

MINUTES OF LBC COMMITTEE MEETING, 25 FEBRUARY 2015

Present: Andrew Chick, Robert Carr, John Watt, John Badley, Phil Espin and John Clarkson.

Apologies for absence: Phil Hyde, Bill Sterling, Grahame Hopwood, Mike Harrison and Ian Macalpine-Leny.

Minutes of previous meeting: Two errors: Adam Rowlands is the chair of BBRC not Andrew Rowland; John Watt 11% increase was due to subscriptions, not sales.

Matters arising:

AGM: costly speaker but worth it. We will make a push for recruitment at the meeting: new members who sign up for DD will receive both the 2013 and 2012 reports. The wording of the motion allowing non-members access to the forum was discussed and will be included in the agenda; Andrew Chick will put this on the web-site and email it to all members in the very near future. Members with no email address will be sent a paper copy.

Officers' reports:

Treasurer: a copy of the current position was circulated. We have spent more on publications than we have received, but the subscription income has risen by 20% partly due to the increased rates. DD payments have increased by 58% which is very heartening. It is hoped that in future the income from subscriptions and from data reimbursements through the GLNP will cover the cost of future reports. John will miss the AGM and he will prepare the annual statement and commentary, with 30 copies, for the meeting.

Secretary: had managed to secure the binoculars from Minox in return for circulating leaflets at the AGM. Unfortunately they were found to be faulty, and attempts will be made to rectify this. They may be raffled at the next BTO-LBC event. This may also be the case for the nest-box camera held by Mike Harrison or perhaps a use might be found for it at an LWT reserve.

Sales secretary: was absent, but Bill had circulated copy of sales accounts had been prior to the meeting. The figures agreed with those of John Watt.

Membership secretary: was absent but Mike had circulated copy of sales accounts had been prior to the meeting. We have about 275 members of which 229 pay by DD; there are 11 honorary members and 35 who pay by cash/cheque/SO.

County recorder North: Dean Nicholson has resigned from the Rarities committee and there are now only four members; a replacement would be sought, preferably from an area with no current representation.

County recorder South: We had received a letter from Adrian Slater which included a cheque returning our grant. He felt he has let us down but there was unanimous support for Phil Espin who had replied expressing the view that this was not the case. The returned cheque had been returned.

The RSPB had run a workshop on the LSWP and John had contacted them; they would like more data on nest sites and breeding success or otherwise. John will put a note on the web-site.

Webmaster: The future for the hosting of the web-site is uncertain but no cause for immediate concern. The email situation is to be rationalised to avoid duplication.

Closer ties are being sought with BirdTrack and this might encourage more postings.

Andrew will post a request for photos for the 2014 report as well as submission of LBRC species.

Chairman: many thanks are due to Andrew Henderson for the immense amount of work he has done on the 2013 report.

Following discussions with Chris Gunn, there will be another joint BTO-LBC event. It will be held at Whisby and there is only one possible date, Saturday 28th November. Phil will put a note to this effect around the committee with a request for suggestions for topics and speakers. The total cost will be £957 and we will underwrite this as last time. There may be a raffle for the binoculars and nest-box.

As previously indicated, the GBS run by Anne Goodall will end this year in March. This will give 30 years of data. LBC members wishing to continue may join the scheme run by the BTO; there are already 80 participants

in the county. The LBC will get access to the BTO data for the county. Phil will post a note on the web-site on this topic.

There is a meeting of the urban BAP on 6th March. We have not had any volunteers for this and Phil will re-advertise on the web-site.

The RBBP report has been sent off. Phil's talk on this subject at the LNU meeting at Whisby had been well received.

There is to be a national House martin survey this summer based on randomly selected sites; Phil will ask for volunteers on the web-site. It will be organised by the BTO.

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AOB:

Andrew Chick raised the question of a newsletter to go with the 2013 report; all agreed and Andrew will include many of the topics raised this evening which are to be advertised on the web-site and are thus unavailable to our members with no internet access. An offer of a grant to members undertaking research will also be made.

Andrew Chick also passed on the news that all our data was now with the GLNP and some of the old data is in need of validation; he will work with Charlie Barnes on this.

Andrew Chick suggests that site names are in need of standardisation and would welcome offers of help.

Andrew Chick also told us of a report being produced by Ted Smith called *The state of the nation* to which we have been asked to contribute sections on certain species.

Andrew Chick had been sent charts from Graham Catley on rare birds for inclusion in a future county avifauna; John Clarkson has done some work on first and last dates in this context.

John Badley told us of the RSPB's intention to put much of its data on to a system (Merlin) which could offer some interesting possibilities for the club: peak counts, bird-days for example.

Meeting closed at 21.23.