

ARGYLL BIRD CLUB

from 7p.m. by Zoom



Minutes

Present: Nigel Scriven, David Jardine, Malcolm Chattwood, David Harris, Steve Petty, Gordon Holm, Andy Robinson, Rachel Harris, Bob Furness

1. **Apologies:** Alistair McGregor, Neil Hammatt, Frauke Thornton
2. **Declaration of any conflicts of interest:** none
3. **Minutes of the committee meeting 6th May 2025:** These were approved.
4. **Matters arising not included in the agenda:** None.

5. Club Finances

A paper showing the financial position of the Club had been circulated prior to the meeting. David and Rachel Harris were thanked for their hard work on Gift Aid. It was agreed that we need to agree plans for the use of funds and for the appropriate budgets to be set up (e.g. Conservation Fund, Publications Fund). **ACTION: David Jardine to circulate draft boundaries for the use of conservation funds and budgets.**

6. Indoor Meetings

Autumn meeting 1st November 2025 Booked by David Jardine for Kilmartin Church to be followed in the evening by a 40th Anniversary celebration dinner in the Kilmartin Hotel, with numbers limited to 40. Nigel is working on the programme and will provide Steve with incomplete details for inclusion in the August Eider. Lunch, teas and coffees will cost £12.50 and this will be announced in the next Eider with a request for payment in advance if possible as that simplifies arrangements on the day. Locals will assist with providing the tea and coffee. Numbers expected need to be known by 24 October and that will also be announced in the next Eider. Malcolm will arrange a cake for the 40 year celebration. There should also be a deadline of 15 September for bookings for dinner after the meeting, and the AGM Agenda also needs to go into the next Eider. **ACTIONS: Steve to put details in the Eider; Nigel to complete programme with as much detail as possible in the Eider and on the web page; Malcolm to arrange cake provision.**

Spring meeting 7th March 2026 To be held in Seil Community Hall. **ACTION: David Jardine to make booking.**

7. Outdoor Meetings

Nigel described the incident during the ABC field trip to Sanda that required emergency evacuation. Lessons were learned and this also raised issues about risk assessments for field trips, compliance with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and the current insurance cover held by ABC. In particular, there was discussion of the extent to which insurance cover is provided for possible historical events. Noting that there was an excellent first aid kit carried on the Sanda trip, it was suggested that the club might buy similar first aid kits for future field trips. **ACTION: David Harris to check current Insurance Policy with regard to historic events. First aid kit(s) to be purchased and made available to leaders of future field trips.**

31st Aug - Ailsa Craig – Gordon Holm – 11 people booked so one space remains available. It was agreed that it could go to a friend of a bird club member but that would be on a first come first served basis.

27th September – Arran – David Jardine – likely limited to three cars.

25th October – Alistair McGregor – details to be arranged

November – Jim Dickson – details to be arranged

December – no field trip planned

8. Club Projects & Activities

Mink trapping Ongoing, with activities reported in the mink WhatsApp group. DNA samples are providing evidence of population structure and movements.

Songmeter recording The Club's recorders have been successful in detecting nightjar. The units have now been brought in for the winter. It was agreed that results should be summarized in the December Eider. **ACTION: Item to be prepared for December Eider, coordinated by David Jardine and Jim Dickson.**

Holy Loch LNR Nothing to report.

Auchgoyle Farm, Cowal Requested ABC provide one or two mink traps. It was agreed in principle if done through Heart of Argyll Mink Project (Pete Creech). Potential for a bird club field trip to this site was noted.

Conservation Plan/Strategy Nigel is working on this and aims to have a draft for the committee during September. **ACTION: Nigel to circulate draft.**

9. Publications

Birds of Islay & Jura Publication has been delayed.

The Eider – The next copy deadline is 20th August.

Bird Report – Nothing to report (progressing as usual).

Website – Putting old newsletters (currently held on CD as a complete set of all those prior to the ones on the web) onto the web site was discussed. This would be sensible in principle, if it is not too difficult to achieve.

Facebook – Nothing to report

10. Committee communication

It was agreed that the club email addresses should be used in correspondence with external bodies. The secretary email address needs to be made available to Bob. **ACTION: Malcolm to advise Bob on access to this email account.**

It was agreed that it would be good practice to put the latest agreed Minutes of committee meetings onto the web page (i.e. after Minutes have been formally accepted at the next committee meeting and confidential items adjusted/redacted appropriately).

11. Club Archives

Some sorting required but in principle we should decide which old paper records should be recycled/shredded and which should be stored. **ACTION: Whole committee led by David Harris.**

12. BTO update

Winter Bird Survey starts in September.

The 2026 Scottish Bird Camp is likely to be on Colonsay.

12. A.O.C.B.

It was agreed that colour printed copies of the Eider would be sent by post to the small number of long-standing club members who still receive a paper copy rather than a pdf, but that this option would not be offered more widely.

There was discussion of wind farm developments in Cowal. It was agreed that ABC would not raise objections to specific development proposals unless the membership had been consulted and

supported objecting. Any representations by Argyll Bird Club should also be aligned with those of major organisations such as NatureScot and RSPB.

13. Date of next Committee meeting: Wednesday 1st October.