

## Annual General Meeting of BirdLife Botswana

**Venue: Chemistry Lecture theatre, University of Botswana.**

**Date and Time: 1830 hrs, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

### Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed those who had managed to attend and particularly members who had travelled a long way. Total members present numbered 58.

### Apologies

M. Webb, K. Toomey, C Orchard, N. Bousfield, Mr and Mrs Evans, Mr and Mrs Williams, S Tyler, M Soroczynski, Dr Dithogo, P Zappala, Dr Rutina, P Hancock

### Minutes of the last meeting.

Accepted as a correct record by I White and M Skelton

Matters Arising – none

## AGENDA

### 1 Treasurer's Report – IW

1.1 Overview. We are a little business, an NGO, growing, reliant on donors and struggling somewhat. P800,000 is spent on salaries and another P800,000 on consultancies.

IW went through the various accounts as outlined on the financial report. Jean Jones (CA) officially audited the BirdLife books..

### 2 Chairman's report – HH

2.1 BLB have adopted a new format for their annual report, following a similar format to that of BirdLife SA in that the report has been printed and is available to members, instead of being read at the AGM. The document will be used when we approach donor organisations.

2.2 In April 2004, the budget was P2000 per year and Kabelo Senyatso was appointed as the Director of Botswana BirdLife. Other staff include Keddy doing the CBM project and Virat finishing the GEF project, which has been operating for the last 5 years. Yukiko from Japan was with us for 3 years having been with the volunteer agency JAICA. Doreen has been at the forefront of our Educational Committees and along with members of staff has supported 30 schools who we are actively working with and who will be participating in the World Bird Migratory Day in Mogoditsane.

2.3 Our website includes Flicker and Facebook links, led by IW who is becoming a world class photographer.

2.4 Jenette Armstrong has been doing volunteer work in the mornings almost every day of the week analysing input for the Bird Population exercise.

2.5 A colouring book has been produced in the last year as well as some important documents on IBAs. A 20 year review of water bird counts in Botswana has been produced by Dr Stephanie Tyler, following the milestone 10 year water bird count booklet ten years ago.

2.6 Currently we are very short of funds and we are actively trying to find more sponsors to keep our organisation in good financial health.

- 2.7 We currently enjoy a close relationship with the government, especially the DEA and DWNP.
- 2.8 The BirdLife shop is growing well in Kgale shopping mall next to Café Dijo, thanks to the work by Mary Webb.
- 2.9 Membership is at 492. Our aim is to get to over 1000 in the not too distant future. Our membership fee will rise to P150 in the next year, 2014.
- 2.10 Bird walks are very popular and there are regular camps going on which are well attended.
- 2.11 Where is the organisation going? Ideally an education officer should be based in every urban centre in Botswana, but this will depend on availability of funds to employ such staff. More research on species needs to be done. The effects of Climate Change in Botswana needs to be studied. Avitourism is in its infancy.
- 2.12 Thanks go out to our many sponsors who are all listed in our annual report. Thanks also are extended to the Board members and the committees such as those who are producing the annual calendars.
- 2.13 Virat and Kabelo are highly motivated, well skilled and deep thinking leading employees of the organisation, Both work long hours and are a pleasure to work with and are setting new standards in this line of work in Botswana.
- 2.14 Eugenie, our editor of Familiar Chat, has spent the last six years doing an extremely good job in producing 24 newsletters and is handing over to Janet Wood.
- 2.15 Sue Coleman has volunteered to become membership secretary

3 Mike Barclay commended the chairperson Harold Hester for his fine leadership.

#### 4 Election of office Bearers for 2013 and 2014

##### **Office Bearers**

Chairman	Harold Hester
Vice chairman	Mike Barclay
Treasurer	Ian White
Secretary	Peter D'Arcy
Director	Dr Kabelo Senyatso
Retail officer	Mary Webb
Education officer	Doreen McColaugh
Membership secretary	Sue Coleman
Records sub-committee chairman	Chris Brewster
Editor Babblers	Dr Stephanie Tyler
Editor Familiar chat	Janet Woods
Editor Birds and People newsletter	Pete Hancock
Press Liaison officer	Janet Woods
Marketing officer	Mary Lane-Jones
Web site manager	Mike Goldsworthy
Ordinary member	Dr Kathleen Toomey

**Representatives**

Kasane	Phil Zappala
Maun	Pete Hancock
Francistown	Mike Soroczynski
Ghanzi	Kevin Grant
Jwaneng	Jerusalem Mooketsi
Serowe	
DEA	
DWNP	Dr Michael Flyman
UB Representative	Dr Marks Ditlhogo

**5 Guest Speaker**

5.1 Megan Stewart has been working with birds all her life. Currently she is working with raptors mainly and is deeply involved in falconry. She has worked in many places in the United States of America. Recently she came out to Botswana to look into a solution for the quelea problem we have in the farming area of Pandamatenga in the North of Botswana. Her presentation was excellent and she made good points as to how the quelea problem could be solved without using poison.

Minutes recorded by BirdLife Board Secretary, Peter A. D'Arcy.