

The Cape Bird Club

## *Special General Meeting 2016.*

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING (SGM) held on 14 January 2016, 20h00 at the Nassau Centre, Groote Schuur High School, Newlands, Cape Town.**

The Chairperson, Priscilla Beeton, welcomed members. She explained that the SGM had been called to discuss 3 items:

### **1. Postponement of the Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

The present Constitution of the club states that the AGM of the Club shall be held within three (3) months of the financial year end. In terms of this, the AGM should be held before the end of March. However, in 2016, March is an extremely busy month during which many members, including committee members, will be away on the international CBC tour, or at the BLSA AGM. March is also a time of religious festivals and school holidays. The committee proposed the AGM be postponed until 14 April 2016. This proposal was unanimously accepted.

### **2. Proposal to be put to the Regional Forum (RF)**

During the course of 2015 BirdLife SA (BLSA) changed its constitution and incorporated the RF into its structure. Future communication from and to BLSA is envisaged to be routed through the RF. At the moment the proposal at the Western Cape Birding Forum is that in matters requiring a vote, voting shall be conducted on a 'one club, one vote' basis.

The CBC committee sought a mandate from members to propose to the RF at its meeting on 6 February 2016, a middle road between the 'one club, one vote' system and full proportional representation, namely a voting structure on the following simple sliding scale:

- 2 to 100 members - 1 vote.
- 101 to 300 members – 2 votes.
- Over 300 members - 3 votes.

The maximum number of votes accorded to a club will be limited to three.

There was a query about family membership and it was noted that some clubs had a different fee structure for family members to that used by the CBC. The proposal would therefore have to define "membership".

The proposal was unanimously accepted and the RF representatives mandated to put this to the RF.

### **3. Revisions to the CBC Constitution**

The Chair explained that at the last SGM, members voted in favour of an Affiliated Club Membership of the BLSA and the Cape Bird Club was required therefore to revise its Constitution in line with the new BirdLife South Africa Constitution. A draft had been circulated via email for input from members and some useful feedback had already been received. In response to a question, the Chair noted that the existing Constitution was on the website for those who wished to compare this with the new draft. The Chair asked members to send any comments they had to her, Johan Schlebusch or Joy Fish before the February meeting.

The meeting closed at 20h20.