

The Cheshire Area of NAFAS
Minutes of Area Council Meeting held at Plumley Village Hall
Monday 3rd Feb 2020

Officers Present: Chairman – Nicky Wylie, 1st Vice Chairman –Chris Gibbons, 2nd Vice Chairman – Louise Jones, Treasurer – Tracy-Anne Clancy, Secretary – Morag McCord, Minutes Secretary – Shiona Fosh.

Chairman's Remarks:

- Val Seed –President passed away in December 2020. The meeting applauded her.
- Pam Orton – Disley & District FC passed away. Funeral arrangements will be forwarded to clubs.
- Rev. Mac passed away. A card was sent on behalf of Cheshire Area.

1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme FC, Wilmslow and District FC, Joan Wilkinson RCCS committee

2.MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

3.MATTERS ARISING:

None

4.CORRESPONDENCE:

None

5.REPORTS:

a) Secretary – Morag McCord

Reminders

- With several new delegates present, please all sign in collect the club packs and badges. Take care taking off badges as they break easily.
- Only one vote per club.
- Take back to your committee any information requiring attention.
- Let me know if your delegates are unable to attend Council, contact me beforehand if you are sending another member.
- Let me know if you have not received the minutes.
- Do not park on the grass at Plumley but at the station not on the road if carpark full.

Correspondence

- Received a beautiful card from Catherine Bower thanking for her flowers.
- Several emails from HQ about obituaries.
- Email requests for information club demos etc.
- Several email from clubs sending condolences to David Everard and family.
- Information about Pam Orton's death: Area Flower Arranger Officer for 16 years.

In Packs

1. Agenda
2. 4 copies Royal Cheshire Show Schedule with several inserts
3. Letter and chart re stewarding at Royal Cheshire show
4. Letter and Application form for Pre-Discipline Course
5. 4 copies Knutsford's evening with Dean Sharp
6. Leaflet for Plant Hunter's Fair 2020
7. 2/3 copies Romiley Flower Club's open Dem.
8. Flyers for members weekend in August from HQ
9. Card from HQ re-joining flower Club and a little reminder to amend area list.
10. Golden Anniversary Dates
11. Area Social Day poster
12. 50th Anniversary- AGM poster Information re floral fashion show workshops
13. Group 2,000 flyer
14. Cheshire Show Floral Art Sponsor letter

Thanks to Minute secretary, Shiona, for great job with minutes and Chris and Maureen with the registration.

b) Treasurer – Tracy-Anne Clancy

- The balances on the accounts as at 03.02.2020 are as follows:

Barclays Bank - Current Account (F&GP) £20,259.00

Barclays Bank – Savings Account £26,876.55 (includes £16,630.75 previously held at Nationwide Building Society)

Leek United Building Society - £10,000 (2yr Bond – matures in July 2020)

JDS&E Current Account £8,769.68

Flower Arranger Current Account £5,947.71

- **Affiliation Fees**

The total received was £23,751.10 of which £7,653.15 was retained by Area and £16,097.95 paid to HQ at the beginning of December. The receipted invoice from HQ for our accounts has now been received.

Budget for 2020

- We are planning to spend £15,000 this year – of which £7,653 is from Affiliation Fees, £500 from Miscellaneous Income and the balance of £6,847 will be from Savings. The closing balance on our current account is projected to be £5,259. The analysis of budgeted expenditure is:

Travel Expenses / Hall Hire / Printing & Postage £3,000

New Website £3,500

- Support for Area Events:

Area Lunch £1,300

Area Social Day £2,000

Area AGM £2,200

Shows (Arley, RCCS etc) £3,000

- **Insurance**

Cheshire Area is currently insured by JELF. Thank you to all Clubs who have contacted me regarding their insurance details. These are also with JELF with similar premiums being paid by the clubs circa £35 per club. It is proposed, therefore, to leave this with individual clubs.

c) Publicity – Sally Melvin

Note: 2 dates for the events this year have been corrected on the original flyer.

Flower arranger – Catherine Bower

- All orders for 2020 received, with 2 payments outstanding.
- Spring edition delivered within guaranteed 5 days of due date (16 January). A few clubs have let me know of a few 'hick ups', with distribution, but they have been resolved.
- I've received changes to summer edition, but any others should be sent to me by 13 February. Delivery of summer edition is due within 5 days of Wednesday 8 April. Please let me know of any problems with delivery, even if local knowledge of flower club members results in correct delivery.
- **Flower Arranger Award**
Based on percentage increase for year 2018/19
1st Wistaston & District FC
2nd Leek FC
- This year members of F&GP supported my proposal for an award for highest number purchased by club. This acknowledges clubs, which will not receive percentage increase due to high base figure.
Disley club (with 30 subscriptions)

d) NAFAS – Nicky Wylie

- The National Diamond NAFAS Show came in at a loss of £130,000; this was thought to be due to no proper budgets, contracts or financial regulations being put in place. The dinner made a loss of £7,500. This has wiped the HQ reserves. The Charity Commission is setting up an inquiry. There will be no money to complete the new web site or to have a database.

- Most of the old Board members have stepped down and new structures, governance and financial expertise will be put in place. Transparency will be applied and everything will be minuted.

Questions to Chairman

- Why do we need a national level?

We need a national presence in London to thrive.

- Has anyone been made accountable?

Most of the board has resigned apart from 2. There are two parts of NAFAS one abroad run by a Limited Company and the other under the Charities Commission who will investigate what has happened.

- How are they going to get the money back?

It is not going to be replaced. The commission will report about the accounts, which will be found, on the Internet when completed.

- What stage are the new refurbishments at in HQ?

Nearly finished, this project is being funded by the Heritage Fund not by NAFAS.

- What was the overall cost of the National Show 2020?

The overall cost was £300,000.

- Will NAFAS close down?

She said there was a possibility, but Nicky has faith in the relatively new CEO Stephen Lane at fixing the problem.

- Will clubs walk out on their own and say why do we need London?

Nicky said it would be short sighted and that you would need to be a strong club to survive. They could not use the NAFAS demonstrators as they have all been trained at a national level.

- Has every club got a National letter from HQ?

There seems to be an administrative error of whose information HQ has got and whether it is the chairman or the contact person. This needs sorting out.

Chelsea 2020:

No small Floral Marquee for NAFAS Competitions.

One competition will be put in place, combining Florists and Floral arrangers for the whole of the event.

Problems: Cost: More accommodation for the whole week instead of just 3 days

British Flowers are required, they are more expensive and don't last as long, therefore one would probably buy more to last the whole week.

Only one stand allowed in Grand Marquee for NAFAS at own cost.

Nicky complained that the floral foam was being a scape goat by RHS for 'saving the planet' by not being allowed to be used, but ignoring the fact that they transport diggers, trees and overseas material etc. for the show. There was some discussion about burning the foam and recycling the ash..

e) Finance and General Purposes –Nicky Wylie

- Nicky determined to get Cheshire Area's governance up to date. E.g. policy and procedures, roles, reporting lines, financial limits, safeguarding etc. which will be on the new website and implemented before the end of her term.
- New Website: predicted date of launch end of April 2020. Nicky asked for all green forms to be returned from the clubs after their AGM's so that the information can be uploaded onto the website.
- Invitation to everyone to come to Council and F&GP meetings but only 1 delegate can vote.

i)Chaffinches – Sharon Nolan

There are still currently 6 affiliated members.

Suggestions are welcomed for a different model to run the group.

Next meeting to bring tombola prizes for the Social Day.

ii)Photography – Pam Mosedale

- The competition schedule has been published on the NAFAS website and Photography facebook page. Here's a link to the schedule: <http://www.nafas.org.uk/nafas/photography/>

There are 6 classes:

Class 1 – Seasonal Beauty – a colour landscape or seascape

Class 2 – Edible Delights – a close up of natural plant materials

Class 3 – From any angle– a plant or flower image involving manipulation

Class 4 – Any old iron – black and white

Class 5 – Something beginning with a novice class of a floral design

Class 6 – Garden Delights – junior class

The closing date is Monday 31st Aug 2020 and open to all NAFAS members.

- No Royal Cheshire Show Photography Competition in 2020

There will not be a photography competition at this year's Cheshire Show. The space will be used to promote our organisation showing photographs of National, Cheshire Area and flower club activities. Please email me (photography@nafascheshire.org.uk or pmmosedale@btinternet.com) jpeg files of any photographs from your club's activities – such as demonstrations, workshops, trips and people enjoying themselves.

- Cheshire Area's 2020 Calendar

There are just a few 2020 Cheshire Area calendars left (7). Thank you to all the clubs and individuals who have bought all 93 of them. They have generated a small profit of £145 towards Area's budget. NAFAS HQ will be producing next year's calendar.

f) Judges, Demonstrators, Speakers & Education – Chris Gibbons

Chris asked club reps. to go back to clubs with enthusiasm to tell them what education is being provided.

- Education Day 14th March 2020, Lucy Richardson will explore 2 techniques: Botanical paper work and Himmelli technique (Straws) £25
- Demonstrators Day Sunday 15th March 2020 both at Plumley.
- Pre discipline course 28th March, 25th April, 16th May with Diane Fair £50
- Competitors course in the Plumley Methodist Church after Easter if there is enough interest.

g) Social– Louise Jones

- Reminded everyone if there are too many people wanting to come to the Area lunch there will be a draw. 16th March 2020.
- Social Day 2nd July 2020 Alison Penno demonstrator from Cornwall. Members to bring crafts they have made display and explain on a card table.
- AGM Fashion show: 2 workshops provided to help create the fashions being run by Chris Gibbons and Mark Entwistle and Louise Jones. Each club gets £50 to join in. Photos will be taken of the creative process and submitted to the Flower Arranger magazine.

h) RHS – Pam Mosedale

- RHS Tatton: sent in proposals for workshops and demonstrations. A new management team is running the show.

i) Royal Cheshire County Show Team – Joan Wilkinson

- We have added another new mechanic this year, this is a pole with two removable round mesh plates that can be moved up or down or one or two removed, the choice is yours. The title of this class is Material World and can be staged by one or two people. The boxes that we had last year will once again feature in this year's show. One to be placed on the marquee floor to be used as a table and the title is Concoction a contemporary design and the second box will be placed on the bench on its side raised up on legs interpreting the title Hidden depth. The box will have a layer of insulation board in the back, which the exhibitor can use in any way they choose and the design can come right over the edge of the box.
- We are once again having a class entitled 'Have a go at the Cheshire Show' but this year we are giving this to the novices. As this class proved so popular with everyone last year we have put another class in called 'It'll Come in Handy'. This year we are restricting the numbers to just 12 as had too many last year, so if interested, get your entries in early.

- Included in your schedule is a guide for beginners and newcomers, this guide answers questions that may be asked by them like, where do I go when I get on the show ground? Where are the loos and where do I get water from?
- There will be a confidence boosting class in April here at Plumley in the chapel room opposite, this class will be run by Chris Gibbons and it will give anyone an opportunity to practice a design that they are thinking of putting in the show. Chris will use her expertise to suggest ways that the design could be improved or other ways of using the mechanics they have, or simply patting them on the back and saying well done, you have nailed it. There is more information on how to join this group in the schedule.
- Also in there is a slip showing the entry fees and the prize money however, please make a note before you hand out the schedules to your members, Class 12 should read 'Vertigo' and the entry fee for that class is £3 and Class 13 is the children's class 'If the Shoe Fits' and of course there is no fee for this class. We hope that you and your members are inspired by the schedule; we look forward to seeing you in June.

j) NAFAS Sub Committees:

(i) Judges – Sue Clissold

- No National Report
- Four Judges have retired: Margaret Abernethy, Joan Cooper, Deborah Hutton and George Smith.
- New Judges: Karen Frew, Heather Hume, Cherie Nummy from NIGFAS and Sue Clissold.
- The Judges conference 8th Sept 2020, in Dormantine, Newry, NI.
- Test for Area Judges 7th Sept 2020. Cheshire candidates : Carol Baker, Louise Jones, Pricilla Chan and Nicky Wylie.

(ii) Demonstrators – Diane Fair

- Pre discipline course 28th March, 25th April, 16th May with Diane Fair £50
- National Demonstrators Test, Northwich 22nd and 23rd April 2020. £12

(iii) Speakers – Kathleen Williams

- National Speaker's Mock Test and Test, Tarvin, Cheshire June & August 2020

(iv) Education – Chris Gibbons

see above

(v) Junior Liaison - Judy Gratton

Judy met with Carol Baker to organise what they were doing with the children at the Cheshire Show. Also sending out flyers to advertise the occasion.

6. A.O.B:

1. Nicky said that they would not be replacing the President until October when the new Chairman arrives.
 2. Bernard asked for information about what happens in London HQ a step by step guide. Nicky said she would pass the message on.
 3. Jill Hine thanked the Committee for all their hard work and transparency.
- Meeting finished at 12:15 am

7. Date of Next Council Meeting:

Thursday 30th April 2020

7pm Coffee/tea Meeting 7:30 pm

Plumley Village Hall, WA16 OAU

Signed.....

Dated.....