

BRITISH HOSTA AND HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1003489

Minutes of the AGM Meeting held at the Savill Garden, Wick Lane, Englefield Green, Egham, Surrey 1st July 2018 (10:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.)

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PRESENT: Jonathan Hogarth (Chairman), Marjorie Sturman (Secretary & Acting Membership Secretary), Bob Prigmore (Treasurer), Jim Allnutt (Facebook Editor), June Colley & John Baker (Journal Editor/Coeditor), Andrew Whittle (Web Editor & Acting Membership Secretary)

1) WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN

1.1 Jonathan Hogarth started the meeting with a review of some successful achievements of members at RHS Shows this year. Ex Police Officer, Vicky Meads, won several medals and has appeared on TV; Paul Harris won most gold medals; and Jonathan and the Bowdens won Silver Gilt. Another new member, Ollie Walker, won gold and platinum medals.

1.2 The Chairman reported on his attendance at the recent American Hosta Convention in Philadelphia to celebrate the AHS 50th Anniversary as a Society. Denise and Chris Cotterills, June Colley and John Baker also attended.

1.3 He thanked the Deputy Manager of Savill Garden for the use of the venue and the offer of a conducted tour at 2:00 p.m. that afternoon.

1.4 Also acknowledged were Jim Alnutt and Andrew Whittle for their work on Facebook and the Website respectively, and June and John for their work on the Journal. (Comprehensive coverage of the awards was featured on Facebook and will also appear in the Journal). Specials thanks were given to Marjorie and Tony Sturman for the long-term service of Marjorie as Secretary and (Acting Membership Secretary under two leaderships). Marjorie has stepped down from her post after more than ten years of stellar service.

2) APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Diana and Roger Grounds, John Newbold, Mike Shadrack, Stephen Baker, Sue Beck, Margaret and David Loynds, Pam Painter (who passed on her congratulation to the format of the new Journal), Judy Muir, Mike Shadrack, Stephen Baker and Gillian Murray.

3) MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM MEETING (our 35th)

Minutes of the last AGM meeting held on 7th May 2017 in Bramall Learning Centre, RHS Harlow Carr was reviewed and was unanimously approved. Proposer: John Carr Seconder: Denise Cotterill.

4) THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT WAS STATED AT THE OPENING OF THE MEETING

**PLEASE NOTE THAT COPIES OF INDIVIDUAL REPORTS
WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE**

5) TREASURER'S REPORT

5.1 The fall in membership in 2017 resulted in a corresponding fall in income, but this was offset by income from plant donations at RHS Harlow Carr, Wisley, Harrogate and Shrewsbury Flower Show.

5.2 To promote the Society, substantial cost was incurred in updating the website and in the publication of the new Journal. This reduced our profit for the year to just £83. However, in the previous year, a loss of £2443 was incurred. But we still have a £20,000 reserve fund in the bank. Bob Prigmore will continue to monitor our spending carefully.

5.3 Following the sad closure of the Eastern Counties Group under the leadership of Denise and Chris, a generous donation of £1150 was made by the group to add to our BHHS fund. The group will have an option to specify where the money will be used.

6) VOTE OF THANKS TO HON. AUDITOR

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer and Auditors for doing another excellent job.

7) ACTING MEMBERSHIP SECRETARIES REPORT

(Andrew & Marjorie)

7.1 Andrew reported that members have been declining since 2014 and our objective is to stop this trend. In 2017, we had 166 members. This year so far we have accounted for 155 members, with a few joiners including some from abroad, NGS visitors, and several people who have joined in the latter part of the year, are expected to rejoin. We should expect to see a small rise in membership. Andrew Whittle also thanked the joint efforts of the committee who were supplied with a database of members that need chasing.

As noted in our previous meeting in February, there were two separate lists of 48 and 35 members circulated to the Committee earlier to enable them to follow up members. June and John will attach the list of members/friends/recruits they have been following up and will provide an updated list to Ian Scoggy. (We have no information from other members of the committee as to who they have recruited/followed-up or asked to rejoin. We ask that they update Ian Scoggy with their lists to avoid chasing the same individual.)

7.2 Marjorie sent 75 emails to members and other members of the committee also issued reminders. Marjorie's efforts were rewarded with some people rejoining. Andrew reported that people found joining a big commitment and noted that by opening his garden (300 or more people), there were no joiners, although it generated great interest in *Hosta*.

7.3 Andrew added that combined factors may have contributed to stop the decline in membership: the improved website which means it is easier to join or rejoin, joint efforts from committee in sending reminders, and the new-look Journal, etc.

John Bagnall commented that during a visit to a *Hosta* vendor, no mention was made of the BHHS. While young people are spending money (over £100) annually on plants, it is an opportunity to target this group. All other vendors present in the meeting confirmed that they do advertise the Society at the shows and during purchases.

7.4 It was confirmed by Andrew that Payment by Standing Order is still just over 50%. Twenty underpaid memberships were written off. The way forward would be to use this method of payments as Direct Debit, although more practical, will incur some cost.

7.5 Andrew reported only half of the joiners last year rejoined. So it is necessary to follow up each one and give them a good experience when joining.

7.6 The structure of membership fee need clarification. How much should people pay if they join in the first six months of the year and how much if they join in the latter half of the year? We need to retain members who join late in the year and not ask for payment again at the beginning of the next year.

Andrew suggested that those who join in the first six months pay a full year and those who joined after this pay half. If joining after the autumn publication of the Journal the payment could be carried over to the next year. John Carr recommended that this should be looked at by the new Membership Secretary.

ACTION: Ideas for Membership joining dates to be discussed at the October meeting.

7.7 Andrew found out that it seems that as a non-profit Society, we are compliant with the new GDPR. We will keep data of leavers for one-two years and delete them after this period. Members who are assumed as leavers must be deleted.

7.8 As discussed in previous meetings, we had several initiatives to retain Members and of these did work. Amongst these are:

- a) To continue to send emails to lapsed members, as successfully actioned by Marjorie and other committee members
- b) Further improvement to the website, with members contributing
- c) Garden open days
- d) Communication with members is the keynote of keeping them.

John Baker reminded the Committee that we sent an extensive list of initiatives to recruit members. Some of these were used, but not all may work. John continued to report regarding a new initiative on the last Daylily Convention in North Carolina, where a special coach and activities were provided to children of members (teenagers-thirties/forties) who joined the Society, something for our Society to consider.

June added that the local Societies in her area with 400 members provide a variety of social activities and outings which elderly members favour. June also added that they are always willing to host Hosta Open Days where needed.

John Carr thought Open Days could be done on a regional basis. An example was the recent RHS Plant Society Show at Wisley, held last June 16-17, attended by Bob Prigmore and Jonathan Hogarth. But it is not always easy to find volunteers for Open Days.

**ACTION: a) Look up members of families who can join the Society
b) Volunteers needed to help at the Shows.**

8) PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

8.1 Marjorie and Andrew explained Rule 11: An alternative 2nd Amendment which outlined member's privileges at the time of joining and asked for this to be voted upon. Members who have left by 30th September (as opposed to 31st March) shall be considered to have resigned from the Society.

GDPR requires that data associated with this person must be deleted in order to comply. They will not be in receipt of the Autumn Journal. All in favour.

Proposer: John Carr, Seconder: Denise Cotterill

8.2 Proposal to change Rule 3. Rewording required regarding the entitlement of paid up members covering activities and publications of the Society. Proposer: Denise Cotterill, Seconder: Jim Alnutt

8.3 Marjorie Sturman reported that some members missed the Newsletter as there are now just two main publications. John Baker answered that Society News are now merged with the Autumn issue of the Journal. This has reduced printing and postage costs. To satisfy these members, we could add another publication, but this would only be viable when the membership level is restored to at least over 250. Extra publication/news could be added into our Web and Facebook pages.

Note: A separate summary of the cost of the Journal and the Newsletter will be circulated to clarify that by combining these two we have saved cost.

8.4 Changes to Rule 4 (a) were proposed. The title of the publication "Bulletin" will be changed to "Journal". Also the reference to "Newsletter Editor" shall be removed.

The tenure of Officers shall be held for one year or until the next AGM when they may be reelected. The Committee members shall serve for three years and may be reelected at the end of the term. John Carr stated that a 3-year post held by the Committee as oppose to an annual one will give the Society continuity. Proposer: Christine Tucker, Seconder: Giselle Corbett. Ten voters were in agreement.

9) PUBLICITY REPORTS & ITEMS

No reports were submitted due to resignation of Sue Beck and Stephen Baker

9.1 June Colley reported to the Chairman that Vicky Meads has accepted the post of Publicity Officer for Hemerocallis and that Sue Beck has offered to help where required. Also discussed in a previous meeting was the recommendation that Ollie Walker (Sienna Hosta) should join the Committee. He has confirmed he is very happy to join and this was reported to the Chairman prior to the AGM.

9.2 Jim reported a gradual increase of hits and likes in our Facebook with 768 followers to date and 752 likes. Followers have become more interactive since it was started. Bob Prigmore sends regular photos of various Flowers Shows and June Colley provides photos of Hostas and her changing garden displays. Jim's contact with members of the American Hemerocallis Society also resulted in photos of the recent Convention in Myrtle Beach. Jim also noted that some of his followers had shown interest about the Society and some may have joined.

9.3 It was discussed that attempts to attract new members are tried at various events but have not been very successful. John Carr mentioned that over the years, thousands of leaflets, at considerable cost, have been distributed with just 5-10% returns. Even cultivation notes, tried by Jonathan, did not attract anyone. He said that coloured Hosta catalogues are often taken by the public.

9.4 Marjorie Sturman recalled that two display gardens have died out and since then, there has been no one to volunteer to replace these.

9.5 Jonathan Hogarth will try to publicise the Society in the Gardener's News: even for just one week.

9.6 John Carr reported that talking to people at shows and handing out leaflets proved ineffective, just drawing 20 members in 10-15 years even at major shows. John Baker emphasised the importance of personal contact to attract new members. This is more effective than handing out leaflets. Most of their recruits over the years were gained through John's Garden Talks and visits to their garden. The area covered is London & home counties, also Oxfordshire, Wiltshire and Bath are included.

You may note that in a previous report, the SE membership alone covering London and the home counties was the highest of any region. In the May 2018 posting of the Journal, there were 41 members from the SE and the home counties out of 139 listed as members to receive the publication (not counting the other three counties covered). This represents 31% of the UK membership only.

9.7 Bob Prigmore has a list of Hosta publications passed to him by Tim Saville. Members may request to borrow these. Jan Wyers has a similar list of Daylily publications.

9.8 Denise Cotterill reported the availability of a special edition of the American Hosta Journal to commemorate its Golden anniversary.

Another booklet is the Sporting in Hostas: A Primer by Ben J. M. Zonneveld and Warren I. Pollock. June and John were requested to take a box of these by the Publication Executive to post to Europeans who may want to order a copy to save on their posting cost. They will contact Barry Ankney for those UK members who may be interested in purchasing a copy.

9.9 Andrew Whittle reported that the updated Website was completed in early June at a cost of £2450 plus vat. This will now make it easy to access from mobile devices. Also gradually added were news, events, and plant profiles. The Members Only section was reconfigured as some members were not happy with this before the modification. Following this update, it is now easier to join and nine people have used it to join/rejoin. Planting design for Daylilies was supplied by Jim Alnutt and June Colley supplied some Hosta photos. High quality photos for the website will be appreciated from other contributors. The Society thanked Andrew for the improvements initiated on the Website which is now running well.

10) REGIONAL REPORTS

10.1 Denise Cotterill reported that due to lack of activities and low response from members in the last year, also health reasons and lack of update on new members since the passing of Barbara Alsop, it was felt no longer viable to continue running the Eastern Counties Group. Following a discussion with John Carr, the group was sadly disbanded. Efforts were made to organise a meeting with John Carr and Paula Dyason but no one attended. The Society thanked the Eastern Counties Group for the transfer of their funds to the BHHS, especially Denise and Chris, who did a splendid job over the years.

10.2 The Hampshire Group Report was read by John Baker to summarise the activities and achievements in the last six months.

June and John reiterated their previous recommendations to apply Total Quality Managements to ensure the Society's survival. This means following up actions in each meeting and chasing outstanding ones, providing cover and training for key positions to ensure that the Society can function smoothly when a member is lost, to listen to complaints and to action these promptly, clear responsibilities in writing (verbal is not good enough) and maintain records of the Society for a specified period of time.

11) SOCIETY AWARDS

These were presented at the end of the meeting so that photos could be taken and details will be posted in our Journal:

Eric Smith Bowl: Jim Alnutt for his work on Facebook

Peter Fernyhough Award: Bob Prigmore for show attendances and BHHS promotion

Dick Kitchingman Salver: Jan Wyers for promoting Daylilies and contributions to our publications

Newbold Hosta Vase: No award given for any UK- origin *Hosta*

Newbold Daylily Vase: Eve Lytton's *Hemerocallis* 'Music Show'

Grenfell-Grounds Trophy: Andrew Whittle for the excellent improvements on the website

12) ELECTION OF OFFICERS

12.1 Officers standing down: Sue Beck (Hemerocallius Publicity), Stephen Baker (Hosta Publicity), Marjorie Sturman (Membership Secretary) Paul Harris (Committee Member).

12.2 Ollie Walker of Sienna Hosta was recommended by June and John previously to join the committee and was asked if he can take the new role of Publicity Officer for Hosta. He accepted. Another recommendation by June and John was Vicky Meads of New Forest Hostas and Hemerocallis. Vicky accepted this role and Sue Beck offered to share her invaluable expertise in this area. These two younger members have already demonstrated great success by winning top awards at Shows and help promote the Society. They are valuable to the promotion and continuation of the BHHS as a Society. Members were in favour of these appointments.

Note: The February minutes, which required action has covered the above recommendations.

12.3 Ian Scroggy, of Bali Hai Nursery, was asked by June and John to join the Committee to add to the current pool of talents. He has experience running a website, Societies and has excellent knowledge of Plant Export and Import Laws and Regulations and offered to help with the membership. Andrew Whittle was recommended to work with Ian as his backup.

June was informed by the Japanese that they bought hostas from Bali Hai. June was surprised to hear reports from the Japanese that these were in an exhibition recently in Kamakura this month. The Japanese are aware of virused hostas from mainland Europe, so prefer reliable UK suppliers.

Ian's Appointment as Membership Secretary was seconded by Jim Alnutt.

12.4 John offered to fill the vacant post of Secretary. Both June and John volunteered to produce the Minutes of the Meetings at the last February meeting. Proposer: Hilary Baker, Seconder: Denise Cotterill.

12.5 Recently, Stephen Baker contacted June and Marjorie to say that he would like his name retained in the Committee if there are vacancies. The Society was in agreement.

12.6 Marjorie confirmed that the two posts of Registrars remain vacant and with two further vacancies in the Committee.

13) NEXT AGM VENUE

Several venues were suggested:

13.1. June contacted a place in the periphery of Oxford within walking distance to the town with free parking and cooking facilities. There is no charge, but a donation is welcome. She reported this earlier in the year to the Chairman.

13.2 Cambridge, which has a renown Botanic garden, was recommended by Marjorie Sturman. If this is chosen, June can find out the cheapest place as she has lived and worked there.

13.3 John Carr commented that the selection of a venue such as Harlow Carr, where the public can engage with the Society, is to be preferred.

13.4 The timing of such events is deemed important, ensuring it does not clash with major public events.

ACTION: To be discussed in October Meeting. Bring your list with details of cost, facilities available and parking.

14) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Denise Cotteril has provided Garlic recipe to the AHS to help with their slug and snail control as they were unaware of the use of herbs. June and John were chased by the AHS Editor at the convention about the results of their 3-year experiments on slugs and snail control using selected plants with saponins and which is used effectively in Ethiopia where an endemic pokeweed is found and later introduced into the Philippines. She also used tannins in her experiments. June reported that she has not collated her data because it is a big file and will try to complete it this year when the rains come. Mark Zilis also took an interest and June provided the garlic recipe to a group at the Wyn Eden Garden in Philadelphia.

Note: The garlic recipe was passed on by Ian Scroggy to the Society some years ago. The dosage recommended by the Society originally was wrong.

14.2 John Carr proposed years ago that the Society maintains backups of all information/reports from officers circulated throughout the years as these can prove useful to new officers. This is an excellent recommendation which was discussed in a previous meeting.

ACTION: All reports from officers to be supplied and copied to a backup desk and storage of this to be specified.

14.3 John Baker asked from the Secretary and Acting Membership Secretary that the handover of documents and records should be made without delay to the new officers. Ian Scroggy should be given membership data and web access as soon as possible.

ACTION: Marjorie and Andrew to supply the above asap.

The Meeting ended at 12:30 p.m. to allow time for a lunch break and to proceed to the auction later. The results of the auction will be reviewed at the October Meeting.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS REQUIRED AT THE FEBRUARY 2018 MEETING

(Note: in future actions will be added at the beginning of the meeting. Please review the actions before turning up.) Individual report will be available on the web site.

Section ref.	Action	Person (s) Responsible	Target Date	Status of Actions: New/Completed/Ongoing
3.1	Review Awards of Garden Merit list and report mistakes	Jonathan, June, John, Mark, Paul, Ruth, Mickfield Hostas, Steven	Before A.G.M. meeting	Completed in June 2018
3.3	Review of available BHHS leaflets	Jonathan, Bob	Oct meeting	Ongoing, passed on to John Baker
3.4	Some old Bulletins to be given away	Jonathan, Marjorie	Oct meeting	Ongoing, June and June used some for new & potential members
4.1	Review Gift Aid entitlement	Bob	Oct meeting	Status change from old to new. To be reported.
4.2	Chase remaining unpaid ad	Bob	Oct	Completed beginning year

Section ref.	Action	Person (s) Responsible	Target Date	Status of Actions: New/Completed/Ongoing
			meeting	
5.1	Follow-up non-renewed membership circulated by Andrew	Committee	Before new Journal is ordered in April	New/Urgent to Ongoing status. June and John sent copies of their database of chased/new members. Need to see others to avoid duplication. Marjorie chased more rejoinders recently with great success.
5.2	Final List of Journal recipient required for copies to be ordered. <i>Negotiations of cost normally occur two months before printing which, has a 4-week lead time.</i>	Marjorie, Andrew	March	New status changed to ongoing as number of copies to be ordered changed three times which delayed orders and posting. Spring Journal posted to listed paid up members=139 (with 2 as non-payers) as of 25 th May. Joining date is going to be reviewed to avoid this.
5.4	Improve compatibility mobile users with web	Andrew	October meeting	Completed June 2018
6.5	RHS Plant Society Show 16-17 June requires volunteers from local members where possible.	Bob, Marjorie, Andrew	May	Jonathan Hogarth and Bob Prigmore attended with great efforts in promotional work
6.6	Free Membership/Publicity for winner in Show at Shrewsbury	Bob, June and John	September	New to Old status
7.1	Publicity of AGM Weekend 30 th June/1 st July	Jonathan, June and John & Marjorie	May	Completed May for inclusion to Spring Journal
7.2	To display BHHS library at AGM weekend	Bob	June 30th	Completed, again with great efforts in promotional work
8.1	Additional info on daylily photos submitted for Newbold Vase Award	Jan	March	Completed and resulted in Eve Lytton's hybrid being selected
9.1	Dates of members' gardens opening required for website	Committee/members	ASAP	Ongoing, Andrew added several on the web
9.2	Plant profiles and photos for web	Committee/members	ASAP	Ongoing, Andrew added several photos/features which improved the web. Contributions from others required
9.3	Single leaf photos for web	Committee/members	ASAP	Ongoing
9.4	Post AHS Newsletter to website	Andrew	March	Completed by Andrew
10.3	Complete promised article for Autumn Journal	Bob	May	Old status changed to new
10.4	Compilation of Tardiana photos	June/members	August	Completed July
10.5	Chairman's report for Spring Journal	Jonathan	March	Completed in May with Marjorie's help
10.6	Distribution of required copies of Journal in USA to save postage cost	Jonathan, June, John, Mike	June	Completed June
10.7	Itemised changes to cost of Adverts	June, John, Jonathan	May	Old status changed to New – Costing decided. Review at October meeting.

Section ref.	Action	Person (s) Responsible	Target Date	Status of Actions: New/Completed/Ongoing
11.1.1	Photos of members' gardens for Jim's Facebook	members	ASAP	New to old status, ongoing
11.1.2	Submit top 20 favourite daylily list	Jan	Oct	Ongoing, Jan not able to access Delightful Daylilies, recently, but will do asap.
12.3	Make enquiries from Daylily Society re cost of ordering several copies of 'The Open Form of Daylily'	John	June	Completed, six copies allocated to BHHS, June and John distributed
12.6	Invitation to Sienna Hosta to join the committee to be arranged	Marjorie, Jonathan	June	June raised this again at AGM and Ollie was accepted as a new committee member

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS REQUIRED AT THE AGM 2018 MEETING

(note: in future actions will be added at the beginning of the meeting.

Please review the actions before arriving.)

Section ref.	Action	Person (s) Responsible	Target Date	Status of Actions: New/Completed/Ongoing
7.6	Ideas on Membership payment to be discussed at the October meeting.	Committee members	October	New action
7.8 a & b	A new initiative to recruit family members and volunteers required at events	Committee members	October	New action
13	Next AGM location to be discussed at the October Meeting. Bring your details of cost, facilities and parking.	Committee members	October	New action
14.2	All reports from officers to be supplied and copied to a backup desk and storage of this to be specified	Committee members	October	New action
14.3	Marjorie and Andrew to hand over to new officers as soon as possible.	Marjorie & Andrew	asap	New action