



Minutes of the 76th Annual General Meeting of the Cape Bird Club held at 19.30 on 14th March 2024 at Nassau Centre, Newlands.

Meeting Chair: Michael Buckham

Meeting Secretary: Sheila Scott.

Register of Members Present: A total of forty-nine members registered their attendance and a quorum (forty) was declared. The attendees are listed below.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Peter and Jenny Steyn, Gill Ford, Josua Wenzel, Jo Hobbs, John Fincham, Jonathan and Marje Hemp, Marilyn Metcalf, Duke Metcalf, Anne McLeod, Sandy Schmidt, Cheryl Leslie and Gavin Grieg.

1. Welcome:

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the 76th AGM of the CBC. He thanked all who were present for attending.

2. Confirmation of Minutes:

- 3.** The Minutes of the AGM dated 9th March 2023 were made available on the CBC webpage. They were accepted as correct.

Proposed: Mike Buckham. Seconded: Joel Radue.

4. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising from the 2023 AGM minutes.

5. Chairperson's Report:

Mike Buckham presented highlights from his report, which will be uploaded onto the CBC website after the meeting, with a link to the report being provided in the e-Newsletter. The report will also be published in the July 2024 issue of Promerops. The Conservation report will also be made available in due course.

Mike mentioned how things just "seem to happen" and he thanked all the volunteers for their commitment.

He mentioned each committee member individually and gave a brief breakdown of what they each do.

The 75th anniversary celebration was a large item on last year's calendar and he thanked Mel and Priscilla for their hard work on the sub-committee and for all the assistance with many issues

which included the Gala event and organising the memorabilia. The Gala event, involving many organisers, had been a highlight and he thanked Kirstenbosch for making their venue available to us free of charge.

A decision was made to make funds available to conservation and outreach efforts and he listed the significant ones which fulfilled some of the 75th anniversary objectives.

The mentorship program was incredibly successful and will continue but likely in a different format.

The Birding Big Year will be commemorated by putting together a booklet which will contain lots of colour photographs and stories contributed by people who had responded to a survey carried out in January.

The speakers, outings and communication channels from last year were revisited and all involved were mentioned and thanked.

6. Financial Report

Joy Fish presented the Treasurer's report for the period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023.

She advised that copies of the Financial Report were available at the welcome desk in the foyer.

In summarising, she said that the club's assets were lower than would ordinarily be expected but this was due to a conscious decision, made by the leadership, to donate some of the long-standing R300 000 plus bank balance, to conservation initiatives.

The Julie te Groen call account also went down by a sizeable amount as a result of further expenditure on hyacinth management at the Strandfontein Section of the False Bay National Park.

Income: A great job had been done by Penny with the sale of second-hand books (R910). However, Joy suspected that that amount was not as much as it should be and that some of the second-hand book proceeds may have been "hidden" under Memorabilia.

Unfortunately, there had been a loss on the anniversary year camp held in October.

The negative amount under Memorabilia was partly due to the badges which came from the UK and had been sold at a low price.

The club received donations of R40 300 and subscriptions had increased to R114 740. Amounts in excess of subs owed were often paid and these excess amounts (sometimes from as little as R15 going up to as much as R1000) were entered as donations. Joy thanked those contributors and indicated that their names are listed at the back of the financial report.

Overall, total income was down on the previous year, mostly due to the loss on the camp.

Most of the club's income comes from membership. There are 485 main members, 609 if one adds partners and children, and that compares with 566 from the previous year, which is quite a substantial increase.

Expenses: The auditor's figure remains R4000, which is a very reasonable audit fee given the work involved. We are grateful for the ongoing fee concession.

Total donations by the club amounted to R175 000.

The other costly item last year was the monthly meetings amount but that, in part, was because no expense had been spared on that wonderful 75th anniversary celebration.

The youth initiative (R23 000) was spent with a goal of spending more than that in future.

An amount of R40 000 has been promised to Westridge Park but, so far, only R1500 has been donated so there would be carry over expenditure in 2024.

Joy added that Dave (Whitelaw) had mentioned the Strandfontein Sewerage Works where R57 000 plus from the Julie te Groen fund had been donated for the manual removal of Water Hyacinth which is an ongoing problem. Quite a lot of the plants were manually removed, so the money is regarded as well spent.

There being no questions raised, Joy thanked the auditors, Paul Slack and Angela Wilson, and asked whether the Audited Financial Statements should be accepted:

Proposer: Mike Buckham Seconder: Heather Howell.

The financial statements were accepted.

Additionally, members were asked whether Paul Slack, of Fasttrac, should be re-appointed as the Auditor for 2024.

Proposer: Mike Buckham Seconder: Heather Howell.

The auditors were reappointed for 2024.

7. Election of new committee.

Nominations of previous committee members: Mike Buckham, Penny Dichmont, Joy Fish, Linda Merrett, Matthew Orolowitz, Joel Radue, Sheila Scott and Dave Whitelaw have accepted their nominations.

The appointment of the nominated members to the CBC Committee for 2024 was proposed by Simon Fogarty and seconded by Cliff Dorse.

8. Presentations by Junior Birding Mentees.

The AGM attendees were treated to wonderful presentations by CBC young birders Brodie Pascoe and Zoë Lunau-Johns, where each of them reminisced about some of their highlights from their birding activities in 2023.

9. Promerops Awards:

The recipients of the 2024 Promerops awards were:

- Joy Fish – for her role as Treasurer since 2017, her many other roles in the club over the years and her support of youth birding, especially in primary schools.
- Penny Dichmont – for her part on the committee, as vice-chair, since 2022 and for her tireless work as the main driver behind CBC's youth and young members programs including the mentor/mentee program.
- Cliff Dorse – for organizing the Birding Big Year, along with Mike Buckham, and for assisting with CBC outings, introducing many club members to new birding locations.

The citations are available to read in full on the website.

There being no further business the AGM was declared closed.

Record of attendance:

Gillian Barnes, Priscilla Beeton, Mike Buckham, Lee Child, Daryl de Beer, Lynette de Beer, Penny Dichmont, Jane Doherty, Cliff Dorse, Suretha Dorse, Felicity Ellmore, Joy Fish, Simon Fogarty, Anne Fulgham, Steve Fulgham, Alison Gilbert, Anne Grieg, Christina Hagen, Helga Hill, Andrew Hodgson, Heather Hodgson, Heather Howell, Cathy Jenkins, Nick Kruiskamp, Gigi Laidler, Dennis Laidler, Zoë Lunau-Johns, Alison Lund, Jane Magner, John Magner, Linda Merrett, Peter Moon, Rosemary Nathan, Nikki Nupen, Peter Nupen, Matthew Orolowitz, Brodie Pascoe, Elizabeth Pascoe, Trevor Pascoe, Joel Radue, Jürg Richner, Sharon Richner, Beryl Riley, Patrick Riley, Michele Ross-Innes, Otto Schmidt, Sheila Scott, Mel Tripp and Dave Whitelaw.