

The Cheshire Area of NAFAS
Minutes of the CAN Rep Forum Virtual Meeting
Wednesday 9 June 2021 at 7pm

Present: Chairman – Louise Jones, Treasurer – Tracy-Anne Clancy, Secretary – Morag McCord, Area support Officer – Janet Schofield, Area Support Officer – Gill Davies.

1. Apologies

Nicky Wylie, Club Rep, Pam Mosedale, RHS Co-ordinator, Judy Gratton, Junior Liaison, Shiona Fosh, Minute Secretary, Disley & District FC, Neston FC, Romiley FC, Sale FC, Tunstall & District FC.

2. Minutes & Amendments

8i) Representatives reports – Flower Arranger. Page 1 of report missed off. Full report had been issued to clubs before meeting, Minutes amended.

Approved and signed.

3. Chairman's remarks – Louise Jones

Huge thank you to all who took part in National Flower Arranging Day – some ingenious ideas seen on social media. The pandemic certainly did not hold them back and well done to all who had taken part.

New stands for use at shows/events – small team working on this. CAN Team agreed budget of £800 to spend on boards etc.

Looking at Branding for interim until HQ have introduced a National Brand.

NAFAS

- NAFAS/OCN teacher training course being run and we have 2 candidates on NAFAS/OCN teacher training. NAFAS objectives are to be an educational charity. In line with this, we suggested a contribution was made to the 2 candidates training. Cost of the course is £180 plus £75 accreditation. CAN team agreed to make a contribution of £75 per person.

A new course is being put together by Education team at HQ and we will look at finances of it when we have full details.

- The Area Chairmen are in “Buddy groups”. Louise took some concerns to her group re huge increase in flower costs and effect this will have on club meetings. Had some information back and there will be further info on this later.
- Clusters have now met and we will be holding a meeting in next few weeks with Cluster co-ordinators.

NAC

Next National Advisory Council will be held in July

- Update – draft of updated Articles of Association will be sent to Area Chairmen for comments.
- Vision and mission document continues to be rolled out.
- Osborne House – Trustees have met 4 estate agents to look at the sale of the property. Also meeting Investment Advisors so that there will be a plan on how to manage the money, following sale of the property.

5. Secretary – Morag McCord

- I hope you've all received minutes of April Forum and Agenda and reports for tonight's meeting.
- I only contact Club Chairmen with information which they should pass on to members or delegates the link for the meeting if attending instead.
- I know it is a difficult time for you all but please tell me of any changes to your club list. I'm aware some clubs have new officers, of whom I have not yet been informed, so paperwork may not be going to the chairman and they miss the meeting.
- My thanks to Shiona our minute secretary for the grand job she does.

6. Treasurer – Tracy-Anne Clancy

Finance

The balances on the accounts are as follows:

Barclays Bank - Current Account £156.49

Barclays Bank – Savings Account £44,111.03

Barclays Bank – JDS&E Current Account £8201

National Flower Arranging day – photos supporting claims from clubs had been received and monies distributed. Mike Gallagher has posted photos on website. Clubs should make more use of website to promote themselves.

Affiliation Fees

Cheshire Area has been open and honest and positive and has stepped up to keep us together as an Area with workshops, talks and demonstrations open to all.

Area is asking for £4.50 per member to support the Cheshire Area only and will not be asking for any more from the clubs.

HQ has sent a census form for the clubs to complete as best as they can and would like to know if members belong to other clubs.

Money not going over to Cheshire Area until December which will allow clubs to open and start getting in monies.

Question – Joan from Hale Barns said she had sent money for affiliation fees 2019/20 and 2020/21 and now has no money for 2021/22. Tracy-Anne suggested she be kept informed of circumstances

7. CAN events – Janet Schofield

The Competitors Support Group (weekly -Tuesday 7.0pm) was launched by zoom to encourage people to enter the Virtual National Show and the group has continued to support people entering the RCCS virtual floral art competition. Email: canonlineevents@gmail.com if you wish to join.

CAN Events now completed workshops and talks in support of our Floral Fashion Show later in the year.

Our final session was on floral jewellery with Gillian Page, the designs created by members were fantastic.

Now moving on to planning the cat walk show and working on logistics for the event.

We hope to be able to hold some in person workshops in August/September to help everyone finalise their designs and will forward details nearer the time.

Demonstrator's fees and Flower Allowance.

As said before demonstrators are struggling as have had no income for over 12 months but clubs are still not treating them properly. With increased flower prices, including import tax, the flower allowance the clubs give should be more realistic if they want good quality arrangements. Many demonstrators put hours of work into preparing their demonstrations, including extras the flower allowance will not cover at their own expense, so should be paid a proper fee and flower allowance and be appreciated and encouraged by the clubs.

8. Representatives Reports:

a) Judges - Sue Clissold

No report from National Committee but Area Judge's Mock Test and Test going ahead. 3 Cheshire candidates sitting Mock Test on 21 June followed by Test on 26 July. Best wishes go to all the candidates.

b) Demonstrators – Diane Fair

No report as next National Committee Meeting still to take place.

c) Speakers – Kathleen Williams

No report

d) Education – Sharon Nolan

No change from previous report. 5 people interested in 2day course.

e) Junior Liaison – Judy Gratton

No report.

f) Royal Cheshire County Show – Joan Wilkinson

All entries now in with 174 in total- almost double what normally get for live show.

Because of this success, there will be a virtual class at next live show, judged prior to event and photographs enlarged and on display for public to view with hopefully entrants from around the world taking part.

We have been asked to take part in a one-day show by Royal Cheshire Agricultural Society at end of July. Quite prepared to put up photos from some winners and possibly share a marquee with someone else so would be under cover. However, CAS wanted much more of a display which may not be possible as we had already held the event in a virtual capacity. In discussion with WI and as soon as we know what they intend to do, Area will be informed. Hoping to purchase two four-panel display boards for use each year for the virtual class and could be used by Area for other events. Free-standing, solid from ground up and 180cm high – lot of scope for display.

Entries with judges and results will be able to be viewed on what would have been show day on both our website and the Show's website. Standard excellent and foreign entries interesting with some really good mechanics and ideas. Fingers crossed we will be at ground next year and we can maintain the high standard and number of entries for 2022 show.

g) RHS – Janet Schofield

RHS Tatton 2021

Cheshire Area are exhibiting in Flower School Marquee and are decorating a 2.3metre diameter Moon Gate Arch. Contorted hazel being used.

We would like as many Cheshire Area members to take part and would like them to make a Heart or decorate a glass jar or make a golden box. The aim is to show visitors that flower arranging is varied, interesting, uses lots of techniques and not always traditional.

Contact via email: canonlineevents@gmail.com if able to make something. Completed and delivered to **34 quayside Mews Lymm WA130HZ by 5 July 2021.**

Adhere to guidelines

Designs will be given away at end of show – not returned to clubs.

Encourage club members to take part and to look for the designs if visiting the show.

RHS Moon Gate Décor items.

Colour scheme is yellow and cream/white flowers with natural coloured hazel and gold Himmeli with some greenery.

All items should fit in with colour scheme.

Plant material hearts – will hang from Moon Gate throughout the design.

Hearts should be between 10cm and 20cm across and must have a hole or loop/ring to enable it to be suspended. Not necessary to provide hanging string/mechanics.

Hearts MUST be made from dried natural plant material or material sourced from plant material such as cotton or paper and must not contain plastic. Decorate with plant material, dried flowers, glass or wooden beads, wires, wool, ribbon etc. but no plastic or glitter. They could be made from woven grasses/fine twigs, or based on cardboard with leaves glued on, or created from wire mesh and plant material glued or woven through. Use your imagination and floral art skills.

Decorated jars – will be filled with small posies and arranged around base of the Moon Gate.

Need Glass jars of all sizes decorated with ribbon, twine, lace, plant material etc preferably jam jar size or bigger. Make sure thoroughly cleaned before decorating.

Gold boxes – pave designs created in boxes and placed around base of Moon Gate.

Need boxes of various sizes, at least 10cm tall but no taller than 30cm -square or rectangular. Décor preferably from plant material and sprayed gold, other materials accepted but no plastic. If possible, securely line boxes with waterproof material.

Consult full instructions, sent to clubs by email on 14 June 2021, if uncertain of what to do.

Arley going ahead. Team given specific work to do and if concerned about numbers in the

tent for social distancing, can go outside or if weather not good, can return to their cars.

h) Publicity - Sally Melvin

Hope to be at Arley.

i) Flower Arranger – Catherine Bower

Thank you to clubs for getting magazines to club members.

Autumn edition

Autumn edition due for delivery w/c 8 July

Winter edition

Please notify any change to order/delivery arrangements for Winter edition by 12 August.

Winter edition due for delivery w/c 7 October

2022 orders

Subscription fee to be confirmed by Editorial Team. Subscription fee has remained at current level for many years. See details below in **Editorial team update**

I will arrange distribution of order form

Date for following year is usually mid-November, to allow delivery of Spring edition in mid-January

Please contact me if you have any queries

Contact to Area Flower Arranger officer can be made via

flower.arranger@nafascheshire.org.uk or link on web site contact button

Extract from May 2021 Editorial team update

Distribution and subscriptions

Sylvia Loader, Distribution Officer/ Secretary outlined our very modest trial in Morrisons did 100% better than was predicted and that Hobbycraft has agreed to trial the magazine in all 102 of its stores – despite only usually taking weekly or monthly magazines. This feels like a big move in the right direction and shows a new confidence in the marketability of the magazine

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Chloe Bryan-Brown, Editor, has been working with Magic Bean Media but feels that they should focus on Facebook and Instagram rather than Twitter. She will pursue the idea of a regular monthly Step by Step, using a seasonal Step by Step from past issues

Subscription Fee

Warners, the production Company, have advised that the cost of paper is to increase, which will almost certainly increase the production costs

Ann Harding, Director advised that the Board of Directors had received an enquiry asking if the cover price of the magazine is to be increased. Sylvia explained that any change to the cover price or subscription rates would have to be with effect from the Spring 2022 issue, which allows enough time for AFAOs to advise clubs

After discussion Kathy Stangaard, Editorial Team Chairman, agreed to arrange a meeting with Steven Lane CEO, Chloe & Ann to carry out an audit of all TFA finances, no decision will be made on a price increase until this meeting has taken place.

9. Fizz and Flowers – Tracy-Anne Clancy

Park Royal Hotel booked for 3 October 2021 for Floral Fashion Show.

Flier will be sent to club chairmen electronically who will then pass it on to as many members as possible. Individual applications will be accepted so no need to wait for other members and using a club cheque. When applying, include a SAE for tickets and raffle tickets.

Cost - £25 which includes welcome drink, the show and retail therapy -several stallholders have already applied, afternoon tea and raffle. Tickets will be on sale to members up to end of August when will be open to general public if necessary. A very exciting event anticipated, showing off the talents of our clubs and members with fun and flowers.

10. AOB

a) Clusters – All clusters have had at least one meeting and many clubs have asked for assistance with and help and guidance for re-opening, social media training, risk assessment for venues etc. and concern over affiliation fees for next year.

Kate Hughes, co-ordinator for Rose cluster has organised a meeting for the group, with Mike Gallagher, website manager, asking him for ways to improve clubs’ presence on website to make more interesting and eye-catching for visitors.

b) Clubs returning – Risk Assessment for clubs and venues for getting back.

Venue dictates when to go back – several clubs unable to get back as venue not suitable for purpose at the moment and restricting numbers. Clubs should get copy of the venue’s risk assessment and should also do their own which should be officially logged for future reference. A copy of an assessment compiled by Kate Hughes will be sent to all clubs for guidance and reference.

c) Area book – Any judge, demonstrator, and speaker who travels to Cheshire Area can be on the list and do not have to pay to be on it. It will take some time to put it all together online but will be the most up to date information available on the website. If not online, a sheet with names will be provided.

Louise said as soon as the government gives the go ahead to allow us to meet together safely, we will plan for the coming months. Look out for the “Fizz and Flowers” flier and start booking for this great event.

Photographs of winners and entrants of Virtual RCAS will be on website along with some club designs for National Flower Arranging Day so keep looking for these inspirational designs. Look out for our wonderful Moon Gate design at RHS Tatton and hope as many members as possible will contribute by making hearts, decorating glass jars and gold boxes.

Thank you for attending tonight and enjoy the summer ahead.

Date of Next Club Reps Forum: Thursday 7 October 2021 at 7.00pm

Signed.....

Dated.....