

MOOR GREEN LAKES GROUP

Minutes of the sixteenth Annual General Meeting held on Friday 5th March 2010, at 7.45pm,
at the Finchampstead Memorial Hall

1. Present 42 members including the following committee members: Bruce Archer, Dave Bishop, Ian Brown, Sue Dent, Roger Murfitt, Peter Standley, Peter Scott and Simon Weeks.
2. Apologies for absence had been received from Sue Proudley.
3. The minutes of the fifteenth annual general meeting were distributed around the hall for members to review.

4. Matters arising

The Chairman Peter Scott welcomed members to the meeting and invited members to raise any points arising from the minutes of the last meeting. The only matter arising was that Peter Scott pointed out that the poor surface of the bridleway referred to in the last minutes has now been addressed.

5. Site Management Report

Stuart Croft presented the Site Management Report. Stuart had prepared and distributed a map of the reserve showing management activities that had been carried out over the year. These included clearance of vegetation at northern edge of Colebrook Lake North, installation of new bench, installation of a new viewing screen on Grove Lake, repairs to hide roof, cutting of viewing slots, pulling Himalayan balsam, reed planting on Manor Farm etc. There was also the major work to resurface the bridleway which was funded by an ASLF grant.

Volunteer effort was significantly increased in 2009 compared to 2008, with 27 volunteer tasks and 316 'volunteer days' in 2009 compared to 16 tasks and 234 'volunteer days' in 2008. Stuart thanked Peter Scott and Simon Weeks for their sterling help and Tony Elson particularly for boating help and work on the pontoon bridge.

6. Bird Report

Ian Brown reported on the birds that occurred on the recording area in 2009. 137 species were noted over the year, with one new species added to the list in raven (recorded in both Jan and Mar). A total of 69 species were recorded as breeding/suspected breeding species.

Wintering birds included up to 60 goosander in Jan, a ruff (first winter record), bittern and the hen harrier seen at end of 2008 was again recorded in Jan 2009. Water levels were generally rather high in spring and seemed to impact on wader passage. A grey plover was probably the wader highlight and 3 whimbrel also passed through. The rarity of the year was a whiskered tern in May, the second record for the reserve.

As far as breeding was concerned, 4 nest boxes were occupied by mandarins and the tit boxes were more popular with great than blue tits. Amongst waders, 3-4 pairs of little ringed plovers bred but possibly only 1 chick fledged, no young were seen from 3 pairs of redshank but some lapwing young were fledged. It was again a poor breeding season for the black-headed gull colony and the common terns, with only 1 juvenile gull from around 70 nests and no terns

reared from about 7 pairs. Mink are suspected as the culprit. At least 3 pairs of skylark and 1 pair of yellowhammers were on Manor Farm and 3 pairs of little owls around the reserve. July brought the 2nd site record of marsh harrier and a reasonable wader passage including little stint and wood sandpiper. The year ended with the winter highlight being 3 Bewick's swans on the ice.

On the subject of water levels, Peter Scott commented that we are unlikely to have any control over water levels for the next 2-3 years as work continues on Manor Farm.

7. Treasurer's Report

Bruce Archer presented the Income & Expenditure account for the year ending 31st August 2009. Income was slightly higher than last year at £3,148.29 and expenditure £2,095.14, leaving a healthy surplus. The very generous donation of £400 from one member for the new Grove lake viewing screen is responsible for the higher income – the expenditure of this money will not show until 2009/10 accounts. The use of Email to distribute the Newsletter and web-site link to Annual Report has brought a substantial saving on postage. There was an unexpected cost of £230 for the 2009 AGM but in 2010 this will be covered by Cemex as previously. Bird food has represented a significant cost of about £400 but does result in good views of many birds including reed bunting and coal tit. Sensible suggestions are welcome for use of the surplus money – there is currently a plan to install another bench.

8. Elections

Peter Scott and Sue Proudley had offered their resignations as Chairman and Butterfly Recorder respectively, though Peter will remain involved as Plant Recorder. Iain Oldcorn has volunteered to take over as Chairman and, since there were no other nominations, is elected unopposed. John and Rachel Westmacott have volunteered to take on the role of Butterfly Recorder and again, in the absence of other nominations, were elected unopposed. However, there is still a vacancy for a Mammal Recorder.

The current officers of the MGL Group are:

Iain Oldcorn	Chairman
Bruce Archer	Treasurer
Roger Murfitt	Committee Secretary
David Bishop	Membership Secretary
Irene Draper	Postal Secretary
Ian Brown	Bird Recorder
John and Rachel Westmacott	Butterfly Recorder
Vacant	Mammal Recorder
Peter Scott	Plant Recorder
Chris Bean	Reptile Recorder
Ken Crick	Dragonfly Recorder
Sue Dent	Working Party Organiser
Peter Standley	Scientific Advisor
Simon Weeks	Site Liaison Officer
Colin Wilson	Newsletter Editor

9. Any other business

- a. Peter Scott informed the meeting of a proposal to extend the reserve car park in Lower Sandhurst Road. A plan has been prepared to add enough space for about 6 additional spaces and we are awaiting a response from the Borough council to a provisional enquiry. If feedback is positive than a formal planning application will be submitted. We will then need to obtain grant funding.
- b. Simon Weeks thanked Peter Scott on behalf of the Committee for his 7 years tenure as Chairman and presented a gift of wine from the Committee members.

The business of the meeting concluded at approximately 8.15pm. After a break for refreshments, there was an illustrated talk by David Boag on the natural history of a quarry, followed by a period of discussion and questions.