

## **MINUTES OF THE HH&CGS AGM HELD AT THE CASTLE INN, HURST ON THURSDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016**

**Present:** Kathy Tuggey (Chair) Frank and Sheila Whittaker, Keith and Julie Attfield, Edwin and Margaret Jarvis, Howard and Janet Larkin, Suzy Watt, Paul Martin, Ted and Betty Smith, David and Naomi Bassett, Eric and Sue Rockall, David and Heather Howarth, John and Jo Penney, Mac Stephenson. **Apologies:** Barbara Stephenson, John and Ann-Marie Vimpany, Ken and Penny Curry, Gavin and Sue Verdin.

**Chairman`s Report:** Kathy welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated how pleased she was that interest in the HH&CGS was ever growing receiving wide support throughout the year and in particular for the main event which is the August Show.

Kathy reflected on the past year and reminded everyone that at last year`s AGM we had agreed a short constitution as well as forming a committee structure which in the main had worked well with clearer responsibilities for the key roles which are required in any society. The committee had met once and the minutes were circulated and added to the website for all to read.

At that meeting, a review of feedback from the 2015 show was made involving class rules, health and safety and finances. Concern had been expressed by a few members regarding the agreement for the donation of £500 to Alexander Devine Hospice. As a result it was further discussed at the February general meeting and agreed that any proposals for future donations would be put to a general meeting for a vote to be taken and this was recorded in the minutes. Kathy mentioned that this donation was greatly appreciated by the hospice and we remain in full support of this project.

Kathy then reflected on the 2015 main show which was a great success with large increases in competitors entering, total individual entries and people coming through the gates. In particular there was a trend for greater interest in Home Industries classes, perhaps due to increased media publicity such as `Bake Off`.

Whilst children`s entries had increased, she would wish to continue our drive to encourage children to enter the show. It was encouraging that Ms McGrail, the new head teacher at St Nicholas Primary School is keen to support the show and a close dialogue has already been established.

In looking forward to this year`s show, we are not standing still and will feature three new classes this year to attract even greater interest from everyone including; a scarecrow class open to individuals, teams or families, YouTube video class on `Perspectives of Hurst` and a mini tomato class.

Publicity continued to be an important part of the show`s success and Sue Corcoran ably managed this for us. Due to pressure of other work, Sue had asked if we could find someone to take this over from her and Mac Stephenson had agreed to do this. We have continued to develop our website having recently been remodelled for easier navigation and now with links to various meeting minutes and our constitution so everyone can keep up to date with the Society`s activities. The remodelling included user friendly access via mobile phones. Kathy thanked Keith for this excellent website development.

Kathy spoke about the Mini Show and hoped this would continue into the future as it gave members an opportunity to stage and judge a small number of classes in a relaxed and informal way, was the

occasion for judging of the 'Potato in a Bucket' (Pomme D'or medal) won last year by Marion Maybank and was a social occasion.

Kathy closed her report by recognising the success of the Society was entirely down to the dedicated teams of people who generously give their time to plan, set up and then take down the equipment after our shows. She also recognised the many sponsors who support the show and help cover the cost of the schedule. She then concluded by reflecting on the long heritage of the society and the show and felt the society was in excellent health and well placed to continue for many years, thanking everyone involved for their continued support.

**Treasurer's Report:** John distributed the Society's Statement of Accounts for year ending March 31<sup>st</sup> 2015.

He explained that the 2015 main show had made a profit of £1,138.41p compared with the 2014 sum of £200. Raffle receipts were particularly positive as were gate receipts. On the outgoings side £734 was spent on additional gazebos and display panels, the donation of £500 to the Alexander Devine Hospice, £332 on RHS membership and increased Public Liability insurance (£5m to £10m). The Charles Stewart Harris Trophy was professionally valued at £4,000 and insurance was also increased for this.

John stated that despite these outgoings, the society was in good financial health with £8,135.13p in the bank.

**Officers:** Kathy stated that all committee posts were up for re-election and anyone wishing to put their name forward was encouraged to do so, as was also stated in the general notice of this meeting sent on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

The election took place and the following was the result of this election: Kathy was willing to serve as Chair and with no other candidates was elected. Keith was willing to stand as Vice-Chairman and with no other candidates was elected. John was willing to stand as Treasurer and with no other candidates was elected however he did state that this will be his last year as treasurer. Frank was willing to stand as Secretary and with no other candidates was elected. Janet was willing to stand as Horticultural Secretary and with no other candidates was elected. Julie was willing to stand as Home Industries Secretary and with no other candidates was elected. Ken was willing to stand as Field Manager and with no other candidates was elected, Paul was willing to stand as Show Entry and Results Co-ordinator and with no other candidates was elected.

**Questions:** One member was concerned about how and when policy decisions were made by the Society. Specifically, decisions about donations to charity and requested that no matter of policy should be agreed at a General Meeting but should be for the AGM to decide.

This matter was discussed at length by the meeting and following this discussion it was put to the vote that: 'Any final decisions on future donations, after discussion by the Committee would be made at General Meetings ie meetings where all members are invited to attend. The meeting voted overwhelmingly in favour of this motion and Kathy declared it adopted.

The meeting ended and was immediately followed by a General Meeting.

