

## **Minutes of the 37th OBC Annual General Meeting held by Zoom on Saturday September 18th, 2021**

### **Present:**

#### **Council Members**

John Gregory (JG) - Chairman  
Mike Edgecombe (ME) – Acting Treasurer & Meetings – Standing down.  
Paul Insua Cao (PI) –Chairman Conservation Committee  
Billy Rodger (BR) - Sales  
Ding Li Yong (DLY) - Asian Liaison  
Chris Gooddie (CG) -Vice Chairman  
Drew Lyness (DL) - Social Media  
Russell Childs (RC) – Secretary  
Tim Loseby – (TL) Photographic Editor  
Vivian Fu – Campaigns  
Richard Webb – Co-opted 2021 Promotions  
Jessica Borer – Co-Opted 2021 Membership Secretary  
Sayam Chowdhury – Asian Liaison  
Simon Rodis - Publications – Standing down

### **1. Introduction from Chairman John Gregory**

Members were welcomed. The format of the meeting was introduced and the process for voting explained. A recording was made of the meeting. Each council member introduced themselves.

### **2.Approval of the minutes for the 36th OBC AGM held by zoom on**

The minutes were circulated to members prior to the meeting and posted on the OBC website. There were no matters arising.

The 2020 minutes were presented for approval

Proposer – Chris Goodie

Secunder – Rochelle Hood

**The 2020 AGM minutes were approved unanimously by meeting attendees.**

### **3.1 Chair John Gregory – Presented the financial accounts**

Despite Covid OBC increased its net income from £4144 to £21661. However this was largely driven by the receipt of a legacy. Income from sales, raffles and fundraising income was down due to the cancellation of our meeting agenda. Birdfair is a significant source of income for OBC. Despite positive sales of masks from the Conservation of Thailand income from sales was down £2400. We also saw a drop in advertising income because of Covid and delayed publications. Due to the pandemic, we gave our sponsors who are mostly travel companies a Covid holiday.

In line with our medium-term strategy, we increased our giving from £29938 in 2019 to £63306 in 2020. We hope to continue this trend whilst keeping an eye on our slowly declining membership numbers.

### **3.2 Approval of the 2020 OBC Financial Statements**

The financial statements were circulated prior to the meeting to attendees and posted on the OBC website. The Financial Statements for 2020 were produced in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2005.

The 2020 Financial Statements were presented for approval.

Proposer- Rochelle Hood

Secunder- Simon Rodis

**The financial statements were approved unanimously by meeting attendees.**

### **3.3 Approval to re- elect the Independent Examiner**

**Council proposed the re-election of Mrs Frances Clarke as the Cub's Independent Examiner**

Proposer – Drew Lyness

Secunder – Billy Rodger

**The re-appointment of Mrs Frances Clarke was approved unanimously by meeting attendees.**

## **4.0 OBC Annual Report – Chairman John Gregory**

### **4.1 Publications**

An apology from the OBC Council to all our members that our publications had fallen 6-12 months behind. We have had various issues with our editorial board and production process. We are pleased to announce that Alex Berryman is now leading our publications team with continued support from Simon Rodis and Tim Loseby. We also have Professor Frank Rheindt from the department of Biology Singapore as Managing Editor of the Journal of Asian Ornithology previously named Forktail. Council agreed to the name change as Journal of Asian Ornithology better captures our intention to attract and publish high quality academic papers on the most recent studies concerning Asian Ornithology and Conservation. Thanks to the efforts of our publications team, we will have our publications back on track by the year end. All our publications will be distributed in recyclable packaging.

### **4.2 Conservation**

We have transformed our conservation team and we now have a Conservation sub-group to Council which includes the Chair and Treasurer. This has enabled us to respond quicker to conservation grant applications. Chair Paul Insua Cao, Conservation officers Graham Hiron

and Duncan McNiven ensure we have the right level of due diligence for our small grants process. We have set up a new Shorebird conservation team to focus on the important flyways through the region. We are in the process of setting up a Songbird Trade group which will focus on the challenging issues around the Songbird Trade. We have country wide Conservation officers who help us to generate applications and prioritise scarce funds to the most deserving projects.

Over the last four years we have funded projects in 15 countries and last year we funded 23 projects totalling over £61 000 pounds. Indonesia received the most grants followed by the Philippines, India, and Bhutan

Small grants are our staple, and we increased the maximum amount to £3000. OBC thanks the March Conversation Fund and the Tides foundation for allowing us to do keep our giving at this level.

Seed Grants are a new OBC giving vehicle. Working with local nationals this is a more simplified process for grants up to £1000

In 2020 we have focussed on working in partnership with like-minded groups. Most significant is our partnership with ASAP – the Asian Species Action Partnership based in Singapore. With them we have funded three projects for critically endangered birds in Indonesia -

- The Cikananga conservation breeding centre as bridging funding to help them through the pandemic.
- The birds of Bangkaru Island, West Sumatra.
- Conservation of the Banggai Crow in Sulawesi.

We have been invited to join the Songbird Taxon advisory group (TASA) and we are making links with the World Pheasant Association (WPA)

This year we have supported some larger projects-

- In Thailand we supported the newly developed Pak Thale nature reserve led by the Bird Conservation Society of Thailand. This an annual site for Spoon-billed Sandpiper and many other migratory waterbirds.
- In Indonesia we funded a project to raise the awareness of the critically endangered Christmas Island Frigate bird endangered by fishing nets and pollution in Jakarta Bay. Working with fishermen a video was produced.

### **4.3 The Shore Bird Conservation group**

This is a dedicated group of council members all working in shorebird conservation in Asia. They steer the Shore Bird fund and develop OBC's work building upon what we are already doing at Pak Thale. Firstly, we ran a webinar on the Spoon Billed Sandpiper and birds of the East Asian and Australasian Flyaway. With 200 attendees we raised £1500 for the Migratory Shorebird fund. A you tube video of the webinar was made available. Following

on we then launched an award for young conservation scientists for shorebirds. On a similar vein we are looking to establish a bird trade group and an associated webinar.

### **5.0 The photographic library**

Following Kris Kazmierczak stepping down from his voluntary role managing the OrientalBirdimages.org we sought permission from the photographers for images to be transferred to the Macaulay Library. The OBC platform is now closed to further image uploads. Permission was received from 1800 photographers allowing us to transfer more than 91% of the collection from the Oriental bird images where they will be retained as standalone collection within the Macaulay Library. In recognition Cornell is providing free access to the Macaulay media library for all the photographers. In addition, Cornell is offering a 15% discount on Birds of the World subscription for OBC members.

### **6.0 Donors and Legacies**

In July 2020 we received a significant legacy from the estate of Terence Michael Corkett for which OBC are very grateful. In January 2021 a donor gave OBC 30k for shorebird conservation in our region. We have now expanded our Spoonbill Sandpiper fund to include migratory shorebirds across the region. We set up a shore bird conservation group within the conversation committee to exercise due diligence over the use of the money in the fund. In May this year we received an unrestricted legacy from the estate of Thomas Smith for £10,213.

We have significant reserves in several bank accounts earning minimal interest. To ensure we get the best return at a manageable risk we are in discussions with CCLA who specialise with charitable investments. We have updated our website with an OBC legacies page if anyone is considering leaving a legacy.

### **7.0 Optical equipment**

We are now working very closely with Cley Spey to help channel old optical to our members across the region. Our incoming Chair Chris Goodie is helping with the freight costs to help get these optics out to Singapore for distribution.

### **8.0 Corporate Sponsors**

Rockjumper a longstanding corporate sponsor of the OBC are running a tour to Taiwan in May 2023 raising funds for the OBC Conservation fund. Details are available on the Rockjumper website. Glen Valentine who is leading the tour gave a talk on the birds of Taiwan at our latest OBC webinar. The presentation is available on our website.

We welcome back Wildsounds as a sponsor. They will donate 10% of any sales to club members.

OBC are very sorry to hear that Sunbird Tours one of our longest standing corporate sponsors have decided to cease trading. We are very grateful for all their support the company has given the club and best wishes to Steve Rooke and the Sunbird leaders for the future.

Once again, we want to thank all our business sponsors for being part of our sponsorship programme and to welcome them back in 2022 as they rebuild their business

## **9.0 Country OBC representatives**

Ding Li our Asian Liaison Officer has worked to recruit new country representatives. This year we have added Nyein Chan as our rep for Myanmar, Wilbur Goh for Malaysia, Kensuke Tanaka for Japan, and pending confirmation Thanath Kothpathoom for Lao PDR and Tshering Tobgay for Bhutan.

## **10.0 Election of Council Officers**

### **10.1**

The following members were co-opted onto council in April 2021 and are standing for election

Richard Webb – Promotions Officer  
Jessica Borer – Membership Secretary

Proposer -Simon Rodis  
Secunder- Scott Pursner

**The election was approved unanimously by meeting attenders.**

### **10.2 The following are standing for election as council officers**

John Gregory -Treasurer  
Chris Goodie - Chairman  
Russell Childs -Secretary

Proposer – Rochelle Hood  
Secunder – Scot Pursner

**The election was approved unanimously by meeting attenders.**

### **10.3 The following council members are standing for re election**

Tim Loseby , Drew Lyness , Paul Insua Cao , Richard Thomas , Billy Rodger , Vivian Fu , Ding Li Yong , Sayam Chowdhury , John Gregory , Chris Goodie , Graham Russell Childs

Proposer- Graham Hogan  
Secunder – Rochelle Hood

**The election was approved unanimously by meeting attenders**

### **10.4**

The following are standing down from council

Mike Edgecombe & Simon Rodis. Alex Berryman resigned from council earlier in the year to focus his efforts on our publications.

### **11.0 Presentation**

The AGM concluded with a presentation on the Asian Songbird Crisis. “Overview and Demand Reduction Strategies “Professor Stuart Marsden and Harry Marshall followed by a question-and-answer session.