

BRITISH HOSTA AND HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1003489

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Minutes of the Committee Meeting held in Room 23 Lawrence Hall Conference Centre, Vincent Square, London on Tuesday, 13th February 2018 (2:00-5:00 p.m.)

PRESENT: Jonathan Hogarth (Chairman), Bob Prigmore (Treasurer), Jim Allnutt, Paul Harris, June Colley (*temporary secretary for this meeting*), John Baker, Andrew Whittle and Marjorie Sturman

1) APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Diana Grounds, Jan Wyers, Tim Saville, Mike Shadrack and Stephen Baker.

2) MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 25th October 2017 were corrected by June Colley and John Baker. This refers to section (13) AGM or Award of Garden Merit. June and John were asked by Robin Pearce to join the group and Kirsty Angwin, the AGM Round Table Coordinator at RHS, contacted June and John and mentioned that if lunch is required, the RHS can provide sandwiches.

The minutes were then approved by those present.

3) MATTERS ARISING: **In the appendix at the end of the minutes, a separate boxed section has been added to identify Actions required past and present. We propose that the Action Box be reviewed at the beginning of each meeting as there is a tendency for Actions to be forgotten or lost during the discussions. The other objective is to keep the meeting short.**

The following items which had arisen from the last meeting were discussed:

- 3.1 It was pointed out by Jonathan Hogarth and June Colley that the AGM list prepared by the RHS has many hosta name entries which are inaccurate. This should be brought to the attention of the RHS executives who sent the list for the selection of recommended plants. Paul Harris and Jim Alnutt also noted that the Daylily AGM list contains 200 old varieties which needs updating. **Action: review the list of mistakes. (Jonathan Hogarth, June Colley & John Baker, Mark Roberts, Paul Harris, Mickfield Hostas, Ruth Penrose, Steven Baker)**
- 3.2 While feedback for the new-look Journal publication was all positive and savings were made by combining both Journal and Newsletter, John Baker and June Colley called for a detailed discussion about the issue of free journals, especially to those living abroad, because of the cost of overseas postage.

- 3.3 John Carr has a collection of leaflets which needs to be reviewed. Some need updating and others will not be reprinted until used up. Topics include Slugs and Snails. **Action: (Jonathan Hogarth, Bob Prigmore)**
- 3.4 Old Bulletins: It was agreed that holders of old copies should give these away at shows as it is not sustainable to keep large quantities in members' lofts. We will keep a reasonable number for those interested in buying back issues. June and John gave their spare copies during garden talks to hosta enthusiasts present or as a donation for raffles. **Action: (Bob Prigmore, Marjorie Sturman, Jonathan Hogarth)**

4) TREASURER'S REPORT

- 4.1 The Treasurer, Bob Prigmore, has updated his financial report and a small profit has been made compared with last year, and there is still reasonable reserve funds left in our savings account. It was speculated that we might get a share of the fund left following the closure of Hemerocallis Europa and that it was worth contacting the Treasurer.

After the meeting, June was contacted by Dr. Jeurg Plodeck who reported that at the last AGM of HE at the end of 2017, it was decided that the remaining money will go to the Fachgruppe Hemerocallis group of the GdS. This is a group called the Society of Perennial Friends with 5,500 members involved in the promotion of perennials including daylilies. It is one of the largest plant societies in Europe, so Jeurg does not know if this could be changed.

- 4.2 Andrew Whittle also asked to review our Gift Aid entitlement to further boost our income. The late Barbara Alsopp was reported to have claimed considerable back payment of Gift Aid and John Carr left a file of certificates which Bob will review. **Action: (Bob Prigmore).**
- 4.3 Bob Prigmore reported that there is an outstanding payment of around £200 for the Journal adverts. He was advised to chase this and to send reminders. It occurred that payment for at least two ads were already paid for as confirmed by the advertisers before the meeting. **Action: for remaining amounts, Bob Prigmore)**

Acceptance of the Treasurer's report was proposed by Andrew Whittle and seconded by John Baker.

5) MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

- 5.1 Andrew Whittle and Marjorie Sturman worked together on updating the membership list and to clarify and update the mode of payment by members. A significant number is known to pay by cash, PayPal or cheque. Our objective is to change the mode of payment to Standing Order or Direct Debit to help secure membership with the Society. It was reported less than 10% of members don't use Standing Orders. Two separate lists of 48 and 35 members were circulated to the Committee to enable them to follow up members who have not renewed and especially those whom they know. It was felt that this proactive approach would be one way to maintain the membership. June and John have already contacted 15 members they know. **Action (All Committee members)**

- 5.2 It was recommended that we send members a reminder to renew via an insert in the Journal. The American Hosta Society and The American Daylily Society have a system of showing the year of expiry. Andrew will provide June and John a list of those that have not renewed prior to the issue of the Spring Journal. June and John also require the exact number of copies of the Journal to be ordered before April as June will be away until May. **Action (Andrew and Marjorie)**
- 5.3 Marjorie Sturman raised the subject of 'cut off dates for payment' for membership as proposed by Melissa Scrivin, former Membership Secretary. The new proposed cut off date was 31st March as suggested by Melissa. This proposal, unfortunately, was not brought up at the last AGM, but will be brought up at the next AGM. When membership has lapsed, it was originally suggested that if nothing is heard by June, they would not receive a copy Society publication. The Chairman concluded that if someone has not responded by a particular date, then they should no longer be considered a member.
- Marjorie Sturman pointed out that the Membership Handbook that used to be sent out to new members is out of date. Amendments have been made by Marjorie to relevant sections and it was decided that no reprinting would be undertaken until the packs are finished. Andrew Whittle recommended the use of loose leaflets in future and to replace them when required.
- 5.4 The problem of renewing online using a mobile phone was highlighted by Andrew Whittle. Due to problems of compatibility with the website this would require further work. **Action: (Andrew Whittle)**

6) SHOWS

- 6.1 John Carr will represent the Society at the Royal County Show in Cornwall to be held on June 7-9th. A Tea Party will follow a pageant of Societies under the patronage of HRH the Prince of Wales. The Committee agreed that his expenses will be paid for by the Society. No other members were interested in going.
- 6.2 The Society was also asked to nominate six members to attend the Buckingham Palace Prince of Wales Patronage Garden Party on May 22nd. The Chairman reported that it will be attended by Diana Grenfell VMM and Roger Grounds, John Baker and June Colley, and Marjorie Sturman.
- 6.3 Jonathan Hogarth, Paul Harris and Tim Bowden are attending the RHS Chatsworth Flower Show to be held on June 6-10th.
- 6.4 The RHS sent reminders regarding a Plant Publicity Workshop to be held on March 27th. Jonathan and June have attended the same workshop before and found it useful for those who produce leaflets and small publications.
- 6.5 The RHS Plant Society Show at Wisley will be held on June 16-17th. Paul Harris said that it would be a perfect opportunity to promote our Society. However, it is a busy time for our Committee members who are either attending conventions or exhibiting elsewhere. Bob Prigmore explained the problems of logistics in transporting, displaying and dismantling the exhibit, and would require some assistance. Local members who can help would be

ideal. Marjorie and Andrew may be able to provide some help. **Action: (Bob Prigmore, Marjorie Sturman, Andrew Whittle)**

- 6.6 Bob Prigmore expressed interest in attending the Shrewsbury Flower Show on August 10-11th and suggested that we offer as a prize, free membership to the Society to a participating member of the public who has won something, e.g. Best Hosta in Class. June and John wish to publish the winner in our autumn Journal. **Action: (photos of the winner from attendees)**. Bob also offered to provide assistance at the Chatsworth Flower Show.

7) 2018 AGM Weekend (30th June/1st July)

- 7.1 The Chairman, Jonathan Hogarth, has already made arrangements with Savill Gardens in Windsor, (Post Code TW20 0HJ) as the location to hold our Summer Weekend. There is a possibility of a guided tour on Saturday. We have also been given a premium place for our Society display near the entrance. Jonathan needs to clarify the charges for parking and Marjorie needs to cancel the one day temporary booking for Wisley Garden. Details of the Weekend and the venue will be publicised in our Spring Journal. **Action: (Jonathan Hogarth, Marjorie Sturman, June & John)**
- 7.2 Bob Prigmore will bring his library to the venue as part of the display and promotion. **Action: (Bob Prigmore)**

8) SOCIETY AWARDS

Not all the forms issued to the Committee asking to nominate members to receive various awards were submitted.

Other Awards:

Eric Smith: Jim Alnutt

Grenfell- Grounds Trophy: Andrew Whittle

Peter Fernyhough Award: Bob Prigmore

Dick Kitchingman Salver: Jan Wyers

Newbold Hosta Vase: No award given.

Newbold Daylily Vase: Award pending review. More details of the plants were required concerning the daylily photos submitted by Jan Wyers for the Newbold Hemerocallis Vase Award. **Action: (Jan Wyers)**.

9) WEBSITE

Andrew had circulated his detailed report on the progress of our website. He wishes to optimise use of the website by mobile users and this will involve one or two compromises on the website layout. He expects more progress on the upgrade towards the end of February. To improve the overall viewing quality of our website the following are needed:

- 9.1 List of gardens open: also photos needed. **Action: (Committee & members)**
- 9.2 Plant profiles with photos and texts: cultivation and propagation of hostas and daylilies **Action: (Committee & members)**
- 9.3 Single leaf photos of hostas **Action: (Committee and members)**

Note:

Both Andrew and June have been contributing their photos, but other member's photos are also needed to supplement these. This is the same

problem with the Journal which needs good backup photos. The printer found some 50% photos were unsuitable for printing, resulting in hours of painstaking work to improve these. These days, we are facing stiff competition with other Societies and good images in our web and publications will help enhance our presence.

- 9.4 Andrew asked if he can post the AHS Newsletter to our website. No objection was raised. **Action: (Andrew Whittle)**

10) JOURNAL

- 10.1 June reported that the new Journal, now virtually finished ahead of schedule, has the main theme of hybridising with contributions from the UK, USA, Germany, Russia and New Zealand. The UK was once in the forefront in hybridizing daylilies and hostas with the work of Yeld, and Perry on daylilies, and Smith on Tardianas. Resurgence in hybridising is called for especially with plant import restrictions being imposed following the Xylella outbreak.
- 10.2 Jim thinks that some don't register their plants and emphasised that many new cultivars have many look-alikes and hybridisers must not just look at pretty flowers but need to consider other factors like bud count, branching and spacing of the flowers, etc. There are currently no records of what is considered 'good UK cultivars', something that we may need to look at.
- 10.3 Bob Prigmore has an article for the Autumn Journal which is a sequel to his review of past and present issues of the Bulletin. **Action: (Bob Prigmore)**
- 10.4 Diana Grenfell is working on an article on Tardianas for the Autumn issue of the Journal. June will take new photos of her Tardiana collection to supplement photos required by Diana. Any other contributions will be much appreciated. **Action: (June & John, Committee & members)**
- 10.5 The Chairman's Report and details of the Summer Weekend are required for the Spring Journal. **Action: (Jonathan Hogarth)**

COST OF OVERSEAS POSTAGE

- 10.6 The increasing cost of overseas postage was discussed. The Chairman reported that one copy alone of the Journal, which was requested, cost him £17 to post. It was decided that posting free copies of the Journal overseas was not always necessary. Those attending conventions could each bring copies for distribution or postage in the USA. Mike Shadrack will be requested to help with the free copies for USA distribution. **Action; (Jonathan Hogarth, June & John and Mike Shadrack).**

With regard to other free copies sent to institutions and libraries; those who don't follow up and request their free copies will no longer be sent a copy. June and John estimated it is costing the Society almost £200 to subsidise free copies which is now not tenable with our low membership. A review of a list prepared by Marjorie Sturman as to who should get a free copy has now been completed. People who write articles will continue to receive a free voucher copy.

- 10.7 June and John submitted to the Chairman a report on the present cost of advertising in the Journal. Due to the cost of printing two issues per year and the declining revenue from members, it was clear that we cannot subsidise

advertising, and so it was proposed that this autumn we make a small increase in the cost of the adverts. We will consider an acceptable increase for each type of advert before the Autumn issue is due. A discount may be offered if both spring and autumn adverts are booked. **Action: (June & John, Jonathan Hogarth).**

Paul asked if it was acceptable to include a special offer of plants sold in the nursery in the advert, or in an advert style article. There was no objection raised.

John Baker stressed the importance of advertising as a continued presence in the market so that readers will be reminded of the nursery.

- 10.8 It was confirmed that the cost of publishing the two issues of the Journal is lower than publishing one Bulletin plus several Newsletters. However, low membership means less copies and so each copy will cost more to publish in subsequent editions.

11) PUBLICITY

11.1.1 FaceBook

Jim reported that viewing level continues to increase getting 8% more hits by October 2017 and another 3% rise in February to 714 followers. He would like to post photos of member's gardens as an added feature. While he is getting a lot of photos from the 'Delightful Daylilies' Group, he could do with more hosta photos. **Action: (Committee & members)**

- 11.1.2 Jim is eagerly waiting for the list of our top 20 favourite daylilies from The Delightful Daylilies Yahoo group. **Action: (Jan Wyers and members).**

- 11.2 **Hostas Publicity Report:** No report was submitted for this period.

- 11.3 **Hemerocallis Publicity Report:** Sue Beck published her last report as Hemerocallis Publicity Officer which was featured in the Journal. We thank Sue again for the sterling service she gave to the Society for many years. The Committee welcomes Vicky Meads of New Forest Hostas and Hemerocallis as a new Committee member. She has confirmed that she will try to fill the post vacated by Sue. Vicky has already won several awards in local shows and looks forward to attending the next Committee meeting. Sue Beck offered her support.

12) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 12.1 A request to visit Hanging Hosta Garden was made by the Scandinavian Hosta Society as part of the NGS Scheme during the week of the Chelsea Flower Show Week. They will also be visiting Wisley Garden and asked for recommendations to visit other nurseries nearby. A perennial Nursery and Stafford Lake Hosta Nursery owned by Mark Roberts were recommended.
- 12.2 A request to have more photos for the website and the Journal were brought up again. Ideally, photos should come from several people, not from the same ones.
- 12.3 A new book on Daylily entitled The Open Form Daylily: Spiders, Unusual Forms, and Other "Exotics" by Oliver Billingslea has been published at a cost of \$20 per copy (paperback). Some members want to pool their order if it is possible to get discounts.

John will talk to the Daylily Society when he attends the Convention in June.
Action: (John Baker)

A new book 'Hosta Seizure' by Jim Henry is getting good reviews and is available from Amazon at a cost of \$4.12 if you use a Kindle.

- 12.4 Paul Owen has confirmed to June Colley he will most likely visit UK in the spring of 2019. The USDA will make one final check of the glass house he is using to grow daylilies for export. We really look forward to having Paul again and enjoy his talk on hybridising and see his latest introductions. He also has an article on hybridising for our Journal and he has renewed his membership to the Society.
- 12.5 Ian Scoggy has submitted his biodata for our Journal following his acceptance as a new member of the Committee.
- 12.6 June and John also mentioned that the Sienna Hosta Proprietor, Chris Potts and Manager, Ollie Walker, would like to be considered as future members of the Committee. Chris has a 30-year background as a plantsman and Sienna Hostas started exhibiting recently. June forwarded a letter from Sienna Hosta to the Chairman who was happy to have them join the Committee. Ollie also confirmed meeting Jonathan and Paul at a recent workshop in Wisley. A letter of invitation to join the Committee will be sent. **Action: (Marjorie Sturman).**
- 12.7 Jim Alnutt has been working on our logo and presented his nice draft design to the Committee. It is a work in progress.

13) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Saturday, 27th October 2018, 2-5 p.m. in Rm Pav2, Westminster School Cricket Pavilion, Vincent Square (TBC) or possibly TBC, Third Floor, Lawrence Hall Conference Centre

14) ACTIONS REQUIRED PAST AND PRESENT MEETINGS

Section ref.	Action	Person (s) Responsible	Target Date	Status Completed/Ongoing/New
3.1	Review AGM list and report mistakes	Jonathan, June, John, Mark, Paul, Ruth, Mickfield Hostas, Steven	Before AGM meeting	New
3.3	Review of available BHHS leaflets	Jonathan, Bob	Oct meeting	New
3.4	Some old Bulletins to be given away	Jonathan, Marjorie	Oct meeting	Ongoing
4.1	Review Gift Aid entitlement	Bob	Oct meeting	New
4.2	Chase remaining unpaid ad	Bob	Oct meeting	New
5.1	Follow-up non-renewed membership circulated by Andrew	Committee	Before new Journal is ordered in April	New/Urgent
5.2	Final List of Journal recipient required for copies to be ordered	Marjorie, Andrew	March	New
5.4	Improve compatibility mobile	Andrew	October	Ongoing

Section ref.	Action	Person (s) Responsible	Target Date	Status Completed/Ongoing/New
	users with web		meeting	
6.5	RHS Plant Society Show 16-17 June requires volunteers from local members where possible.	Bob, Marjorie, Andrew	May	New
6.6	Free Membership/Publicity for winner in Show at Shrewsbury	Bob, June and John	September	New
7.1	Publicity of AGM Weekend 30 th June/1 st July	Jonathan, June and John	May	New
7.2	To display BHHS library at AGM weekend	Bob	June	New
8.1	Additional info on daylily photos submitted for Newbold Vase Award	Jan	March	New
9.1	Dates of members' gardens opening required for website	Committee/members	ASAP	Ongoing
9.2	Plant profiles and photos for web	Committee/members	ASAP	Ongoing
9.3	Single leaf photos for web	Committee/members	ASAP	Ongoing
9.4	Post AHS Newsletter to website	Andrew	March	Ongoing
10.3	Complete promised article for Autumn Journal	Bob	May	New
10.4	Compilation of Tardiana photos	June/members	August	New
10.5	Chairman's report for Spring Journal	Jonathan	March	New
10.6	Distribution of requested copies Journal in USA	Jonathan, June, John, Mike	June	New
10.7	Itemised changes to cost of Adverts	June, John, Jonathan	May	New
11.1.1	Photos of members' gardens for Jim's FaceBook	members	ASAP	New
11.1.2	Submit top 20 favorite daylily list	Jan	Oct	New
12.3	Make enquiries from Daylily Society re cost of ordering several copies of 'The Open Form of Daylily'	John	June	New
12.6	Invitation to Sienna Hosta to join the committee to be arranged	Marjorie, Jonathan	June	New

15. Please find below all the attachments associated with the meeting with the exception of email correspondents with the Chairman regarding costing related to the Journal and proposed increase in adverts.

