TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB

Registered as a Charity No. 508850

Annual Report

THE CLUB COMMITTEE

(Chairman)**Mike Leakey**
(Vice Chairman) **Steve McDonnell**
(Hon Secretary) **Chris Sharp**
(Hon Treasurer) **Mark Askew**)
(Ordinary Member)**Alistair McLee** (Co-opted)
(Ordinary Member) **Julie Mason** (Co-opted 2017)
(Ordinary Member) **BarbaraCrinson** (First Appointed 2022
(Ordinary Member) **Connor Pimm** (First Appointed 2022)
(Ordinary Member) **Debbie Lawson** (First Appointed 2023)

RECORDS SUB-COMMITTEE

(Chairman) **Alan Crossley**
Tom Francis
Graeme Joynt
Chris Brown
Ian Kendall
Mike Leakey
Stewart Hinley
Chris Sharp
Geoff Iceton
Martyn Sidwell

CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE

(Chairman) **Alistair McLee**

Treasurer's Committee Report for 2023-24

Due to the untimely death of Mark Askew and shortly after that of Don Page, It was decided at a Trustees Meeting that a Treasurer's Committee comprised of all Trustees be put in place until a new Treasurer can be elected at the 2024 AGM. The Trustees have worked hard to present the 2023 Statement of Income and Expenditure.

This is the Treasurer's Committee Report for 2023:

- The HSB account was closed on 30 December 2022 and £322.69 withdrawn.
- The new Co-Operative Bank Account opened with £322.69 deposited as an opening balance.
- 4th July 2023 NS&I Investment account closed and £56,352.88 withdrawn.
- Skipton Building Society Investment Account opened, current balance £51,200.
- The Club received a legacy of £38875.29 from the estate of former member, Joyce Hodgson.
- The club Trustees agreed to £1500 donation to Tees Ringing Group.

Stephen McDonnell
On behalf of TBC Treasurer's Committee

Report from the Chair for 2023-2024

This is a brief summary of the Club's activities during the last year. I would like to thank the retiring Chair (and current Vice-Chair) Steve McDonnell and all the Trustees for all their efforts and for their continuing support. The last year has been particularly difficult owing to the deaths of our long-serving Honorary Treasurer Mark Askew, Newsletter Editor Eric James and club stalwart Don Page, all of whom have made massive contributions over many years.

The Club's AGM took place on 3 April. Long-time Trustee Brian Clasper has left the group, while we welcomed new member Debbie Lawson. Connor Pimm has resigned from the Group, following his re-location to Oxfordshire. The Trustees have met on a quarterly basis via Zoom Meetings, ably facilitated by Julie Mason. These meetings took place on 2 May, 25 July, 31 October and 30 January, Notes from these meetings are available to all members on request. The 61st session of evening meetings comprised a diverse programme of eight talks between September and April inclusive, again arranged by Julie Mason. These meetings were much appreciated and were generally well-attended.

Local outings were held at Margrove Ponds (21 April), Scaling Dam (15 May), Saltholme for damselfies and dragonflies (3 June), Guisborough Forest for Nightjars (7 July), "Wild Saltholme" (8 August), Seaton Snook on (3 September), Hartlepool Headland for seawatching (16 September), Hartlepool Headland (6 January), North Gare and Seaton Snook (3 February) and Bishop Middleham (23 March). As ever, our thanks go to the leaders of these outings.

The 49th annual Cleveland Bird Report – covering the calendar year of 2022 – was published in November. The body of the Report comprises the classified list and species accounts, but also documents the three most recent additions to the Cleveland list, namely Greater Sand Plover, Collared Pratincole and Scopoli's Shearwater. The Recorder, Editor, Records Sub-committee, compilers and contributors all deserve huge credit for the quality of the Report and its timely appearance.

Three Newsletters were published, in April, September and December. While Eric James' sterling input to Newsletters continues to be sorely missed, thanks are due to all contributors and to Jamie Duffie for his continuing assistance.

For some time, Trustees have been exploring the potential for a Motus tracking station in or around the Tees Estuary. Motus – or the Motus Wildlife Tracking System to give it its full title – is a Canadian-based international collaborative research network that uses coordinated radio telemetry to track animals and birds. Our efforts are now focused on RSPB Saltholme as a potential host location. Thanks to Barbara Crinson and Steve McDonnell for their efforts with this project, which we hope to dedicate to the memory of Mark Askew.

Ali McLee of the Club's Conservation Committee has successfully secured the installation of swift nestboxes in the refurbished Yarm Town Hall, has steered a Peregrine nestbox project at Holy Trinity Church, North Ormesby and is pursuing the provision of Barn Owl nestboxes. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council have at last responded to our repeated enquiries regarding the cessation of access to the Long Drag; unfortunately, it seems that such access is now rendered impossible because of health and safety concerns. However, the Trustees remain keen to promote habitat improvements on the adjacent Sabic Brinefields estate.

A site visit to Greenabella and Greatham Creek was held with the Environment Agency to discuss managed realignment proposals, which are part of the wider Tees Tidelands initiative. These proposals present a major opportunity to restore intertidal mudflat habitat on the Tees Estuary. The Club has recently received a generous legacy of £38,000 and the Trustees Group has held initial discussions on how this sum might best be spent.

Finally, I would like to reiterate my thanks to all the Trustees, officers and members of the Club for their guidance, support and encouragement during my first year as Chair.

Mike Leakey
Chair

Honorary Secretary's Report for 2023-24

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

	Total	Full	Family	Junior	S/C	Life	Hon
2010	521	209	209	2	78	13	5
2011	538	225	214	2	79	13	5
2012	548	312	217	1		13	5
2013	509	286	200	2		14	7
2014	488	261	207	2		12	6
2015	476	266	189	2		13	6
2016	480	268	192	1		13	6
2017	470	267	182	1		14	6
2018	453	266	166	1		14	6
2019	465	269	176	-		14	6
2020	451	270	162			14	5
2021	459	271	169			14	5
2022	469	276	175			13	5
2023	445	278	149			13	5

Club membership has fallen to its lowest level for 15 years but is still at a healthy 445 in total. Despite the fact that the junior membership rate was reduced to only £5 at the AGM in April 2016 the club continues to thrive without any members in this category.

As in previous years the many hours of free time given by certain members is worthy of mention. Special thanks go to Eric James who edited the newsletter until his untimely death. Jamie Duffie has taken over this task and our thanks go to him. He also doubles as our website manager and handles all the PayPal receipts for membership fees. This latter method is becoming an increasingly popular way for members to pay their subscriptions.

Sadly we lost the last two Treasurers of the club during 2023, namely Don Page and Mark Askew. Between them they served in this role for just short of 50 years.

The annual bird report is also a publication the club can be rightly proud of. As a former member of the records sub-committee I know the amount of time that is spent collating the records and writing and checking the report. Our recorder Alan Crossley, the records sub- committee and the compilers must be thanked for their efforts. Special thanks must go to Chris Brown who both edited and formatted the report. Although Tom Francis stepped down as recorder at the end of 2018, he and Graeme Joynt continue to assist Alan in his duties as recorder to ensure a smooth transition process.

Another member whose efforts for the club deserve recognition is John Fletcher. John has been our sales officer for many years, and he is invariably stationed at the back of each indoor meeting selling old bird reports and books donated by members. Thanks must also be given to Julie Mason who organises the indoor programme each session. It is never easy to arrange speakers but a varying programme each year is testament to Julie's endeavours.

Chris Sharp
Honorary Secretary

TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB

Annual Statement of Income and Expenditure 2023

(with 2022 for comparison)

	2023		2022	
	Income	Payment	Income	Payment
Subscriptions	4422.88		4833.48	
Gift Aid	0.00		823.15	
Interest	169.36		52.20	
Meetings		319.97		459.27
Lecture Fees		227.00		250.00
TBC Gen Publications	249.86		168.97	
Bird Report		3200.00		3180.00
Printing & Stationery		300.00		466.36
Postage		770.73		917.19
Subs to other Societies		78.00		50.50
Insurance		157.00		157.00
Sundries	22.50	48.85		
Website		399.53		395.94
Donations	38875.29			
Tees Ringing Group		1500.00		
Feeding stations		1245.50		943.72
Hide repairs		173.80		1704.00
Data provision	0.00			
Bank charges		0.00		113.20
	43739.89	8420.38	5877.80	8637.18
Excess Income		35319.51		-2759.38
	43739.89	43739.89	5821.13	5877.80

Balance B/F 2022	56294.75	Balance B/F 2021	59054.13
Excess Income	35319.51		-2759.38
Balance 31.12.2023	91610.26	Balance 31.12.22	56294.75
Cash In Hand	0.00		0.00
Bank Current Acc	40410.26		279.69
Deposit A/C 'PSMF'	0.00		0.00
Skipton BS	51200.00	NS&I	56015.06
	91610.26		**56294.75**