

**ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY of the MIDDLE EAST,
THE CAUCASUS and CENTRAL ASIA.**

**Minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 5th July 2014 at the premises of
the British Trust for Ornithology, Thetford, Norfolk, UK**

Members Present – Ibrahim Al Farwi, Nabegh Ghazal Asswad, Raffael Aye, Dawn Balmer, Janet Barber, Mick Carroll, Sal Cooke, Elaine Cowan, Peter Cowan, Paul Donald, Helen Demopoulos, Adam Gretton, Ian Harrison, Phil Heath, Chris Hughes, Mike Jennings, Johannes Kamp, Maxim Koshkin, Chris Lamsdell, Andrew Lassey, David Lindo, Brian Meadows, Nick Moran, David Murdoch, Frank O’Connell, Geoff Randall, Mike Reed, Steve Rooke, Rob Sheldon, Elis Simpson, Rick Simpson, Peter Walton, Effie Warr, John Warr.

1 – Apologies for absence were received from: AbdulRahman Al Sirhan, Mike Blair, Phil Cannings, Mick Green, Guy Kirwan, Tristan Reid, Sven Wair.

2 – Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting held on 6th July 2013. Acceptance was proposed by Mick Carroll, seconded by Elaine Cowan and accepted unanimously. Rob Sheldon, Chairman, signed them as a true record of the Meeting.

3 – Matters arising. There were no matters arising.

4 & 5 – Presentation and adoption of the Accounts for 2013/Appointment of Accounts Examiner for 2014.

A leaflet with the summarised accounts for 2013 was distributed at the meeting and the contents, with additional detail, were described in a graphical presentation by Chris Hughes, Joint Treasurer. He drew attention to the following:

- a) there had been a slight decrease in the number of subscriptions.
- b) £25, 860.00 was available for use by OSME, plus £40.00 in restricted funds.
- c) administrative costs continue to be well controlled and are broadly in line with previous years.
- d) Mike Jennings was thanked for agreeing to examine the accounts.

In response to a question from the floor regarding possible reasons for people no longer wishing to remain OSME members, the following was noted:

- a) the main value of OSME for most members is *Sandgrouse*.
- b) the age profile of OSME membership inevitably means a reducing membership as members die.
- c) Several members have not increased their standing orders and continue to pay subscriptions at previous rates (but do not receive *Sandgrouse*).
- d) OSME has about 1,100 Twitter followers versus 720 members.

The Treasurer explained that Mike Jennings had examined the 2013 accounts for no remuneration and had expressed his willingness to act as Accounts Examiner for 2014. Acceptance of the accounts and Mike Jennings as Accounts Examiner for 2014 was proposed by Mick Carroll, seconded by Janet Barber, and carried unanimously.

6 – Election of officers:

Vice-Presidents: No nominations.

Council Members: There was one nomination for Council Membership – Dora Querido – proposed by Sal Cooke, seconded by Chris Hughes, and carried unanimously.

7 – Any other business.

Sandgrouse online. As part of the official launch of the digitization of *Sandgrouse* being placed on the Biodiversity Heritage Library platform, Sal Cooke gave an explanation of how this had been achieved and thanked Effie and John Warr for their support and help. She noted that the issues of the previous three years would always remain unavailable.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 14.20.