

EWELL HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

08 March 2022

at 7.30pm

1. HON CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

The Chairman sent his apologies that he was not able to attend the meeting. His address was read by the Treasurer who welcomed 15 members to the 2022 AGM of the Ewell Horticultural Association and thanked Margaret Angus for taking the minutes.

'Firstly, it is with deep regret that I have to inform all present of the passing away of Terry Eddowes in October 2020. Terry was a greatly loved, long term EHA committee member, being Show Secretary for more years than I can remember. Her presence will be greatly missed at our Shows, Talks and committee meetings.

I am sad to also announce the death of our long term flower Show Judge Ron Niblet, who passed away late in 2021 after a short illness. We will greatly miss his expertise, wisdom and humour.

Our current membership is approximately 1000. I would therefore like to thank Roger Bellingham, our registrar, who does an incredible job behind the scenes, keeping track of all our members and covering for newsletter deliveries where road stewards are not available. But where Roger has covered for Road Stewards, he cannot be expected to carry on indefinitely, so an appeal has been issued for new Road Stewards and Distributors in the current newsletter.

I would like to thank Lynne Mason for all her hard work as our Secretary, similarly I would also like to thank Les Smith, as our treasurer, particularly as he is standing in for me tonight.

Unfortunately the EHA trips and outings, which were a very popular part of the association's activities, have been severely curtailed in the past two years, due to Covid restrictions and concerns. I would like to extend our great thanks to Brenda Allen and Pauline Horne, who have organised all our previous trips for many years. Unfortunately, they have decided to step down from this activity and will be sorely missed. However we hope to organise further trips in the future, using other sources, once again many thanks Brenda and Pauline!

As you all will be aware, we unfortunately did not have any shows in 2020, however we managed to put on the Autumn Show in September 2021. The show was very well attended with a good number of entries. Many thanks go to Tracey Ross for all her hard work as our Show Secretary.

The quality of our catering at the show continues to be excellent, congratulations to Dawn Simms and her team. I personally would like to thank all those who help with the catering at the shows.

I would also like to thank all the members of the committee for their hard work during the year. In addition, I would like to thank all our helpers at the shows and future talks. In particular, Tim and Thelma Goldsmith, although not on the committee, both have been a tremendous help to the Association, especially at the Flower Shows and all other events.

Also thanks to Katherine Alexander for her hard work in the single-handed preparation and setting out of the newsletters.

Many thanks to Beryl Smith, our newly appointed Domestic Secretary, for all her help at the Shows.

Additionally thanks to all those involved in the distribution of the Newsletters and all the Road Stewards.

Thanks also to Anne-Marie and Fred Evans for their help, particularly for their involvement in the Association's Christmas Cards sent to all our Road Stewards and distributors.

Many thanks to Jane Hoddy. Jane has been invaluable in finding speakers for our talks, but due to Covid, we have been unable to organise any talks since our last AGM in 2020. However, due to her sheer determination, Jane has succeeded in getting a speaker for tonight, after the finish of our AGM. Jane hopes to organise more talks for later in the year, please keep an eye on your Newsletters and our website.

Also a deserved mention and thanks to Beryl Smith and Tracey Ross, who provide the refreshment for the talks.

Finally, thanks to Brian Angus for all his help at the shows and behind the scenes activities and Margaret Angus as our Publicity Officer.

So in closing, we are, as always, in need of people to join the committee or just volunteer to help in whatever capacity they feel best suited, especially at our Shows'.

Remember that following tonight's AGM, we have a talk by Paul Patton entitled "Gardening on the wild side"

The Treasurer, on behalf of the Chairman, invited questions on his report: none were forthcoming.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM – 12 March 2020

The Chairman reminded Members that a draft of the 2020 AGM Minutes had been placed on the Association's website. Acceptance of 2020 Minutes was proposed by Clive Long and seconded by Tony Field. All in favour.

3 MATTERS ARISING

None.

4 HON TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCEPTANCE OF ACCOUNTS

Copies of the 2020 & 2021 Income & Expenditure Accounts and the Balance Sheets, which had been approved by the Committee, were available prior to the start of the meeting. Les Smith talked members through the finances for the years ended 30 November 2020 & 2021.

Looking at the Income & Expenditure Account the Treasurer noted that, Potting Shed sales had raised small amounts, either directly or at the 2021 Autumn Show. As most members pay their subs for two years, the subs received in 2020/21 have been allocated to 2022/3 and are noted at the bottom of the page.

There was one outing in 2019, and due to Covid, only one talk in 2020, none in 2021 and only one Show in 2021. Les reminded those present that every show makes a loss.

The Balance Sheet indicated the reduced Potting Shed stock levels as planned. The Treasurer had previously circulated and discussed the Bank Statements with the Committee.

Overall EHA had an operating deficit of £2,546 in the year to 30 November 2019, £1,372 in the year to 30 November 2020 and £1,069 the year to 30 November 2021. On the Balance

sheet he emphasised that the Committee's aim was to return the Association's funds for the benefit of EHA's members by running down the capital.

At the end of his report the Treasurer invited questions: Tony Field commented that an Auditor would be available for a fee, to which the Treasurer responded that the Bank Statements were had been fully discussed with the Committee.

The Treasurer was praised for all his hard work in managing the finances during two difficult years and for his preparation of the Annual Accounts. Their acceptance was proposed by Margaret Angus and seconded by Dawn Simms. All in favour.

5 FLORAL ART GROUP REPORT

Sheila Stracy, Floral Art Group Chairman, sent her apologies; her report was read to the meeting:

'Ewell Floral Art Flower Club has managed to keep going over these difficult times. Last year was a challenge - we had a few Zoom meetings and started up again in September with "Flowers in a teacup".

We have had to change our club meetings from a Wednesday night to the 2nd Tuesday afternoon of the month, but this has proved to be good for most of our members. Sadly, it does not suit our younger members who go to work. We are getting used to meeting on a Tuesday afternoon and if anyone would like to join us, you would be warmly welcomed.

In November we enjoyed a demonstration by Sue Tausig "Scrumptiously Christmas". During the year we arranged flowers in the window of Alan Greenwoods for Flowers Arranger's Day – Sophie Dallas a junior flower arranger help with this. Barbara Meineck and I entered the Wisley Show – Barbara gained a 3rd prize.

I would like to give a very big "thank you" to EHA for helping us with our NAFAS fees, everything is getting very costly.

We carry on having fun and friendship arranging our flowers.'

6 ELECTION OF HON PRESIDENT

The Committee has nominated Tony Field, a longstanding member, for a fifth year as our Honorary President. The proposal was seconded by Anne-Marie Evans & Brian Angus and approved by all the members present.

7 ELECTION OF HON CHAIRMAN

Les Smith took the chair at this point; Clive Long proposed that Dave Tarrant be elected as Honorary Chairman, seconded by Tony Field. This was passed by a show of hands.

8 ELECTION OF HON SECRETARY

Lynne Mason was proposed by Margaret Angus and seconded by Beryl Smith. All in favour.

9 ELECTION OF HON TREASURER

Margaret Angus took the Chair at this point; Les Smith was proposed by Brian Angus and seconded by Tony Field. All in favour.

10 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following were elected enbloc:

Registrar	Roger Bellingham	Publicity Officer	Margaret Angus
Catering Officer	Dawn Simms	Show Secretary	Tracey Ross
Jane Hoddy	Talks Secretary	Domestic Secretary	Beryl Smith

The Officers named above were proposed by Les Smith and seconded by Anne-Marie Evans. All in favour.

11 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following were elected enbloc:

Sheila Stracy (Floral Art Representative)

Margaret Angus (Meetings Secretary)

The Committee Members named above were proposed by Dawn Simms and seconded by Lynne Mason. All in favour.

12 ELECTION OF HON AUDITOR

Les Smith explained that the Association has no constitutional requirement for an Auditor and reminded everyone that the Treasurer had brought the Association's Bank Statements to be viewed at the AGM.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further questions the meeting closed at 8pm.

The Treasurer thanked members for attending the AGM and invited members and visitors to stay and listen to the talk by Paul Patten, entitled 'Gardening on the Wild Side'.