

Carsington Bird Club



Minutes of the club's 32nd Annual General Meeting

(held Tuesday 18 March 2025 in the Henmore Room,
Carsington Visitor Centre at 7pm)

COMMITTEE ATTENDIES

Gary Atkins (Chairman and Publicity Officer)

John Follett (Treasurer)

Dave Horsley (Membership Secretary)

Chris Lamb (Events Secretary)

Rob Chadwick (Recorder)

Louise Sykes (Secretary)

APOLOGIES

Faye Follett

Sally & Dave Elliot

MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes from the previous AGM (in March 2024) were accepted as an accurate record.
Proposed by Jane Chadwick and seconded by Jill Francis.

MATTERS ARISING

None

TREASURER'S REPORT

At the year's end Accumulated Funds of £8930.40 had increased by £941.41 as a result of Income (£2409.49) exceeding Expenditure (£1468.08).

Total Income was again boosted by fund-raising activities undertaken throughout the year by Louise and John Sykes who raised an impressive £1183.50 (last year, £861.00). Membership subscriptions at £615 were £15 up on 2023. Donations of £266.49 included cash donations from visitors to the

Wildlife Centre towards the costs of bird food. Attendance at indoor meetings raised £332.00, an increase of £67.00 from last year.

The year's Expenditure total of £1468.08 was £286.08 higher than the previous year. Speakers' fees of £465 were £95 higher than last year. The costs associated with CBC's website (£229.97) increased due to lots of changes to the site; such costs are likely to be higher from now on. As part of our Conservation and Protection work £60 was spent on Swift boxes.

CBC's year end funds were held as Cash (£213.49) and Bank Account (£9054.91). The year-end cash figures include £338 of subscription payments for the new year.

Adoption of the club's 2024 accounts was proposed by Dave Armitt and seconded by Cath Sinclair.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

First of all, I would like to thank the CBC committee for asking me to take the position of Membership Secretary and thank John Follett for his previous work in the position.

Secondly, I would like to thank everyone here who is a member of CBC for renewing your subscription, and if there is anyone who has not renewed or is not currently a member and would like to be then please see me tonight.

It is also interesting to see that our members are not just local to Carsington Water but are spread far and wide; for example, Leek, Chesterfield, Bakewell, Nottingham, Hope Valley and Mansfield.

Currently we have 77 members for 2025, but it is interesting to note that we have 805 people following us on the Carsington Sightings Facebook Page, wouldn't it be great if it was the other way round.

I look forward to the coming year and welcoming new members accordingly.

Our members, particularly my fellow Committee members, are at the heart of Carsington Bird Club and we could not continue to fulfil our objectives without your support.

RECORDER'S REPORT

I would like to start by thanking everyone who took the time to report their sightings here at Carsington Water -- not only the small team of daily reporters but also the occasional reporters that help to build a picture of the comings and goings here at Carsington

In this modern age reports not only come from hide diaries but also an array of different social media platforms and official web sites.

Part of the collection of all this data has been regularly sent in by Steve Thorpe and Dave Richardson, both committee members of the Derbyshire Ornithological Society. They both give up some of their time to help collate this data for me; Steve on the Facebook page 'Derbyshire Birders' and Dave from the WhatsApp platform page 'Derbyshire Bird News' and also, once a year, a data dump from the DOS sightings page.

All this data is collated each month and is published on the Bird Notes page on the Carsington Bird club website and a copy is placed in each of the four hides. At the end of the year the completed monthly totals are then used to complete the systematic list which as members you all get as part of the annual report.

In 2024 the total number of usable entries was 21,200 and these were provided by 97 different observers or groups.

In total, 168 species were recorded for the year with a new site total of 239. Highlights included:

- A Red-throated Diver stayed for two days in June and another arrived on 16th December and remained until the end of the year
- One Black-throated Diver on 11th September
- ‘Our’ Great Northern Diver departed on 22nd April before returning on 15th December for its 15th consecutive winter; another bird was seen briefly on 21st October
- A Slavonian Grebe was seen on the 8th and 18th April
- A Black-necked Grebe was around on the 2nd July but four in winter plumage were seen on 12th October
- An adult Gannet on 24th August with three (two juveniles and a third-year adult) moving through on 2nd October
- A single Cattle Egret was around for 10 days in February and again in August for two days
- A Brent Goose on 12th December
- A Ring-necked Duck, which first appeared on 17th November, stayed till early December.
- A single drake Scaup on 17th July, with two first winter drakes staying from 30th December till year end
- A Velvet Scoter was seen on the last day of the year
- Single Honey Buzzards were reported 15th and 27th July
- A new species was White tailed Eagle, with photos taken by Nathan Craig on 14th September
- Kittiwake single on 16th March with two on 24th March and three on 22nd April
- A single Yellow-browed Warbler was reported from 10 October until 27th October
- Breeding has been noted with the majority of the usual species this year, with Shoveler proven to breed for the first time; balancing this, Tree Sparrow seems to have just about disappeared from the site.

EVENTS SECRETARY’S REPORT

We enjoyed a full programme of indoor and outdoor activities during 2024. Once again we were treated to a series of excellent talks by our guest speakers at our indoor meetings, all illustrated by superb photographs, and featuring a variety locations in the UK and around the world.

During the year we organised six walks and trips for our members, with four of those to local destinations. Our first outing of the year in January was to the Attenborough NWT Reserve and this was followed by a walk at the Wyver Lane DWT Reserve near Belper in March.

We held our traditional springtime birdsong walk at Carsington Water in April, though the heavy rainfall on the day curtailed the walk and we spent most of the morning keeping dry in the Wildlife Centre keeping dry. Our thanks again go to Simon Roddis for leading the walk and helping us to identify the birds we saw.

The St Aidan's RSPB Reserve near Leeds was the destination for our next trip in May. We were very fortunate to have experienced bird recorder Paul Morris – whose brother John is of one of our members – as our guide for the day.

In October we returned to the Frampton Marsh RSPB Reserve on the Lincolnshire coast, a favourite destination of ours which we have visited a few times, and one which always serves up a variety of birds. To round off the year we stayed fairly local again and headed to the Willington Wetlands DWT Reserve in November.

It has been very encouraging to see that the number of members joining us for our walks and trips through the year has steadily increased and we hope that this positive trend will continue in 2025.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

After the various reports you've already heard, I don't really have too much to add – apart from thanking everyone on the committee – John, Chris, Rob and Louise – for the roles they have played over a number of years and to welcome and thank the newest member, Dave Horsley, for agreeing to take on the Membership Secretary's role. As you've seen, he's made a great start pulling in renewals from the very large majority of members.

I should add Richard Pittam to that list. He has always steadfastly refused to be on the committee, but his expertise on website design and ongoing developments have proved invaluable to the CBC website over more years than I can recall. This is an important outward-looking face of the club, which informs the general public about most things they may wish to know about CBC.

Further thanks should, of course, go to our hosts, Severn Trent. We have a symbiotic relationship with them, providing mutual benefits. While we offer a deep bank of data which they can draw on to formulate a picture of the wildlife and birdlife populations on and around the reservoir, plus occasional advice about habitat developments that may benefit particular species. In return, Severn Trent returns offers us facilities in which to hold meetings and events (also kindly waiving parking fees for CBC's indoor meetings) – while the excellent work of its ranger team and volunteer crews maintains the various habitats in tip-top condition.

I hope our membership enjoys the range of information and activities we deliver as a club, and which we intend to continue developing in the future. It's sometimes difficult to tell, as there is a sizeable proportion that we rarely hear from, but we do recognise that life goes on apace outside the club and priorities will often lie elsewhere. It would, nevertheless, be good to get just a few more people attending our walks and trips, near and far.

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
Dave Horsley - Membership Secretary
Chris Lamb - Events Secretary
Rob Chadwick - Recorder
Louise Sykes - Secretary

The re-election of these officers of the club was proposed by Dave Armitt and seconded by Cath Sinclair.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Concern was expressed about the condition of the Janet Ede Hide and the damage being done by the continuous flooding. Unfortunately, although CBC also has concerns the matter is out of our control as the providers that financed the hide stipulated at the time that it should be placed in its current position. Over time, this has led to major water damage. Severn Trent is, nevertheless, planning to assess the hide's condition and possible relocation in the future.

Louise Sykes would like to thank everyone who has contributed items for our fund raising events, in particular Jane Chadwick who has provided many special items for Lucky Dip and Tombola. Also many thanks to Jean Braithwaite for the knitted toys she has provided.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm