

Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting of the Seabird Group held at the Duke of Gordon's Hotel, Kingussie on 20 November 2004.

Mark Tasker was in the chair with Bob Swann as secretary. Twenty-four members were present. Apologies were received from Jez Blackburn, Martin Heubeck and Jim Reid.

1. Minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting.

The minutes of the 38th AGM were circulated and adopted, proposed by Mike Harris and seconded by Tony Mainwood.

2. Matters arising

There had been no response from the membership to a request in the newsletter asking views on whether the AGM should be held in Kingussie or Swanwick. It was agreed that the next AGMs would be held at the Scottish Ringers conference in 2005 and then the Seabird Group conference in Aberdeen in 2006.

3. 39th Annual Report of the Seabird Group.

The report was circulated and then commented on by Bob Swann. It was then accepted having been proposed by Chris Wernham and seconded by Dave Soutar.

4. Accounts and Treasurer's report.

The accounts were circulated to all those present. The treasurer then gave a brief report stating that the group was in a strong financial position. Mike Harris asked about the cost of the 2004 conference. The treasurer pointed out that there had been a £1250 deficit, mainly due to high credit card charges. This deficit would be covered by the group. Future conferences would take these charges into account. There was then a discussion on Gift Aid. The treasurer agreed to look into this matter. The accounts and report were then accepted having been proposed by Alan Leitch, seconded by Linda Wilson.

5. Election of Officers.

Bob Swann (secretary) and Alan Leitch were due to stand down. The committee put forward Alan Leitch to be elected as secretary, no other nominations had been received. Alan Leitch was therefore duly elected. An election then took place between two candidates for the remaining place on the committee. This was won by Juan Brown

6. Gathering Seawatching Data.

Following on from points raised at the 2003 AGM, Chris Waltho gave a short presentation with regard to his ideas about using a website based approach to involve members and others in gathering data on the movements of seabirds in waters round the British Isles. A brief discussion followed. It was felt it was a useful idea and that it could be linked in with a similar Dutch scheme or the BTO Bird track scheme. The Chairman asked for volunteers to take this scheme forward. Chris Waltho agreed to develop the idea further and consult with Steven Baillie of the BTO. He would then report back to the Chairman and produce an article on his ideas for the group newsletter.

7. Any Other Business

Discussion took place on whether the group should be involved with the organisation of beach bird surveys. The Chairman reported that there were possible government initiatives that might provide financial support for surveys of beaches in the North Sea and English Channel which could be used to monitor the percentage of oiled birds.

Mike Harris asked for an update on the 2006 conference. The chairman reported that the theme would be "Seabird populations under pressure" and it would be held in Aberdeen on 1-3 September 2006.

8. Next AGM

It is planned to have this in November 2005 at the Scottish Ringers Conference in Kingussie

The chairman then closed the meeting. This was followed by a short appreciation from Mark Tasker thanking Bob Swann for all the hard work he had done over the period of his office.

Bob Swann
Secretary