

The Cheshire Area of NAFAS
Minutes of Area Council Meeting held at Plumley Village Hall
Monday 24th June 2019

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

President Remarks: The Chelsea Team was publically thanked for all their hard work on achieving a silver-gilt medal at Chelsea. They were presented with presents and a glass of 'bubbly'.

Chairman's Remarks:

- The Chelsea team was thanked for their hard work and getting on with each other so well at Chelsea.
- Catherine Bower is in hospital and therefore has relinquished the Publicity Officer's role but she is keeping the Area Flower Arranger's post.
- Joan Wilkinson and Gill Davies were thanked for their organisation and hard work at the Royal Cheshire Show.
- Thanked Sally Melvin for stepping into the Publicity role and winning Gold at the Arley Hall Garden Festival with Anne Evans and Marie Cunniff.
- Thanked Chris Middleton and Jackie Pemberton for their hard work at the Macclesfield Garden Festival.

1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Catherine Bower, Area Flower Arranger officer and Publicity, Hoylake FC, Wilmslow Afternoon FC and Wirral FC.

2.MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15th April 2019 were agreed and signed by Nicky as correct.

3.MATTERS ARISING: None

4.CORRESPONDENCE: No correspondence.

5.REPORTS:

a) Secretary – Morag McCord

Reminders:

- With several new delegates present, please all sign in beside your club name and collect the club packs.
- Delegates advise club committee as soon as possible after Council of any business requiring action. Take notes of the meeting as minutes will be issued later
- Only one vote per club
- Let me know of any changes to your club officers forms as soon as possible and if your delegates are unable to attend Council, contact me beforehand if you are sending another member. My apologies if there were badges missing today.

Correspondence:

- Received several email enquiries regarding club meetings and demonstrators.
- May have new members directed to the clubs.

In Packs:

- Agenda
- Officers Nomination Form for AGM
- Christmas order form to be completed by the 30th August 2019.
- Flyer and ticket application form for AGM and Demonstration.
- Flower Arranger Order form 2020 and dates for change in orders.
- Flyers for several club events.

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

Minutes of previous meeting – Appendix 1&2 were not sent out to clubs with minutes – will send them out by email to Club contacts.

b) Treasurer – Tracy-Anne Clancy

• **Finance**

The balances on the accounts as at 24.06.2019 are as follows:

Barclays Bank - Current Account (F&GP) £16,605.90

Barclays Bank – Savings Account £5,200.63

Nationwide Building Society - £16,608.27

Leek United Building Society - £10,000 (1 yr. Bond) & £5,000 (2yr Bond)

• **Expenses**

The new process for claiming mileage expenses, if undertaking Cheshire Area business is working well. It should be noted that Officers / Committee members can claim mileage to events if they are actually part of making the event happen - not just for turning up! We don't all get free tickets to events!

• **National Flower Arranging Day**

Only 4 clubs claimed the £20 offered to support National Flower Arranging Day. Photos required of your exhibit to claim the £20.

• **'Chelsea Chat'**

The total income raised by Cheshire Area clubs was £12,546 which when added to the £6,500 from NAFAS plus £1,070 from the 'sell-off' at Chelsea gave a grand total of £20,116. Actual expenditure paid out so far is £20,987.55 (in excess of income by £871.55). Although there is some income from goods for sale at Cheshire Show. The 'big' costs totalling (£15,746) were as follows:

Flowers for the Exhibit £5,494.40 (excl. VAT saving over £1,000)

Diamond £5,100

Travel £2,474 (to date)

Base & Electrics £2,678

A full detailed analysis will be provided in due course.

• **Arley Garden Festival**

Well done and thank you to Upton-by -Chester Flower club who created the exhibit at the Arley Garden Festival this year. A stunning design which earned them a Gold Award and a cheque for £250. Additionally the team were presented a further cheque for £50. Costs were £298.56. Great budgeting ladies! The hands on etc raised an additional £66 (net).

• **Christmas Order**

I am managing the Christmas order this year. Information is in your packs. The deadline is 30th August 2019 as I need to send the order to HQ by 1st September and hopefully have them to you at the AGM. Lets hope the diaries have the correct bank holiday date in (8th May)!

c) Publicity – Catherine Bower

• **Flower Arranger**

No increase in price.

Order form for 2020 and dates for extra copies in packs today.

• **Publicity**

Area leaflet was updated.

• **Web site**

Still waiting for new website which may be finished by the end of the year.

• **Facebook and YouTube**

Information and pictures about Chelsea.

d) NAFAS – Nicky Wylie

No report.

- Excellent new CEO of Nafas, Steven Lane. He is changing the website to be more secure.

- Encouraged to subscribe to the new national website when it is up and running.

e) Finance and General Purposes –Nicky Wylie

No report

i)Chaffinches – Sharon Nolan

- Membership remains at 8.
- Changing model of approach: inviting new members to area events not necessarily to all- inclusive workshops, as members join for different reasons.
- No more prizes needed for Tombola at the moment.

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

No report

g) Social– Louise Jones

- Tickets are selling slowly for Area Social Day 4th July 2019 at Frodsham Community Centre, encouraged to sell more.
- Area AGM 3rd October 2019, Tom Hodge from Southport will be demonstrating.
- Area lunch 16th March 2020 at Cranage at the same cost £28 this does not include the entertainment.
- New National demonstrators will be looked at, at the National Show.

h) RHS – Pam Mosedale

- No competitive exhibit at RHS Tatton in 2019
Three large cones designed by Val Seed, Chris O'Hara and Sharon Nolan are to be displayed at Tatton 2019. The RHS is providing everything except the flowers.
- The Flower School's layout/plan has not been finalised and released so far. Our draft risk assessment has been produced ready for when the RHS send through the link to their online portal. We can then arrange passes etc. to access the site. I need a copy of the Area's public liability insurance as well.
- I would welcome some guidance from the Area leadership team about what's our purpose in being at the RHS Tatton Show e.g. what are we trying to achieve, what are our objectives, should we involve clubs more, what measures could we use etc. etc. We should also establish what the RHS want from us and how their objectives fit with ours to ensure they are aligned. This is something I hope to do with Natalie Gearing and Isobel Coulter, including a little help from Pat Bannister.
- Plans need to be discussed and agree in the Autumn to meet the RHS application timetable

i)Royal Cheshire County Show Team – Joan Wilkinson

- This year's show was a great success despite the mud. The new mechanics have proved very popular - the boxes on the bench produced some wonderful interpretations of Levitation and the boxes on the floor with the title Decay created a lot of interest.
- The judges said that the standard of the work was exceptionally high and all exhibitors were to be congratulated on their inspirational work.
- Introduced a "You Be The Judge" vote - each design was given a unique number and stewards handed out cards for the public to vote for their favourite design in the show. First day printed off 1000 cards but before the end of the day they had all gone, so another 1000 were printed off by Gill and the total number of votes cast was 1400. This exercise meant the stewards were able to chat to the public not only about the designs in their section but also about flower clubs in general, all in all it was well worth doing. The winner Mrs Dorothy Monks deserved the most votes, our congratulations to her.
- Pam Dimeloe once again volunteered her services for the adult's hands on section and had the public producing some really interesting flowers using cardboard, honesty pods, buttons and flower heads. The children could create a flower with a face and this proved to be extremely popular.
- We had the usual demonstrations by Mark Entwistle, Alison Cooper and Eleanor Griffiths but on the last day for the last demonstration we did something a little different. We had three demonstrators, Dorothy, Val and Eleanor with their own containers and their own flowers, demonstrating at the same time. When a whistle was blown they all moved round and tackled their neighbours design.
- A class entitled 'Have a go at the Cheshire Show', proved so popular that we kept it open and ended up with 26 entries. As this was a large number to judge and also to spread the

prizes through, it was split into two and Pat Bannister won one section and Anne Bingham-Holmes winning the other, also scooping Best in Show award. Dorothy Monks came runner up to Best in Show with her People's Choice design.

- The Have a go at the Cheshire Show class will remain in the schedule next year but will be the novice class but another opportunity to use that container that has been in your cupboard for years gathering dust can be used in a class entitled "It'll Come in Handy".
- I would like to thank all the competitors who entered the show and all the stewards who kept sticky fingers and dogs off the exhibits and sold the idea of You Be The Judge so well to the viewing public.

j) NAFAS Sub Committees:

(i) Judges – Sue Clissold

No National report

- Contact Sue by 30 August 2019 for any ideas for the Refresher Days and any queries or questions, which can be passed onto Sylvia Loader regarding judging.
- All Cheshire area judges have been sent a questionnaire to be return by mid August.
- Meeting at HQ held on 4 June 2019 for potential national judges with 12 in attendance. The judges sent home with homework to be completed and submitted before next meeting on 10 September 2019. Actual test date is scheduled for 9 November 2019.
- Mercia & North Wales have organised a judges training day which we are combining forces with for anyone from our area wishing to become a judge.
- Jackie Charnock has given me the following details:
 - 1) 21/10/19. Introduction to Judging with Margaret Rumens
 - 2) 16/2/20. Oral training day
 - 3) 15/3/20. Practical training day
 - 4) 19/4/20. Written paper training day
 - 5) 17/5/20. Period training day
 - 6) 21/6/20. Mock test with Alan Beatty
 - 7) 12/7/20. Follow up day on mock test with Alan Beatty
 - 8) Monday 7/9/20. Actual test
- All training sessions and tests will be at the Millenium Hall, Cockshutt. Ellesmere, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY12 0JE
- Overall cost is £140 including test
- The Period module is optional and would cost an additional £20
- If you would like to try before deciding then go to first meeting for a cost £20 which if you then decide to go ahead will be deducted from the £140.
- There are five candidates already so please ask your members and get in touch with me by 30 September 2019 at the latest.
Next National meeting 11 September 2019

(ii) Demonstrators – Pat Murphy

No report

(iii) Speakers – Carol Black

No report

(iv) Education – Diane Fair

No report

(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 open to all NAFAS members. Winning images will be displayed at the Floral Art & Design Show in London on the 8th - 10th August.

• **Royal Cheshire Show Photography Competition 2019**

We had five classes at this year's show and our judge, Janet Reeder from Cheshire Life, was very impressed with the quality and standard of the photographs. We had 94 entries. The winner of the most points gained over all in the five classes was Mavis Wilkinson. The winner of the Visitor Votes and £10 prize money was Mavis Wilkinson. All the prize card winner photographs have been published on Area's website. I can email the photographs to the winners if you want them. Copies of the award presentation can be emailed to the winners.

• **Cheshire Area Calendar**

We will produce a Cheshire Area calendar this year because NAFAS HQ is not. What format of calendar would you like? Same at the size and style as the old NAFAS style or a long thin version instead?

The 2020 calendar will be for sale at the Area's AGM in October.

Note: Thank you to the clubs and individuals who gave their preference for the format and style at the end of the Council meeting. There doesn't appear to be a great deal of interest for an Area calendar and we may incur too many costs and very little profit. I will produce a draft calendar and get some quotations but it's unlikely to go ahead if there is limited demand.

(vi) Junior Liaison - Judy Gratton

No report

6.Chelsea 2019 - Nicky Wylie

Thanked the Chelsea team.

7.Any Other Business:

1. A question was asked about where one could see the photos of the Chelsea Show. Nicky Wylie replied that they were on the NAFAS Cheshire website, YouTube, Facebook and there was a book of public comments available from the show.
- 2.Knutsford Flower club advertised their Flower Festival for the 700th anniversary of the church.

Val Seed - President: Thanked everyone for coming and safe journey home.

Meeting finished at 11:25 am

Date of Area AGM: Monday 3rd Oct 2019

Date of Next Council Meeting: Monday 11 Nov 2019

10am Coffee/tea Meeting 10:30am

Plumley Village Hall

Signed.....

Dated.....