

The  
Essex Dahlia Society  
Minutes of the 50<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL Meeting held on  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 3.30 PM  
At Writtle University College, Main Hall, Main Campus  
Lordship Road, Writtle, Chelmsford CM1 3RR

**UNADOPTED**

1. Apologies Received from Graham Fisher
2. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018  
The minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018 were approved and duly signed.
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered by the Agenda.  
The Chairman confirmed that the subscription for member's and affiliated societies was £5.00. We may have to obtain the Banksian Medal from the RHS, if we do not have one in stock, the Chairman will check.
4. Chairman's Report  
Alan Taylor reported that 2018 was a very interesting and challenging year, with the weather in Spring being cold and the Summer being hot and dry. This seriously affected entry numbers for the 1st Mini Show, but members responded magnificently, but the Late Mini Show made up for it with over 200 Vases staged. The Society thanked all those qualified judges who helped with judging on the night, which was a great success, which the Society intends to repeat this year. Therefore the judging at the late Mini Show will be by invitation to qualified judges present at the Show. Congratulations to Kevin Moores, who being one of our more recent members, and in the face of all the completion, secured the bronze medal and best single bloom.  
The main Show in 2018 was moved to the Northumberland Building on the Lordship Campus at Writtle University College. This was a resounding success and the Society was delighted with a visit from Essex Radio which helped to bring in dozens of people to see the Show and marvel at the blooms on a wet afternoon.  
Thanks to the committee members who sponsored the 2 Championship Classes and to Malcolm for planning the layout of the Hall, which gave us plenty of space. A lesson for the future is that we can cut down on the number of tables and we need to rearrange the judges' lunch area so that the table is not so near the entrance.  
The Society is very pleased with the new venue at the Northumberland Building and are extremely grateful to the University authorities for their assistance and support and to this end the AGM, with the plant sale and the 2 Mini Shows will at the Writtle, but will be held in the Hall at the main campus building. The reason that the Society has moved from St. John Payne's School is financial, unfortunately the increasing charges for the hire of the Hall means that it is no longer financially viable to hold the Mini Shows or AGM/ Plant sale at the School.

As you know the plant sale is vital for the financial survival of the Society and with this in mind we are holding two plant sales in 2019.

The first was held at the Essex Young Farmer's Show on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May where we sold only Dahlia plants, supplied by members of the Committee. The second plant sale held today 25<sup>th</sup> May prior to the AGM.

May you all have a good showing year.

5. Treasurer's Report

A copy of the Income and Expenditure Report for 01.11/17 – 31.10.18 was circulated to members and discussed. Although we had to pay for some tables for the Main Show, the hire costs are still less than Braintree and we would also like to thank Malcolm for the loan of his tables. There has also been the cost of setting up the web-site which is going very well, thanks to Paul for dealing with the web-site. Hopefully, the 2 plant sales this year will help put up the assets. We are not here to make profits, but to keep the Society solvent..

The President Alan Ripley thanked John for the accounts.

6. Membership Secretary's Report

At present there is a core of 40 members – including one Society. We have 2 new members from the Young Farmers event and most members pay their subscriptions at either the Main Show or the Mini Shows.

The Membership Form on the web-site needs to be changed.

7. Election of President- Alan Ripley – is happy to continue as President

Proposed by Alan Taylor, seconded by John Cullen and carried unanimously.

8. Election of Vice-Presidents - All re-elected en-bloc

There are no new Vice-Presidents -

9. Election of Chairman – Alan Taylor

Proposed by Paul Schramm – seconded by Margaret Wills

Carried unanimously

10. Election of Secretary – Kate Chambers

Proposed by Alan Taylor Seconded by John Cullen

Carried unanimously.

11. Election of Treasurer – John Cullen

Proposed by Kate Chambers seconded by Alan Taylor

12. Election of Committee Members.

Malcolm Deacon, Paul Schramm, John & Margaret Wills, Graham Fisher + 2 new members Chris Whiting and Gerald Vale.

Proposed and accepted enbloc.

13. A.O.B

The Chairman thanked everyone who had contributed plants to the plant sale in the new venue and hoped that it was not to the detriment of their own exhibits.

Margaret was thanked for arranging the food and drink during the afternoon.

A member asked about Seminars and it was explained that this had been tried previously linked to AGM's, but unfortunately, there was lack of support from the members. The judging exam was being held at the Midland Show this year if anyone was interested in taking the exam.

It was agreed to use the smaller tables in the hall for the Mini Shows.

Apparently the NDS is looking into stopping the use of Oasis for staging the blooms.

Bins are need at the Mini and Main Show.

A letter was passed round from a Member complaining that we no longer give money for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places at the Main Show. Alan will reply and explain the reason for the Committee's decision.

The meeting closed at 5.00 pm

Next Meeting 7.30 pm on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at Kate Chamber's

Low Mead, Duddenhoe End. CB11 4UT