

# Carsington Bird Club



## Minutes of the club's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

(held Tuesday 21 March 2023 in the Henmore Room,  
Carsington Visitor Centre at 7pm)

**Committee attendees:**     **Gary Atkins** - (Chairman and Publicity Officer)  
                                  **John Follett** - (Treasurer / Membership Secretary)  
                                  **Chris Lamb** - (Events Secretary)  
                                  **Rob Chadwick** - (Recorder)  
                                  **Louise Sykes** - (Secretary)

### APOLOGIES

None

### MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes from the previous AGM (in March 2022) were accepted as an accurate record.

### MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes that would not be discussed at the latest meeting.

### TREASURER'S / MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 resulted in income exceeding expenditure by £642.05, increasing accumulated funds to £6699.26.

Total income of £2088.61 (previous year £1141.30) was boosted by the fundraising undertaken throughout the year, by Louise and John Sykes who raised a very impressive £703.50. Membership subscriptions were £32 down on 2021 at £565. Donations of £165 received in memory of the late Roger Carrington, were forwarded from the funeral directors. Early in the year Severn Trent asked CBC to take control of the cash donations made from the visitors to the Wildlife Centre towards the costs of bird food. In this respect, £205.71 has been collected and is included within the yearly total of £384.71 for donations.

The year's expenditure total of £1446.56 was £534 higher than last year. Indoor meetings returned to the Henmore Room leading to savings of £60 on venue costs over 2021. However, with a full

programme and the rising cost of travel, speakers fees of £488 were £318 higher than the previous year. The planned resumption of bird feeding resulted in costs of £167.38.

CBC's year end funds were held as cash (£310.67) and bank current account (£6438.59). The year end cash figures include £50.00 of subscription payments for the new year.

The adoption of the Club's accounts for 2022 was proposed by Dave Armit and seconded by Dave Horsley (DH).

DH asked whether it would be possible to transfer some funds into an interest-paying savings account. JF explained that we did have a savings account but it is not used anymore as no major banks will accept non-personal savings. JF did, however, say he would investigate further.

At the beginning of the year membership number stood at 76, but 11 failed to renew. However, we were able to welcome four new members making a total for the year 69 – and since September we gained five new members. The membership fees will remain at £7.50 (single) and £10 (family) as they have for many years.

## **RECORDER'S REPORT**

Species total for Carsington has increased by one this year and the breeding birds have had a reasonable season.

One particular point of interest regarding Woodpigeons occurred on 4<sup>th</sup> November when 62,600 birds flew south over a 4-hour period.

Marsh Tit was reported in July, the first since May 2013 and continued to be reported to year end.

Pied Flycatcher were seen and heard from late April, with up to five males on a couple of days, but all had moved on by 28<sup>th</sup> May, last reported April 2018.

Black Terns were seen to fly over on three occasions in 2022 with two birds on 14<sup>th</sup> April, six adults through on 22<sup>nd</sup> July and five on 25<sup>th</sup> August.

Little Gull were reported on three occasions with nine birds (seven adults and two first-summer birds) hanging around for 45 minutes on 11<sup>th</sup> April.

Two Spotted Redshanks – a species last seen at the reservoir in 2017 – arrived at the Wildlife Centre on 30<sup>th</sup> August and stayed until 1<sup>st</sup> September with a single bird then staying on until 7<sup>th</sup> September.

A juvenile Curlew Sandpiper stayed from 19<sup>th</sup> September through to 28<sup>th</sup>. This species was last reported back in October 2015, and one 21<sup>st</sup> November we had a very short staying Common Crane - which was the first since 2002.

Pomarine Skua flew south across the water at 06.50 on 2<sup>nd</sup> August. You have to go back to May 1993 for another report of this species.

The only new species for the reservoir in 2022 was a Purple Heron, another juvenile, which hung around for a full five minutes on 28<sup>th</sup> July, but luckily some of our regulars were on hand to spot it.

This takes the grand total of species for Carsington up to 237.

## **EVENTS SECRETARY'S REPORT**

As 2022 began we all hoped that the new year would bring a welcome return to our full programme of indoor meetings, trips and walks after the hiatus caused by Covid in 2020 and 2021, and we weren't to be disappointed. As the year went on, we enjoyed getting out birding as a group once more and were treated to a series of excellent talks by our guest speakers.

We continued to use the Mainsail Restaurant for our meetings at the start of 2022, which allowed for greater social distancing, but took the decision to move back to the Henmore Room in September for the first indoor meeting of the 2022/23 programme. Our talks during the year ranged from Svalbard in the Arctic to the Falklands in the Atlantic and the Antarctic, with many spectacular locations in between. Closer to home we experienced the birds and wildlife of the Scillies and Rutland Water.

On to outdoor activities, our first trip of the year was to the Fairburn Ings RSPB Reserve in Yorkshire in early May. Our small group of mostly regular attendees had a very enjoyable day out at this fine reserve with its variety of habitats. Later in May we welcomed back our annual 'Warbler Walk', which Covid had prevented in 2020 and 2021. This walk around Stones Island and the vicinity of the Wildlife Centre was led by Simon Roddis, and we were once again indebted to Simon for his knowledge and experience helping us to pinpoint and identify the birds we came across.

For our final trip of the year, in October, we made the journey over to Cheshire to visit the Burton Mere Wetlands RSPB Reserve on the Dee Estuary. This is a site we have visited before and always offers a good mix of wetland and woodland birds.

Looking ahead to the remainder of this year and next, plans are already in place for our programme of speakers for the 2023/24 season, covering a wide variety of topics, and we have added a third day trip to our calendar of outdoor events in 2023.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

2022 marked a return to something like normality – with meetings returning to the Henmore Room, and other events like the springtime walk and a couple of trips back in action.

Membership remained gratifyingly stable and is pretty much the same as pre-Covid. The Committee has been strengthened with the appointment (in 2021) of Rob Chadwick, who now has his feet more firmly under the table as Recorder, and with Louise Sykes taking up the Secretary role.

Extra thanks should go to Louise as she has also done much both to promote the club and raise funds (over £700 in 2022 through sales events) at special events, with the help of husband John. John Follett keeps a close eye on those funds and handles all membership matters, while Chris Lamb has established a varied programme of interesting talks during our indoor meetings season and hopes to further expand the two annual trips during 2023.

We are as ever grateful to Richard Pittam for maintaining our website, and occasionally prompting us to help keep it up to date, and to a core of regular recorders, spearheaded by Simon Roddis.

We maintain a close liaison with our hosts Severn Trent, offering support for their enterprises and advice of wildlife habitat management and, in return, we are offered premises for meetings and the Henmore talks plus parking dispensation for those activities.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE CLUB**

The following members of the committee were listed as standing for re-election:

Gary Atkins - Chairman and Publicity Officer  
John Follett - Treasurer and Membership Secretary  
Chris Lamb - Events Secretary  
Rob Chadwick - Recorder  
Louise Sykes - Secretary

The re-election of these officers of the club was proposed by Jane Chadwick and seconded by Glyn Sellors.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Louise Sykes explained that the success of the year's fund raising was completely down to donations from friends, family and neighbours. Special thanks goes to Gary and Meryl Atkins for so many good quality books and bric-a-brac items. Also to Jane Chadwick who has handmade wonderful little items for young children that boost our lucky dip takings.

*The meeting closed at 7.30pm*