

The Essex Dahlia Society

UNADOPTED Minutes of the 48th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on Saturday 6TH May 2017 AT 3.30 PM

At St JOHN PAYNE, Lower School, Patching Hall Lane

CHELMSFORD

The 48th Annual General Meeting was attended by 14 members and opened with the Chairman, Alan Taylor, thanking everyone for attending and for all the help with the plant sale and also for bringing plants.

Apologies for Absence received from John and Doreen Cox and Robin Crouchman.

Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 7th May 2016, were approved following amendments to the list of elected Vice-Presidents, Rosemary Porter and Alan Taylor to be added and Carman Spencer to be deleted.

Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered by the Agenda.

There were no matters arising, not covered by the Agenda.

Chairman's Report and Membership

The Chairman, Alan Taylor, reported that shortly after the 2016 AGM, we heard the devastating news of the loss of Jane, John Sharp's daughter. It must have been very difficult for the family to bear. He was pleased to see John at the AGM and to see the family at the Main Show in August and hope they will still come along this year. The committee have decided, with the family's permission, to rename the Mini Show trophy the Jane Lydford Memorial Cup in memory of Jane.

The 2016 Main Show was a great success and the hall was full of blooms. Virtually every class had more than several entries and all the exhibitors were thanked for making it such a good show. Some familiar names were back showing, including Andrew Aspinal. Thanks went to all the Judges and they have all confirmed that they are available to judge again in 2017. He thanked the Committee members for their work throughout the year and also for help on Show days. Everyone knows their own job, which makes everything run smoothly. We have been very lucky with the weather over the last few years.

We re-introduced for 2016 asking if the exhibitors would like to join the committee and judges for a Buffet lunch. Some exhibitors prefer to leave the hall and go elsewhere, but quite a few exhibitors stayed and it worked very well with everyone mixing-in. We intend to do the same this year.

As you are all aware we rely on the plant sale to bring in sufficient revenue each year to support the Shows. Unfortunately, the plant sale is unable to produce sufficient funds for the Show to remain at the Braintree venue.

We are therefore delighted to announce that the Main Show for 2017 will be held at Writtle University College in Chelmsford, where the committee have paid several visits to the college, although the Hall is slightly smaller than Braintree, the college administration team have been very supportive and we must thank them for all their help. It is however, a new venue and it is inevitable there will be teething troubles, but we feel that the Membership will benefit greatly from the new venue and hope that we can rely on everyone's support.

Over the past year the Mini Show entries were slightly down however the main show turned out to be one of the best the Society has every staged. The Society is very grateful to all the exhibitors you came along.

A new NDS classified directory is due out at the end of this year, there are one or two anomalies with the judging rules and you will see some minor alterations to some of the classes. Looking forward to seeing you at the forthcoming Shows.

The membership remains static, we lose some and gain some. Some are returning and there is more interest shown now than previously. At present we have 43 on the books, plus 2 Affiliated Societies. It is difficult to ascertain how many members we have as it varies over the year.

Treasurer's Report

Linda Owen's reported that the Balance Sheet shows a Loss for the Year of £721.39. This is mainly due to the increase in charges for the Hall for the Main Show, cost of which is £626.00.

The Plant Sale in May 2016 made a profit of £626.00. Thanks to everyone who supported us, either by supplying plants or coming along to purchase plants, without this support we would not be in the position we are today.

Thanks to the Officers, Committee and Members, who give so generously to the Society during the Year.

The Chairman thanked Linda for all her work. The accounts reflect what we expected to see and could not continue to hope to restore the financial situation.

The membership all agreed with the Balance sheet which had been circulated.

Election of President.

Robert Porter has been President for about 5 years and is stepping down from the position at this meeting. Bob and Rosemary have been important to the Society and will be missed for their guidance. It will be hard to find someone to fill Bob's shoes.

Alan Ripley has been invited to become the new President of the Society. He has been a very long standing member and he judged the Dahlia classed at the Saffron Walden Show at Audley End. He is a judge of substantial standing and has agreed to stand as President.

Therefore, Alan Ripley was proposed as President by Alan Taylor and seconded by Graham Fisher and John Wills and agreed by the membership.

Vice-Presidents

As stated above in approval of the minutes of the 2016 AGM

Rosemary Porter and Alan Taylor to added to the list of Vice-Chairman, no other new Vice-Presidents proposed.

Therefore it was proposed that the existing Vice-Presidents including Rosemary Porter and Alan Taylor be elected en-bloc.

This was proposed by Malcolm Deacon and Seconded by Margaret Wills and approved by the meeting.

Election of Chairman

Alan Ripley proposed Alan Taylor as Chairman, this was seconded by Margaret Wills and elected unopposed.

Election of Secretary

The Chairman, Alan Taylor thanked Kate Chambers for her service over the last year formally proposed Kate Chambers as Secretary, this was seconded by John Wills and was elected unopposed.

Election of Treasurer

The Chairman, informed the meeting that Linda Owens was retiring after 34 years as Treasurer. The Society is very sorry that she has decided to give up as Treasurer and formally thank her for the many years of faithful service to the Essex Dahlia Society.

John Cullen presented her with a bouquet of flowers. She said that she had enjoyed every minute of it.

The Chairman having spoken to John Cullen, the Vice-Chairman, about taking over the position Treasurer, proposed John Cullen as Treasurer, this was seconded by Alan Ripley and was elected unopposed.

Election of Committee Members

John and Margaret Wills and Malcolm Deacon have agreed to stay on the Committee and Graham Fisher and Paul Schramm have agreed to have their names put forward.

Alan said the input to the Committee is good and he proposed that John and Margaret Wills, Malcolm Deacon, Graham Fisher and Paul Schramm should be elected to the Committee, this was seconded by John Cullen and elected unopposed.

Alan welcomed the two new members to the Committee.

New Venue for Main Show

Alan informed the meeting that a map of the new venue at Writtle College is printed on the back of the 2017 Schedule, there was parking at the back of the Hall, with easy access to the Hall and other areas to sit and have tea and cake. Also a reception area which can be used to take show entries. So we hope that you will all approve of the move to the new venue.

A.O.B,

Alan informed the meeting that the constitution needs to be amended to change the date of the AGM from March to May following the suggestion that the AGM is held directly after the Plant Sale. The meeting approved the change.

The position of Show Secretary will have to be dealt with following Linda's retirement. At present Linda has agreed to still take in entries for the Shows, for 2017, which will then be passed to the Show Secretary who will be appointed at the next meeting.

A letter will be sent to all members about the change of Show Secretary/

Please note pg. 10 of the Schedule Single Bloom Challenge which states that Single bloom entries will only be accepted on Show Day. This gives us the option to not have a Single bloom class if we find that there is not enough space.

The meeting closed at 4.20 pm. with thanks to everyone who came.