



**THE ARMY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
President:  
Lieutenant General Sir Hew Pike KCB DSO  
MBE



Our Ref: AOS/AGM16  
Your Ref:  
7<sup>th</sup> June 2016

All AOS Members

**MINUTES OF THE FORTY SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE ARMY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
HELD AT ROTHIE MURCHUS LODGE, 3-6 JUN 16**

|         |                  |                    |
|---------|------------------|--------------------|
| Present | Lt Col RC Dickey | Chairman           |
|         | Maj AJ Bray      | Editor Adjutant    |
|         | Mr A Harrison    | Web Site Manager   |
|         | Miss L Millard   | Expeditions Member |
|         | Maj RJ Seargent  | Acting Hon Sec     |



| Item<br>(a) | Decisions<br>(b)  | Action<br>(c)  |
|-------------|---|--|
| 7. Reports  | <p>a. Finance. The Chairman drew members' attention to the AF N1514, read out the Hon Treasurer's Report (copy at Annex A) , and commented on the financial position to date. Thanks to Mike Williams for auditing the account.</p> <p>Accounts for 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The AF N1514 is attached.</li> <li>• There was much discussion on the need for an income stream to cover future Ascension Island expeditions. Both RNBWS and RAFOS were regular contributors to the exercise. Discussion ranged from sponsoring individuals who had to pay the full fair to exhorting AIG to assist with air fares. Fran Biggin, John Hughes, Phil Cooke, George Wady and Tim Cowley contributed. John Hughes suggested a £1000 subsidy per expedition which the Chairman considered unsustainable but would pursue vigorously further possibilities. As an interim measure it was decided that a £500 grant would be donated to the September expedition and that the committee would look at innovative ways, fund raising etc, to provide the income stream.</li> <li>• Proposer: John Hughes                      Seconder: Tim Cowley</li> </ul> <p>b. Expeditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chairman again thanked all those who had organised events.</li> <li>• Lynne Millard highlighted the forthcoming forecast of events and mentioned that there were a few additional activities this year. She noted that the Canada Expedition had been a success and that Tony Kaduck should be thanked for planning and running the trip. A copy of the programme for the foreseeable future is attached.</li> <li>• New expeditions and field days would be warmly welcomed but dates must be cleared through the Expeditions Member to avoid unnecessary clashes.</li> <li>• Andrew Bray mentioned that he was planning another expedition next year following the success of Lesvos this year. Current planning is pointing towards Georgia or Estonia. Rich Seargent noted that Georgia was currently out of bounds to serving personnel.</li> <li>• Andrew Bray also mentioned the plan for an Anniversary overseas exercise and pointed out that planning was currently under way with Ghana or São Tomé and Principe being the remaining two options.</li> <li>• Andrew mentioned that there would be another 'CAOS' trip to Northern France in November. Four people were currently interested.</li> </ul> | <p>Auditor</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>Chairman</p> <p>Committee</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p> |

| Item<br>(a) | Decisions<br>(b)  | Action<br>(c)   |
|-------------|---|---|
|             | <p>c. Website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Website is still running well with the only technical issue being the link to the AOS FLICKR site; this has now been fixed. For the future there is a plan to update the message board. The website can be found at <a href="http://www.armybirding.org.uk">www.armybirding.org.uk</a></li> <li>• The AOS has a Facebook Page and a Twitter feed.</li> <li>• There was much discussion about the validity of the website but it was agreed that one was needed and that an upgrading of the site would be fully funded. Andy Harrison was allowed up to £400 for the task.</li> <li>• Help was requested and Mike Ridley kindly agreed to help run the site.</li> <li>• It was noted that the link to the electronic Adjutant was broken.</li> <li>• There was suggestion that the site might be linked to the Defence Connect site and K-B stated that he would look at this on behalf of the website member.</li> </ul> <p>d. Adjutant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The editor asked for contributions in word format with separate, labelled JPEG Images. Contributions should be with him by early November for publication at the end of November.</li> <li>• He mentioned that photos should not be embedded into the articles.</li> </ul> <p>e. Newsletter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Secretary has asked for contributions for the Newsletter</li> </ul> <p>f. Ringing.</p> <p>The Chairman on behalf of Tony Crease highlighted the continued ringing activities undertaken by members of the Society. Expeditions had been run to Gibraltar and Skokholm as well as to Cape Wrath.</p> <p>g. RNBWS and RAFOS Updates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neither Society was able to send a representative. They will both be invited to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner.</li> </ul> <p>h. Secretary's Report and Administration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 new members had been recruited in the last year.</li> </ul> | <p>All</p> <p>Web Site Manager</p> <p>Mike Ridley</p> <p>K-B</p> <p>AI</p> <p>All</p> |

| Item<br>(a)           | Decisions<br>(b)  | Action<br>(c) |
|-----------------------|---|---------------|
| 8. Any Other Business | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tim Cowley, as a committee member of the Spurn Bird Observatory, highlighted the extensive changes recently and the forthcoming book on birds of Spurn.</li> <li>• Fran Biggin highlighted to need to publicise our activities. Outside committee, Fran volunteered to look into publicity and marketing for the Society shortly after she leaves the Army.</li> </ul> | Fran Biggin   |
| 9. Next AGM           | The next AGM will be held in the South West of England (potentially SPTA) at the beginning of May and depending on access to the Plain.   | Hon Secretary |
| 10. Closing Remarks   | The Chairman thanked all those attending and declared the meeting closed. He invited Bob Hayward to announce the winner of the day's bird count.  | All           |

R J Seargent

Copy to:

Chairman RNBWS  
Chairman RAFOS

Annex:

A. Treasurer's Report 2016

## TREASURER'S REPORT – AGM 2016

Finance. In the absence of the Treasurer, the Secretary gave an update on the accounts. Once again the accounts have been audited by Mike Williams to whom we are grateful.

### 1. Accounts 2015

- a. An excess of expenditure of £813 after the transfer of £1000 to create the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund as agreed at the last AGM; this compares to a surplus last year of £1572. Therefore the underlying position was an excess of income of £187 (£1572 in 2014).
- b. Our level of reserves is £7301.32 with an additional £1000 in the designated fund, showing an increase in our overall reserves to £8301.32.
- c. Expenditure nearly doubled compared to the previous year, to £2400. As we were predicting during the subscription review, we are now paying more for postage and the Adjutant (still a creditor at the date of this report). Other points to note:
  - i. Subscription collection has been getting more successful and donations decreased.
  - ii. The AGM made a small profit.
  - iii. Interest has increased by £36 – but rates have since been reduced.

### 2. In Year Position.

Cash: £217.45      Current Account: £1647.51      Deposit Accounts: £5829.32  
Total: £7694.28

(This total is stated after deposit payments of £2250 to Rothiemurchus for the AGM; of this, at least £1850 will be recovered so assets really total £9544.28 at this time.)

- a. Subs and donations of £1208 so far.
- b. Other expenditure this year to date includes
  - i. £117 on website domain renewal and hosting
  - ii. £9 on postage
- c. Anticipated expenditure includes:
  - A reduced insurance premium, in the region of £60
  - Postage of £350
  - Adjutant at £400
- d. Predicted balance at the end of the year could be in the region of £8500 unless the AGM agrees other expenditure.
- e. I do not recommend any increase in the subscription rate.
- f. Best wishes for a great weekend.

Paul

17 May 2016