

# ***Crowhurst & District Horticultural Society***

## ***Annual General Meeting - Minutes***

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7pm - Crowhurst Village Hall

### **1. Members present and apologies for absence**

Mary Boorman, Alan Humphrey, Tim and Penny Knaggs, Frankie Gale and Ben Woods, Bob and Margaret Clifford, Tom and Shirley Masters, Sue Bastin, Kerry Weller, Lynda Turner, Jorge Labbe, Sue and Phil Laimber.

*Apologies:* Oliver Boorman-Humphrey, Bruce and Margaret Cripps, Ann and Jeff Cornwall, David and Rita Gower, Dave Bastin, Tracy Docksey

### **2. Minutes of the last AGM**

Read

#### **a. Matters arising from the minutes**

None. Minutes proposed as correct by Mary, Seconded Tim

### **3. Chairman's Report**

Given by Mary Boorman

### **4. Open discussion about future of society**

Mary started an open discussion about the future of the society. The areas of discussion were as follows:

#### **a. Sustainability of the society over the medium/long term**

The members present expressed a desire for the society continue into the future, but were made aware of the concerns of the committee around lack of entries and entrants in recent flower shows and lack of assistance to the committee when organising events.

#### **b. No future summer shows**

It was agreed that the society would not hold a summer show in the coming year and until the Village Fayre organisation becomes more settled. These shows are most difficult for us to planning given they are away from the facilities of the Village Hall. We will review this decision at the next AGM.

#### **c. Encouraging show entries across the board**

All members agreed to help encourage more entries in future across the board. Mary has already liaised with the Primary School, Brownies, Youth Club and Preschool and will continue to do this going forward. Sue Bastin offered to particularly focus on improving children's entries.

#### **d. New proactive committee members for various roles**

No member present willing to commit to joining the committee at this stage but several members were willing to help ad hoc.

#### **e. Assistance with stewarding at shows**

Several members were willing to help on an ad hoc basis.

#### **f. Assistance with stalls and raffle ticket sales at events**

Sue Bastin agreed to take over organising raffles for the various events, including purchasing prizes and selling tickets. Sue Laimber agreed to take over organising plant sales for the various events.

#### **g. Assistance prior to events such as obtaining cakes for teas**

Shirley and Penny agreed to man the tea hut and serve refreshments at each event as required.

#### **h. Assistance with monthly Crowhurst News entries**

Kerry offered to help with producing a monthly article. Mary will discuss this further with Kerry. Mary is also going to ask Oliver to prepare the April and October articles as these mostly relate to the Spring and Autumn Shows respectively.

#### **i. Ideas for future lecture evenings or topics of interest**

Members provides some ideas for future talks which Mary will take forward and research further.

## 5. Treasurer's Report

Alan reported that the society finances were in a sound state. The society was particularly pleased to receive a legacy of £1000 from late member Jimmy Carter which he asked to be used to fund Children's activities or events. The committee expressed their thanks and will seek to organise these in due course.

Alan also informed the members that, during the year, Nationwide Building Society had discontinued the Treasurers Trust account which the society used. All funds from that account have now been transferred into our Cooperative Bank account.

### a. Presentation of accounts

As of 31st August 2022, accounts were:

Bank:	£ 3976.05	
Cash:	£ 732.39	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£ 4708.44</b>	<b>Up £927.42 on 2021</b>

### b. Auditors

Agreed to continue with Tracey Docksey as auditor. Alan thanked Tracey for her continued hard-work and support.

## 6. Reports from Committee Members

### a. Show Secretary Report

Given by Alan on behalf of Oliver. Alan reported that show entries were down this year compared to previous years, which was not surprising giving the poor weather and growing conditions this year and the death of HM The Queen in the week leading up to the Autumn Show. Alan pointed out that there has been a long term trend of decline in entries to shows over the course of the last 10 years and shared the following data with members.

#### Spring Shows

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2022
<b>Entries</b>	94	116	129	95	138	142	99	118	91
<b>Entrants</b>	19	25	26	18	28	27	28	24	15
<b>Entry Fees</b>	£12.70	£19.20	£18.30	£14.10	£21.80	£20.50	£15.00	£13.80	£13.40
<b>Prize Money</b>	£28.40	£33.20	£32.20	£32.00	£34.10	£0.00	£21.80	£24.00	£29.90

#### Summer Shows

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Entries</b>	341	337	323	316	302	300	246	242
<b>Entrants</b>	50	58	58	54	50	45	38	34
<b>Entry Fees</b>	£44.20	£33.50	£30.90	£40.60	£33.30	£44.00	£34.50	£34.60
<b>Prize Money</b>	£53.10	£51.60	£51.00	£55.00	£58.20	£56.90	£46.60	£60.50

#### Autumn Shows

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021	2022
<b>Entries</b>	158	209	208	187	202	203	198	215	146	103
<b>Entrants</b>	22	37	34	34	31	31	29	32	21	18
<b>Entry Fees</b>	£23.30	£24.70	£27.70	£22.80	£26.40	£32.90	£29.80	£26.40	£21.50	£15.50
<b>Prize Money</b>	£44.80	£46.10	£41.10	£53.90	£54.80	£35.50	£56.00	£62.20	£49.40	£36.60

### b. Honey Bee Representative Report

Given by Tim. He reported:

Summer 2022 was a terrific year for many beekeepers in South-East England, where the extremely hot weather, even though it was very dry, resulted in large crops of honey for many. Some of the filled frames from my bees in Sampson Lane even included some honey of a pale green colour. I've never seen that previously and do not know the source. Notwithstanding this happy situation, beekeepers must continue to be on the look out for Asian hornets, which can destroy bee colonies while making every effort to provide suitable environments in which bees can forage in an era of great challenges. The Horticultural Society's Autumn Show held on September 17<sup>th</sup>, continues to include honey classes but despite the welcome efforts of Harold Cloutt, our honey judge, to promote the event in the Hastings & Rother Beekeepers newsletter, entries remained modest. Nevertheless, two brave souls successfully had a go at Florence Greenberg's Honey Cake which included half a pound of liquid Sussex honey in the recipe.

### c. Fayre Cmte and Children's Representative Report

Not given due to resignation of representative.

## 7. Election of Officer's

### a. President

Position remains vacant. Mary explained that it was proving difficult to identify a suitable replacement but will continue to search.

**b. Chairman**

Mary Boorman

Proposed: Alan

Seconded: Tim

**c. Show Secretary**

Oliver Boorman-Humphrey

Proposed: Alan

Seconded: Bob

**d. Treasurer**

Alan Humphrey

Proposed: Mary

Seconded: Kerry

**e. Membership Secretary**

Alan Humphrey

Proposed: Mary

Seconded: Sue Bastin

**8. Election of Committee**

Mary informed members that Jo Crouch had resigned as Fayre Cmte and Children's Representative after many years of service. The society wished to thank Jo for her work in these roles. Given the earlier decision to not hold a Summer show in 2023, the role of Fayre Cmte Representative will not be replaced at this time.

**a. Honey Bee Representative**

Tim Knaggs

Proposed: Alan

Seconded: Bob

**b. Children's Representative**

*vacant*

**9. Shows & Events**

**a. Awarding of certificates instead of trophies**

Alan proposed to stop presenting trophies at flower shows, but present RHS certificates instead that winners could keep. This was due to several trophies going missing in the past and it often being difficult to get them back in time for shows. This was agreed by all members, but seconded by Tom.

**b. Quiz Night**

It was agreed that we would hold a Quiz Night this year with an amended date of 26<sup>th</sup> November.

**10. Subscriptions**

**a. Proposed freeze at £5 per year**

Mary proposed keeping subscriptions at £5 per person per year. Seconded by Lynda.

**11. Any other business**

Tim agreed to continue distributing event posters through the village. In addition, Sue Bastin offered to help distribute them along Station Road and Sue Laimber will distribute them along Sandrock Hill. Frankie agree to take poster up to Crowhurst Park to help spread the word further.

**Close of Meeting : 8:50pm**