

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Friday 30 November 2018 18.30 – 19.45 at Wymondham Garden Centre, Tuttle Lane, Wymondham, Norfolk

60 members were welcomed by Chairman Martyn Davey, who said it was good to have our AGM at Wymondham Garden Centre for the first time – easier travelling this year!

Apologies: Wendy & Howard Norton, Jo Borrett, Ann Tallwin, Jackie Aldous, Kristopher Harper, Marlene & Brian Robinson, Simon Gaches.

- 1. Minutes of the last meeting:** minutes of the 2017 AGM were accepted with no matters arising.
- 2. Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2018:** Frances Howard introduced the accounts and copies were circulated. The previous year had been a tidying up one from a membership subscription perspective. This year we have benefited from the winding up of “Wild About Norfolk”, net cost of shows was £783, events made a profit of £416 and no honorariums were paid. Subscriptions have covered the journal and basic costs. Net profit was £3145, including the £1507 from Wild About Norfolk, giving an actual operating surplus of £1638. Total reserves stand at £29,456, which is ample for ongoing activity. We are a “not for profit” charity and therefore don’t want to accumulate funds. The society is in a strong financial position overall. No proposal to increase subscriptions. Martyn Davey thanked Frances for getting the finances under control and producing an excellent set of accounts. Acceptance proposed by Robin McDonald and seconded by John Easton.
- 3. Chairperson’s report and review of the year:** Martyn Davey thanked Green Pastures for hosting our AGM over the last few years and commented that it was good to be at Wymondham. The aim will be to move around the county every few years. An excellent programme of events prepared by social secretary Ian Roofe had been very popular, particularly the holiday to Sussex gardens. Unfortunately, Ian had to resign during the year and Martyn thanked him for all his hard work, both as social secretary and as show secretary, particularly the summer show. The spring show at Easton College was an outstanding success, although the need to move tables and access arrangements mean we are unlikely to return. The highlight of Martyn’s time as chair had been a special visit to the gardens of Buckingham Palace for HRH The Prince of Wales’ 70th birthday Garden Party, accompanied by Anne Bridge, Robin McDonald, Pauline Harper and Simon Gaches. We are very pleased to have the support of His Royal Highness as our patron. The coach trip to BBC Gardeners’ World Live was very popular and well supported. The 2018 summer show was not on the scale we are used to, but we had known that it was going to change and the RNAA have been working with us to ensure that the flower show is bigger and better in 2019. Thank you to everyone who helped with this and other shows. The Bressingham Pot Off competition that we were invited to take part in gave our affiliated societies the opportunity to shine, with Loddon & District Horticultural Society taking the top prize. The early autumn show at The Costessey Centre was a smaller than usual event, although we had a good range of exhibits. Our date clashed with many other local events. We have now released all our dates for 2019 to try and avoid this. The late autumn show was a great success, with traders and exhibitors putting in an amazing effort and the chrysanthemum exhibits were the best we have had for many years. Finances were looking much better and committee are working hard on controlling costs and ensuring we get the best value for money from the venues we hire. Martyn finished by thanking an ever-decreasing committee for their time and support – we need more support for key roles such as membership, social events, catering, publicity, articles for the Norfolk Gardener. Thank you to webmaster Kristopher Harper and journal editor Tim Allison for the time they give in these volunteer roles.
- 4. General Secretary’s Report:** Lesley Webdale said it had been an extremely busy year, with our profile and number of enquiries continuing to increase. Thanks to everyone for their support. Membership was 261 people, slightly down following the subscription review. Challenge to everyone was to recruit someone in 2019. Gift Aid declarations still being collected, and some standing orders still require increase. Website

changes underway, with an on-line show entry form now in use and members' and affiliated society areas to come. Number of affiliated societies has increased to 43 and there had been two meetings, more affiliated society show entries and lots of support at shows and events. Lesley had covered the show secretary role for the first three shows, which was challenging. Thanks to Geoff Freeman for supporting at the early autumn show and taking on the role for late autumn. Thank you also to everyone else who had supported on show days. It continues to be a challenge to get suitable venues for shows. Separate show schedules had been issued for each show in 2018. For 2019 they would be checked and collated in one booklet. There would be a judges & stewards meeting in 2019, focusing on consistency of judging. Three trainee judges would be included. Speakers and Judges lists were subject to on-going review. Other roles covered included liaison with President and Vice President, fundraising, committee lead for the journal, events secretary, publicity and booking of trade stands. Overall it had been a challenge to balance tasks, requiring a huge amount of work all year to keep things going and progressing. As soon as each show was done it was time to start on the next journal! There were still lots of tasks to finish. Thanks to Geoff Freeman for taking on the show secretary role, to Gloria Goodley for becoming floral art co-ordinator and to Virginia Valentine for taking on the events booking role. All three had been co-opted onto committee during the year. The society needs some members who are willing to help with administration.

7. **Retiring President's address:** Simon White thanked the society for the opportunity to be our President – it had been an honour and a pleasure. He had enjoyed promoting the society and taking part in our shows. Congratulation to everyone who exhibited at the summer show. The President's Evening at Peter Beales Roses had been a great night. Simon felt the society was going from strength to strength as a result of the hard work being done by committee. He asked everyone to stand and give a round of applause to committee. Thanks also to the members for their active support.
8. **Election of President and Vice President for 2018:** Martyn Davey proposed Adrian Bloom as President, seconded by Simon White. Simon handed over the chain of office to Adrian Bloom and wished him every success in the role. Adrian said it was an honour to be asked. He wants interest in horticulture to continue and the best way is through societies. A sign of the times is not getting younger people involved – social media is an important way of doing this. Adrian had done some research about NNHS and said he now realised it is an umbrella society. Formed in 1829 and with royal patronage since 1864, our aims seem to cover the future and still being here and thriving is an achievement. Any society has a group of volunteers who make it happen. Adrian will work with the society to help it to broaden out and take opportunities but will need to understand a lot more about what happens at present. All societies want volunteers, so there is a lot of competition. NNHS is lucky to have a committee of volunteers and especially Lesley, who is passionate (sometimes frustrated) about what the society does. Where will we be when the society reaches its 200th anniversary? Martyn Davey advised that Adrian will be President for at least two years. Simon White had agreed to return to the Vice President role. A dream team at the top! Simon was formally proposed by Anne Bridge, seconded by Jenny Lysons and duly elected.
9. **Election of officers and committee for 2018/19:** The society needed a show secretary and someone to take on the social secretary role. Existing committee members who were willing to stand again were voted in en-bloc – proposed by Terry Young and seconded by Brenda Foster, all in favour. Geoff Freeman was proposed for show secretary by Cathy Waldron, seconded by Alan Watson, all in favour. Gloria Goodley was proposed for the Floral Art Co-ordinator role by Anne Bridge and seconded by Cynthia Young, all in favour. No nominations for social secretary. The following were elected :

Chairperson	Martyn Davey
Vice Chairperson	Len Finch
Treasurer	Frances Howard
General Secretary	Lesley Webdale
Social Secretary	Vacancy (Virginia Valentine happy to continue to be Bookings Secretary but did not want to take on the whole role.)
Show Secretary	Geoff Freeman
Floral Art Co-ordinator	Gloria Goodley
Committee	Simon Gaches, Cynthia Young, Cathryn Waldron

10. **AGM formally closed at 19:45.**

- 11. 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 Julian Woodrow who has supported the society for many years.
- 12. Presentation of trophies to overall show winners for 2018:** President, Adrian Bloom, presented annually awarded trophies as follows:

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