

Slimbridge Horticultural Society

Minutes of the A.G.M. held at the Village Hall, 12 January 2010

Present: N. Griffiths (Chairlady); D.Hatcliffe (Treasurer & Secretary) and 21 members:

G. Baker; P. Ballard; L. & M. Dibley; G. Fryer; S. Gibson; N. Handford; D. Hall; S. Hatcliffe; C. Howarth; B. Howell; C. Jeffes; T. Lees; D. & L. Porter; D. Purkis; P. Sealey; D. & P. Tarr; G. Tarr; J. Terry;

1. Apologies

V. Blitz; C. Brazington; P. Cox ; A. Cargill; S & E. James; P. Lewis

2. Minutes of A.G.M 13 January 2009

The minutes for 2009 were signed as correct.

Proposed – S. Gibson Seconded – G. Baker

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Correspondence

The chairlady had received a letter from George Tarr resigning his post on the committee due to other commitments. She thanked George for the hard work he had put in over many years and said he would be sorely missed. She hoped that he would continue to enter the shows.

5. Chairlady's Report

The Chairlady reported that 2009 had started badly as our secretary, Vera Macaulay, had been seriously ill and had later sadly died. A former secretary, Estella Fryer, also died and the Society's sympathies were sent to Vera's family and to Estella's husband Godfrey. Vera's illness was such that she was unable to act as secretary, so the chairlady thanked Linda Dibley, George Tarr and David Hatcliffe for taking over. She also thanked all committee members for their support and all members who helped at meetings and shows with selling raffle tickets, working in the kitchen and setting up and putting away tables and chairs. She specifically thanked George Baker, the previous chairman, for showing her the ropes, nudging her in the right direction at times and for continuing to design and organise printing of the programme and show schedules. She also thanked Anita Cargill who came back onto the committee to replace a new member who had to drop out. Unfortunately, other commitments mean Anita is unable to assist this year.

The chairlady reported that some new members had joined in 2009 and she hoped that they had enjoyed their year. Attendance at meetings had been variable with an average of nearly 30, but attendance at the November meeting was disappointing at only 18. She stressed that the question time after each meeting was always interesting even if the main subject matter did not appeal.

She looked forward to an interesting programme of events in 2010, mentioning the Summer outing to Hergest Croft and Westonbury Mill Water Gardens near Kington. She had negotiated an additional member's discount on gardening items at Hurns in Stonehouse. She concluded by reminding members that subscription renewal was now due.

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6. Treasurer's Report

	£
Funds at 1 December 2008	1504.98
Surplus 2009	133.81
Funds at 30 November 2009	1638.79

The Treasurer reported that the surplus for 2009 of £133.81 compared with a deficit for 2008 of £71.84

Areas with a significant deficit compared to 2008 were:

- a. The Spring Show which had a small loss compared to a £50 surplus in 2008. This was due to reduced receipts on the day from admissions, raffle sales and teas.
- b. Seed schemes brought in £15 less due to a major reduction in Suttons sales.
- c. The plant sale receipts were substantially reduced.
- d. Interest on our Bank Savings Account reduced to virtually zero.

On the plus side:

- a. We spent much less on administration items such as printing costs and very little on items for future shows.
- b. Some significant income came from spring bulb sales - £64; a £38 refund from Parkers for the disappointing Silver Chimes bulbs and a £30 prize for our Berkeley Show entry.
- c. Overall membership decreased by one and subscription income increased by £48 following the recent increase.

Club meetings costs were slightly less than 2008, but we did have one or two low cost speakers and one free meeting at Highfield. The total cost of running a meeting with a well known speaker like Reg Moule is in excess of £100 – offset a little by raffle receipts.

Our surplus this year has largely come from special items, so it seems breaking even is probably the best that can be achieved. We may have to purchase prize cards which are a significant one off cost. Otherwise we should have another successful year.

As in previous years, the accounts had been audited by Mr Gordon Tudor and the Treasurer expressed his thanks on behalf of the Society.

He then invited questions and there was some discussion following a point raised by Peter Ballard as to the relative benefit of increasing the membership subscription for 2008 bearing in mind that some members had subsequently declined to renew.

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The treasurer concluded by referring to his twin roles – Treasurer and Secretary - since the sad loss of Vera Macaulay and confirmed that he was now standing down as Treasurer after 14 years. He thanked members for their support over that time and said he was sure that his successor would continue to keep the Society financially sound.

7. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Chair – Norma Griffiths

Proposed – S. Hatcliffe Seconded – G. Tarr Elected unanimously.

Vice-Chair – Sue Gibson

Proposed – P. Ballard Seconded – S. Hatcliffe Elected unanimously.

8. Election of Officers and Committee

The following officers, holders of other posts and general committee were elected unanimously.

Treasurer – Linda Dibley

Proposed – S. Gibson Seconded – D. Porter

Secretary – David Hatcliffe

Proposed – L. Dibley Seconded – G. Tarr

Social Secretary – Sylvia Hatcliffe

Proposed – S. Gibson Seconded – B. Howell

Programme Secretary – Carole Jeffes

Proposed – S. Hatcliffe Seconded – C. Howarth

Show Secretary & Trophy Co-ordinator – Martin Dibley

Proposed – L. Dibley Seconded – S. Gibson

Judge Co-ordinator – Pam Lewis

Proposed – S. Gibson Seconded – P. Ballard

Honorary Auditor – Gordon Tudor

Proposed – D. Hatcliffe Seconded – S. Gibson

General Committee - Phil Sealey; John Terry plus two new members: Diana Hall and Tina Lees

Slimbridge Village Hall Representative – Beryl Howell

Gloucestershire Federation of Garden societies (GFGS) Representative – Sue Gibson

Slimbridge Horse Show Representative – Sue Gibson

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9. Propositions

The treasurer observed that the purpose of imposing a visitor's charge was not to make money, but rather to encourage visitors to join the Society. It was generally agreed that a visitor's charge should apply, but there was considerable discussion as to the proposition wording. The following revised proposition was proposed by D. Porter and seconded by G. Baker:

With effect from the February 2010 meeting, adult visitors will be charged £2 for each member's meeting attended. Refund of such charges, if the visitor subsequently joins the Society, will be at the discretion of the Treasurer.

The revised proposition was carried by 20 votes for to 2 against.

10. Donations

After some discussion, a vote was taken as to whether a charity donation should be made. 13 members voted in favour with 5 against.

Discussion then continued as to which charity to favour. Following a proposal by M. Dibley, seconded by S. Gibson, it was finally agreed unanimously to donate £50 to the Severn Area Rescue Association (SARA).

11. Members' Pot Plant Competition

Prizes were awarded to:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 st | Norma Griffiths |
| 2 nd | George Baker |
| 3 rd | Carole Jeffes |

12. Any Other Business

- a. P. Ballard advised that following the table top competition at the 2009 Berkeley Show the Gloucestershire Federation (GFGS) had decided to sponsor the competition for a further three years. Full details will be circulated to all GFGS member societies in a newsletter. Carole Jeffes has agreed to lead the Slimbridge team in 2010.
- b. P. Ballard advised that the Federation were planning an annual sweet pea show in association with the National Society. This was hoped to begin in 2011, probably in the Fairford area.
- c. The chairlady advised that the next members' meeting would be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 9th February at 7.30pm. Helen Lomberg will be giving a practical demonstration of making willow hurdles. As before, there will be a £3 materials charge for those wishing to make their own hurdles.

There being no further business, the Chairlady declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm and refreshments were served.

Signed as a correct record..... Dated.....