MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at Cobham Village Hall on 5th December 2022

The President welcomed the members and asked the Secretary to read the notice convening the meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:-Tony Field, Molly Tupper, Darren Everest, Roy & Pam Lomax, Alan & Jill Bridger, Sally Field, Colin Richardson, Francis & Carol Gordon-Alleyne.

CHAIRMAN’S ADDRESS:- Reported the death of Norman Flint who was a Vice President of the Society, having joined the committee in 1966 until 1972 and was Assistant Show Secretary in 1968, he was also a regular dahlia Judge at our Main Show which he rarely missed. The Society had sent a tribute.

MINUTES OF THE 2021 AGM AND MATTERS ARISING:- The minutes had been circulated with a newsletter and a precis was also on the website. There were no matters to discuss which would not be dealt with later, and so the minutes were agreed.

SECRETARY’S REPORT:- This is my 1st year as Secretary, and what a busy year it has been.

In addition to the 5 shows we hold, we have also hosted a series of three talks/demonstrations entitled An Introduction to Dahlias, covering the dahlia from taking cuttings to staging them at a show. These talks proved to be very popular with new growers or those that just needed a refresher. The committee will be finalising our events programme at our next committee meeting and we would welcome any suggestions that you may have for a talk/demonstration during 2023. If there is a subject you would like covered please speak to me or one of the other committee members.

We only held one external plant sale this year, which was held once again at West Byfleet. Plant sales are the Society’s main source of income but it has to be said that the task of producing the plants for sale, falls almost entirely down to the already hard pressed Committee.

The website continues to be kept up to date and produces a steady flow of enquiries. The new style Newsletter which is issued four times a year has been well received.

I am pleased to report that we have had 19 new members join the Society this year. Our current membership stands around the 80 mark albeit that there are still a few who have not paid their subs for this year.

SHOW SECRETARY’S REPORT:- This year my report will be shorter as I have produced some facts and figures about our shows in 2022. I can report that the Society held 5 shows and looking at the figures you will notice that nearly all the shows were down in both entries and exhibitors. Saying all of that exhibitors who did manage to get their flowers on the show bench did exceptionally well considering the record high temperatures we had in July and continuing into August with the ongoing hosepipe bans. There are a few thank you’s I would like to make. Firstly I would like to thank the exhibitors who travel many miles to support our shows with ever increasing costs. Thank you to the judges who again have travelled many miles to carry out the judging. I would like to thank the Committee and many others who have helped set up and break down the shows. I am not going to name them as I am bound to miss out someone but I would like to thank Alan Bridger who helps with all the shows at Abinger Hammer and looks after the Society’s equipment at our store. This year’s Main Show proved quite a challenge as we lost a couple of key people to Covid 48 hours before the show. I would like to thank Anne and Louise Field who stepped in at the last moment to provide lunch for the judges and stewards and other helpers. Also thanks to Brenda Taitt who did the morning refreshments at the shows and Karyl Weighill who provided lunch for our judges at both member’s shows and the Late Show. Finally, your Committee had to look at the Spring Show and make a decision about the shows future. After much discussion the Committee took the tough decision to cancel the show. There are many reasons why the decision was taken but with fewer exhibitors now and the increasing cost of bulbs it was felt that the show was no longer viable. The show dates for 2023 are at the bottom of the facts and figures page.

A Facts & Figures sheet of all 2022 shows was given to the members present at the AGM, and a copy is attached to these minutes.

TREASURER’S REPORT:- Due to the Treasurer having an important hospital visit he was unable to be present, his report was read to the members by the Chairman.

The accounts for 2022 show a deficit of £769. This compares to a deficit of £100 in the previous year. The fundamental reason for these deficits is that we have too many shows to support in relation to the money we raise each year. The problem is compounded because of rising costs.

The committee continually looks at costs and also how we raise funds each year. A large item of expense in the year was engraving. After discussions, it has been decided that trophies etc. will no longer be engraved; this will be a considerable saving. Also, after discussion and through lack of support the daffodil show will not take place in future. We are also looking at ways to increase our income, but this is a difficult issue. Our main source of income is plant sales, but with the increased costs to produce the plants, next year is going to be very difficult. If any member has any ideas regarding money, please contact any committee member.

During the year we closed our bank account with Santander and are looking at opening an account with Lloyds. Copies of the accounts were given to members, it was explained that they have not yet been examined, but this will take place in the New Year.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT:- Bryan Everest was asked to continue as President, and was re-elected.

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENTS:- Following the death of Norman Flint, the Chairman pointed out that there was currently only one Vice President, he therefore proposed Kevin Taitt who joined the committee in 1972 and Tony Field who joined the committee in 1976. Kevin had been Secretary and Vice Chairman from 1989 to 1999 and Show Secretary since 2000. Tony became Treasurer in 1988 a post he still holds. Both were elected and Mo Dixon was re-elected.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEE & AUDITORS:- The Officers and committee had agreed to stand and were re-elected.

DETERMINE THE SUBSCRIPTION RATE FOR 2023:- It was unanimously agreed that the subs should remain unaltered at £5 per annum.

PRESENTATION OF JOHN COURT TROPHY FOR MOST POINTS IN MEMBERS CLASSES:- The trophy was awarded to Bryan Everest.

AWARD FOR THE PREMIER LEAGUE CLASSES:- The trophy was awarded to Bryan Everest.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:- It was suggested that we should consider closing the Late Chrysanthemum Show at 3.00 p.m. as the exhibitors have to travel a long distance to attend this show and being held in November it gets dark earlier.

Jenny Moxham wished to thank those that guided her and Colin to stage their flowers at the August Members Show.

Thought would be given to having classes for single blooms.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50 p.m. which was followed by a short talk by Bryan Everest on chrysanthemum cultivation and a social evening.

Surrey Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society - Facts and Figures of 2022

Shows Spring Show No Spring shows held in 2020 and 2021

2019 Exhibitors 18 entries 199 2022 Exhibitors 5 entries 105

August Members Show 2021 Dahlias Exhibitors 9 Entries 41 2022 Exhibitors 10 Entries 47 2021 Chrysanths Exhibitors 2 Entries 4 2022 Exhibitors 3 Entries 7

Main Show 2021 Dahlias Exhibitors 21 Entries 106 2022 Exhibitors 13 Entries 79 2021 Chrysanths Exhibitors 6 Entries 37 2022 Exhibitors 3 Entries 18

September Members Show 2021 Dahlias Exhibitors 6 Entries 36 2022 Exhibitors 5 Entries 33 2021 Chrysanths Exhibitors 5 Entries 18 2022 Exhibitors 4 Entries 17

Late Show 2021 Exhibitors 9 Entries 29 2022 Exhibitors 6 Entries 25

Show dates 2023 All to be held at Abinger Hammer Village Hall except Main Show.

August Members Show 20th August

Main Show 10th September at the Arbor Centre Pyrford

September Members Show 24th September

Late Show 5th November