Minutes of Oriental Bird club 28th Annual General Meeting held at St John the Evangelist Community Hall, Cambridge on Saturday 13th October 2012

1. Apologies for absence
56 members were present. Apologies had been received from M Walters, Tim and Carol Inskipp, Nigel Collar, John and Judy Geeson, Kay and David White, H Rainey, David Fisher, Graeme Spinks, Colin Heap, Stephen Browne, Simon Roddis, Krys Kazmierczak, Tim Loseby and Steve Rowland

2. Approval of minutes of 27th Annual General Meeting
The minutes of 27th AGM held on 30th October 2011 were approved. Proposed by Tony Sawbridge, seconded by Mike Edgecombe and approved unanimously.

3. Matters arising
None

4. Treasurer’s presentation of 2011 Accounts and review of 2012
The Treasurer, John Gregory, presented the 2011 accounts (circulated) along with a review of the Club’s progress in 2012. An explanation of how the Club’s funds are allocated between restricted and unrestricted funds was given.

The Accounts show a small deficit of £701 for 2011 (2010- deficit of 3,374). This overall deficit was the result of expenditure on Smythies Fund projects, including a £8,200 donation to the WWT Spoon-billed Sandpiper project. The Smythies Fund showed a deficit of £8,980, (2010- deficit of £4,474).

The Conservation Fund showed a surplus of £4,205 (2010- £1,668). Donations were up with £14,320 in 2011 compared with £8,914 in 2010, while Conservation Grants were slightly higher at £15,346 versus £13,925 last year.

The Accumulated Fund had a surplus of £3,742 (2010- deficit of £969), as a result of renegotiating the contract for the printing of BirdingASIA and Forktail resulting in a considerable reduction in printing costs. Printing of BirdingASIA cost £9,784 (2010- £13,351) and Forktail cost £4,215 (2010- £7,010). Margaret Sykes was thanked for renegotiating a contract.

Positive news was reported on the future investment income from the Smythies Fund balance. The funds had recently been invested in a new CAF 12-month bond account with Principality Building Society, paying an improved rate of 2.85% interest. This compared with a rate of 1.95% achieved during the second half of 2011/first half of 2012.

In summary the Oriental Bird Club finances are in good health. The reduction in printing costs and resulting Accumulated Fund surplus means that it will not be necessary to increase subscription rates in the short term. The Club’s cash balances are invested in low risk short term deposits earning a reasonable rate of interest and enabling the Club to access funds relatively quickly where a priority conservation project requires quick action.

5. Approval of 2011 Accounts
Margaret Sykes proposed approval of the 2011 accounts, seconded by Geoff Randall and approved unanimously.

6. Election of Independent Examiner
It was recommended Frances Clark be re-elected to the role of Independent Examiner and this was proposed by Mike Edgecombe, seconded by Dave Showler and approved unanimously.

7. Chairman’s review of 2012
Brian Sykes, Chairman acknowledged some Council members and Club volunteers have had a tough time in the last 12 months and offered thanks to all who rallied round and helped keep the Club’s affairs on an even keel.

Publications still remain the life blood of the Club and members of Publications Committee deserve a big thank you for keeping up the very high editorial standards. As well as core members, thanks go to stalwarts like René Pop for the help he gives Tim Loseby with illustrations, John Eaton for handling adverts and Peter Creed who continues his skilled work as designer. Our new printers are offering a good service at very competitive prices and a more streamlined distribution has reduced time from printing to mailing.
BirdingASIA- the editorial team is working well and we are delighted to announce Simon Roddis has agreed to join Council as Publications Committee representative and we have welcomed Renée Braithwaite’s lively input to editing. Nigel Collar’s 27-page article on the life and work of Alan Octavian Hume in the ‘Pioneer’ series featured in the 128-page BirdingASIA 17 was one of numerous excellent features.

Forktail – It is with regret we have to announce that Nigel Collar has stood down from the role of Forktail Senior Editor. Forktail 28 at a record-breaking 172 pages was Nigel’s final ‘tour de force’. Our heartfelt thanks to Nigel for all he has done over the years and clearly his input will be sorely missed. The effort expended on each Forktail is huge and as a result we plan to share the workload and re-appraise the role of Senior Editor following discussions with Associate Editors and others in supporting roles. Thanks to all Associate Editors and for the offers of new help and to Jack Tordoff who is stepping down from this role. The next issue of Forktail will be out as planned.

OBC now has 866 followers on Facebook and a growing number of followers on Twitter and thanks to Mike Edgecombe for his efforts here.

Ten years of OBI and the site displays a staggering 61,000 images contributed by 1270 photographers covering approx. 98% of the regions species. Special thanks are due to Krys Kazmierczak for all his efforts over this time.

Membership for 2012 (as of today) stands at 2072, only 12 down on last year. Given the financial climate we should be proud of this level of retention. Following comments by our membership we are looking to communicate more by email where possible (for those in agreement) which will help save money.

British Birdwatching Fair attendance as a whole seemed to be less than in previous years. Raffle ticket sales raised £1,701 compared with £1,836 in 2011, while total raffle ticket income (including tickets purchased by post), after deduction of costs amounted to £2,237. Special thanks to London Camera Exchange for donating a Canon Camera, to John Gray of Strix Editions for donating an original painting of a Saker Falcon by Suffolk artist Mark Chester, to John and Jane Gregory for donating a week stay in their cottage at Stiffkey, Norfolk, Borneo Nature Tours for a 3 day/2 night stay at the renowned Borneo Forest Lodge and to Lynx Edicions and New Holland for one again supplying books. Thanks also to Exotic Journeys for their continued support of a week stay at the Bagh, Bharatpur to help boost ticket sales. Finally, extra special thanks to the draw tickets sales team and everyone who helped with the stand and to Grahame Madge who came joint second in the Bird Brain competition.

A big thank you is extended to all our sponsors – Limosa, Birdquest, Sunbird, BirdtourASIA, Birding Ecotours, AEC Ltd, WildWings and Rockjumper and to member James Goodhart, who has supported our conservation work this year to the tune of £2,500, including Gift Aid.

In 2012 so far we have funded ten projects totalling £19,000 and the grant scheme is working well. Special thanks to Stephen Browne who is stepping down from Council and Conservation Committee as he is now based in Singapore and we are most grateful to Dave Buckingham and our overseas team who have worked incredibly hard sorting and awarding grants. Jesper Hornskov and BirdtourASIA have contributed over £10,000 to the Conservation Fund over the last decade and our thanks go to them.

The review of the role of overseas reps continues and our gratitude goes to all the reps that have done a lot for OBC in their respective countries. Finally, the Chairman offered thanks to all his colleagues on Council.

8. **Election of 2013 Council**

The motion that Council members who have agreed to stand for re-election, as listed on the Agenda, should re-elected, along with the appointment of one new member of Council- Simon Roddis and that executive officers of Council (as listed on the Agenda) should be re-elected was proposed by Richard Bosanquet, seconded by Vicki Harley and approved unanimously.

9. **Any Other Business**

It was confirmed the appointment of any new overseas reps was on hold till a review of roles has been completed. There was no further business and the Chairman declared the 28th OBC AGM closed.

Margaret Sykes
Secretary