

RSPB NOTTINGHAM LOCAL GROUP - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2009

The Annual General Meeting of the RSPB Nottingham Local Group was held on Wednesday 6th May 2009 at the Nottingham Mechanics, North Sherwood Street, Nottingham.

Present: Committee - Andrew Griffin, Terry Adams, Paul Daft, Sandra Denham, Dave Goodwin, Jan Goodwin, Doreen Markam, Ursula Reynolds and 31 members.

Apologies: Gareth & Penny Cross, David Ball, Margery Benson, Chris Blunsdon, Peggy Fenner, Frances Scrowcroft.

Group Leader Andrew Griffin opened the meeting with a warm welcome to everyone.

Initial announcements referred to confirmation of forthcoming outings and events plus requests for volunteers where required.

Presentations of long service awards followed, it was a great pleasure to hand over an award to Ken Ingall who has given 25 years service especially following his recovery from ill health. Secondly to Doreen Markam for 10 years service. Well done to both.

The Minutes of the 2008 AGM had been circulated to those present, they were featured in the January 2009 edition of The Knot and the Website.

MATTERS ARISING:

There were none, the Minutes were accepted as a true record: their adoption proposed by Ken Ingall, seconded by Audrey Loach.

COMMITTEE ELECTIONS:

Gareth Cross (not in attendance) was standing down as Treasurer having completed 10 years. Terry Adams offered to take over thereby vacating the position of Membership Secretary, proposed by Penny Cross, seconded by Ken Ingall. Chris Blunsdon (unable to attend due to work commitments) volunteered for the new Membership Secretary position, proposed by Terry Adams, seconded by Penny Cross.

There had been no further resignations and other committee members stood down as required offering themselves for re-election. Nominations for new committee members as per group constitution were invited in the January 2009 edition of The Knot, the proposed committee listings was displayed on the notice board at the meeting as follows:-

Group Leader: Andrew Griffin, commencing his final year.

Deputy Group Leader: Penny Cross, Proposed by Ken Lee, seconded by Doreen Markam

Committee Secretary: Sandra Denham, Proposed by Gareth Cross, seconded by Ken Lee

Programme Secretary: Ursula Reynolds, Proposed by Andrew Griffin, seconded by June Baines

Newsletter Editor: Paul Daft, Proposed by Graham Sadler, seconded by Barry Nelson

Outings/Education/ Conservation: Dave Goodwin, Proposed by Stephen Wilkinson, seconded by Marnie Garner

Publicity/Outings: Jan Goodwin, Proposed by Ken Ingall, seconded by Audrey Loach.

Fund raising: Doreen Markam, Proposed by Sandra Denham, seconded by Ursula Reynolds.

Jan Goodwin pointed out she also covered Outings as no reference was made when announcing the changes.

It was proposed the 2008/9 committee be returned en-bloc. Proposed by Ken Lee, seconded by Brian Smith.

Endorsement was then sought from all present, with unanimous acceptance from the floor.

ANNUAL REVIEW:

Following on from the publication of Future Directions IV during 2008 we now have clearer objectives to follow as a Local Group. You will recall attention was drawn to the difficulties facing the world in terms of climate change, challenging economic demands and the importance of environmental conservation work of the RSPB in the UK and across the world. The paper reinforced the importance of commitment and generosity of its million plus members, volunteers, and supporters. The areas the RSPB would like us to focus on are as follows

Engaging with people about wildlife and conservation and encouraging more people to become supporters. You may be able to help amongst your family and friends.

Community involvement to help people get to know more about the work of the RSPB locally. Involvement at local garden centres, fetes, shows and formal talks.

Fund raising to help support the work of the RSPB here and elsewhere in the world. We are always glad of more help in this area.

Practical involvement in conservation such as through Volunteer & Farmer Alliance. Langford Lowfields is recruiting volunteers and we are involved locally in the farmland bird project.

Campaigning for conservation. We introduce you to current campaigns to request your support e.g. Birds of Prey, Marine conservation, Environmental threats.

Inspiring young people - so important for the future of wildlife and conservation. Without a Wildlife Explorers group this is difficult, anyone interested in taking a lead role in this area is most welcome.

We in Nottingham with our 395 members have a part to play in enabling the RSPB to achieve its ambitious conservation programme. At a local level we are committed to sharing enthusiasm and knowledge of birds and their environment through our programme of monthly presentations, field trips and local walks. We run fund raising events which directly support the work of the RSPB nationally, this year we have donated £3000. Gareth has submitted his financial report, his last following completion of two 5 year terms, we thank him for the hard and sometimes frustrating work.

We have a responsive education programme trying a different venture early in the year with a special showing of the Waterlands film at the Broadway Cinema and will continue to look for new ideas to engage people with nature. Our Website is undergoing a transforming update. The Knot has continued to develop under the guidance of the editor Paul Daft. Always seeking new ways of raising funds we are well supported by Doreen Markam and her regular helpers whilst we are keen to welcome any new supporters to these events. Sandra Denham has continued to co-ordinate sales in the absence of a sales team enabling some income to come in. We still hope to find an enthusiast amongst the membership to take on leadership of sales activities.

Your membership and support is vital in contributing to the aims of the RSPB and hopefully enhancing your own pleasure in appreciating birds and other wildlife. 89p of every £ made from membership donations goes directly towards conservation work so your support really counts, please encourage others to join too.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Terry Adams presented the annual report prepared by Gareth Cross the report had been circulated to all present, the financial statement appeared satisfactory, some events helped to keep on course. It will be a struggle in future, a reduction in membership numbers, an increase in stamp costs, no income from nestbox sales. Peter Wallis was not well enough to attend and is not producing any nestboxes, this year alone sales of these have raised £330. In the 30th Anniversary year the group totalled almost 600 members but now down to 400 are battling against the tide. The subscription was last increased in 2005, it was proposed therefore to increase the annual subscription from £4 per annum per household to £5 as of January 2010. Those present were asked if all were in favour, there was a unanimous show of hands. Proposed by Barry Nelson, seconded by Audrey Loach.

Terry asked if there were any questions on the financial report, there were none. The Financial Statement was proposed by Dave Goodwin, seconded by Brian Smith.

The AGM was formally closed at 8pm.

After a bar interval and drawing of the raffle, Dave Goodwin entertained us with an amusing presentation on his local patch, wildlife visiting the garden and some shots of local group outings.