

LINCOLNSHIRE BIRD CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
ADMIRAL RODNEY HOTEL, HORNCastle
22 MARCH 2016

Present 60 members and officers.

Apologies Graham Hopwood, Carl Annall and Hugh Middleton.

Minutes of 2015 AGM The minutes are on the website. Accepted as a true and accurate record; signed by Phil Espin. There were no matters arising.

Hon Chairman's address (Phil Espin)

Phil welcomed all members to the 36th AGM.

One of the main objectives of the club is to produce an annual report, which is nearing completion for 2014. Particular thanks are due to Colin and Sheila Jennings who input all the data and this is the foundation on which the Report is based. This is a huge undertaking and it would help if those who put sightings on BirdTrack as well as on the LBC forum indicate this on the forum to avoid duplication. Also the Editor, Andrew Henderson, deserves special thanks for his efforts; he is always looking for new authors for particular species and anyone interested should contact him via a private message on the forum.

Thanks are also due to John Clarkson, county recorder north, who also chairs the Records Committee; he is also looking for new members to assess records and volunteers should contact him.

The Peregrines breeding on the church in Louth last year were followed by many members and the general public; Geoff Mullett has published a booklet on this and copies are available on the web-site for £3. Geoff is donating £1 to the LBC from each copy sold and we have already received over £200, which nearly compensates the club for the one-off grant of £250 made to the Church in recognition of their co-operation in closing the tower to allow breeding to take place.

Phil mentioned Anne Goodall, who is currently analysing the 30 years of data from the LBC Garden Birds survey; we will publish the final Report in due course.

Particular thanks were also due to Chris Gunn, who had organised the very successful BTO/LBC conference last November. Phil mentioned the talk on Willow Tits and hopes that we can organise a survey on the status of the species next year. Any information on current breeding pairs would be very welcome.

Phil then spoke of Keith Atkin, who had passed away in January. Keith was an influential and important figure from the 1960s, both in Lincolnshire and nationally, with many achievements. A full obituary will appear in the 2014 Report. Any suggestions for a memorial would be welcome.

Finally, Phil wanted to thank the members of the committee for their service.

Hon Treasurer's report (John Watt)

The accounts were circulated at the AGM. John pointed out that income had exceeded expenditure for the first time since he became Treasurer, mainly as we have now caught up with publishing historical reports. The data sales are down but this is due to the money from the GLNP being paid at different times to previously and we should receive £2848 in the near future. Receipts from the GLNP are likely to be around £500 higher than when we sold the data directly.

There were a number of requests for clarification regarding data sales and advertising in the Report; also the topic of putting the species accounts in alphabetical order was raised and it was felt that the present format should continue but an alphabetical index would be a welcome addition.

Report from other officers

Nothing to report.

Election of Officers

All the officers and committee members are willing to continue serving. A motion to this effect was proposed by Terry Whalin and seconded by Stuart Britton and passed unanimously on a show of hands.

AOB

Following questions from the members: current membership is over 300, 70% pay by DD and thanks are due to Wilma Gammon at the LWT who administers the collection of subscriptions.

The issue of the lack of young members was raised and the committee are aware of the problem; using social media (Twitter and Facebook) has been introduced on the web-site; further suggestions welcome.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the already massive decline of Willow Tits has accelerated in the last three years; targeted surveys are a good way to engage more members than those who regularly contribute to the forum.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:35.

RJF Carr, Secretary.