

The Cheshire Area of NAFAS
Minutes of Area Council Meeting held at Plumley Village Hall
Monday 4 February 2019

Officers Present: Chairman – Nicky Wylie, 1st Vice Chairman –Chris Gibbons, 2nd Vice Chairman – Louise Jones, Secretary – Morag McCord, Publicity Officer – Catherine Bower, Minutes Secretary – Shiona Fosh. Area President, Val Seed was also present.

Chairman's Remarks:

Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The chairman explained that at Group 2000's AGM they announced that they were struggling to find a programme secretary, so therefore they decided to have an events team instead.

The events team would sort out the necessary requirements for each meeting. Volunteers for the events team could help at every meeting or just those they could attend. By the end of the AGM they had 4 volunteers. This is a fantastic way of showing how thinking differently and not sticking to the traditional committee member system has helped their flourishing club to continue.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Heswell FC, Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme FC, Prestbury FC, Hale Barns FC, Wilmslow & District FC, Carol Black, Area Speaker's Representative, Tracy-Anne Clancy, Area Treasurer.

1. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12th November 2018 were agreed and signed by Nicky as correct.
2. **MATTERS ARISING:** None
3. **CORRESPONDENCE:** No correspondence.
4. **REPORTS:**

a) Secretary – Morag McCord

Reminders:

- Delegates reminded again to sign in beside their club name as we had several new delegates to the meeting and also to collect their packs.
- One vote per club.
- Delegates to advise their club committee as soon as possible after council of any business requiring action. Take notes of the meeting as minutes will be issued later.
- Let me know of any changes to club officers as soon as possible and if your delegates are unable to attend the Council, contact Morag beforehand if you are sending another member.

Correspondence:

- Received 'thank-you' emails from Anne Watson and Marilyn Haslam for their gifts. F&GP committee still needs club representatives although Pat Bannister has agreed to be one of them.
- E-mails from HQ re: Diamond Anniversary Celebrations.
Information about submitting photos to the Flower Arranger magazine
Chelsea Schedule 2019
- Enquiries about Club demonstrations, meetings and request for help with Church flowers etc. and demonstrators' details.

Packs:

- Agenda
- Flower Arranger information - submitting photographs to the magazine
- 4 Cheshire Show 2019 schedules including application form
- The Photography schedule 2019
- Cheshire show stewarding letter and volunteers list
- List of Area Officers and their details

- 3 items from HQ- Introduction of a sparky badge and application form for clubs and a letter of explanation

Flyers

- Lymm's demonstration with Angela Turner
- Neston's morning with Jekka McVicar
- Tarvin Gardening society with Don Billington
- Bramhall Methodist Church Flower Festival last November – Book of photographs and texts for sale
- Date for Diary – Area Social Day – 4 July.

Many thanks to Maureen and Anne for their help with club packs and registration today.

b) Treasurer – Tracy-Anne Clancy read by Nicky Wylie

- All affiliation Fees have been received: £15,882.90 and paid 12/2018 to NAFAS HQ.
- Signatories on our Barclay Bank Account have been updated

New procedures for expenses

Moving to a new expense claim system to legalise allowances with the Inland Revenue.

This is going to be with immediate effect, being back dated to 1st October 2018.

- Expenses for travel: 45p per mile
- Receipts for other expenses
- Expense Claim Forms and Explanatory notes will be sent in due course to those affected by this.
- Payments will be made quarterly on completed signed forms, ideally BACS.

Questions to: treasurer@nafascheshire.org.uk

Budgets for 2019

- Arley Show in June – up to £630
- Publicity Leaflets – up to £170
- Club support for National Flower arranging day 4/5/19 - £20 per club from Area (photos required)
- Cheshire Show – given £300 to buy new staging.

Bank Balances

The balances on all our bank accounts (as at 04.02.19) are as follows:

Barclays Bank - Current Account (F&GP) £28,556.79 analysed as follows:

- General Purpose £20,702.26 (£8,457.36 raised for Chelsea)
- Trading £6,532.53
- Chaffinches £1,322

Barclays Bank - Savings Account - £5,192.86

Nationwide Building Society - £16,608.27

Leek United Building Society – £10,000(1yr Bond) £5,000(2yr Bond)

Other Bank Accounts held at Barclay include Flower Arranger and JDS&E accounts

c) Publicity – Catherine Bower

Flower Arranger

- Spring edition received 17 January 2019 – designs by Cheshire members included in 'You Be The Judge'
- Please ask your CFAO to notify any outstanding missing orders/copies by Friday 8th February 2019
- Any change of orders or delivery address – please let me have details by Monday - 11th February 2019
- Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme – can you return salver at April's Council

Publications

- Few remaining Christmas items at reduced prices
- Free Competition cards – help yourself, will not be stocked at Area.

Publicity

Team

- Mark Entwistle to join Colette and Sally. Need more members.

New web site

- Draft site developed, awaiting clarification of remaining admin items
- Once live, additional features will be added
- For information - NW Area web site under development, page refers to their Facebook page

Facebook

- Continue to maintain Area page and provide guidance to clubs

HQ material

- HQ have produced National material for use at shows

Shows

- Presence at Royal Cheshire Show and Arley Garden Festival
- If you would like to borrow any Area Publicity items, please let me know.

d) NAFAS – Nicky Wylie

- After attending her first NAC in London Nicky reported that HQ and the executive are working really hard to ensure that NAFAS continues and flourishes
- National flower arranging day, 4th May 2019, corporate cards are being produced for the whole country. There is £20 in the kitty to promote this event for each club from Area if they let Area have photos for website of what produced.
- Wafa application forms come out electronically on the 20th February 2019.
www.wafaindia.com
- Provisional residential 7/9 August 2020 in Leicester.

Osborne House

- 75% of the refurbishments have been completed.
- A Heritage Fund has been founded to maintain the building. HQ are selling badges for a £1 and suggesting that Area will have a 5p bowl for meetings. All information in club pack.
- **Diamond Anniversary show August 2019,**
- 1000 tickets and 600 for the dinner have been pre sold.
- No charges for demos.
- FLOOS now attending for free. (floos.org- floral recipes from the masters)
- Commemorative wall of flowers will be erected. Each flower will have a tag or memory to be paid for.
- Afternoon tea etiquette talk.

e) Finance and General Purposes –Nicky Wylie

- Insurance- we will be reassessing the insurance of the Area over the next year. Clubs are invited to let the committee know the cost, date of issue and what it covers so that they can see if they can get it cheaper.
- Cheshire area will be hosting the 2020 Pre-National Assessments and National Demonstrators Tests in April 22-23rd 2020 at Northwich Memorial Court.

Chaffinches – Sharon Nolan

- Neil Whittaker ran a workshop for Chaffinches, 3 did not make it. Others were invited instead, - it was a great success. Floral classes seem to be in demand locally.
- No more Chaffinches have joined. The chaffinch model needs to be thought through again.
- An initial approach has been made to 'High life' (a lottery- funded organisation) to combat loneliness for the over 50's' for funding to give free visitors tickets to flower clubs.
- The question was asked of the meeting 'Do they charge for carers? Feedback was 'No'.

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

- The Designer of the Year elimination competition. Only one person has applied so far.
- Per Benjamin demonstration- Chris Gibbons to organise raffle. More tickets need to be sold.

- The Officers approved the budget for the Education Day and it will now go to F&GP.
- Judy Gratton is the New Junior Liaison Officer and will be in charge of 'children's hands on' sessions at the Shows.
- Still a few places on the Judges and Competitors Day on 30th March 2019, exploring Period Flower Arranging. An educational day open to all, covering many historical styles and how they can be staged traditionally or with a contemporary twist.

g) Social – Louise Jones

- Area Lunch Monday 18th March 2019, 12 for 12:30pm at Cranage Hall, Crewe.
- Lunch menu emailed to all clubs and AoHs. Plans well under way.
- Closing date for tickets has been extended to 20th February 2019
- Vegetarian options will have to be requested.
- Tickets will be sent on 22nd February 2019.
- Tombola prizes welcomed. Contact Louise Jones.
- Area Social Day 4th July 2019 at Frodsham Community Centre with Lucy Richardson – National Demonstrator. Date for Diary in packs

h) RHS – Pat Bannister

- Officers have decided that just for this year Area will not be doing an exhibit at the Tatton Show, as we are doing our large exhibit at Chelsea and there are the inevitable constraints on the budget and our talent. At Tatton we also feel that doing a large design as in the past, is not necessarily the way forward.
- Tatton is and will still be a showcase for us, and I think it very important for us to have a presence there. Perhaps next year we can plan a more 'hands on' approach and plan an exhibit to be educationally more interactive. This is something to look at as soon as possible.
- This is Pat's last report as the RHS coordinator, as for the future shows, Pam Mosedale will be in charge.

i) Royal Cheshire County Show Team – Joan Wilkinson

- The overall title this year is 'Phenomena'.
- Two other stands will be added, they will be boxes made by Steve Martin: one on a bench - 'Levitation' and the other on the floor - 'Decay'.
- We will not be enlarging the popular classes, so it's first come, first served.
- Two new trophies from the Area show are going to be awarded to:
Class 11 'Have a go'
'People's choice design', the exhibit, which gains the most votes, from the viewing public.
- The meeting was encouraged to get members to enter the competitions.
- The last demonstration will be something different. Three designers and a whistle. Come and see!
- Volunteers are still always needed, - just two x 1 hour 30 minute stints and free entry.

j) NAFAS Sub Committees:

i) Judges – Pam Fleming-Williams

- No National report.
 - Recently received a statement issued by the National judging Committee regarding comment cards on social media. Distributed to Area Judges.
- Diamond Anniversary Celebration Event**
- Pam encouraged the meeting to attend the Diamond Anniversary Event at the Business Design Centre in London, where the best of British flower arranging will be seen as well as a 100 international displays in August 2019.
 - Pam is handing over to Sue Clissold at the end of March.
 - Next meeting of National Judging Committee 27 February 2019.

ii) Demonstrators – Pat Murphy

- The National Demonstrators' Committee, Elizabeth Graham, Chairperson, Jacqui Arnold, James Burnside, Pam Lewis and Nigel Whyles held a meeting on Tuesday, 29th January, 2019. Notes not yet sent out.
- The Area Demonstrator Representatives met on Wednesday 30th January, 2019 at Osborne House along with 19 other representatives.
- The Chairman asked the committee to promote the National Show in London in August.
- The Reports from the Representatives were then talked through and a question and answer session took place.
- A presentation took place outlining the Guidelines for Area Tests. This was very informative especially for new Representatives who have not organised a Test in their Area yet. A printed hand-out was given to each Representative.
- A PowerPoint presentation was given on the NAFAS Introductory Course for Demonstrators and Judges or anyone who would like to gain knowledge of flower arranging. It was advised that this should take place over 10 weeks.
- The Chairman then informed everyone that the National Tests and Pre-National Assessments would take place in Northwich, Cheshire on Wednesday 22nd April, and Thursday 23rd April 2020.
- An in-house training day will take place at Osborne House on 11th June 2019. It was stressed that candidates must pay all their own expenses for travelling etc. and there is a £5 charge for lunch. There is no charge for the instruction day.
- In the afternoon, four Committee members' demonstrated six designs, featuring hand –tie bunches, tubes and chicken wire on the theme of organic flower arranging.
- The Executive Committee and the National Demonstrators Committee feel that we should be encouraging our demonstrators and members to be more organic in their flower arranging and perhaps demonstrators should arrange two designs without foam in their demonstrations.
- The afternoon concluded with a discussion on organic flower arranging.

iii) Speakers – Carol Black

- No Report. Committee met in autumn but change in staff at HQ has delayed issuing of notes.

iv) Education – Diane Fair

- Education conference 22-24th March 2019 places still available at £375.
- 2 dates for Start a Fashion... 6 April & 4 May – info will be sent to clubs by email.

v) Photography- Pam Mosedale

- **National Photography Competition 2019**
- 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 **Radiant Waters** – a colour landscape or sea scape
- Class 2 **Glistening Frost** – a close up of natural plant materials
- Class 3 **Faceted** – a plant or flower image involving manipulation
- Class 4 **Diamond Geezer** – black and white
- Class 5 **Celebration** – novice class of a floral design
- Class 6 **A Dazzling Day Out** – junior class
- The closing date is Sunday 30th June 2019 and is open to all NAFAS members.
- Winning images will be displayed at the Floral Art & Design Show in London 8 - 10 August.
- **Royal Cheshire Show Photography Competition 2019**
- The schedule has been published on the Area's website and the Show's website.
- There are 5 classes

- Class 1 **Earth's treasures** (Landscape or garden scene)
- Class 2 **Natural phenomenon** (Open to interpretation)
- Class 3 **It's magic** (Open to interpretation)
- Class 4 **Decay** (Close up detail of natural plant material)
- Class 5 **Wire, wood and wool** (Monochrome or black and white – and open to interpretation)
- The entry fee is £1 per photograph and the closing date is Thursday 30th May 2019. The competition is open to everyone.
- Our judge this year is Janet Reeder from Cheshire Life.
- **Cheshire Area Calendar**
- We will produce a Cheshire Area calendar this year. We would like to include some of your photographs that represent all the good things about the organisation.
- Please send me any photographs you feel would be appropriate by the end of May in a JPEG format to – photography@nafascheshire.org.uk.
- Members will be able to choose the photographs for the calendar at the June Council meeting.

vi) Junior Liaison - Judy Gratton

No Report

6. Chelsea 2019 - Nicky Wylie

- Sponsorship has been sought from Oasis, Country Baskets and De Beers.
- Sponsorship for Van hire.
- 330 tickets have been sold for Per Benjamin. Encouragement to sell more to make a profit.
- E- mailed 30 local florists with details.

7. Any Other Business:

- When is the web site going to be finished? Do not know yet.
- Questions asked about 'Flower Arranger' delivery. It seems it can only be sent to a named person.
- Has Per Benjamin been advertised to florists? Most of the florists have been leafleted.
- It was pointed out that the big firms such as ASDA would put up flyers in their staff rooms.
- Neston club advertised: Jekka McVicar and her book signing on 21/03/19 at Neston Civic Hall 10.00am.
- Tarvin Gardening Society advertised: Don Billington for his national collection of Bromeliads on 19/03/19 at Tarvin Community Centre 8.00pm.
- Pat Bannister was presented with a gift for managing the RHS Show for 7 years.

Val Seed, President, thanked everyone for coming and the hard work that the committees undertake.

Meeting finished at 11:40am

Date of Next Council Meeting: Monday 15 April 2019

10am Coffee/tea Meeting 10:30am

Plumley Village Hall

Signed.....

Dated.....