

## **THE CHESHIRE AREA OF NAFAS**

### **Minutes of 49th Annual General Meeting held at Frodsham Community Centre, Fluin Lane, Frodsham Thursday 3 October 2019**

**PRESENT:** Mrs Nicky Wylie, Chairman. Mrs Chris Gibbons, 1st Vice Chairman, Mrs Louise Jones, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman, Mrs Tracy-Anne Clancy, Area Treasurer, Mrs Morag McCord, Area Secretary, Mrs Shiona Fosh, Minutes Secretary.

President Mrs Val Seed sent her apologies and love and wished the meeting a great day. Area Chairman, Nicky Wylie, opened the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Val Seed, President and AOH. Ann Cox, AOH. Margaret Standley, NAOH and AOH. Sue Jackson, AOH. Disley and District Flower Club, Handbridge Flower Club, Macclesfield Flower Club, Tunstall and District Flower Club, Wistaston and District Flower Club, Wilmslow and District Flower Club, Heald Green Flower Club, Sharon Nolan, Chaffinches, Liz Kennan, Carol Black, AOH, Area Speakers Representative and Catherine Bower, Area Flower Arranger Officer.
2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** (October 2018): The Chairman signed the Minutes of the previous meeting as a true and correct record of the meeting.
3. **AMENDMENTS:** No amendments
- 3a. **MATTERS ARISING:** None
4. **AREA CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS :** Nicky Wylie
  - Nicky thanked all the clubs for fund raising for the Diamond Anniversary last year. It enabled them to send a wonderful, hard -working team to Chelsea to gain a Silver Gilt Medal and the trip broke even.
  - The area affiliation fees are not going up this year but the HQ affiliation fees are going up by 25p.

#### **5. PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT - Tracy-Anne Clancy**

The headlines are as follows:

- Our main source of income was from Affiliation Fees, based on 43 Clubs with a total membership of 2,718 (prior year 2,895 members)
- Our reported loss for the year was £1,055, however, if the income for Chelsea, raised in prior years (which amounted to £5,606) was included, our surplus for the year would be £4,551
- Our total Funds held at the Bank and Building Societies plus Cash in Hand amounts to £67,376 (the analysis is provided)

Our main source of income for running the Cheshire Area of NAFAS was generated from the Affiliation Fees paid by Clubs. This totalled £23,783 in 2018/19. We were obliged to pay NAFAS HQ £15,833 (rate set and agreed by HQ). The net amount for Area was £7,900. This was used to finance the running of the committees (room hire and travelling expenses totalling £2,352), facility charges (including our insurance) and to support events both locally and nationally.

During the year, Cheshire Area organised and provided a number of services and events. These are presented in the Income and Expenditure statement. JDS&E events, Trading, Flower Arranger Magazines and Area events (including AGM, Area Lunch and Area Social Day) all covered their costs with the Social Day generating a surplus of £1,083.

Cheshire Area was represented at the Arley Garden Festival. A first prize for the exhibit meant that the costs of staging were offset by the prize money of £250. Other income received at the event resulted in a shortfall of only £84.

Royal Cheshire County Show was once again supported by Area funds. A total of £1,816 was expended allowing us to support and showcase our flower arranging talents.

The RHS Tatton exhibit was scaled down this year, being a selection of ice-cream cones. Total expenditure was £274 partly offset by a £100 donation from the RHS (for a fourth cone at their request) and cash realised from the sell off on the last day.

Fundraising for 'Chelsea' had commenced in 2016/17 and therefore funds raised in prior years (amounting to £5,606) need to be taken into account to ensure a true matching of income with costs. The Chelsea Team not only achieved a Silver-Gilt for Cheshire but successfully managed costs ensuring a small surplus of £73. Other National Events supported included the WAFSA elimination competition (Dawn Weaver) as well as contributions from Area to Clubs to support National Flower Arranging Day in May. The Neil Whittaker workshop held in October, attended by Chaffinches, was within budget - a small surplus of £64 is reported.

Our £5,000 one year bond at the Leek Building Society matured in July realising interest of £37.50. All funds plus interest have been transferred into the F&GP main Barclays Account.

CHESHIRE AREA OF NAFAS						
Income & Expenditure Account						
for the year ended 31st July 2019						
Income	2019	2019	Expenditure	2019	2019	
	£	£		£	£	
Affiliation Fees	23,783.30		Affiliation Fees to HQ	15,882.90		
Facilities	94.63		Facilities	988.30		
Referrals	236.72		Committee Expenses:			
Council Raffles	289.16		Officers & F&GP	668.55		
			Social	325.01		
			Publicity	43.71		
			JDS&E	552.85		
			Council	1,267.87		
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>24,383.81</b>	<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>19,739.19</b>	
JDS&E Events	4,120.00		JDS&E Events	3,983.35		
Publications / Trading	1,975.11		Publications / Trading	1,687.89		
Flower Arranger	7,096.50		Flower Arranger	6,850.88		
Area AGM (Business)	-		Area AGM (Business)	457.67		
Area AGM (Entertainment)	1,770.50		Area AGM (Entertainment)	944.70		
Area Lunch	6,329.25		Area Lunch	6,338.67		
Area Social Day	2,506.20		Area Social Day	1,423.60		
Arley Garden Festival	401.29		Arley Garden Festival	485.32		
Royal Cheshire County Show	-		Royal Cheshire County Show	1,815.70		
RHS Tatton (Exhibit)	135.00		RHS Tatton (Exhibit)	273.70		
RHS Chelsea (Competition)	15,683.12		RHS Chelsea (Competition)	21,216.38		
Other National Events	-		Other National Events	618.23		
Chaffinches	785.49		Chaffinches	721.00		
Other Events & Miscellaneous	971.05		Other Events & Miscellaneous	703.53		
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>41,773.51</b>	<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>47,520.62</b>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>66,157.32</b>			<b>67,259.81</b>	
<b>Loss for the Year before Interest</b>		<b>- 1,102.49</b>				
Bank & Building Society Interest		47.96				
<b>Loss for the Year after Interest</b>		<b>- 1,054.53</b>				
Chelsea Funds from Prior Years		5,606.00				

Tracy-Anne presented and explained the financial statement in a very clear manner.

*Adoption of Accounts: Proposed by: Area Treasurer. Seconded by: Lymn Flower Club.*

*All agreed*

#### 6. **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REVIEWER for 2019-2020**

Cheshire NAFAS accounts did not need to be professionally audited so Tracy-Ann proposed that they should be independently reviewed. She asked if anyone knew anybody suitably qualified for the job, to let her know.

*Proposed by: Tarporley Flower Club. Seconded by: Prestbury Flower Club*

*All agreed.*

#### 7. **SECRETARY'S REPORT: Morag McCord**

Issued today:

- a) Agenda
- b) Annual Report with forth coming events.
- c) Financial Statements.
  - Area held 4 Council meetings at Plumley Village Hall, an AGM at Tarvin Community Centre. Morag thanked the ladies of F&GP committee for all their generous help with registration and issuing the club packs at all the meetings.
  - Minutes have been sent out to all clubs, Area Officers and most AOH by email and in the main had been successful. However, please ensure they are sent to a suitable person who has the facility to pass the information to all club members.
  - My sincere thanks to Shiona Fosh, Area Minute Secretary, who has been doing a wonderful job over the past year.
  - If you need any help or information regarding Area, please continue to contact me and I will do my best to help or direct you to the relevant person to deal with the query.

**8. PUBLICITY COMMITTEE REPORT : Sally Melvin**

The Chairman announced that due to ill health Catherine Bower had resigned her publicity post. Sally Melvin has stepped in to cover her position this year.

- Sally covered for Arley Hall Show and The Royal Cheshire Show last year.
- Ideas welcomed to increase new membership.
- To promote NAFAS Sally wanted clubs to send her photos to display at Shows to celebrate what the clubs were doing.
- Nicky Wylie announced that Cheshire Area was having a new website and quotes are in progress.

*Adoption of Reports: Proposed: Goostrey Flower Club, Seconded: Romiley Flower Club.  
All agreed*

**9. CONFIRMATION OF PRESIDENT : Val Seed** wished to carry on in the Post of President next year.

**10. CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMAN : Nicky Wylie**

**11. CONFIRMATION OF 1<sup>st</sup> VICE CHAIRMAN : Chris Gibbons**

**12. CONFIRMATION OF 2<sup>nd</sup> VICE-CHAIRMAN : Louise Jones**

*All agreed with a show of hands.*

**13. RE-ELECTION OF SECRETARY : Morag McCord**

**14. RE-ELECTION OF TREASURER : Tracy-Anne Clancy**

**15. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTE SECRETARY : Shiona Fosh**

**16. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a) Finance and General Purposes : Nicky Wylie**

Nicky thanked the committee for their hard work over the past year, overseeing budgets and procedures to be presented to Council and their input of ideas to ensure the smooth running of the Area.

**Chaffinches – Sharon Nolan**

There were currently 6 active affiliated members. Members joined for a variety of different reasons and have attended Area events and workshops and assisted at the Royal Cheshire County Show.

**Photography - Pam Mosedale**

- National Photography Committee

The national committee organises the national photography competition and produce the NAFAS YouTube channel videos. No Area representative meetings had taken place this year. Not all Areas have a Photography Representative and the national committee decided not to hold any reps. meetings.

- 2018 AGM & Demonstration

Last year's AGM and demonstration by Kate Kerr at Tarvin photos made it onto our Facebook page and website.

- Per Benjamin demonstration at Crewe

This was a great afternoon and produced some fabulous images of the designs and the audience. Lots of smiling faces and great lighting on the stage – most unusual for a NAFAS event!

- Education Day and Period Workshop

Both events were held at Plumley and the photographs were on the website.

- Royal Cheshire County Show Photography Competition

The competition was organised on behalf of the show and was open to everyone, not just NAFAS members.

The competition titles were taken from the floral design schedule:

Class 1 Earth's treasures

Class 2 Natural phenomenon

Class 3 It's magic

Class 4 Decay

Class 5 Wire, wood and wool

- There were 94 entries in total from 13 entrants
- 6 non Cheshire Area NAFAS members entered
- The Visitor Vote winner was Mavis Wilkinson for her Class 1 first prize image

All the prize winning designs at Cheshire Show were published on the Area website, however photos of the winners collecting their prizes did not get published. Let Pam know if entrants would like their photographs emailing to them.

- Social Day

Images of speaker, Juliet Lawson and demonstrator, Lucy Richardson and her work were on the Area website.

- RHS Tatton

There were lots of photos of our 4 ice cream cones at this year's show but they didn't make it on to the website.

- Cheshire Area's 2020 Calendar

NAFAS HQ was not creating calendars any more so Pam had a go instead. Thank you for selecting images from this year's Cheshire Show photography competition to include in our own Cheshire 2020 calendar.

Cheshire Area members had taken the photographs. Just 100 calendars had been produced in a long slim format. These were now available for purchase at £5 per copy.

- Volunteer for the Photography Representative role

There was now a vacancy for the role of Cheshire Area Photography Representative. Pam had completed 3 years as the photography representative and with more involvement with RHS Tatton, it was time for someone else to take on the role.

#### **b) JDS&E: Chris Gibbons**

- Many members of this committee have served for long periods of time, some as long as 20 years. Four members are not standing for re-election.
- Sally Dyke, Treasurer, who has handled the finances for a long time with great efficiency.
- Marilyn Lloyd, who has turned up very early in the mornings to assist the representatives, as they have put on the various training and refresher days.
- Pat Murphy, Demonstrators Representative who has undertaken the training of new demonstrators and supported them as they have gained experience demonstrating in the area.
- Carol Black, Speakers Representative, who has also undertaken the training of new speakers and supported them during their learning curve.

All of the duties undertaken by these ladies have been done with a high level of skill and dedication, and we have all benefitted from their service to the Cheshire Area. I would like to thank them all on your behalf and wish them well in their retirement from the committee.

- Diane Fair will be now becomes the Demonstrators Representative, with the other positions being filled in due course. Members will be informed through Council when this happens.
- We will be updating our plans to encompass new and exciting trends, as and when they happen, this will help us to stay relevant in the flower world. Let us embrace changes and show everyone what NAFAS can do and Cheshire Area in particular.

#### **c) Social Committee: Louise Jones**

- I started my time as 2nd Vice Chairman with the demonstration at the AGM with Kate Kerr – 'Found and Fashioned'. She inspired us with her use of anything she could find. A wonderful demonstration, which was very funny.
- We then had our Area Lunch at our new venue of Cranage Hall Hotel. It is a beautiful venue, and nothing was too much trouble for the staff. Everyone I spoke to had enjoyed the day. A huge THANK YOU to Pat Murphy and Eleanor Griffiths for their excellent demonstration.
- Social Day went well. The speaker, Juliet Lawson, gave an interesting talk about her very varied life, entitled 'All of my days'- interspersed with songs.  
Lucy Richardson's demonstration – 'Floral Anthology' had a modern approach and many beautiful ideas.
- Finally, many thanks to the Social Committee for all their support and help and everyone who helps in any way at any of the events.

#### **d) Royal Cheshire County Show Team: Joan Wilkinson.**

We had a very good show with plenty of entries.

- Phenomenon was the overall title including Whirlwind, Decay and Seven Wonders. New boxes had been made which proved very popular one with "Levitation" on the bench and "Decay" on the marquee floor.
- "Have a go at the Cheshire Show" proved to be a great hit with both the competitors and the public and was so well supported that we increased the entries from 12 to 24 and split the class in two for ease of judging.
- The winner of the novice and newcomers side of this class was Anne Bingham-Holmes whose design not only won this class but was also judged "Best in Show" and Pat Bannister won the winner of the more advanced arrangers, many congratulations to them both for two completely different but stunning designs.
- This year we had a very popular "People's Choice". In total 1400 votes were cast over the whole show and the eventual winner was Dorothy Monks with her stunning interpretation of Tsunami, which not only won the class and the People's Choice but was also voted Runner Up to Best in Show.

- Bramall Hall Flower Club produced a very innovative design interpreting Earthquake but the eventual winner was Wirral Lifelong Learning Services whose Liverpool skyline was brilliantly interpreted using a tremendous amount of craft work and imagination, congratulations to both the teams for their hard work.
- We had plenty of visitors for both the Children's Hands On and the Adults Hands On where once again Pam Dimeloe came up an effective way of using honesty to create a flower to be worn as a buttonhole. She has already told us that she knows exactly what she is going to do for next year's show and we can't thank her enough for her dedication and enthusiasm.
- We have already put together the schedule for next year's show which will be entitled "Beyond Imagination" which will contain the title "Have a go at the Cheshire Show" as the novice class and "It'll Come in Handy" for the rest of you who have bought numerous containers and stands that are languishing in the backs of cupboards waiting for the perfect moment to use them.
- My thanks go to a wonderful committee and my very efficient co-chairman, a massive thank you to all those of you who entered this show, it is after all the only area show that we have to show case our skills, without you no-one would know what a very talented county we have.

**e) RHS Tatton : Pam Mosedale**

**• RHS Tatton 2019**

We only had a small presence at RHS Tatton this year due to our commitments at RHS Chelsea.

Four Cheshire Area members created some 'ice cream' cones for display in the Flower School at the show. The RHS provided the wicker cones and the structure. We provided flowers and the knowledge and skill to create some fabulous coloured 'flavours'.

**• RHS Tatton 2020**

The RHS would like us to move away from our traditional approach of creating a large impactful exhibit and follow their theme of the 'Flower School' with more involvement from the public and RHS members. They would also like us to use less floral foam and develop practical skills on how to do things rather than just passively looking at fabulous designs.

A huge thank you for all your suggestions about what we can do at Tatton next year. Discussions with RHS Tatton are on-going.

**17. NAFAS REPORT : Nicky Wylie**

- Thank you to everyone for all their hard work.
- Nicky invited members to attend their meetings, as she wanted everything to be transparent and open. They should let her know if they are attending.
- Congratulations to Eleanor Griffiths who won "Best in Show" at the National Show and the WAFSA award which included a trip to New Zealand in 2023.
- The new CEO, Stephen Lane, of NAFAS is going to be in full time employment.
- Stephen is going to create a new corporate image for NAFAS.

**18. NAFAS SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a) Judges: Sue Clissold**

No Report

**b) Demonstrators : Pat Murphy**

- The National Demonstrators Committee met three times last year under the chairmanship of Elizabeth Graham with Jacqui Arnold, James Burnside, Pam Lewis and Nigel Whyles on the committee.
- A Demonstrator's Representatives Day took place on the 30 January 2019. Nineteen representatives attended.
- A Demonstrators' Bulletin was produced in Spring 2019.
- Pre-National Assessments and National Tests are scheduled to take place on Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 April 2020 in Northwich, Cheshire.

**c) Speakers: Carol Black**

No Report

**d) Education: Diane Fair**

- Area Education Day 26<sup>th</sup> October 2019
- A three day full course is being planned for demonstrating and judging next year.

**e) Junior Liaison: Judy Gratton**

- There has been no national meeting of Junior Liaison Officers.
- During my year in this role I have approached 8 Areas of NAFAS who have junior flower arranging clubs and have analysed their feedback.

- Junior members come from after school clubs, local shows, Young Farmers, church groups and flower clubs, and workshops vary from monthly to quarterly.
- Funding is varied. In some areas Area pays for the venue hire and in others the junior members pay. Junior members bring their own foliage and flowers. Tutors claim out of pocket expenses.
- For anyone interested in setting up an after school club I have produced a document outlining the steps needed and the paperwork and regulatory requirements.
- Should clubs want to pursue setting up a junior club please contact me and I am more than willing to assist.
- Unfortunately Nantwich Agricultural Show 2019 was cancelled due to the condition of the ground.
- I have recently run a workshop with Appleton Thorn Rainbows, who made an arrangement in a teacup. There were definitely some budding flower arrangers present!
- In 2020 I will be assisting with the hands on workshops at Cheshire Agricultural Show.

*Adoption of Sub Committee and NAFAS sub-committee reports en bloc,  
Proposed: Winwick Flower Club, Seconded: Macclesfield Flower Club.  
All agreed.*

**19. ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO NAFAS**

- a) Judges – Sue Clissold.
- b) Demonstrators – Diane Fair
- c) Speakers – Kathleen Williams
- d) Education – Chris Gibbons to stand in.
- e) Junior Liaison - Judy Gratton.

*Adoption of NAFAS Representatives en bloc,  
Proposed: Sale Flower Club, Seconded: Stockport Afternoon Flower Club.  
All agreed.*

**20. AOB**

1. Nicky Wylie reported that ‘You be the judge’ was so successful at the Cheshire Show that they will be giving out 2 free tickets next year to the public who posted a vote, to attend their nearest flower club.
2. New Brighton Club reported that they had great success when giving out free tickets.
3. Nicky reminded us that it is the Area’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year.
4. Nicky appealed for new ideas to draw members to the AGM as numbers were dropping.
5. Elworth Flower Club said they encouraged new members by posting flower flyers into ‘new build’ properties in the area. Free first visit and bring a friend. It had produced 16 new people.
6. Kathleen Williams Group 2000, reminded members that Joan Wilkinson had a range of stands etc. to be borrowed in her barn. Inventory and photos were on the Cheshire website.
7. Group 2000 were thanked for the floral arrangements for the AGM.
8. Diane Fair presented Pat Murphy with a ‘thank you’ for all her hard work.
9. Chris Gibbons gave a short speech thanking her again.
10. The Area representation at the Macclesfield Show, organised by Chris Middleton, showed a lot of public interest.
11. Nicky had sent Keith Smithies family a card of condolences. Keith had been a member of Neston FC.

Meeting finished at 11:15am

**22. DATE OF NEXT AGM**

**Thursday, 1 October 2020.**

**Frodsham Community Centre,  
Fluin Lane, Frodsham WA6 7QN  
!0am for 10:30am**

Signed .....

Date .....