

MOOR GREEN LAKES GROUP

Minutes of the fifteenth Annual General Meeting held on Friday 20th February 2009, at 7.45pm, at the Finchampstead Memorial Hall

1. Present 37 members including the following committee members: Bruce Archer, Dave Bishop, Ian Brown, Sue Dent, Roger Murfitt, Sue Proudley, Peter Scott and Simon Weeks.
2. Apologies for absence had been received from Peter Standley.
3. The minutes of the fourteenth annual general meeting were distributed around the hall for members to review. There were no matters arising.
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, but none were forthcoming.
5. Site Management Report
Sue Dent presented the Site Management Report. A major annual task has been to clear Tern Island of vegetation prior to the breeding season. The island vegetation has been sprayed over the last two years and a lot of the brambles have been killed meaning that a single working party was sufficient to clear the island in 2008. Gravel is eroding from around the base of the posts supporting the mink fence on Tern Island and sand bags have been used to prevent further erosion. A jetty has been installed which has improved access to Plover Island. Good progress has been made during two sessions clearing vegetation on Long Island. Grassland management has required control of bramble scrub by a variety of methods; manually, using brush cutter and grazing from cattle. Irish Moils, a rare breed of cattle, grazed the reserve in 2008 and did a useful job of keeping the vegetation down. There was another session on planting reeds on the New Workings, the third year that this has been done. Growth is rather slow due to the acid soil and the current inability to control water levels.

Sue expressed gratitude to the volunteers who attend the work parties. 234 volunteer days were recorded over the year and Sunday work parties averaged 14 volunteers. Sue also thanked Peter Scott, Simon Weeks and Tony Elson for leading tasks, and also Simon Weeks for regularly checking the cattle.

6. Bird Report
Ian Brown reported on the birds that occurred on the reserve in 2008. 136 species were noted in the recording area over the year, which is about average, and no new species were added to the list for the first year since records began. However, the number of breeding/suspected breeding species was the highest ever at 70 species, with 3 new species added. These were sand martin, which nested in a Cemex bank; cuckoo – a female was seen egg-laying in a dunnock nest; grey heron – 1 pair reared 2 young on S side of the river.

Wintering birds included nearly 60 goosander in late 2008, pintail and increasing numbers of golden plover on Manor Farm. A good spring passage included scarce species such as temminck's stint, whimbrel, sanderling, black tern and little gull, and there were 2 singing

nightingales only the 2nd and 3rd records for the site. As far as breeding was concerned, 35 young mandarin were recorded in nestboxes and 3 young redshank were hatched from up to 3 pairs, though none are thought to have survived. It was a poor breeding season also for the black-headed gull colony and the common terns, with only 3 fledged young of the latter species. In the autumn there was a good wader passage with good numbers of black-tailed godwits in particular and the year closed with sightings of a ringtail hen harrier.

7. Treasurer's Report

Bruce Archer presented the Income & Expenditure account for the year ending 31st August 2008. Income was £2,843.22 and expenditure £1,725.60, leaving a healthy surplus. Hence, as Cemex continue to subsidise the production of the annual report, there is no need to increase the annual membership fee. Some money has been spent on a bench which will be installed next to the bird feeders near Colebrook lake North hide. Also there are plans to spend some money on a second jetty for ease of access to Long Island. Apologies were given that the most up-to-date membership list was lost during the changeover of Membership Secretary which may have meant that some members did not receive renewal reminders.

8. Elections

All committee members were willing to stand for a further year, and no other nominations had been received. Chris Bean has volunteered to take over from Peter Scott as Reptile Recorder. Also there was a request for any volunteers to help out with butterfly survey work in 2009 as Sue Proudley's availability will be limited this year.

Peter Scott gave notice that he intends to stand down as Chairman at the end of 2009 so asked for volunteers prepared to take on the role next year. He is happy to carry on as Plant Recorder.

The officers of the MGL Group are:

Peter Scott	Chairman
Bruce Archer	Treasurer
Roger Murfitt	Committee Secretary
David Bishop	Membership Secretary
Irene Draper	Postal Secretary
Ian Brown	Bird Recorder
Sue Proudley	Butterfly Recorder
Ian White	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. A question was raised from the floor on the current level of Group membership. Currently there were approximately 650 individuals from about 350 households.

- b. A comment was made from the floor about cyclists using the footpath instead of the bridleway. Peter Scott commented that this was perhaps understandable at present as the bridleway is in such poor condition it is unusable for cyclists. There are plans to get the bridleway resurfaced which should help to avoid this issue.

The business meeting concluded at approximately 8.15pm. After a break for refreshments, there was an illustrated talk by David Cary on heathland birds, followed by a period of discussion and questions.