



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2021

Via Zoom

Saturday 9th October 2021

Kirsty Park (BCT Chair) chaired the meeting and covered Zoom housekeeping and rules for voting:

- All participants will remain muted but if there are any questions/comments relating to the AGM proceedings or if a point of order needs to be raised, participants should use the chat by writing 'QUESTION' or 'POINT OF ORDER' and a member of staff will ask them to unmute themselves for the question/raise the point of order. If participants would rather not speak in public, they can put 'READ' in capitals at the beginning of the question and the moderators will know to read it out themselves. If participants do speak they were asked to please introduce themselves first so this can be recorded in the minutes.
- While the AGM is taking place please reserve the online chat for AGM related questions only. If participants need technical assistance please email members@bats.org.uk or call 020 7820 7181. They will be able to catch up with people in the online chat at the end of the formal business for a bit should they wish to do so.
- Normally the AGM is open both to members and non-members but this time around for logistical reasons only members should be present. There shouldn't be any non-members here but if there are please remember you cannot vote for resolutions.
- A reminder for family members: If you have a family membership and your respective family member is also attending the AGM please amend your Zoom name so it is clear there are 2 people voting (e.g. Smiths x2 or Smith & Brown). For help with this please ask a BCT member of staff to help (marked as Co-host in the chat).
- We will be voting on 18 resolutions and for each a member needs to propose it to go to a vote and a second member needs to second it:
 - If member wishes to propose a resolution please use the 'Chat' and write 'I PROPOSE'
 - If member wishes to second a resolution please use the 'Chat' and write 'I SECOND'
 - If member wishes to propose or second a resolution make sure you are sending the message on the chat to everyone rather a private message to other participant
 - Please also note that to propose/second your Zoom name must be valid (i.e. it needs to display your first and last name)

- The first person to type will be the proposer/seconded and this will be announced by the Chair or a member of staff.
- We will then ask for members to vote for each resolution by running a poll and members simply need to select the option that suits them on the screen. So it is recommended that participants have the speaker view option selected. This view can be changed either on the right or left hand side of the screen, depending on which device members are using [at this time a test poll was conducted]
- Note for Family members: if each member within a Family Membership wishes to vote differently please do not answer the poll and use the chat to let BCT know what each of your votes will be (e.g.: John Smith votes in favour and Mary Smith abstains).
- If for some reason a participant gets disconnected during the AGM and has missed voting on a resolution (and they do wish to continue to vote) please call 020 7820 7181. AGM proceedings will pause briefly for 5 minutes until the member is able to re-join so we can count the vote. When reconnected again the member will be placed in a waiting room and then a member of staff will let them in as soon as it is suitable. If the member is unable to connect within 5 minutes of being disconnected the member of staff that is with them on the phone will provide further instructions.

Total proxy votes: 1 (votes have been added to the below counts)

Other votes: Lisa Worledge, Kit Stoner, Nicola Quinn, Derek Whittle, Claudia Gebhardt, Jane and Gilbert Taylor voted via the chat.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Ruth Waters, Steve Markham and Helen Slinger.

2. Minutes of the AGM 2020

The chair presented the 2020 AGM minutes and asked if there were any amendments to be made. No points were raised and consequently no amendments made.

To approve the minutes for the 2020 AGM (*resolution 1*)

Proposer: Stuart Brittenden

Seconded: Lisa Worledge

For [32] Against [0] Abstain [3]

3. Annual Report of the Board of Trustees 2020-2021

Kirsty Park, BCT Chair, gave a presentation reviewing some highlights from the annual report for the period April 2020 – March 2021.

Discover:

- The NBMP is the longest running purpose-built, multi-species monitoring programme for mammals in the UK and relies on a nationwide network of citizen scientists. In 2020, participation was understandably reduced as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, but still a total of 1,340 sites were surveyed by 850 volunteers. Bat detector and sound analysis workshops were taken online, with 13 workshops providing training for over 400 volunteer surveyors.
- The results from a volunteer questionnaire are informing a new NBMP volunteer engagement strategy, which aims to improve the effectiveness of our volunteer engagement and communications and for engage more diverse audiences.
- We have continued to develop our passive acoustic monitoring programme, with woodland monitoring, Nightwatch, and government of Jersey.
- We have built on the success of our 2019 acoustic monitoring pilot with Forestry England, by working with Forest Research to integrate passive acoustic monitoring of bats to the National Forest Inventory. In summer 2020 we partnered with the Government of Jersey to deliver the Jersey Bat Survey, a passive acoustic bat monitoring survey across Jersey.
- Over the last year we have been developing Nightwatch – a free, inclusive, tech-enabled night-time biodiversity survey open to all regardless of background, experience, or physical ability. Nightwatch has the dual aims of collecting robust, locally focused biodiversity data, while at the same time engaging a wide range of people from diverse backgrounds and abilities.
- We made two scientific awards in 2020/21.
 - The Kate Barlow Award was awarded to PhD student Laura Torrent of the Universidade do Porto, Portugal. Laura's project will provide a thorough evaluation of the bat diversity of Equatorial Guinea, a hugely understudied region located in one of the most important biodiversity hotspots in Africa. This work will provide critical information for local authorities and support their efforts to protect its bat species. This project will use genetic techniques to assess an entirely unstudied voucher collection of over 1,000 bat specimens collected across Equatorial Guinea in the 1990s.
 - The Vincent Weir Scientific Award was awarded to Rana Khayat (from Manchester Metropolitan University) for her PhD project which characterised the causes and effects of wing tears for the first time, in common pipistrelles and other UK bat species. Rana collected her data from bat carers, who sent pictures of bat wings and swabs from injured bat wings.

- In 2020 we carried out a public consultation on 'Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines and hosted meetings with the Technical Review Board. An updated version of the guidelines is planned for spring 2022. This has been delayed due to the need to divert capacity to the Earned Recognition Project – more on that shortly.).
- BCT also sits on the Advisory Group to produce an update of the Bat Mitigation Guidelines alongside a variety of stakeholders including the Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies. The results of our mitigation project will be fed into the new guidelines. These guidelines are now available as a as a beta version so that feedback can be received.
- BCT is also working with Natural England and Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) on the pilot for a new transformative approach to licensing mitigation work in England that impacts on bats, which will streamline the licensing process, raise professional standards and improve outcomes for bats. This approach is known as Earned Recognition.
- Earned Recognition works by assessing and accrediting a consultant's competence in undertaking survey work and designing effective mitigation so that, by using an accredited consultant, developers can experience a more streamlined licensing process for their scheme or project. The pilot for this project is now underway.

Act:

- We have continued to work with different sectors, two of those being agriculture and the built environment.
- The Grey Long-eared Bat Project, as part of 'Back from the Brink', has been granted an extension until August 2021. The project has continued to work with farmers and landowners to improve foraging habitat (primarily species rich grassland) and connectivity, throughout the project areas. BCT was fortunate to gain Green Recovery Challenge Fund funding, working in partnership with East Devon AONB to continue and expand on the work of the Grey Long-eared Bat project, continuing to work with farmers and landowners on habitat improvement and connectivity.
- We held our first remote Built Environment technical workshops focussed on bat roost mitigation and lessons learned, promoting sharing best practice as part of the new Roost webpages launched September 2020. Being online meant the workshops attracted over 150 attendees from right across the UK. Workshops were followed by the newly launched Roost Awards. The winner was 'Avoidance of swarming site loss during restoration works at Cliveden' by Bernwood ESC Ltd.

- We continue to work very closely with other environmental NGOs through the four Environment Links and Greener UK to pool resources and expertise to get a strong and effective voice for bat conservation across the United Kingdom.
- With the UK finally leaving the EU and the conclusion of the transition period at the end of 2020, this has resulted in an unprecedented amount of collaborative work on various elements of the (Westminster) Environment Bill, as well as trying to ensure that gaps in Governance arrangements and the loss of environmental principles are properly filled – this work is ongoing and is undertaken alongside our work in the other devolved administrations where possible. We have also joined with other NGOs to express concerns around proposed planning reforms.
- BCT has run a number of campaigns to get our supporters to write to their elected politicians to stand up for bats and environmental protection more widely.

Inspire:

- The Helpline fielded a total of 14 857 enquiries (calls, emails and letters) in 2020-21.
- 11,840 of these were dealt with by Helpline staff and 3,017 came through the Out of Hours volunteer service.
- In 2020-21 we launched a new blog for UK Bat Care Network members as a way of sharing stories, news and best practice with the volunteers who rescue bats.
- Due to a lack of funding we have had to make some changes to the way that we run the Helpline service. This summer, we extended the Out of Hours service, so that volunteers took bat care calls during working hours as well as evenings and weekends.
- BCT could not deliver all that it does for bat conservation without the support of bat groups across the British Islands. We have a formal relationship with 88 groups across the British Islands, with new groups forming this year in England and Scotland.
- We were delighted to welcome Abby Packham to BCT, at the beginning of February 2021, as our new Bat Groups Officer. Abby, along with Elisabeth Ferrell (Scottish Bat Officer), Claudia Gebhardt (Scottish Bat Officer Maternity Cover) and Steve Lucas (Wales Officer), and provide a range of support to groups, including talks, training, outreach materials (e.g. leaflets), insurance, advice and guidance.
- BCT delivered 25 training courses in 2020-21 for a combined audience of 349 people. All but two of these courses were held online due to COVID-19.
- As a result of the pandemic, we adapted several courses for online delivery including

the Volunteer Bat Roost Visitor Trainer course, Bats for Building Professionals and our Lantra accredited Scoping Surveys for Arborists course. All received positive feedback.

- The National Bat Conference was held online for the first time in 2020 and was attended by 278 people including speakers from New Zealand, India, Europe, the USA and Mexico. The programme was adapted for online and included panel discussions on Climate Change and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. The feedback from participants was positive and moving forward, we plan to utilise a hybrid format incorporating online elements to our in-person events.
- The conference was part of the 2020 'BatFest', a series of online events which ran from International Bat Night on 29 August to 30 September. Chris Packham attended the launch event which had 278 attendees. BatFest events in 2020 had a combined live audience of over 1000 people across 10 online events.

Strengthen:

- Despite the challenging year, membership has continued to grow steadily throughout 2020/21. We conducted a membership survey in Summer 2020 which has been useful to understand more about who our members are, what motivates their interest and support of bat conservation. BCT is committed to encouraging more supporters to take up membership and support our work. Larger and more representative membership will make us more relevant and increase our ability to influence key stakeholders.
- There was a slight decrease in Adopt a Bat subscribers although it remains popular and generates valuable income.
- We have continued to grow our social media presence – it is an important way to raise awareness of bats and bat conservation, update supporters on BCT's work and collaborative projects and raise funds with a broad audience.
- The link between COVID-19 and bats has generated a lot of misunderstanding and misinformation which has forced us to divert considerable resources to managing communications including supporting other individuals and organisations in the conservation sector. Our response has been to educate by providing factual science-based information in a variety of forms suitable for different audiences. This included the Don't Blame Bats campaign with our colleagues in the Spanish Association for the Conservation and Research of Bats.
- The second season of our podcast BatChat launched in October 2020 and 10 episodes were published. So far this great resource has had over 20,000 downloads.

- We are currently working on our new strategy, and that will inform our work over the coming years. But we know that we need to:
 - Continue to improve the evidence base for bats, using new technologies and ground-breaking science, to provide solutions for bat conservation
 - Be stronger than ever in our advocacy, speaking up for robust policy and legislation protecting bats.
 - We need to increase engagement with and understanding of bats by the public and the media. We need to proactively work to engage new audiences with bat conservation.
 - Continue to invest in fundraising and diversify our income streams, to put us in a strong position for our next 30 years!
- Thank you to all of our members, supporters, funders and partners who make this work possible.

To approve the Annual Report of the Board of Trustees 2020-2021 (*resolution 2*)

Proposer: Jean Matthews

Seconder: Derek Whittle

For [39] Against [0] Abstain [0]

4. Annual Accounts and Auditors' Report 2020-2021

Steve Markham, BCT's treasurer, was unable to attend the AGM so Kirsty Park read his notes which provided an overview of the work towards a balanced budget. It was a challenging year for charity sector:

- It has been a challenging year for BCT (as it has been for so many organisations). We were already running a structural deficit and the pandemic gave even more cause for concern.
- Last year we undertook a cost cutting exercise, and thanks to the hard work of staff we were able to reduce expenditure significantly. In terms of income, we were able to secure a COVID emergency grant, take advantage of the furlough scheme and also had an unexpected though temporary increase in statutory funding. We are also very grateful to our supporters as we were able to maintain our individual giving and membership at a good level. The combination of cost cutting and investment in fundraising has meant that we have achieved a small but important surplus.
- A welcome positive shift in the value of our investments from the low of the previous year is reflected in the timing of our annual accounts.

- As you will see from the accounts, for the year ended 31 March 2021, income was £1,568,217 (2020: £1,267,202) and expenditure was £1,412,574 (2020: £1,602,907), leading to a net surplus for the year of £155,643 (2020: net deficit of £335,705). Our small unrestricted surplus was £23,431.
- Taking into account gains on investments of £483,565 (2020: losses of £118,383), the net movement in funds for the year was an increase of £639,208 (2020: a decrease of £454,088).
- Our total investments at 31 March were £2,603,514, nearly a £500k increase compared to the same time in 2020. The aim of our investment funds is to provide a steady additional annual income stream to support our work, helping to reduce the risks associated with our reliance on project funding. Both this and the previous year were unpredictable in terms of investments and global stock markets were severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Investments have however largely recovered during the year ended 31 March 2021. For budgeting purposes, BCT assume a 6% total return per year to take into account market fluctuations.
- Going forward, we will need to continue with careful control of expenditure. Some of you will know that we have recently moved to a smaller office to reduce our overheads and we will need to continually review how we deliver our work to make sure we are delivering it in a cost effective way. We will also continue to invest in fundraising; we recognise the need to continue to diversify our income streams to mitigate expected reduction in statutory funding, and an expected high competition for trust and grants funding in coming years.

To approve the Annual Accounts and Auditors' Report 2020-2021 (**resolution 3**)

Proposer: Ray Lancashire

Seconded: Katrina Easterling

For [40] Against [0] Abstain [0]

5. Appointment of Auditors

BCT appointed a new auditor in 2020, HW Fisher. We were satisfied with the overall level of service provided by HW Fisher and recommend that we appoint them for the 2021/22 audit. To authorise the Trustees to appoint HW Fisher for next year's audit

To approve the Appointment of Auditors (**resolution 4**)

Proposer: Kit Stoner

Seconded: Stuart Brittenden

For [38] Against [0] Abstain [1]

6. Auditors' Remuneration

To authorise the Trustees to determine the Auditors' remuneration for next year's audit. **(resolution 5).**

Proposer: Derek Whittle

Seconded: Claudia Gebhardt

For [39] Against [0] Abstain [1]

7. Revisions to the Memorandum and Articles of Association

Proposed additional wording is underlined, proposed removed wording is struck through, proposed amendment to existing text is in bold

Proposal 1: re Article 13

"The Charity shall hold a General Meeting in every calendar year as its Annual General Meeting at such time and place as the Board of Trustees directs and shall specify it as such in the notices calling it. All other general meetings shall be called Extraordinary General Meetings. Annual General Meetings and Extraordinary General Meetings may, if circumstances dictate, be held online by means of a social conferencing platform. Online attendance may also be arranged at face-to-face General Meetings in order to facilitate attendance by as many members as possible." **(Resolution 6)**

Proposer: Lisa Worledge

Seconded: Nicola Quinn

For [35] Against [0] Abstain [0]

POINT OF ORDER (Bob Cornes): Just checking if we have any proxy votes?

Response from Andreia Correia da Costa: We do have one proxy vote from Kirsty Park.

Bob Cornes: Just asking because if there were any we have to add those to the results.

Andreia: Yes, we will.

Proposal 2: re Article 17

"No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum is present when the Meeting proceeds to business. A quorum shall consist of not less than fifteen members present at the meeting or attending online. If within fifteen minutes from the time appointed for a Meeting a quorum is not present in order to allow the Meeting to proceed, it shall stand adjourned to such other time and place as the Board of Trustees may decide" **(Resolution 7)**

Proposer: Liz Walsh

Seconded: Derek Whittle

For [38] Against [0] Abstain [0]

Proposal 3: re Article 23

Insert into the first sentence “Voting shall be by a show of hands or appropriate indication by online participants of those entitled to vote unless a poll is at any time (until immediately after the declaration of a result) demanded by the Chairperson or two Trustees present in person or by ten members present in person or by proxy. The poll shall be taken immediately and in such manner as the Chairperson directs, unless the meeting votes to have a postal poll, in which case the results shall be taken to represent a resolution passed at the relevant General Meeting” **(Resolution 8)**

Proposer: Lisa Worledge

Seconders: Nicola Quinn

For [39] Against [0] Abstain [0]

Proposal 4: re Article 29

The Board of Trustees of the Charity shall be composed of up to ~~12~~ 14 Trustees, including the Officers of the Charity, who shall be the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson, the Secretary and the Treasurer. **(Resolution 9)**

Question from Paul Adkins: Can I ask why we wish to increase the number?

Response from Kirsty Park: We ran a recruitment exercise for new trustees this year. That’s partly because we have four trustees standing down which is quite unusual but it’s just to do with when they were appointed. The thing that was really heartening about the recruitment drive is that there are lots of really fantastic people out there who are keen to join the BCT Board, and during this exercise we realised that actually we wanted to recruit more than we were able to (given our current maximum), that way they can each bring a different skill set. That’s why we are putting this resolution forward so in the future we wouldn’t be limited in the way that we were this year.

Paul Adkins: I asked the question because I’m quite new, this is the first time I am attending. I don’t know much about things, so I just wondered why, it’s more a learning question. Are the trustees paid?

Kirsty Park: No, they are not.

Paul Adkins: So it’s just that there are lots of people out there doing useful things?

Kirsty Park: Yes, we are not paid. We’re only paid expenses, e.g. if we are travelling to attend any meetings in person.

Response from Bob Cornes: Can I just add that 12 has been a fairly minimal number of trustees. With 14 you’re still well within the normal practice for an organisation of our size.

Proposer: Katrina Easterling

Seconders: Liz Walsh

For [38] Against [0] Abstain [1]

Proposal 5: re Article 38

The quorum for a meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be ~~five~~ one fewer than half the total

number of appointed Trustees. (Resolution 10)

Proposer: Abigail Entwistle

Seconders: Jean Matthews

POINT OF ORDER from Ray Lancashire: I just noticed that on the poll it says ‘Proposal 6’ when we’re actually on proposal 5. Is there a reason why they are slightly different?

Response from Andreia Correia da Costa: The proposal still says article 38 so it might have been a typo either on the screen or the poll itself. But we are voting for resolution 10 which is regarding article 38.

For [39] Against [1] Abstain [0]

Proposal 6: re Article 44

“Notice may be given by the Charity to any member by sending it by post or other appropriate means to the last notified address of the member within the ~~British Islands~~ the UK, the Isle of Man or the Bailiwicks of Jersey or Guernsey (which, for the avoidance of doubt, shall include placing the notice in a copy of “Bat News” sent to a member). The Notice shall be deemed to have been served on them at the end of 72 hours from posting. Any member who does not supply the Charity with an address in the ~~British Islands~~ the UK, the Isle of Man or the Bailiwicks of Jersey or Guernsey shall not be entitled to have a notice under these Articles served on them. This Article does not limit or affect other means of giving notice which are provided for in these Articles.” **(Resolution 11)**

Proposer: Ray Lancashire

Seconders: Liz Walsh

For [36] Against [0] Abstain [1]

8. Election of Trustees

New Trustees

The Board of Trustees is pleased to nominate.

- Cerys Bradley – for election as a Trustee **(Resolution 12)**

Proposer: Jean Matthews

Seconders: Ray Lancashire

For [36] Against [1] Abstain [2]

Cerys Bradley

Cerys is a stand-up comedian, podcaster and writer. They have performed at the Edinburgh Fringe, Leicester Comedy Festival, and the Green Man Festival, amongst others, receiving five star reviews for their most recent show from publications such as Diva Magazine. They are a member of the Soho Theatre Young Company and reached the semi-final stage of the Amused Moose new

comedian competition in 2020. In 2019, they filmed a comedy set for BBC Sesh which has had 2.3 million views on Facebook and has since been featured on BBC One Wales. As a podcast producer and editor they have helped to create multiple podcasts that communicate academic research to the general public, including the award-winning podcast Coronavirus: The Whole Story.

Cerys has a PhD in Crime and Security Science from UCL and wrote their dissertation on the Dark Web. Whilst studying, they worked as a Student Engager across UCL's museums and it was during their Saturdays at the Grant Museum of Zoology that they developed a keen interest in bats. They have been interested in bat conservation ever since and want to make a meaningful contribution to the protection of bat species in the UK. They hope that they can use their science communication and content creation skills to help BCT reach new audiences whilst learning about the communities, and all about the bats, that it serves.

- Helen Slinger – for election as a Trustee (**Resolution 13**)

Proposer: Claudia Gebhardt

Seconder: Jean Matthews

For [34] Against [1] Abstain [5]

Helen Slinger

Helen is Executive Director of The Prince's Accounting for Sustainability Project (A4S). She is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), a Practitioner Member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment and an Accredited Social Return on Investment Practitioner. She sits on the ICAEW Sustainability Committee and the Capitals Coalition Advisory Panel. She also holds a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and an Executive MBA.

Having qualified as a Chartered Accountant, Helen moved into sustainable business in 2006, initially with PwC, working with a diverse portfolio of cross sector organizations and supporting them to deal with a wide variety of strategic, operational, regulatory and reporting challenges. In her current role at A4S, Helen has a responsibility across all aspects of A4S activities, focusing much of her time on their external Chief Financial Officer Programme and Knowledge and Technical Programmes, and internally on governance, finance and operations for the charity. Helen has also spent five years as a Trustee, including two years as Treasurer, of Diversity Role Models – a charity aimed at eradicating homophobic bullying in education.

Helen's love of nature and wildlife has been with her since childhood and steered her career from finance into sustainability. In working with BCT, she hopes to bring her combined experience back into conservation at a grass roots level and to enhance her own understanding of wildlife conservation fieldwork and research.

- Matthew Terry – for election as a Trustee (**Resolution 14**)

Proposer: Lisa Worledge

Seconder: Ray Lancashire

For [38] Against [0] Abstain [1]

Matthew Terry

Matthew runs his own evaluation and research consultancy from the West Midlands. He supports some of the most respected charities in the UK like the RNLI, Marie Curie, and Macmillan Cancer Support; and learned societies such as the Royal Society, the British Academy and the Royal Academy of Engineering. Before going into consulting, he was a diplomat for ten years working in London, Warsaw and Dubai. He left to complete an MBA at Manchester Business School.

Matthew was Chair of Worcestershire Bat Group (2015-18) and is a former bat rehabilitator. He's an active local bat group member leading public bat walks, giving talks on a variety of bat-related subjects, running information stalls, and participating in the NBMP. He has previous experience of voluntary board positions, having recently stepped down as Chair of Kidderminster College Board of Governors after eight years in the post.

Matthew is keen to share his extensive experience of charity governance, strategy and impact with BCT to ensure that the organisation is able to be the very best possible advocate for bat conservation.

- Dr Orly Razgour – for election as a Trustee (**Resolution 15**)

Proposer: Lisa Worledge

Seconder: Liz Walsh

For [38] Against [0] Abstain [0]

Dr Orly Razgour

Orly is a molecular ecologist and conservation biologist researching the ecological and evolutionary responses of bats to global environmental changes, from climate change to habitat loss and fragmentation. Her research is applied in nature, aiming to provide the evidence base for managing our environment. Therefore, she works closely with conservation organisations, like the Bat Conservation Trust, and policy makers to develop evidence-based management recommendations. She is a senior lecturer in ecology at the University of Exeter, leading the Global Change Genetics Group, which includes seven PhD students, most of whom research the impacts of environmental changes on bats. She sits on the scientific advisory committee of the UNEP EUROBATS Agreement and the scientific committee of the Earth Hologenome Initiative. She is the academic representative of the British Ecological Society climate change group and a board member of Bats without Borders. Orly has been working with bats for 16 years, beginning with her undergraduate research project on bats of the Northern Peruvian Amazon. Since then, she has worked with bats in the deserts of the Middle East, across Britain, southern Europe and the Ethiopian Highlands. She did her PhD at the University of Bristol on the conservation biology of the grey long-eared bat, under the supervision of Prof Gareth Jones and in collaboration with BCT. As part of her PhD, together with BCT, she published a management plan for the grey long-eared bat that has received wide media interest and contributed to the grey long-eared bat being granted a priority species status in England. Bat conservation is not only at the heart of Orly's research, but more importantly, something she thrives on promoting and contributing to. Being a BCT Trustee will give her the opportunity to directly contribute to bat conservation in the UK and to contribute to an organisation she has closely worked with for 12 years.

Existing Trustees

All Board of Trustees members are eligible to stand for up to three consecutive periods of three years, before they must stand down from the Board for at least one year.

Three trustees are standing for re-election at this AGM and the Board of Trustees is pleased to make the following proposal, for Abigail Entwistle to be re-elected as a Trustee for a third term, and for Jean Matthews and Steve Roe to be re-elected as Trustees for a second term.

- Abigail Entwistle – nominated for re-election as a Trustee (**Resolution 16**)

Proposer: Lisa Worledge

Seconded: Stuart Brittenden

For [36] Against [0] Abstain [3]

Dr Abigail Entwistle

Abi is currently Director of Conservation Science and Design at Fauna & Flora International (FFI). After studying Zoology at Oxford she undertook a PhD at Aberdeen University with Professors Paul Racey and John Speakman, focusing on conservation biology of the brown long-eared bat. This involved three years of roost visits, ringing and radio tracking, and resulted in an ongoing passion for bats. Following her PhD she worked on a conservation project targeting the Pemba flying fox in Tanzania. This project was partly funded by FFI, and after her return to the UK she started volunteering for FFI, and has stayed there ever since, in a variety of roles. Abi has continued to be fascinated with bats, and remains a passionate advocate for BCT and its work

- Steve Roe – nominated for re-election as a Trustee (**Resolution 17**)

Proposer: Lisa Worledge

Seconded: Ann Gleave

For [33] Against [0] Abstain [4]

Steve Roe

As an active voluntary bat worker for the last 21 years, Steve has become known to many bat workers and bat groups across the UK. He represents the Derbyshire Bat Conservation Group (DBCG) at the bi-annual East and West Midlands bat groups meetings and is a regular attendee of the national and regional bat conferences; he has both presented talks and run workshops at these events, as well as for several local bat groups. As a result he has become a familiar face across the bat worker community, even more since co-organising the 2017 three-day autumn swarming conference and producing/presenting BatChat, the BCT podcast.

Joining DBCG when he was twelve years old, Steve enjoyed bat work so much that he decided to make his passion his career and became a professional ecologist, now specialising in bat ecology. Joining the Group at a young age means he is in a position to link the millennial generation of volunteers and their skill set with the majority of bat groups who are often in need of a technological mind-set to help with today's challenges. Bat groups often turn to younger members for help with new technologies such as social media and GIS mapping of records. Since 2010 he has built up the online presence of his local bat group to the point where it is now the most followed UK bat group on twitter. As a trustee of DBCG for the past decade he understands the responsibilities that come

with sitting on a charity board, giving strategic direction and ensuring that resources are allocated according to its constitutional aims.

Steve feels that he would be able to bring a younger person's perspective to the board; both bat groups and the Bat Conservation Trust need to look at ways to engage the younger generations in bat conservation. He feels his knowledge of social media and website use would help with this. Having been involved with bat conservation for over two decades he understands the local bat group network, its volunteers and the challenges they face.

- Jean Matthews – nominated for re-election as a Trustee (**Resolution 18**)

Proposer: Lisa Worledge

Seconder: Abigail Entwistle

For [35] Against [0] Abstain [4]

Jean Matthews

Jean was inspired to join the Avon Bat Group after meeting the noctules, Fred and Freda, at a talk given by Gareth Jones in the first "Year of the Bat", 1986. She has been an active bat group volunteer and bat carer with the Gwynedd Bat Group since 1989 and was the North Wales Bat Groups' delegate to BCT Forum for several years. She started working as Protected Species Advisor for the Nature Conservancy Council in 1990, then joined the Countryside Council for Wales' Species Team as Mammal Ecologist (Bats and Riparian Mammals) in 2004. She was a member of the Editorial Board for the Bat Survey Guidelines and of the steering groups for various research projects. She was responsible for managing the Wales Lesser Horseshoe Bat Summer Roost Monitoring Scheme before it was taken on by the NBMP. She still enjoys watching these tantalizing creatures and counting at the same sites she has been visiting since the early 1990s.

Jean retired from Natural Resources Wales in 2017 but has retained a role with the Eurobats' Advisory Committee, sits on the Natural England Bat Expert Panel and works part-time in ecological consultancy. She hopes that her experience of bat conservation from different perspectives is useful to BCT.

Officer roles

For your information, the Board of Trustees has agreed the following Officer roles for the coming year. This is in line with the change in procedure agreed at the 2019 AGM.

Jean Matthews – Chair (replacing Kirsty Park)

Steve Roe – Vice Chair (replacing Jean Matthews)

Ani Binet – Secretary (replacing Bob Cornes)

Ruth Waters – Treasurer (replacing Steve Markham)

Agenda item 9 – Any other notified business

The official AGM was formally closed but Kirsty Park handed over to Jean Matthews, the new BCT Chair. Jean thanked all the BCT staff who kept the organisation going despite the challenges and difficult circumstances we've had to face over the last year. Also, the Board of Trustees is saying farewell to four members, three of whom have served the maximum term of nine years as trustees.

Kirsty Park, who has been chair for the last year, Bob Cornes, who has been the secretary for two years, and Steve Markham, who was the treasurer for the last two years and secretary for the previous four. Roger Mortlock has also served six years on the board. All four trustees have brought a wealth of experience, common sense and good humour with them and will be missed.

Kirsty Park, Chair

Minutes: Andreia Correia da Costa (Senior Engagement and Fundraising Officer)