SOC Tayside Branch AGM minutes for 6th April 2023 The Vine, 43 Magdalen Yard Road, Dundee, DD1 4NE 7.30pm

Present at meeting: Anne Reid, Barry Caudwell, Cathy Caudwell, Jeremy Greenwood, Mike Sedakat, Colin McLeo, Alan Barclay, John Campbell, Jan Christin, Ron Downing, Brian Brocklehurst, Mike Nicol and Rachael Wilbourn.

- 1. Apologies for Absence: Forbes Brown, Jon Cook, Maria O'Neill, Brian & Rosemary Boag
- 2. The minutes of 2023 AGM were approved. Proposed by Barry Caudwell, seconded by Brian Brocklehurst.
- 3. There were no matters arising

4. Chair's Report

Anne presented the chair's report. Overall, the branch has had a good and more "normal" year since the AGM in April 2022. Four indoor meetings were arranged by the branch and two indoor meetings arranged by SOC HQ. Club wide zoom lectures once a month have been valuable and have reduced speaker travel and club expenses generally. Anne explained that the pattern for 23-24 will be similar but with some possible workshops arranged by HQ. The committee hopes to finalise arrangements very soon. Anne thanked the committee for their support over the year.

5. Secretary's Report

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

- Membership has decreased slightly from last year, likely due to increased membership fees combined with higher costs of living.
- The committee attempted to arrange a bird race in February but our usual meet up place was not taking bookings due to hosting Ukrainian refugees. We will attempt one again in the autumn/winter (with Fife branch welcome to join in).
- Formal approval from ADBC to have joint outdoor meetings to be confirmed and cttee will try to alert members about events, however it was noted that ADBC website is not always kept up to date.
- A branches weekend attended by Rachael and Anne in May 2022 was discussed and provided various ideas and on how to support, engage and help develop skills among branch members.
- An update was provided on branch communications. HQ upgrading membership details to a cloud-based platform which should increase efficiencies and improve communications among members.
 - Jeremy questioned whether the new platform would be organised for branch membership access, as the issue remains that the cttee has no way of contacting branch members, except through HQ.
 - o Barry questioned where the cloud is located and how secure the data is.
- The venue currently being used by the branch has had several good reviews from members, however given the rising booking prices the cttee are seeking alternatives.

Action: formalise outings with ADBC and provide details to members Action: check with HQ where the cloud platform is located

6. Treasurer's Report

Anne looked after the money this year. Figures below. The branch plan to purchase a new laptop @£500 so there is less reliance on Rachael's personal laptop.

Finance Statement SOC Tay Branch Apr-23 Deposit account (Virgin) £ 1,078.08 Cash **Expenditure** Cash in hand April 2022 £ 39.69 Cash donation (NatureScot) £ 30.00 Income (donations) £ 75.56 Total £ 115.25 Cash in hand April 2023 £ 85.21

Action: submit excel datasheet to HQ

7. Elections:

Treasurer: volunteer from branch member Jan Christin to be treasurer which was formally welcomed and approved by all members at AGM.

Angus & Dundee bird recorder: Jon Cook has expressed an interest in stepping down from one or both of the following posts: Angus & Dundee Bird Report Editor & County Recorder. An email was sent round members prior to the AGM and members were reminded at the AGM. No volunteers yet.

Perth & Kinross bird recorder – still vacant

No nominations were received for other positions 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.

Ron Downing: General Member Mike Sedakat: General Member Maria O'Neill: General member

8. Future meetings.

Members were informed of the slight change to the programme whereby one of HQ's arranged talks will be a skills workshop. Details tbc.

9. Summer outings

Members were reminded to check the ADBC website for summer outings.

o Jeremy suggested we also check with Fife branch and Fife bird club for outings.

Action: contact Elizabeth Irwin regarding Fife outings.

10. No AOCB

Meeting closed at 7:48pm