

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR AVICULTURE

Minutes of the National Council for Aviculture Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 9th April 2022 at the Charnwood Arms, Bardon Hill, Coalville LE67 1TB

- 1. President's welcome.** The President Chris Smith, in the absence of the Chairman Barry Mills, chaired the meeting and opened the meeting at 10.35 am by welcoming and thanking those attending. He said that we are depleted in numbers as the pandemic has taken its toll on the hobby. We need to recruit people to assist us in moving forward as we now have no representation from the Foreign Bird Federation (FBF) and we need higher profile on Facebook.
- 2. Attendees.** The following were in attendance:
Budgerigar Society: Ghalib Al-Nasser, John Cosby, Chris Snell
Canary Council: Saviour Camilleri, Keith Ferry, Chris Smith

Affiliated Societies: Dave Paine – Gainsborough CBS

Apologies Received From:

MC: Barry Mills, Robb Brown, Terry Tuxford, Bernard Williams, Dennis Webster; **Affiliated Societies:** Princes Risborough CBS, Edinburgh BS, NELCC, West Norfolk BC.

- 3. Minutes of the AGM held on 8th May 2021.** The minutes of the 2021 AGM were checked for accuracy, and approved on a motion by John Cosby, seconded by Keith Ferry and approved by those who were present at the last AGM. The AGM minutes are always uploaded on the NCA website.
It was agreed that, as part of keeping affiliated societies informed, the AGM Minutes be circulated to all paid up affiliated societies after adding it to the website.
- 4. Matters Arising.** There were no matters arising from the 2021 AGM minutes.
- 5. Chairman's Report.** The Chairman's written report was read out by the Secretary as follows:

“Firstly, let me welcome and thank those of you who have managed despite COVID, travel costs and other commitments to attend our 2022 Annual General Meeting. Your presence is very welcome.

Secondly, let me apologise for my own absence due to COVID for which I tested positive on Thursday, 7th April. Two vaccinations and a booster will hopefully keep my symptoms to just a heavy head cold and a period of isolation.

Thirdly, I extend my sincere thanks to our officers, particularly Ghalib, our secretary and treasurer, and Chris, our president and vice-chairman, who have worked so hard over the period of the pandemic to “keep the show on the road”. Our hobby has never faced so many challenges but nevertheless the N.C.A. has still achieved positive things over the past year.

Our secretary/treasurer's report offers a comprehensive outline of our activities thus far to which I would only add my commitment to the furtherance of the PLI scheme which is essential to our affiliated clubs and our support to the National Exhibition which thankfully went well in 2021 although a little down in numbers. An augmented contribution from the NCA to the 2022 National Exhibition will be put before the Management Committee meeting today for their consideration. Let us also hope that Avian Flu and/or Covid will not prevent the National taking place this year.

We are fortunate that through prudent financial management our funds remain healthy. Following the A.G.M. the Management Committee will be asked to consider ways in which some of those funds might be deployed for the benefit of members and the Fancy as a whole.

A pragmatic adjustment to our Rules regarding the President's length of tenure will, I hope, prove uncontroversial. In the matter of recruitment to our parent bodies within the Constitution your thoughts will be welcomed but should no immediate solutions be forthcoming I would ask for patience and more time to seek to resolve the situation.

Positive progress on the effects of Brexit on our hobby remains minimal. It would be great if UK fanciers could exhibit at the proposed World Show in 2023 and COM/UK will be ready to play their part in that. Meanwhile we can but hope.

Finally, may I thank you all once again for attending today's AGM and for your thoughts on the challenges that face us. I hope you will feel your time well spent and I look forward to meeting you either at the next meeting or at the National in October. Very best wishes to you and your clubs".

- 6. Treasurers Report and Approval of the Appended Balance Sheet.** Ghalib Al-Nasser presented the Balance Sheet, which showed a higher profit (£1,857.11) than in 2020 (£1,203.74). The increase was mainly due to paying less for the insurance due to fewer societies applying for the PLI because of the pandemic effect on societies by not having meetings and shows. However, the cost for buying the insurance from the broker has risen from £47 to £50 per Society commencing from 2022. The Balance Sheet is still strong, and it was approved unanimously following a motion by Dave Paine, seconded by Keith Ferry.

The Treasurer read out a letter from the Auditor suggesting ways to utilise some of the large amount that the NCA have for the benefit of the fancy.

After discussion it was proposed by Dave Paine, seconded by John Cosby and passed unanimously that we give free insurance in 2023 to all clubs who applied for the PLI in 2022. This will cost the NCA in the region of £4k - £5k.

- 7. Secretary's Report.** Ghalib Al-Nasser read out his report that he had sent to all the paid-up affiliated societies for 2022, with the AGM agenda, as follows:

"Where did those 3 years since our last physical AGM back in 2019 go? We can only hope that we have turned a corner and most of the problems that were related to Covid are now behind us. However, we must not forget those lives that were lost (6.1 million Worldwide and 164,670 lives from the U.K.)

due to Covid and our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those that lost their lives. It was certainly a very hard 2 years we all had to endure.

Since the last AGM, held by zoom last May, the Management Committee has met once (16th February) by zoom. Main topics were Finances, Foreign Bird Federation, CBS Liaison Officer and the presidency term. Some of those topics form part of the AGM Agenda.

Like all societies around the country our activities during last year have been very minimal but we kept ticking over, as they say. After the tremendous uptake on the Public Liability Insurance Scheme in 2019 resulting in 193 societies taking up the affiliation and insurance, those figures were extremely low during 2020 resulting in a refund by the Insurance company. The 2021 season was slightly better and so far in 2022, 78 societies have applied for the insurance scheme. The NCA buy the bulk insurance scheme from the insurance broker MEAD at £50 per society and with the cost of the 4 rosettes and postage that we send to each affiliated society the total cost amounts to about £58 and we only charge each society £60.

We continue to support the National Exhibition with £320 prize money and rosettes divided equally for the Best in each of the 5 sections.

COM-UK (the federation between the NCA and IOA) had a similar low-key period as we had no World show to attend in 2021 and 2022 due to cancellation and of course restriction with movement of birds due to Brexit. We are all looking forward to the COM 2023 World Show to be held in Italy again (venue to be decided) and hopefully the DEFRA restrictions are less stringent from what they are now so that we can participate at the show.

Our AGM is on 9th April and we welcome all of our Life Members and affiliated societies' delegates to attend so hope to see many of you then".

The President Chris Smith said that the situation with bird movement is imposed upon us by the EU which DEFRA supported and quarantines to be applied. Meetings with DEFRA continue but any legislation is slow coming and have to go to Parliament for approval and an import/export license is needed.

8. **President for 2022** – Ghalib felt that because of the Covid situation Chris has not been able to enjoy his role as President since last AGM. He felt that we should now look towards having the presidency role for 2 years rather than annually.
It was agreed to extend Chris's presidential role for another year till the 2023 AGM.
9. **Election of President-Elect for 2022.** Ghalib Al-Nasser was already elected to this role at last year's AGM so he will serve in that capacity for 2022 and will become the President in 2023.
10. **To Appoint Honorary Life Vice-Presidents.** There were none to be nominated to this position.
11. **To Receive the Names of the Management Committee.** The following names were put forward:

BS: Ghalib Al-Nasser, John Cosby, Terry Tuxford, Chris Snell.

CC: Chris Smith, Keith Ferry, Saviour Camilleri.

The Secretary read out a letter that he received from Dennis Webster which highlighted reasons for his decision to step down from the NCA Management Committee. Main reasons were due to arthritis in his hands and wrists that are getting worse making it difficult to take notes for minutes, travelling long distances which has now forced him to reduce his stock and bird society positions. The current demise of the FBF did not help but he thanked the MC and had enjoyed his time serving on the NCA MC and wished all concerned best wishes for the future.

Similar email received from Robb Brown highlighting similar problems of lack of members to help within the British Bird Council who will continue to affiliate to the NCA but will not be able to send delegates to meetings unless it involves important matters that are appertaining to the British Bird Fancy.

Dave Paine suggested that perhaps we can accept representation from the Zebra Finch Society (ZFS) to send a representative instead.

Both Barry Mills and Dennis Webster wrote to all the seven FBF affiliated societies asking for support but to no avail.

It was agreed to leave the door open for 12 months for both the BBC and FBF to send any delegate before a final decision is taken. Any ideas will be helpful.

12. To Elect the Auditors. Paul Tiller FCCA was again elected to be auditor for the NCA.

13. To Determine the Rate of Subscription for 2023. It was agreed that subscriptions would remain the same as for 2022.

14. To Consider any Resolution in Accordance with Rule 14x. The following were considered:

- a. proposition to change the term of presidency from one to two years as per Rule 12(i) to commence as from 2023. This was passed unanimously.
- b. Foreign Bird Federation affiliation as a parent body (Rule 3(i)). As discussed above it was agreed to leave the door open for another 12 months.

15. To Consider any Matter Referred to the AGM by the Management Committee. None.

16. To Consider any other Relevant Business notified to the Secretary at least 14 days Before the Meeting. None.

17. Date and Venue of the 2023 Annual General Meeting. It was proposed to hold the 2023 AGM on **Saturday 1st April 2023** at the Charnwood Arms Hotel if this was available.

The President closed the meeting at 11.45 am