

THE BRITISH TRUST FOR ORNITHOLOGY

84th Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 83rd Annual General Meeting of the British Trust for Ornithology will be held on Saturday 18 November 2023 at 2pm, by videoconference.

The agenda and supporting papers will be available to view and download at www.bto.org/about-bto/governance-accounts. Paper copies may be obtained by telephoning 01842 750050 or emailing agm@bto.org.

By order of the Board
Andrew Scott
Secretary

Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Minutes

To approve the minutes of the 83rd Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 3 December 2022.

3. Annual Report & Accounts

To receive the 89th Annual Report and Accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The Chair will introduce the Trustees' Annual Report and the Hon Treasurer will introduce the Accounts.

4. Election of Trustees

The terms of office of Debby Reynolds and Simon Marquis expire on 31 December 2023, and there is one additional vacancy.

(a) The Board proposes that Simon Marquis be re-elected to serve a further four year term ending on 31 December 2027.

(b) Following an open recruitment process conducted by the Governance, Safeguarding & Inclusion Committee, the Board proposes that the following be elected to serve a four year term ending on 31 December 2027.

- i. Dominic Buscall
- ii. Stephen Willis.

Biographies of the nominees are attached to this notice.

5. Appointment of Auditors

To re-appoint Ensors Chartered Accountants as auditors of the Trust.

6. Amendment to Articles of Association

To amend the Articles of Association of the Trust to give the Board an explicit power of delegation for the admission of new members and the fixing of membership subscriptions, in accordance with accepted practice.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION

‘That the Articles of Association be and they are hereby amended by the addition of the following Subclause (7) to Article 7:

7. (7) The Board may delegate the admission of new Members and the fixing of membership subscriptions to the Chief Executive Officer of the Trust.’

7. Any Other Business

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Nominee Biographies

Dominic Buscall

Dominic Buscall began his career in conservation and land management when he founded the Wild Ken Hill project in 2018. Wild Ken Hill combines rewilding, regenerative farming, and traditional conservation to restore nature, fight climate change, and engage and educate people about the natural world.

Dominic's background before this career was in management consulting, where he built strategic skills. Dominic is very excited to deploy these skills to help BTO – an organisation he has admired for some time – to help fulfil its new strategy. He is greatly looking forward to immersing himself in BTO, and meeting its many brilliant staff, members, volunteers, and followers.

Away from work, Dominic loves the outdoors, whether hiking, cycling, swimming or birding, something he has done incidentally for a long time and taken up more fully two years ago.

Stephen Willis

Stephen Willis is currently a Professor of Ecology and Conservation, Director of Research, and Deputy Head of Department at Durham University. He has had a lifelong interest in birds and the study of birds, which resulted in his academic career in ecology, as well as spending much of his spare time over many years watching and surveying birds, for fun and as a citizen and professional scientist.

Stephen has been involved with BTO in various ways over the years, including survey volunteering, learning to ring, and participating in research collaborations. Stephen has experience as a trustee for Discover Brightwater, which is Heritage Lottery-funded and focused on improving the biodiversity and environment throughout a northern river catchment.

Stephen brings expertise, enthusiasm, and a commitment to working to remove barriers to equality, diversity, and inclusivity, taking opportunities to break down barriers, for example, through gender-balanced recruitment within the Durham University Biosciences department.