

BLACKBURN & DISTRICT BIRD CLUB

Minutes of the eighteenth Annual general Meeting held on Monday 3rd November 2008 at St. Silas's Church Hall, Blackburn.

The Chairman welcomed the members present to the meeting.

1) **The minutes** of the last Annual General Meeting were agreed.

2) **The Chairman's Report.**

Indoor meetings. The Chairman said he was very satisfied with the programme organised by Jennifer Clarke and he thanked her for finding such a good variety of speakers to keep everyone entertained.

Field Meetings were still well supported and he thanked John Collins and Anne Wilkinson for their time and efforts in making these possible.

Club Newsletter. Anne was thanked for producing an interesting newsletter which members seemed to enjoy.

Bird Report. The report would continue to be issued to all members free of charge. The Chairman thanked Doreen Bonner who did the important job of compiling the report.

The **Garden Bird Report** continued to produce important data on the status of our local birds and he thanked all those members who took part.

Wetland Survey. The Chairman thanked Tim and Janet Davie for contributing their survey results to the Bird Report.

Club Reserve. New nest boxes had been put up and there were signs that all had been used.

The Chairman thanked Kath for running the **Raffle** which was still providing good income for the Club, and all those members who supported it and donated prizes.

Video/DVD Library. The Club had recently purchased 7 DVDs and if popular, more would be obtained. The Chairman thanked Pauline Hey for looking after the Library.

Book Library. John Collins had been able to sell off some of the surplus books to make way for new Guides as they became available.

Refreshments. The Chairman thanked Marjory McNichol and her helpers for providing this service and raising extra revenue for the Club.

Public Relations. The Chairman thanked Barbara Hindle for keeping the media aware of the Club's activities.

Web Site. This was attracting more hits, and interest from potential members.

3) **Membership Report.** John Howarth said that if everyone paid up, the membership would stand at 100 exactly. He said that membership was healthy but new members were always welcome, especially younger people. He urged the membership to bring along any contacts who might be

interested in joining.

4) Treasurers Report. As Ed Hart the Club Treasurer was on holiday, the Chairman read out his report. The Club finances were healthy with a surplus over income of £66.64, following last year's deficit, which was mainly caused by the donation to the Brockholes appeal. It was hoped that the Club would remain in surplus during the coming year although the changes to Gift Aid introduced at the last Budget would result in a reduction in the amount we could claim back from Inland Revenue. There were still 20 members not signed up for Gift Aid and the Treasurer urged them to reconsider their decision.

5) Appointment of Officers and Committee. The existing Officers and Committee members were reappointed.

6) Appointment of Auditor. David Stephenson was appointed Auditor and thanked for his assistance in preparing the accounts.

7) The Chairman concluded by thanking all Officers and members of the Club for their contribution to another successful year.