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RAFOS/Sec/24

All RAFOS Members 21 Mar 24

**MINUTES OF THE 58th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY HELD AT ROYAL AIR FORCE HIGH WYCOMBE ON 16 MAR 24**

Present: AVM (Retd) M J Routledge CB Chairman

Gp Capt (Retd) K R Cowieson Field Activities Liaison Officer (FALO)

WO S M Drinkel Digital Image Coordinator (DIC)

Mr K W Earnshaw Web Administrator

Mrs S F Earnshaw Treasurer

Mr C P Wearn Membership Secretary

Mrs J M Knight Secretary

and 14 members, listed at Annex A

Apologies had been received from 28 members, listed at Annex B. Voting forms had been returned by 17 members unable to attend.

1. **Opening Remarks.** The Chairman welcomed all those present to RAF High Wycombe and thanked members for coming. He thanked Keith Betton for his informative and entertaining talk, Return of the Peregrine.

2. **Chairman’s Report.** The Chairman’s report is at Annex C.

3. **Minutes of the AGM 2023**. The Minutes of the AGM 2023 were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: WO S M Drinkel.

Seconded: Mr G W C Candelin.

Votes For: 32

Against 0

Abstain 6

4. **Matters Arising.** There were no matters arising.

5. **FALO’s Report.**

a. The FALO’s report is at Annex D. The meeting discussed the Slimbridge visit with no consensus as to its future. It was agreed to organise another visit and then review it again.

b. The FALO’s plans for 2024 were approved.

Proposed: Mr I C MacKenzie.

Seconded: Mr J C Le Gassick.

Votes For: 36

Against 2

Abstain 0

6. **Treasurer’s Report.** The Treasurer’s report is at Annex E. It was proposed that expedition grants up to £2600 were approved, to be allocated by the Committee.

Proposed: WO S M Drinkel.

Seconded: Mr B G Lyon.

Carried unanimously.

7. **Committee Members’ Updates.**

a. The report from the Membership Secretaries is at Annex F and the Newsletter Editor and Social Media Representative at Annex G.

b. No RAFOS ringing events have taken place over the last 12 months.

c. In addition to the publicity mentioned in Annex D the Publicity Member shared an academic paper on curlews with DIO and Natural England to lobby for access to RAF Scampton for a curlew survey. She was Interviewed by the Daily Telegraph for an article on waxwings and mentioned RAFOS.

8. **Election of Officers.** The Committee positions of Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Secretary and FALO were due for election. Sue Berrecloth volunteered as lead Treasurer and Brian Lyon as lead Membership Secretary, working as a team and each as deputy for the other; Donna Drinkel volunteered as Secretary and John Wells as FALO. There being no other candidates it was agreed to vote for the election for all the positions as a composite motion.

Proposed: Mr C P Wearn.

Seconded: Gp Capt (Retd) K R Cowieson

Carried unanimously.

9. **Awards.**

a. Best written article – Gp Capt (Retd) Keith Cowieson for his article “Shetland birdwatching tourism.”

b. Art and crafts – Mr John Le Gassick for his painting of a Spotted Flycatcher

c. Best UK photograph –.Mr Dave Slater for his picture of an Eider.

d. Best overseas photograph – WO Scott Drinkel for his picture of a Gambel’s Quail.

e. Best photograph by a novice – Mr Dave Slater for his picture of a Long-tailed Duck.

f. Photographic categories voted for by the audience (no prizes awarded, just kudos):

Worst photograph – Mr Dave Slater for his picture of a Red-throated Diver.

Best portfolio –. Mr Dave Slater for his pictures of Waxwings.

Best video clip – Wg Cdr Ian Grove for his video of a Great Bustard.

Favourite image of all shown - Wg Cdr Ian Grove for his video of a Great Bustard.

g. The Frank Walker Award was not awarded this year.

10. **Any Other Business.** The Secretary had asked in the Autumn 2023 Newsletter for suggestions on how we should celebrate the 60th anniversary of RAFOS next year; she received one reply. The option of a formal dinner in London seems not to be popular. The suggestion made was for a birding opportunity, possibly in Lincolnshire, and a formal meal. Having done some research, Boston, Lincs, has a good hotel and also 2 hotels of well-known chains. It is near the RSPB Frampton Marsh reserve which has good birding, recommended in September and October, and is easily accessible. After discussion, the preferred option seemed to be for an evening meal on the Saturday with the Sunday for birding, allowing guests to have flexibility on departure times. John Le Gassick asked if non-member partners could be included, to which the meeting was in agreement. Gillian Fisher offered to introduce organisers to the local RSPB team whom she knows. Dave Short pointed out that he had access to 2 minivans with drivers from TA Aylesbury so that members could park their cars securely at Aylesbury and be driven to and from Boston if they wished. Team Knight would make further research.

11. **Arrangements for the Next AGM.** The next AGM will potentially be held on 22 Mar 25, at RAF Brize Norton, to be confirmed by the Secretary.

*Jan Knight*

J M Knight

Mrs

Former RAFOS Secretary

Annexes:

A. Attendance List.

B. Apologies Received.

C. Chairman’s Report.

D. FALO’s Report.

E. Treasurer’s Report.

F. Membership Secretaries’ Report.

G. Newsletter Editor and Social Media Representative’s Report.