

ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

ANDALUCIA BIRD SOCIETY

Minutes no. 24

The Annual General Meeting of members was convened on January 20th, 2024, at Venta La Vega, Ronda. At the first call at 13.00 10 members were present representing 2% of the total membership. There not being sufficient members present the second call was convened at 13.30.

Board members present: Peter Jones; John Brooks; Frank Hair.

Written notice of the meeting was sent in December by email to all members at their registered address. The following agenda was approved

1. Approval of the Minutes of the OGM on 21st January 2023
2. Approval of the 2023 Accounts and Budget 2024
3. Membership Report
4. Conservation Report
5. Any other business

1 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting on 21st January 2023

The Minutes were circulated and approved unanimously.

2 Approval of the 2023 Accounts and Budget 2024

The ABS Financial Statement for 2023 was presented by treasurer Janet Dixon by means of a written note.

2023 Financial Results

This has been another good year financially for your Society.

We received €16.392 of income. Roughly 60 % of that income was from Membership fees; 30% was from donations, direct fundraising and purchase of our merchandise, and 10% of income was from advertising sponsors.

Our actual expenditure in 2023 was €11.513. The main expense was €6.000 for printing and posting the quarterly Magazine, this accounted for 52% of total expenditure. The Committee also decided to print and distribute free to Members, the new Bird List publication. This cost €2.800 equivalent to 25% of expenditure. The other costs are associated with the Membership management and payment systems. The surplus of €4.879 was added to the reserves.

From these reserves, we donated 4000 euros to conservation projects in Andalucía. The Montagu Harrier project received 2000 euros. 500 euros was given to each of the following projects: Barn Owl, Little Swift, Lesser Kestrel and Seabird rescue.

At the end of 2023, the net value of the Society is €17.661, an increase of €879 over the year. We are in a sound financial position.

The accounts for 2023 were unanimously approved by the members.

2024 BUDGET - Income

- Membership fees. For the first time since the Society was formed, there is a small rise in some Membership fees from 1st January 2024. With this increase and a small increase in Members, I have put an ambitious budget of €10.000.

- I believe we will retain most of the existing advertisement sponsors, so I have maintained the budget of €1.500 euros as advertisement income.
- I have budgeting €1.500 in what we call micro-donations. Also, a further €1.000 euros from direct donations. For total income raised from both these sources, I have budgeted 2500 euros.

2024 Budget - expenses

- Price inflation was already evident in the rise in our costs in the last quarter of 2023 and global instability may lead to further price rises. On the expenditure side, I am assuming the production and distribution of 4 Magazines will be €7.500 for the year.
- Normal running costs of the Society are increased with expected inflation.
- Banking costs are a function of how many transactions are made and their value, so as the Society grows, bank fees increase.
- There is a budget under 'printed matter' for the possible production of a leaflet to promote the work of the ABS.
- I have included a new item under 'fairs and advertising' for the costs associated with the ABS having a stand at the Andalucía Bird Festival in Montejaque in April.
- The increase for the accountant includes her fee for last year which wasn't invoiced, this year's fee, and a small fee for additional work that she is doing on our behalf.

On these assumptions of income and expenditure, the Society should return a small surplus of 1600 euros. The Society has set aside €5.000 for Conservation projects in 2024.

The members gave their unanimous approval for the 2024 budget

3 Membership Report

We saw over 2023 again a healthy growth in our membership.

We often see membership cancellations from members who signed up with plans to visit Andalucía.

They are not interested in renewal and stay as members for only one year.

Some of our members moved back to the residence in their home country and sadly we also have several who passed away.

As of 1st of January the Society had 469 members, which grew over the year to 499 per 31st of December 2023.

4 Conservation Report.

Peter Jones informed the members of our Conservation Projects. Our main and longest running is the Montagu's Harrier where we provide funds to Tumbabuey, a local conservation group. This received 2000 euros. This is a key project because the population is in decline due to changes in farming practises. Our donation helps buy crops and ensure the wheat fields where they nest are not cropped until the fledglings have flown.

Our next longest is Project Alba which is a Barn Owl population restoration project. Here we gave 500 euros for the building of Barn Owl boxes and their installation around Andalucía.

The above two projects were funded from our main budget, but the Swift Project received its 500 euros from micro-donations raised at field meetings, and the ABS Ramblers. This project was also to provide nest boxes and is run by Sociedad Gaditana de Historia Natural (SGHN).

Thus, around one third of our total budget is spent on nature conservation.

Peter Jones informed the members of our projects for 2023. Our support for the Harriers and Barn Owl will continue with funds coming from our budget.

Micro-donations will fund Lesser Kestrel population restoration, 500 euros to Tumbabuey, Little Swift conservation, 500 euros to SGHN, although funds will not be released until the committee has clear and well-defined plans from the groups we are supporting.

The members were then asked if they would support a project to provide food to the Seabird Rescue Group Malaga. Many sick birds are found our shores and need veterinary support, which is provided by the group, but they need assistance to buy food for the birds as often they take weeks to recover. It was pointed out that this could be construed as Bird Welfare rather than Bird Conservancy and the members must take that into consideration. However, there was unanimous support from the members and therefore this project will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

5 Any other business.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 13.55.

John Brook
Chairman

Pieter Verheij
Secretary