



Kent Ornithological Society
Providing information about Birds and Birdwatching in Kent

Executive Committee

Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 19 August 2010 at 6:00pm at The Ecology Classroom, Benenden School, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4AA

Present: Martin Coath (Chair), Gordon Allison, Mike Henty, Marcus Lawson, Chris Roome, Mike Roser, Brendan Ryan, Stephen Wood and Barry Wright.

Apologies for absence were received from: Anne Abrams, Chris Abrams, John Cantelo, Jack Chantler, Sally Hunter and Robin Mace

2. Matters arising and action points not covered by agenda

MC welcomed SW as new Honorary Secretary, replacing Anne Abrams .

3. Publicity and Membership

CR reported that the total membership of KOS was now 693. Email addresses are known for 532. Since CR took up the post of Membership Secretary, 13 people have joined most of whom were recruited via the website. 7 members have overseas addresses.

500 publicity leaflets have been printed at a cost of £40 and it is planned to distribute these via such sites as birdwatching hides and reserve centres.

Other ideas for generating publicity included video displays, 'Pull-up' display boards, and ensuring a presence at local birding and countryside fairs.

KOS has been invited to give a presentation to the Kent Wildlife Trust AGM. MC agreed to follow this through with Ray Lewis of KWT. It was suggested that the Society's aims and objectives be given prominence. [Update 8 September: after discussion with KWT the proposed presentation has been deferred.]

4. Kent Bird Report

KBR 2008 is currently being scrutinised for inaccuracies, a process expected to be completed by the end of August, followed by publication in the autumn. The task is a demanding one with around 180,000 records to be summarised, significantly more than in preceding years, mainly due to far more records being submitted via BirdTrack .

BR has put out a press release on the new Kent Bird Report.

5. KOS News

In the absence of John Cantelo, discussion was postponed. The next issue is due in September.

6. Indoor Meetings

ML reported that attendance at indoor meetings is encouraging, often with 40 or more members present. There may be a minor re-arrangement to the programme with Don Taylor and Eustace Barnes being asked to exchange dates.

Suggestions for future topics included a tutorial on PhotoShop, a full afternoon workshop on *Atlas* fieldwork – perhaps at SBBO – and the addition of a twenty-minute talk to Quiz Night.

7. Outdoor Meetings

MR reported that the meetings programme is now on the website. The next two meetings are the Gull Workshop with Andy Lawson at Dungeness on January 2 and a visit to the Isle of Sheppey with Derek Faulkner on January 30.

There had been no interest in the proposed trip to the Bird Fair, which will not now take place.

By way of contrast, considerable interest has been expressed in the Medway Pelagic. This is expected to cost in the region of £38 per participant, and a discussion took place as to whether it might be possible for the Society to provide a subsidy. It was concluded that it would not be appropriate to use funds derived from the subscriptions of all members for the benefit of a few, and the trip should go ahead on the basis of it being self-funded.

Finally MR reported that he is considering future joint meetings with other natural history organisations and perhaps a cross-channel trip.

8. Website and Forum

BR enquired whether Chris Abrams's move to Norfolk will affect the maintenance of the KOS website. MC replied that Chris plans to continue in

his role as website editor and does not envisage that this will be affected adversely by his distance from Kent.

CR commented that it would be possible to use the email addresses from the membership database to generate emails to members to draw attention to events such as indoor and outdoor meetings. This would supplement information on the website and forum.

A brief discussion took place on the feasibility of publishing the proposed *New Birds of Kent* on line rather than as a printed document. It was reported that this option had been costed at about £500 – vastly cheaper than the cost of a book. Members were agreed that it should still be our objective to publish a county avifauna as a conventional and high quality book. MC agreed to contact the editor Andrew Henderson to ascertain progress.

9. Treasurer' Report

MH presented his Report (Attachment A) and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31/12/2010 (Attachment B)

He advised the Executive Committee that it would not be necessary to increase the subscription rate in 2011 and members endorsed his opinion.

The financial implications of the future publication of the *New Birds of Kent* were discussed and MC will also raise this issue with Andrew Henderson.

10. Editorial and Records Committee

MC reported that BW had taken over the role of County Recorder and thanked him for his contribution, especially in the recording of rarities and in liaising with BBRC.

11. Conservation and Surveys Committee

Discussion centred on progress with *Atlas* fieldwork. There was a general perception that never in the field of ornithological survey work had so much been owed by so many to so few. The perennial problem of recruiting more participants was discussed, but a solution was not forthcoming.

12. Any other business

MC reported that Anne Abram had resigned as Honorary Secretary after seven year's service as she and Chris were moving home to Norfolk. He praised her hard work and valuable contribution to the work of the Society and recorded his pleasure on behalf of the Executive Committee in presenting Anne with a small gift in recognition of her long service.

MC also reported that Dave Sutton, lately the Membership Secretary had written to him to express his gratitude for his gift and the good wishes of the Committee.

Lastly MC expressed his gratitude to Benenden School for the use of their splendid facilities.

13. Date of next meeting

Thursday 13 January 2011 at 7.00pm at Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre, Brogdale Farm, Brogdale Road, Faversham, ME13 8XZ

Attachment A

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - MEETING ON 19th AUGUST 2010

TREASURER'S REPORT

2010 Forecast & Estimates for next two years

The enclosed schedule sets out the forecast accounts for 2010 together with estimated figures for 2011 and 2012. They are based on conservative assumptions assuming there is no expenditure incurred other than on "status quo" items. The key assumptions are as follows:

There is a modest decline in Subscriptions following a recovery in 2009 and 2010.

Interest rates remain at the current low level.

There is no capital expenditure other than, in 2010, the purchase of a laptop.

There is no exceptional IT expenditure other than, in 2010, the purchase of a painting (£300) for the person who set up the data base and the cost of putting the Bird Atlas on the website (£480). This last item I have allocated against the Birds of Kent Fund rather than the General Fund.

Apart from £300 as the estimated costs of sending out a questionnaire in 2010, there is no expenditure on "Publicity" (e.g. new display boards) included in these numbers

Publication of KBRs is on target by the end of 2011

The accumulation of the Birds of Kent Fund is still required

At the end of 2012 the General Fund would be £13,393, equivalent to 137% of expenditure in 2012. Prior to 2006, this ratio was always below 100%.

Subscriptions

To increase the subscription rate for 2012 (or at any date after April 2011) it would be necessary to obtain approval at the AGM held in April 2011. Members would need to be advised of this as an AGM agenda item in the January 2011 newsletter. A decision is required now.

On the forecasts I have prepared, and under the assumptions I have used, I see no reason to seek an increase in the subscription rate. I did consider whether we should increase the subscription for members living outside the UK to cover the ever increasing postage costs. There are only seven members outside the UK so the extra cost is not a material burden on our funds. I would suggest that we leave this until we increase subscriptions for all members

Gift Aid

We have received £873 as income tax refund under Gift Aid in respect of the 2009-10 tax year. This is £18 up on 2009, showing that additional members signed up, more than compensating for those that disappeared.

Financial Balances

As at 11th August the available funds are:

Current account £3,160

Deposit account £10,959

PayPal account £27 (so far this year 59 members have paid subs via PayPal and I have transferred £750 to our current account; the fees paid amount to £24, the equivalent of two subscriptions), and

Cash £ 42

The Barclays Bond stands at £31,138 (interest payable November 2010).

The above current account figure is calculated after allowing for the payment of all known expenses incurred to date. The as-yet-undetermined amount payable for the summer newsletter will have to be deducted.

Attachment B

Kent Ornithological Society

Charity No. 212489

Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2010

Budget

2009	<u>Statement of Financial Activities</u>	2010 Forecast	2011	2012
Income				
7,323	Subscriptions, net of PayPal fees (£21, 2009 £18)	7,400	7,300	7,200
855	Income tax recovered under Gift Aid	873	770	750
255	Donations	181	-	-
931	Interest	626	600	600
367	Meetings	300	300	300
99	Sales of Kent Bird Reports	132	40	40
30	Sales of DVDs	20	-	-
120	Advertisements	120	40	40
9,980		9,652	9,050	8,930
Expenditure				
	Estimated cost of KBRs	3,500		
3,783	Less: Overprovision for KBR for 2007	<u>(98)</u>	3,402	4,000
3,794	Other Printing, Postage, Stationery, etc.	4,000	4,000	4,200
637	Meetings	700	750	800
110	Insurance	110	120	130
605	Website & IT Expenses	700	450	500
-	Donations	100	100	100
-	Sundry: Bird Atlas on Website & Retirement Gifts	1,086	-	-
275	Depreciation of Computer & Equipment	355	150	-
9,204		10,453	9,270	9,730
776	Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	(801)	(220)	(800)
31,438	Total Reserves brought forward	32,214	31,413	31,193
32,214	Total Reserves carried forward	[Note (a)] 31,413	31,193	30,393

2009	<u>Balance Sheet</u>	2010	2011	2012
Assets				
305	Tangible Fixed Assets:	[Note (b)] 150	-	-
Current Assets:				
31,138	Barclays Bond	31,761	32,361	32,961
1,906	Cash at Bank - Current & PayPal A/c	648	600	600
10,957	Cash at Bank - Deposit A/c	7,214	3,262	2,132
27	Cash in Hand	<u>-</u>	39,623	
140	Debtors & Prepayments		140	170
			<u>39,913</u>	<u>36,393</u>
<u>44,473</u>			<u>39,913</u>	<u>35,893</u>
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities:				
	Provision for KBRs	7,000	3,700	4,000
12,259	Other Creditors	<u>1,500</u>	8,500	1,500
			<u>31,413</u>	<u>31,193</u>
<u>32,214</u>	Net Assets		<u>31,413</u>	<u>30,393</u>
Reserves				
260	Birds of Kent Fund		16,380	16,683
260	General Fund		<u>15,033</u>	<u>13,393</u>
<u>520</u>			<u>31,413</u>	<u>30,393</u>
			0	0
			0	0