

Minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting of the Seabird Group held at the Fife Arms Hotel, Braemar on 18th November 2006

John Davies was in the chair with Alan Leitch as secretary. Twenty-eight members were present. Apologies were received from Mark Tasker, Jez Blackburn, Jim Reid & Chris Waltho.

1. Minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 40th AGM, having already been published in the newsletter, were proposed for acceptance by Liz Humphreys and seconded by Mike Harris.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. 41st Annual Report of the Seabird Group

The report was circulated and commented on by Alan Leitch. It was proposed for acceptance by Sarah Wanless and seconded by Andrew Ramsay

4. Accounts and Treasurers Report

The accounts and report were presented to the meeting by John Davies, who gave particular thanks to Sheila Russell for her help as Membership Secretary during the year.

5. Election of Officers

The following officers were due to retire:- John Davies, Jim Reid, Martin Heubeck and Linda Wilson. In addition Liz Humphreys had only been co-opted as newsletter editor for one year, and Sheila Russell wished to retire as Membership Secretary, a non executive committee post.

The committee nominated Andrew Ramsay to replace John Davies as treasurer (proposed by Chris Wernham, seconded by Dave Okill),

Jim Reid was co-opted for a further year as editor of AS (proposed Mike Harris, seconded Martin Heubeck),

Liz Humphreys nominated as newsletter editor (proposed Sarah Wanless, seconded David Sowter),

Claire Smith as ordinary member with special remit to assist newsletter editor (proposed Sheila Russell, seconded Liz Humphreys),

Simon Foster as ordinary member (proposed Linda Wilson, seconded David Sowter).

To give Jim Reid the technical assistance he had requested, Linda Wilson was co-opted as a publishing editor (proposed Dave Okill, seconded Sarah Wanless)

David Sowter agreed to replace Sheila Russell as membership secretary.,

6. Conference 2006

Martin Heubeck reported on the recent conference. £8,500 was collected in sponsorship and in the end the level of conference fee was set about right. There was a significant increase in costs from the previous conference. Assuming a disputed bill from the university is resolved satisfactorily, there will be a surplus of about £1,800. 163 delegates attended. Mike Harris thanked Martin who then thanked the rest of the committee. The next conference will be discussed by the new committee.

7. Atlantic Seabirds

The journal is at least a year in arrears, and there are problems with content. The proposals agreed by the committee were put forward:-

- 1) Bring publication back in house by the Seabird Group, not Dutch group, but may continue to work with Dutch group.
- 2) JR continues to sort out back issues and look forward with assistance of LW to organisation of new journal. Following the back issues new journal will probably be produced yearly.

Mike Harris asked about the financial situation with the Dutch Group. JD answered that we have so far broken even, but a few thousand pounds will be needed for the next issues. However, the Seabird Group are holding a surplus of 2-3 years funds, not 6 months as recommended by the Charity Commissioners. Thus, the initial costs over the next few years should be covered. Sarah Wanless asked about the opinion of the Dutch Group. This was not known. She then asked whether the problem was lack of papers or the actual publication. JD said both. M Heubeck then volunteered that he had spoken to the Dutch Group and that they valued the newsletter more than the journal. He thought they would not have too much concern. He also emphasised the need for the editorial board to be more proactive and to meet rather than rely on email.

AP There was general approval from the meeting for the committee to take forward the proposed changes to Atlantic Seabirds.

8. Seawatching

Chris Wernham produced a paper from Chris Waltho looking for approval to take it forward. It had been put on the discussion forum and in general responses were supportive but with a few concerns. The Dutch database is progressing with other countries buying into it. **AP** Committee to discuss and report.

JD formally thanked the old committee, and thanks were given in return to JD.