



**Yorkshire Naturalists' Union**  
Charity 224018

Minutes of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Annual General Meeting,  
'Lakehouse', Ron Cooke Hub, University of York, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Charles Critchley of the Yorkshire Mammal Group gave the welcome address and warmly welcomed members and affiliated societies to the University of York.

**1. Members present:**

John Bowers (Chair), Andy Millard (Minutes secretary), Paula Lightfoot, Terry Crawford, Terry Whitaker, Sharon Flint, Peter Flint, Christopher Young, Bill Ely, Andy Godfrey, Geoff Oxford, Roma Oxford, Richard Shillaker, Michael Archer, Sarah Spooner, Robert Masheder, Ann Hanson, Jane Pottas, Simon Warwick, Jill Warwick, Sara Robin, Margaret Atherden, Roy Crossley, Vicky Kindemba, Anne Heathcote, Penny Relf, Margaret Hartley, Charles Critchley, Susie Millard, Adrian Norris.

Members from seventeen affiliated societies were present: Bradford Botany Group, Butterfly Conservation Yorkshire Branch, Craven Conservation Group, Halifax Scientific Society, Harrogate and District Naturalists' Society, High Batts Nature Reserve, Hull Natural History Society, Leeds Naturalists' Club and Scientific Association, Lower Ure Conservation Trust, Mid-Yorkshire Fungus Group, Rotherham Naturalists' Society, Sorby Natural History Society, Whitby Naturalists' Club, York Ornithological Club, Yorkshire Conchological Society, Yorkshire Mammal Group, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Charles Fletcher, Albert Henderson, Gavin Boyd, Barry Warrington, Joyce Payne, Sarah White, Ken White, Ellen Tidy.

**3. In memoriam**

The meeting stood for one minute's silence in memory of the following members, who had died since the last AGM: Mr Mike Williams, Mrs Dorothy Bramley, Mr Keith Good, Mrs Dorothy Marjoram, Dr Robin Lawson, Mr. David Lindley, Mr Tony Gough, Mr Graham Gilbert, Mr Mick Carroll, Mr M C Ward.

**4. Minutes of the last AGM**

The minutes of the last AGM held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2014 were accepted and approved. Proposed by Adrian Norris, seconded by Andy Millard and accepted *nem. con.*

**5. Annual Report and Accounts**

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Chairman, John Bowers, presented the Annual Report and Financial Statements. The acceptance of the report was proposed by John Bowers, seconded by Simon Warwick and accepted *nem. con.*

## **6. Appointment of Auditors**

John Bowers proposed a vote of thanks, seconded by Adrian Norris and accepted *nem con*, to the YNU's auditor, Mr John Foster of West and Foster Chartered Accountants, for his work this year. Adrian Norris formally proposed that West and Foster be re-appointed for the next financial year, seconded by Michael Archer and agreed *nem con*.

## **7. Election of Trustees**

There were two vacancies for trustees. The following were nominated at the last executive meeting on 24 October 2015. Peter Flint was nominated by John Bowers and seconded by Andy Millard; Andy Millard was nominated by John Bowers and seconded by Albert Henderson. Both were elected *nem. con*.

## **8. Election of President Elect**

Adrian Norris proposed Sarah White as President of the YNU for 2017, seconded by Geoff Oxford and approved *nem. con*.

## **9. Any other business.**

- John Bowers notified members that Jane Pottas had a few surplus copies of *Yorkshire Hawkweeds* with her for purchase.
- John Bowers reported on a computer hacking incident whereby an email purporting to come from the Chairman and requesting transfer of several thousand pounds to a named bank account had been received by the Treasurer. As well as encouraging increased vigilance for this kind of incident, the removal of many of the email addresses on the website was suggested.
- The current pattern of annual small financial deficits was discussed and attention was drawn to the loss of over 100 members (other than by death) over the past 5 years. It was hoped that the proposed membership survey would shed light on this and help in devising strategies to reverse such losses. It was agreed that membership trends over, say 5 years, should appear in annual reports.
- Notwithstanding the small annual deficit, the YNU has a healthy level of capital funds and Adrian Norris encouraged the Union to consider the possibility of purchasing a property for meetings, housing the library etc.

Andy Millard (Minutes Secretary)