

Crowhurst & District Horticultural Society

Annual General Meeting - Minutes

Wednesday 4th October 2023 at 7:15pm - Crowhurst Village Hall

1. Members present and apologies for absence

Mary Boorman, Alan Humphrey, Bob and Margaret Clifford, Sue Bastin, Sue Laimbeer, Kerry and Jason Weller.

Apologies: Oliver Boorman-Humphrey, Tim and Penny Knaggs, Bruce and Margaret Cripps, Frankie Gale and Ben Wood, Tom and Shirley Masters

2. Minutes of the last AGM

Read

a. Matters arising from the minutes

None. Minutes proposed as correct by Mary, Seconded Alan

3. Chairman's Report

Given by Mary Boorman

4. Treasurer's Report

Alan reported that the society finances remained in a sound state.

a. Presentation of accounts

As of 31st August 2023, accounts were:

Bank: £ 3922.05

Cash: £ 1263.55

Total: £ 5184.60

Up £476.16 on 2022

b. Auditors

Agreed to continue with Tracey Docksey as auditor. Alan thanked Tracey for her continued support.

5. Reports from Committee Members

a. Show Secretary Report

Given by Alan on behalf of Oliver.

This year's shows have been a success and have shown a good recovery after the difficult COVID years. Our Spring Show in March was a little disappointing with only 82 exhibits from 24 exhibitors. This was a little down on 2022, although the Spring Show is generally quite a small affair. We were grateful to Edendale Lodge care home for sponsoring several raffle prizes at the Spring show and to Laura for offering free hand treatments to visitors! At the end of the show, we were proud to officially unveil the society's new bench at the Village Hall and we hope this will serve as fitting reminder of all the past supporters and members of the society who are no longer with us.

Our Autumn Show back in September was much more successful in terms of entries and the hall looked beautiful with the good number of exhibits. We had 172 exhibits from 27 exhibitors, which was well up on the entries in 2022 (only 103). Visitor numbers were also strong with several visitors from outside the village which is always good to see.

Some sections continue to struggle to attract exhibits, most notably floral art and handicrafts, while other sections are doing very well such as photography and honey. We will continue to evolve the classes on offer based on these trends and where appropriate we would like to re-direct some trophies to the more supported sections. There will be an opportunity to discuss this later in the Agenda.

This year was the first year where we presented certificates instead of allowing winners to keep the trophies. We've generally had positive feedback about the new arrangement but we would welcome any further comments so we can continue to improve this. We will ensure that all trophies awarded this year are engraved with the name of the winner in time for next year's shows.

Thanks to everyone who exhibited, visited or helped out our flower shows this year. None of them would be possible without you! We look forward to another year of successful shows in 2024.

b. Honey Bee Representative Report

Given by Alan on behalf of Tim.

The largely hot and dry summer this year has again generally resulted in very good honey crops for this part of England – similar to 2022; this has been most satisfying for many beekeepers. I understand that a lot of Oil Seed Rape (the bright yellow flower that bees find most attractive) has been sown around Crowhurst recently so there should also be good crops of Spring Honey next June! Nevertheless, the problems associated with Varroa mites continue to concern many beekeepers, as does the high possibility of more Asian Hornets arriving in the UK; unconfirmed reports say that one has been spotted in Hastings. These insects attack and can decimate and/or destroy honeybee colonies. On the other hand, the handsome European Hornets have been here a long time and although they do hawk bees outside hives, the numbers they take is not considered a threat. Our successful Autumn Show again included honey classes, and these attracted a modest number of entries. These were judged by Harold Clout, Hon. Secretary of the Hastings & Rother Beekeepers Association.

6. Election of Officer's

a. President

Position remains vacant. Mary will continue to search for a replacement.

b. Chairman

Mary Boorman

Proposed: Sue B

Seconded: Margaret

c. Show Secretary

Oliver Boorman-Humphrey

Proposed: Margaret

Seconded: Kerry

d. Treasurer

Alan Humphrey

Proposed: Bob

Seconded: Sue B

e. Membership Secretary

Alan Humphrey

Proposed: Sue L

Seconded: Kerry

7. Election of Committee

a. Honey Bee Representative

Mary informed members that Tim Knaggs has stepped down from the role after 12 years. Mary thanked Tim for his service. Phil Laimbeer has agreed to take over the role which members supported.

b. Children's Representative

Sue Laimbeer has agreed to take on the role with Sue Bastin's assistance.

8. Shows & Events

a. Summer Fayre 2024

The village plans to hold the 2024 Summer Fayre in June as it did this year. This does not fit well into the growing calendar and hence holding a Summer Flower Show then is not viable. Members agreed to hold a simple plant stall at the Fayre instead.

b. Proposed re-assignment of trophies

Alan proposed to reassign some of the show trophies into different classes. There are several which are now never awarded due to the classes they relate to being removed or regularly having no entries. Similarly other classes have no trophy, for example the Honey section in Autumn. Alan and Oliver will work on re-assigning some to improve the distribution for next year's shows.

Sue L raised that the Visitor's Choice voting was confusing some visitors as they are only allowed to vote for first prize winners. Mary will raise this with Oliver and look into options to simplify this.

c. Clarification of children's group/individual entries

Mary raised that there was some confusion over children's groups entering individual entry classes. A committee meeting will be arranged for January to discuss how to handle Children's classes for 2024.

d. Disposal of unsold jumble sale items

Mary raised the problem of disposing of unsold jumble back in January. Sue L volunteered to take an unsold jumble after future sales and distribute to charity shops etc.

9. Subscriptions

a. Proposed freeze at £5 per year

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

10. Any other business

Mary raised that there will be no Autumn Jumble sale or Quiz Night this year due to committee availability.

Close of Meeting : 8:35pm