

FOREIGN BIRD FEDERATION

“ELECTRONIC AGM - 2015”

➤ **GENERAL**

Last year you will recall that I suggested that we do the FBF AGM “electronically”, because although it is always a delight to see you all, the cost of travel was high and the travel distance (by my calculation) meant that most delegates would spend more time on the road than at the meeting! With the fall in the fuel price the travel cost has decreased slightly, but with so many road works the travel time has probably increased.

The first “electronic AGM” seemed to work well (I had no complaints!), so since we are all one year older I propose to do the same again.

➤ **Secretary’s Report**

As last year the FBF have not formally met during the year, but – also as last year – I have seen several delegates at other events, like Stafford and the various shows. As I have said before, a key role of the FBF is to support the NCA in its activities. This is very important because there are signs that the “anti”-brigade are becoming active again, both in Europe and the UK. The NCA, with other delegates from the Sustainable Users Network (SUN) – mainly comprising hobbyists from other species-groups – continue to do a sterling job in identifying these threats.

➤ **Treasurer's Report**

The FBF continues to be in a sound financial position. I circulated the unaudited Balance Sheet for the year January – December 2014 by e-mail attachment earlier. This showed a small excess of income over expenditure of £75, but the website domain cost will be additional expenditure in 2015. Nevertheless we can expect to have a modest “fighting fund” if we need it. Our main expenditure item is affiliation to the NCA (£100 again last year), but our “surplus” is totally down to the fact that your delegates do NOT claim any expenses for attending NCA meetings.

I may have said this before (!!!), but I have been FBF Treasurer since 2009, and *acting* Secretary since 2010, so if there is anybody out there who might be interested in taking it on I would be very pleased!

➤ **NCA Report**

- ❖ FBF Delegates to the NCA in 2014 were Dave Paine and Dennis Webster. They attended all three NCA meetings in Coalville, Leicestershire, as well as the 2014 AGM. Dave has also attended COM-UK meetings on behalf of the NCA.

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- ❖ I have recently circulated by e-mail attachment a report on NCA activities within the last few weeks, so I will not repeat it here in its entirety, only what I think to be key points.
 - ❖ I do have a concern about the “anti”-brigade and so-called “Positive” or “White Lists”. We are very used to the concept of “Black Lists”, that is a list of things that are banned because of (for example) conservation or health concerns. The White List turns this on its head; it is a list naming the species you CAN keep, *all* others would be banned. One purpose of this is to stop the keeping of “exotic species”, and it is far from clear where the dividing line would be.
 - ❖ I would urge as many fanciers as possible to sign the on-line petition #handsoffmyhobby. David Alderton has referred to this several times in his periodic *Cage & Aviary Birds* column.
 - ❖ A judicial review will be heard in the High Court in June on Arun District Council’s decision (urged on by one of the “anti” groups) to ban a reptile fair in Dorset, and recently the owners of Kempton Racecourse have been persuaded to ban a reptile breeders Show/Sales day at that venue after many years of the show being held there. Reptiles today, will they go after bird events tomorrow?
- **FBF Website.**
- ❖ The FBF website (www.foreignbirdfederation.co.uk) continues in the capable hands of David Jones. I have authorised him to renew this domain in 2015 – the domain name cost is just £11.39 to cover the next two years. I know David is always on the lookout for some new material for the website. You can contact him at david@foreignbirdfederation.co.uk or at david@turacos.co.uk
Thank you David!
- **Well Done!**
- ❖ Congratulations to the NCA on its 70th birthday. The inaugural meeting was held in London on March 8th 1945 (details in the “History” section of the NCA website).
 - ❖ Congratulations to Dennis Webster on being NCA President for one year from the NCA 2014 AGM, and becoming a life Vice-President at the 2015 AGM.

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➤ **Condolences**

- ❖ Condolences to the family of Ernie Gallimore who passed away in hospital on Easter Monday following a fall at his home.

Dennis Webster

Treasurer and acting Hon Sec.

21.04.2015