

Minutes of Executive Meeting Sevenoaks 4th May 2010

Present: Martin Coath, Brendan Ryan, Mike Henty, Chris Roome, Barry Wright, Chris Abrams, Jack Chantler, Mike Roser, Marcus Lawson and Annie Abrams.

Apologies: Gordon Allison, John Cantelo, Robin Mace, Ken Lodge

Martin began by welcoming our new Executive members - Chris R., Marcus & Mike R.

Publicity & Membership:

Brendan has started to put together a sub group. A company has been approached to produce display boards. Cost is about £150, including the design work.

A questionnaire will be posted out with the next KOS Newsletter. It will be similar to the latest British Birds questionnaire. We hope that by also putting it online we will get more response.

Brendan wants regular press releases. Marketing strategy needs to be circulated to new members.

Membership:

Chris has database on KOS laptop. Membership is 680-700 and has not changed dramatically.

KOS Newsletter:

Contributions required please as John is running out of items. Chris A. intends all old Newsletters to be accessible on website.

Website and forum:

Chris A. working on getting database up and running. The next stage is to try and integrate the records, with Birdtrack and BTO Atlas, so there is less work for our area recorders. Sign up, by members, going ok.

Forum working well- constitution and job descriptions all on there. Sevenoaks Reserve now been put on the website ready for them to launch but could do with some photographs.

Treasurer

Finances healthy. Should 'Birds of Kent' go straight to a DVD or would everyone prefer a book?

Editorial & Records

New North Kent recorder - Geoff Orton.

Barry to post request on the Forum that members do not duplicate records ie Birdtrack/Area Recorder/Database.

Conservation & Surveys:

Cettis Warbler and Firecrest having additional surveys this year.

Missing Atlas tetrads may be extended to get night bird numbers. Large clumps shown on Birdtrack as missing but there is a mismatch with tetrads.

Field Trips

Discussion document distributed by Mike R. who is examining contacting other naturalist groups and holding dual meetings - helping public relations, boost membership. Trips out into Medway would be interesting. A gull id workshop indoors could be linked to a practical outdoor meeting. Also photography indoor meeting with a linked field trip. SBBOT and Dungeness running photo workshops already. Lots of boat trips available that we could investigate. Bird Fair is a possibility- social event, no driving. Day trip across the Channel. Charge differential rate for KOS and non-members. Consideration to be given to make the trips disabled friendly. Priority to be given to Atlas work.

Indoor meetings:

Marcus has some ideas but there is a programme already in place. Closer to home talks went down well. Chris R. reiterated the need for a greeter at every meeting and signing in at entrance, giving a chance to talk to new individuals.

Marcus would like to send reminder email to members, not on forum, re forthcoming meetings. Block emails are something that Chris R. wants to investigate.

AOB:

Phil Redman has written to Martin about membership and has been replied to by Martin as contact rather than our new membership secretary.

BTO Atlas website. Chris A feels it should be part of KOS website not something separate.

Next meeting – Thursday 12th August. 7.00 pm

