

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR AVICULTURE

Minutes of the National Council for Aviculture Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 11th April 2015 at the Charnwood Arms Hotel, Coalville.

- 1. Chairman's welcome.** The Chairman, Chris Smith opened the meeting promptly at 10.56 am, and welcomed those present. He also mentioned that this was a special meeting because the NCA had recently (March 8th) reached 70 years in existence.
- 2. Attendees.** The following were in attendance:
Life Vice-President: Roger Carr
Chairman: Chris Smith
British Bird Council: Bob Partridge
Budgerigar Society: Ghalib Al-Nasser,
Canary Council: Barry Mills, Terry Salt, Brian Hogg
Foreign Bird Federation: Dave Paine, Dennis Webster

Apologies were received from Mr M Flint (Bevercotes and Ollerton CBS), Mrs H Flint (South Notts. CBS), Robb Brown, Craig & Julie Walker (all BBC), Gordon Grist and Maurice Roberts (BS). The Secretary explained that Gordon Grist had only just come out of hospital following a heart attack followed by a stroke. The meeting expressed the hope that he would make a good recovery.

- 3. Minutes of the 2014 AGM held on 5th April 2014.** The minutes of the 2014 AGM were checked for accuracy and unanimously approved as a true record on a proposal by Barry Mills, seconded by Terry Salt.
- 4. Matters Arising.** There were no matters arising from the 2014 AGM minutes.
- 5. Chairman's Report.** Chris Smith tabled a written report (attached to these minutes), the main points of which were:
 - He thanked all members of the Management Committee for their support in making the organisation effective throughout the year, in particular Ghalib Al-Nasser for all the Secretarial work that he does, Barry Mills for all the publicity, and Dennis Webster for the production of the minutes of each meeting.
 - He felt that it was an honour to be NCA Chair on the occasion of its 70th birthday, and expressed the hope that the MC could agree measures to celebrate this achievement.
 - The continuing threats to Birdkeeping activities were highlighted, especially from "white lists" where activists are seeking to curb the exotic pet trade. He urged the members of parent bodies to sign the #handsoffmyhobby campaign. Cancellation of recent Reptile events in the UK through activist lobbying is also a worrying development.
 - He offered congratulations to the people who exhibited at the World Show in Rosemalen this year, especially Ghalib Al-Nasser who managed to achieve 4 gold and 3 silver medals. The Chairman had acted as a conveyer to the 2015 show, and had enjoyed the experience, but found it exhausting.

- Finally he hoped that everyone would have a successful breeding season.

Dave Paine expressed some concern about the overcrowding of birds in the sales cages of the traders, and it was suggested by Roger Carr that this should be taken up with COM.

6. Treasurers Report. A copy of the Treasurers report, covering the period 01.01.2014 to 31.12.2015, is appended to these minutes. Ghalib Al-Nasser reported a much smaller loss on the year than in the previous year, amounting to £317.36, giving a balance of funds at 31st December 2014 of £28,230.53. The accounts had been signed off by the auditor, Paul Tiller, FCCA. The Santander savings bond has finally been sorted out, and is in place. The Treasurer has negotiated an *ex gratia* payment of £150 to cover loss of interest etc. He mentioned that the income from sales of a small number of NCA badges had not been included, because the invoice covering their purchase had yet to be received.

Roger Carr requested a modification to the format of the accounts for better understanding by the layman, by showing *total* income and *total* expenditure, followed by calculation of profit or loss. This will be done for presentation to the AGM in future. The Accounts were accepted on a motion from Dave Paine, seconded by Brian Hogg.

7. Secretary's Report. Ghalib Al-Nasser presented his Secretary's report (appended). Key points were:

- The Management Committee has met three times since the last AGM. In addition our Chairman has fully participated in SUN meetings, and is keeping a close eye on developments together with Bob Partridge of the BBC. Chris in particular has also attended events like the London Pet Fair in order to spread the word about Birdkeeping.
- A letter about the AGM, together with an agenda and balance sheet was sent to all 50 NCA Life-Members and 40 Affiliated Societies. Very little response received.
- The Public Liability Insurance scheme is still popular. As of today we have 3 (4 in 2014) affiliated CBS's, 44 (33) affiliated clubs also taking insurance and 48 (33) clubs taking insurance only. This is the best year so far.
- COM-UK entered a larger team in the World Show at Rosmalen, Holland, than in the previous year, and between them Ghalib Al-Nasser and Brian Hogg gained 4 gold and 4 silver medals. The next World Show will be in Matosinhos, Portugal, open to the public 21st-24th January 2016.
- Since the 2014 AGM, Brian Byles has been added to the NCA Hall of Fame, and George and Jill Lewsey entered onto the Roll of Honour. Long Service Awards have been approved for members of the City of Bath CBS, Grantham CBS, Preston CBS and the Zebra Finch Society.

Roger Carr asked if the NCA was now the only provider of insurance to bird clubs. The answer was that the Foreign Bird Association provides slightly cheaper insurance, but it doesn't cover as much.

8. Inauguration of the President for 2015. Outgoing President, Dennis Webster, said that he had enjoyed his year in office, and had tried to gain more publicity for the NCA through his monthly column in *Cage & Aviary Birds*. C&AB had picked up on his mention of it being the 70th Anniversary, and had included a piece on that in its News pages. He welcomed Bob Partridge as the new President, and remarked that Bob continues to do a great deal for the hobby, particularly in connection with the ringing issue etc.

- 9. Election of a President-Elect for 2016.** Brian Hogg was proposed by the Canary Council to be the President-Elect. This was agreed unanimously.
- 10. To Appoint Honorary Life Vice-Presidents.** As retiring President, Dennis Webster was added to the list of honorary life Vice-Presidents.
- 11. To Receive the Names of the Management Committee.** The BBC put forward the names of current delegates, namely Bob Partridge, Robb Brown, and Julie and Craig Walker. However the BS will not know its NCA representatives until a meeting later this month, and the CC may not know until a June meeting, so it was decided to put this matter back until things clarified.
- 12. To Elect the Auditor.** It was unanimously agreed that Paul Tiller FCCA be re-appointed.
- 13. To Determine the Rate of Subscriptions.** It was decided that the current rates of subscription be agreed for a further year. The Chairman raised the question of ring membership, did the NCA want to be a ring issuer? The potential adverse impact on current ring issuers was discussed. But more canary varieties are now being rung (including Yorkshires). Should the Canary Council issue standard rings, for example. It was agreed to discuss this again at a later meeting.
- 14. To Consider any Resolution Submitted in Accordance with Rule 14.x.** Two proposals had been submitted by the Management Committee:

Rule 12 (iii) to be changed to *“Honorary Life Vice-Presidents can attend the AGM with the power to vote, and MC meetings without the power to vote”*

Rule 9 (iii) to be changed to *“Honorary Life Members, Life Members paying a subscription prior to 31st March 2007, and Honorary Life Vice-Presidents will be eligible to attend the AGM, MC meetings for LVP’s, and any EGM”*

Both proposals were agreed unanimously on a proposal by Barry Mills seconded by Terry Salt

- 15. To consider any Matter referred to the AGM by the Management Committee.** None received.
- 16. To consider any other Relevant Business notified to the Secretary at least 14 days before the Meeting.** None received.
- 17. Date and Venue of the Annual General Meeting 2016.** It was agreed that the 2016 AGM would be held at:

Charnwood Arms Hotel on Saturday 9th April 2016, commencing at 11.00 am

There being no other AGM business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 12.48.