

Minutes of meeting of the Clyde Birds Records Panel (CBRP)

RSPB Lochwinnoch 1030hrs 25th November 2023

1. Present: Ian English, Angus Murray, John Simpson (Chair), John Sweeney and Val Wilson (Secretary).
2. Apologies. None.
3. There were also no minutes or actions from previous meetings as the panel had not convened in some time.
4. Two resignations were tendered and noted. These were Keith Hoey and Chris McInerny. Both were sincerely thanked for their contribution over the years.
5. The panel discussed suitable replacements and once decided, the chair will contact suitable candidates. **Action: John Simpson to make contact.**
6. It was acknowledged by the panel that forwarding a submission may be, for some, a daunting experience. Some submissions arrive light on detail, missing key information that would give the panel the opportunity to objectively assess the record. It was decided by all that on such occasions the submission would be returned to the observer for the requisite information. The panel felt that this was not to be construed as coaching but merely pointing out the omission of pertinent detail to establish the veracity or otherwise of a particular record. **Action: John Simpson to return submission with request for requisite detail.**
7. It was agreed by all that the CBRP would replace the existing form with a rebadged Scottish Birds Rarities Committee (SRBC) form. This would be in keeping with most recording areas. **Action: John Simpson to arrange replacement.**
8. When a reportable species is found, it was agreed that the Secretary will forward the form to the observer. **Action: Val Wilson to continue with forwarding forms.**
9. Considerable discussion ensued over the ethos of the panel and the willingness by all to create an atmosphere of encouragement and promoting the values of support and education for observers within the Clyde Area. To support this outlook, it was decided by all that the web page would be revised to reflect this approach. The panel elected to drop the expression 'Rejected' in favour of 'Not Proven'. **Action: John Simpson to rework page and liaise with Kevin McCormick and Zul Bhatia.**
10. The Clyde Area list of species was reviewed and given the changing status of some, the following were amended or removed. Amended Surf Scoter and Black-necked Grebe, removed Little Egret and Red Kite. Great White Egret will be accepted based on a photograph.
11. All agreed that a dedicated section in the Clyde Bird Report was a good idea. **Action: John Simpson to draft and circulate to the panel before insertion.**
12. To promote the work of the CBRP, it was agreed to formulate a talk that would cover the points above and the importance of making submissions. **Action: John Simpson to formulate talk, circulate to panel members and deliver to birding groups.**
13. The panel were made aware of partnership working with the Clyde Ringing Group to increase our knowledge of species, which will include rarities, at Ardmore Point. All felt it was a worthwhile initiative.
14. **Date of next meeting: Nov 2024. Exact date and time TBC.**