing the technology help with the Zoom meetings. He praised Alison Ritchie for her role as secretary. He also thanked Richard Somers Cocks for being the branch representative at the SOC Council meetings and efficiently reporting back to the committee on them. Thanks were also given to Jen Graham for helping with the teas and to Jenny Cook for providing some baking.

Martin Cook concluded that on the whole it had been a very active year and there were many new faces.

Thanks were given to Martin Cook for his efficient work in keeping his website up to date for all to access.

4.Treasurer's Report

Frank Ritchie said that the club's finances had received a boost with the proceeds of the raffle from the SOC/BTO conference held in Elgin in March. The club currently breaks even on its monthly meetings. The club has total funds of £1110.83 although there are still some invoices to come from Moray Council for the hire of the Gallery.

5.Election of Office Bearers for 2022 – 2023

Martin Cook is willing to continue as Chair. Frank Ritchie will continue as Treasurer. Alison Ritchie indicated that she wished to step down from her role as secretary and from the committee. Chris Thomas is willing to take on the role as secretary and Jen Graham has joined the committee. David Law, Melvin Morrison , Alastair Young and Richard Somers Cocks are willing to continue to serve as committee members for another year.

This was approved by Jenny Cook and seconded by David Law.

Further nominations were sought from the meeting. None were forthcoming.

6.AOCB

None

Alison Ritchie (Secretary)

10 March 2023