

# **NCA Annual General Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2009 at Fieldhead Hotel, Markfield, Leicestershire.**

**Present:** Dennis Webster (Chairman, ZFS/FBF), Dennis Norton (President, CC & LM), Mrs. Norton (M.A.CBS), Barry Mills (CC & LM), Chris Smith (CC & LM), Andrew Triolo (CC), George Booth (Treasurer, BS), Ghalib Al-Nasser (BS), Alex Woan (BS), Gwyn W. Jones (BBC), Bob Clarke (FBF), Bob Storey (FBF), Steve Nesbitt (FBF & Grantham CBS), G. Brunt & Tim Ward (Shrewsbury CBS), Mrs Hilary Flint (South Notts CBS), M. Flint (Ollerton & Bevercotes CBS).

**1.Chairman's Welcome:** Dennis Webster opened proceedings at 10.35am and welcomed all those in attendance. There were written reports available for all present from the Chairman and Treasurer but late arrival of the Secretary's report prevented individual copies being available and so that report would be read out at the appropriate time.

**2.Apologies:** Dave Whittaker (BS), Dave Paine (Gainsborough CBS/ZFS/FBF), Delia Smith (LM), Roger Carr (BS), Bernard Williams (BBC), Craig & Julie Walker (BBC), John Wright (Preston & District AS).

**3. Minutes of AGM 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2008:** Accepted as a true record on a proposal by Ghalib, seconded by Dennis Norton.

**4. Matters arising:** There were no matters arising from the AGM itself, however, Ghalib asked whether item iv of the informal discussion following the AGM had been addressed i.e. that thought be given to making attendance at the AGM worthwhile. The Chairman thought the agenda would provide that but also offered a similar opportunity for informal discussion after the AGM if requested or required.

**5. Chairman's Report:** Dennis Webster spoke to his written report (attached), which included the following points:

- Thanks to all those who have worked so hard for the NCA and the hobby over the past year.
- Particular thanks to Barry and Andrew for their work on the Avian Welfare Strategy Committee
- NCA responsible for two sections of the Avian Welfare Strategy: Exhibition Birds and the Foreign & Native species. Dennis & Barry to attend next meeting of Strategy Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> May in Coventry.
- History of the NCA is being researched and we now know it was founded on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 1945.
- The Insurance scheme is proving popular and is providing excellent and cheap cover to members whilst raising funds for the NCA and parent bodies.
- Reports of all NCA meetings are published in Cage & Aviary Birds and on the NCA website, the BS website and ZFS website. The Canary Council website will also carry NCA reports.

- NCA Website is expanding and may also be used by affiliated societies to promote their own clubs.
- The Breeder of the Year competition applies to all four sections (British, Foreign, Budgerigar and Canary) and can be entered at all shows of affiliated CBSs. Only the canary section qualified this year and we must promote this competition further in future. All affiliated societies and their shows to be advertised on the website.
- NCA is exploring affiliation to COM in order to seek mutual support for our hobby in Europe and beyond.
- SUN membership keeps us in touch with government regulations and we thank Bob Clarke for representing us at their recent meeting in Bristol.

**6. Treasurer's Report:** George Booth presented written copies of his report and an audited Financial Statement (attached).

- In short there was an excess of income over expenditure during 2008 of £543.54.
- The demise of two former NCA signatories (Percy Jacobs & Victor Carr) had caused immense difficulties in securing access to one of our large investment funds with the Halifax Building Society. Thanks largely to the efforts of Charles Woolley (the one remaining signatory) and the family of Victor Carr this situation has now been resolved.
- The severe drop in interest rates has reduced our income from our various accounts and this seems likely to remain so for some time.
- On a request from Ghalib, the Treasurer agreed to show in future financial statements separate entries for society affiliations, Parent Body subscriptions and insurance income. He also agreed to show comparative figures from the previous year's accounts.

On a proposal from Ghalib, seconded by Andrew, the Financial Statement was accepted unanimously. The Chairman extended a vote of thanks to George Booth and our auditor, Grant Findlay, for their care and effort in managing and presenting the accounts.

**7. Secretary's Report:** In the absence of sufficient copies of the Secretary's written report (attached) for all present, the Chairman read the report to the meeting.

- 76 clubs were now making use of the insurance scheme.
- There had been 5 Management Committee meetings throughout the past year and the Secretary's report summarised them all.
- An accommodation had not yet been reached with the IOA but it was hoped that the situation could be resolved amicably in the months ahead.

**8. Election of the President:** On a proposal by George Booth, seconded by Hilary Flint, Dennis Norton was re-elected unanimously as President of the NCA. Dennis graciously accepted the office on the understanding that this would be his last year.

After a lifetime serving the hobby in many different capacities, he is looking forward to relaxing a little when this year of office is completed.

**9. Honorary Life Vice Presidents:** Currently these are: Brian Hughes, Dennis Norton, Charles Woolley and Sean Fitzpatrick.

Dennis Norton proposed and George Booth seconded that Ghalib Al-Nasser be awarded this honour. Ghalib thanked them for their proposal but graciously declined for the present.

**10. Names of Management Committee for 2009/10:**

- **British Bird Council:** Gwynn W. Jones, Bernard Williams, Craig & Julie Walker.
- **Budgerigar Society:** Ghalib Al-Nasser, Dave Whittaker, George Booth, Roger Carr. (Reserve: Alex Woan).
- **Canary Council:** Barry Mills, Chris Smith, Andrew Triolo, Dennis Norton (Reserve: Colin Egner).
- **Foreign Bird Federation:** Bob Clarke, Bob Storey, Steve Nesbitt, Dave Paine, (reserves: Bryan Reed, Clive Cotton). While Dennis Webster is Chairman, the FBF is entitled to an additional delegate.

**11. Election of Auditor:** On a proposal from Ghalib, seconded by Alex Woan, it was unanimously agreed to invite Grant Findlay to serve again as auditor.

**12. Rate of Subscriptions:** At present these are:

- £200 p.a. for each parent body
- £25 p.a. affiliation for CBSs
- £40 p.a. for affiliated clubs to purchase insurance scheme.
- £45 p.a. for member clubs of parent bodies to purchase insurance scheme

**13. Resolutions:** Three resolutions had been received from the FBF. The Chairman explained that the first resolution would require a change in the constitution and therefore required a two-thirds majority to be adopted. The other two required a simple majority.

1. The first resolution concerning the quorum for an EGM be the same as for an AGM was defeated on a vote of 4 in favour and 5 against.

(On a proposal by Andrew Triolo, seconded by Ghalib, it was agreed unanimously that this be referred to the Management Committee for reconsideration of the quorum requirement).

2. The second resolution was passed on a vote of 14 for and none against. The Management Committee was requested to look again at the arrangements for resolutions for AGMs and devise a framework that allowed for resolutions to be considered and amendments made before the AGM.

3. The third resolution that the third management meeting of the year be a general meeting was defeated on a vote of 3 in favour and 9 against.

**14. Matters referred to the AGM by the Management Committee:** None.

**15. Any other relevant business notified to the Secretary at least 14 days before the meeting:**

None.

**16. Next AGM will be at 10.30am on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 at the Fieldhead Hotel.** Proposed Andrew Triolo, seconded by Bob Storey, all in favour.

**17. Announcements:**

- Gwynn Jones informed the meeting that the BBC would be considering its position in the NCA at its AGM since in the past year it had lost about half of its member clubs and had therefore fewer delegates to attend meetings and reduced income to meet commitments.

The meeting sympathised with the BBC's situation and hoped its circumstances would improve in the coming months but felt it was in the BBC's and the hobby's best interests if the BBC maintained its national profile and influence as a leading member of the NCA.

**18. Presentation:** The President, Dennis Norton, presented Tim Ward of Shrewsbury CBS with The Canary Breeder of the Year trophy (an inscribed crystal bowl).

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the AGM at 12.15pm. A vote of thanks was proposed by Ghalib Al-Nasser to the Chairman for his efficient chairing of the meeting.