

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Friday 1 December 2017 19.00 – 19.45 at Green Pastures Nursery & Farm Shop, Mill Road, Bergh Apton, Norwich, NR15 1BQ

Travelling issues again delayed the start of the meeting to 7pm. 47 members were welcomed by Chairman Martyn Davey, who said it was good to have our AGM at Green Pastures again.

- 1. Apologies:** Wendy & Howard Norton, Jenny Prentice, Stephen Foster, Gavin & Maria-Liisa Alston, Paul & Ann Payne, Kay Conlin, Marlene & Brian Robinson.
- 2. Minutes of the last meeting:** minutes of the 2016 AGM were accepted with no matters arising.
- 3. Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2016:** Frances Howard introduced the accounts and copies were circulated. We made a profit of £2423 this year, which included some money owed from the previous year, arrears of membership subscriptions and a substantial income from our fundraising efforts at the Royal Norfolk Show, which helps to fund our other shows. Subscription income covers general running costs and the journal. Within our expenditure was £300 sponsorship of the Young Horticulturalist of the Year award, something we do as part of our educational remit. This is a national competition sponsored by the Institute of Horticulture, with heats held in this area which our members are invited to attend. One outstanding honorarium from 2016 had been paid. There is no requirement for an internal audit because our income is below the required threshold. We have sufficient funds to carry us forward. As a small not-for-profit charity we shouldn't be making money unless we have something specific we intend to spend it on.
- 4. Chairman's report:** Martyn Davey said that it had been a very successful year. He thanked Frances for doing an excellent job keeping our finances in order. Income had dropped due to changes in the way we operate our summer show, however Lesley Webdale and her team of willing helpers had produced a great profit from the tombola and plant sales. Sponsorship from Cherry Lane Garden Centre had also helped to fund this show. Special thanks to Ian Roofe for all his help setting up the summer show and other shows and to all those who have helped with shows this year. Kristopher Harper had stood down as Vice Chairman and Len Finch had taken on the role. Thanks to Kristopher Harper for running the website and to Tim Allison for editing the journal. Summer also gave us an interesting and enjoyable evening at our president's garden, with everyone saying what a great event it was. Thank you to Charlotte and Robert Carter for opening their garden for us. Additional thanks to Charlotte for being an enthusiastic president and supporting the society over the last two years and a hope that we would continue to have her support. The holiday organised by Ian Roofe was a great success and will be repeated. Simon Gaches and Lesley Webdale were working with others on the show schedule review. Lesley had also started working with the affiliated societies and we now provide more of what they need. There were vacancies for show and social secretaries, with an opportunity to work with Ian Roofe on the calendar of events for 2018. Martyn concluded by thanking the committee for all their hard work and support during the year, remembering that all are volunteers who fit their roles in around busy work, home and other society commitments. The committee needs the ongoing support of members in order to move the society forward.
- 5. General Secretary's Report:** Lesley Webdale said it had been another busy year, with our profile and number of enquiries increasing. Thanks to everyone for their support. After taking on the membership role at the last AGM a full review was being carried out of all records, standing orders and Gift Aid declarations. Membership currently stood at 122 single, 80 Joint and 38 Affiliated Societies. Undertaking the show secretary role for the early autumn show had been an interesting experience and confirmed that we do need to modernise all our show documents. Fundraising had been successful and was helping to balance show costs. Thank you to those who had helped on show days. The amount of administrative work (averaging 15 hours per week and increasing) will make it challenging for Lesley to continue to do the fundraising as well, so volunteers were requested to help with this. A meeting of Affiliated Societies at the late autumn show had been very successful, with 26 people in attendance from 15 societies. All acknowledged that there is a need for us to work more closely for the benefit of all. Next meeting will be in the New Year with a focus on

how to work together more effectively. Lesley concluded by saying that she had visited various societies in 2017 and already had plans for several more in 2018.

6. **Social Report:** due to time pressures Ian Roofe provided a written report for those at the meeting. This thanked everyone for their support and covered the successful visits to Chestnut Farm, The Harralds, North Walsham and Narborough Hall, plus the Presidents evening, the holiday and the spring lecture by Johnny Walkers. Unfortunately the autumn lecture by Alan Gray had to be cancelled at short notice due to illness but was being rescheduled. Calendar for 2018 was almost complete and would be published in the spring journal. Ian confirmed that after 11 years as a committee member and six years as social secretary this would be his last year on committee. The social side of the society is very important for educating, inspiring and uniting members of this long established society. Ian would be overseeing the social calendar for 2018 but the society needed someone else to come forward and take on and develop this important role.
7. **Retiring President's address:** Charlotte Carter thanked the society for inviting her to be President. It had been a privilege and a pleasure and she had enjoyed meeting everyone, who had freely shared their gardening tips and enthusiasm for horticulture. She and Robert had enjoyed welcoming everyone to their home on a beautiful summer evening. Thanks particularly to Martyn, Lesley and Ian for being so welcoming. Monty Don recommends patience in horticulture and undertaking this role had reminded Charlotte that gardening is about patience and is brilliant for health. Thank you to all for the inspiration.
8. **Election of President and Vice President for 2017/18:** Charlotte was delighted to hand over the chain of office to Simon White. Simon said he felt privileged and honoured to be President and would do all he could for the society, including promoting it as much as possible. The President's evening would be held in the garden at Peter Beales Roses Ltd. Martyn Davey advised that Adrian Bloom had accepted the invitation to be our Vice President for this year.
9. **Election of officers and committee for 2017/18:** The society needs a show secretary and someone to take on the social secretary role. The following were elected :

Chairperson	Martyn Davey
Vice Chairperson	Len Finch
General Secretary	Lesley Webdale
Social Secretary	vacancy
Show Secretary	vacancy
Committee	Simon Gaches, Cynthia Young, Cathryn Waldron, Ian Roofe

10. **Proposal to change the timing of the AGM and trophy presentation:** Julian Woodrow outlined the reasons for his proposal. There was a short discussion and no seconder for the proposal, so it did not proceed to vote.
11. **AGM formally closed at 19:45.**
12. **President's Medal:** this is an award considered by committee and awarded to people who have given long and loyal support. This year's recipient was Paul Payne who has supported the society for many years.
13. **Presentation of trophies to overall show winners for 2017:** President, Simon White, presented annually awarded trophies as follows:

JA Christie Cup, greatest number of points in open classes at all shows	Robin McDonald
John Wyatt Membership Cup, runner up to most points	Pauline Harper
JE Moxey Cup, Best Pot Plant exhibit	Phill & Lesley Webdale
Lord Lieutenant's Challenge Cup, most meritorious amateur exhibit	Phill & Lesley Webdale
HWT Empson, greatest number of points in flower arranging classes	Amanda Seales
May & Baker Cup, most first prizes in vegetable classes	Pauline Harper
E Harradine Shield, most points in cacti & succulent classes	Phill & Lesley Webdale
Lombe-Taylor Trophy, best vegetable exhibit	Phill & Lesley Webdale
HP Neave – most promising newcomer	Pip Betts
Drayton Shield, affiliated society with most points	Shipdham Garden Club & Horticultural Society
RHS Grenfell Medal, highest number of points for flower arranging	Amanda Seales