

THE CHESHIRE AREA OF NAFAS

Minutes of 50th Annual General Virtual Meeting Friday 2nd October 2020

PRESENT: Nicky Wylie, Chairman, Louise Jones, 2nd Vice Chairman, Tracy-Anne Clancy, Area Treasurer, Morag McCord, Area Secretary, Shiona Fosh, Minutes Secretary.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Ann Meacher – AOH, Diane Fair – AOH and Area Demonstrators Rep., Shirley Robinson – AOH, Pam Dimeloe – AOH, Lynn Breeze – AOH, Sue Jackson – AOH, Handbridge FC, Heswall FC, Tunstall & District FC, Winwick FC, Lorraine Fitches – JDS&E, Margaret Delany – JDS&E, Kathleen Williams- Area Speakers Rep. Chris Gibbons -1st Vice Chairman.
2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** (October 2019): The Chairman signed the Minutes of the previous meeting as a true and correct record of the meeting.
Proposed by: Macclesfield FC. Seconded by: Elworth FC.

3. **AMENDMENTS:** No amendments

3a. **MATTERS ARISING:** None

4. **AREA CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS** - Nicky Wylie

Welcome, it has been a difficult and bumpy year. I don't think that anyone of us would have predicted that we would be doing this year's AGM virtually, but it has shown us that we can carry on and we can adapt.

- As officers we have met more often virtually than we would have in person and it is something we should embrace. It saves the area money and meetings can be arranged at convenient times.
 - Last year was one of sadness, as we lost our President Val Seed, a rising star from Elworth Flower club Helen Wickham, taken too early and national demonstrator Keith Smithies
 - Cheshire Area 50th Anniversary celebrations had to be put on hold because of Covid 19.
 - Cheshire NAFAS is finding itself in difficult times and we must now adapt to the current climate to ensure that our love of Flower arranging continues virtually if we are unable to meet in person. The new rules are complicated and sometimes difficult to interpretate. However, we can meet in covid secure locations, ensuring social distancing and mingling does not occur. Wistaston & District FC are currently meeting for flowers and chat. They are meeting every week for 5 weeks in a covid free environment, after stringent risk assessments, paying £10 a session and booking on line. They have thoroughly enjoyed themselves. (Jean Jones)
 - I keep hearing that we must keep our members safe, and therefore not meet again till April. I often ask why April as this appears to be the magic date that the virus will disappear. It well might or it could be 2022. Who knows? Does this mean clubs just stop until then? Our members are more than capable to decide for themselves whether they want to come out and socialise again. It's the club's responsibility to ensure that if they do then risk assessments and guidelines are adhered to. My club was due to meet next week, however Stockport is now on a local lock down so we can't. However, 5 of our members decided it wasn't safe for them so we had decided that we were going to video the workshop for them so they could have a go at home. Its thinking differently. We need to embrace the internet and all that its offering. There are now virtual workshops, demonstration on line, talks by designers and judges such as Pip Bensley. We need to share this information with your club members to keep the interest alive.
5. **PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT** - Tracy-Anne Clancy
- Financial statements for the Cheshire Area of NAFAS for the year 1 August 2019 to 31st July 2020. An Income and Expenditure Statement and a Balance Sheet have been prepared (copies have been distributed separately). Although this year 2020 has been seriously impacted by the COVID-19 virus, our accounts reflect 7.5 months of normal operations with everything from mid-March onwards reflecting the impact of lockdown measures and social distancing.

The headlines are as follows:

- Our main source of income is from Affiliation Fees, based on 43 Clubs with a total membership of 2,640 (prior year 2,718 members)
- Our reported loss for the year (after interest) is £6,055. However, this was 'managed' and was not as a result of poor financial control. This is explained in more detail below.
- Our total Funds held at Barclays Bank (at the end of July) plus Cash in Hand amounts to £55,945. This excludes the Flower Arranger Account which is managed separately.
- Our main source of income for running the Cheshire Area of NAFAS is generated from the Affiliation Fees paid by Clubs. This totalled £23,553 in 2019/20. We were obliged to pay NAFAS HQ £16,098 (rate set and agreed by HQ). The net amount for Area was £7,455. This was used to finance the running of all the Committees and Council (room hire and travelling expenses totalling £1,609), development of a new Area Website (£3,105), other facility charges (including our insurance) and to support events both locally and nationally.
- During the year, pre lockdown, Cheshire Area organised and supported a number of workshops and events. 2019/20 was our Golden Anniversary year and our budget for the year, presented and agreed by Council, reflected the spending of accumulated funds to support the development of a new Area Website

and to support the Area Celebratory Anniversary Lunch. Events didn't unfold quite as planned! Please refer to the Income and Expenditure statement:

- JDS&E hosted two Education Day events, although the latter one was only days before the country went into lockdown. Some understandable last-minute cancellations resulted in a small loss (£440) being incurred for the event.
- At our AGM held last October, we enjoyed an afternoon demonstration by Tom Hodge. All expenditure was covered and the AGM event netted a small profit of £128.
- Sales of Christmas cards, diaries and calendars realised a profit of £132.
- Our Area Lunch planned for the 16th March was cancelled at the last minute. The Officers were concerned for the well-being of members and attendees at the lunch, as Covid-19 cases were escalating and (although we didn't know at the time) the country then went into lockdown the following week. The cancellation clause in the contract we had with Cranage needed to be honoured and we were obliged to pay the invoice in full. However, should we hold a similar event in 2021, Cranage will offer us a significant discount on venue costs. Costs of tickets, publicity, flowers, gifts etc for the event have all been expensed in 2019/20 accounts. However, some flowers were sold off, some were used at the Education Day and the gifts are in storage. All members (except 1) who had bought a ticket have been refunded.
- In August 2019, Cheshire Area were pleased to support Mark Entwistle in the 'Designer of the Year' competition. Total costs of £1,743 are included within 'National Events' on the Income and Expenditure statement
- Royal Cheshire County Show was a virtual event this year. Thanks to Gill Davies stepping up to the challenge, Cheshire Area of NAFAS was represented at the show and the virtual 'Theatre of Flowers' was well supported by members (entrants) allowing us to showcase our talents plus all viewers had the opportunity to watch some super demonstrations. Costs incurred were in respect of flowers for the demonstrations.
- Other costs reported in the financial statement are in respect of unknown late expense claims relating to last year.
- Our £10,000 bond at the Leek Building Society matured in July realising interest of £211.39. All funds plus interest have been transferred into the F&GP main Barclays Account. Similarly, the account held at the Nationwide Building Society has been closed and funds transferred into Barclays.

QUESTIONS

- Helen Blackwell: Where do you send a cheque or give a bank transfer for 50% of affiliation fees?
Tracy-Anne – I prefer the money to be transferred to the bank.
Email her for information: tracyanne@hotmail.com
- Is there a time limit for Cranage lunch?
Tracy-Anne – haven't been given any paper work or contract but have just pencilled date in the diary, for possibly next July 2021. We are unlikely to get any credit.
- Jean Jones: Have you thought about next year's affiliation fees for 2021?
Tracy-Anne – We have worked on the calendar year of 2021 and clubs should give what they can afford but Area would like the clubs to pay 50% of what they paid last year. By the end of this calendar year we are hoping to give London some contribution.
- David Mason: Has there been a National policy of refunding membership/affiliation fees?
Tracy-Anne – No, Nothing from National.
- Joan Broughton – should we not keep ourselves to ourselves?
Tracy Ann – We should remain as one unit. We need a small amount of finance to keep things going - website management/ informing members/ insurance etc.
- Chris Middleton – What happens with the insurance situation?
Tracy-Anne – Marsh Insurance has taken over the insurance and we are now being renewed. It is likely we will hear from them in January 2021. Advise to keep paying insurance to cover equipment etc. likely to be £35 a year for the clubs.
- Sharon Nolan - Has heard that Marsh insurance is chasing clubs for money. Post meeting comment –
Adoption of accounts: Proposed by: Area Treasurer. Seconded by: Disley & District FC. All agreed.

6. **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REVIEWER for 2020-2021**

Cheshire NAFAS accounts do not need to be professionally audited so Tracy-Anne proposed that they should be independently reviewed. She asked if anyone knew anybody suitably qualified for the job. She then proposed Ruth MacSweeney who was prepared to do it.

Proposed by: Area Treasurer. Seconded by: Chester FC. All agreed.

7. **SECRETARY'S REPORT** - Morag McCord

a) Area has held 2 Council meetings at Plumley Village Hall and a virtual meeting in July since last AGM. My thanks to the ladies of F&GP committee for their great help with registration and issuing club envelopes at the 2 meetings.

b) Minutes and all relevant information regarding NAFAS have been sent to all clubs, AOHs and Area Officers by email and latterly Club chairmen have received important documentation during these unusual times.

- c) My sincere thanks to Shiona Fosh, Area minute secretary, for the great job she has done including the virtual meeting which was not easy.
- d) It is very important in these uncertain times to keep me informed of any changes to your club details so drop me an email with your details or if I can help you with anything.
- e) Sadly, Wilmslow & District FC has closed so there are now 41 clubs and Chaffinches in the Area. Very importantly, keep in touch with your members, updating them with all the Area information you are sent to encourage them to return to your meetings once it is safe to do so.

8. PUBLICITY COMMITTEE REPORT - Sally Melvin

No report

Adoption of Reports: Ellesmere Port FC. No objections

9. CONFIRMATION OF PRESIDENT: Chris O Hara has kindly agreed to accept this position

10. CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMAN: Louise Jones has stepped up to this position.

As Nicky has explained, Chris Gibbons cannot take over as Area Chairman for personal reasons. We have tried to recruit a 2nd Vice Chairman but with no success. This means that two key roles cannot be filled, and this meant we had to re-think what we do in Area and How we do it.

I have been a member of Cheshire Area of NAFAS for 30 years and there has always been talk of the need to change which I have agreed with – I believe now is the time to do so.

I consider that there are several concerns that we need to take into account when looking at moving forward:

- Many members are not able/not willing to make the 6-year commitment to be Area Chairman.
- Many members go on long holidays and some felt that they cannot commit to serving on our present committee structure.
- It is presently a large committee structure that was created some time to meet the needs at that time. Life has changed and is continually changing, and we need a committee structure which is more suitable for today.
- Covid19 has made us think again about all that we do, and we need a structure that can aid these changes.

It was felt that this was good time to stop look at what we are doing and think about how we can encourage and resource area better – a chance to improve, a structure that is fit for purpose.....

What the Area Officers are looking at is making a fresh start trying to consider a structure that we feel will help us.

I hope that we can as an Area pull together to make the changes we need to and move forward to have an Area that is able to help and resource the clubs in the area.

A new structure has been created which I believe will be a better fit for the work that we have to do - It is envisaged that we run this structure for 12-18 months, and we will then review the system.

Strategy Team: Will have oversight of the Area, Appointment of Reps, Appointment of Club Reps.

Overall Budget for the Area.

Feedback of info from/to National Council and other relevant bodies.

CAN: Will discuss all area events.

Consider any ideas sent to the CAN Team and make decisions on events/tasks/projects that the Area will undertake

Designated reps: Bring reports on their area of work, Any ideas thoughts for events etc. Any reports from National meetings or national correspondence.

Club Reps: Bring thoughts/ideas to the CAN Team.

Liaise with Clubs regarding ideas/events that they think Area should consider.

Publicity Team: Be involved in publicity at Area Events, continue with ongoing social media.

Social Team: To work with various event teams to provide help with refreshments and any other duties to ensure a successful event.

Cheshire Area Clubs and All Cheshire Area Members:

All Clubs and Members can send their ideas to the CAN team.

So Far

We have co-opted two Area Support Officers – Gill Davies and Janet Schofield who will support the Area Officers.

What happens from here?

I will send out the structure (in picture form as well) to all clubs etc in the next week or so. I will also be contacting every person who is presently on JDS&E and F&GP to discuss their role.

We will have an Area Council shortly and I will be asking the Council to adopt this interim structure for the next 12-18 months.

We need to take the best of the past and move forward to the future – and have fun and friendship with our flowers.

QUESTIONS

- Helen Blackwell, Nether Alderley – Who will pay for the online demos?

Louise Jones - Everybody.

- Nicky Wylie – Brilliant change...moving forward, much simpler way of working. Clubs should think about having teams running projects.

No objections to confirmation of position.

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

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

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

Re-election Secretary, Treasurer and Minute Secretary: Knutsford FC. All agreed.

14. **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Already been mentioned in Chairman's remarks. Grateful thanks to all members for help with running the Area.

Chaffinches – Sharon Nolan

The number of affiliated members has never been large but did actively support Area events. It became impossible to offer a varied programme of events so the membership fee for this year was reduced to cover only the national affiliation element. In spite of this, memberships have not been renewed and now stand at 3 persons, through to the end of 2021. '

Photography - Pam Mosedale

- The national committee organise the national photography competition and produce the NAFAS YouTube channel videos. No Area representatives are now invited to attend or join by Zoom.
- 2020 Calendars
Thank you for purchasing almost all of the 100 calendars. A small surplus of £100 was added to Area funds.
- Last year's AGM and demonstration by Tom Hodge photos made it on to our Facebook page and website.
- Royal Cheshire County Show Photography Competition was not held this year so that additional floral design entries could be displayed. However, the show did not take place due to Covid – 19.
- As previously mentioned at the 2018 and 2019 AGM's, there is still a vacancy for the role of Cheshire Area Photography Representative.

Flower Arranger- Catherine Bower

- A strange year, with clubs finding ways to distribute magazines. A big thank you to members who helped make it happen
- Muir Simpson has resigned from the Editorial team and Ann Harding joined as director. Following problems making local distribution of magazine, the Editorial Team discussed the option of giving members free access to online version of the magazine, however the Board did not support this. Due to impact of covid, Sylvia, distribution officer at HQ has been subject to spells of furlough. This has resulted in her not being available to deal with queries in her usual prompt manner
- Lack of face to face contact has added to difficulty making payments for a 2020 order, totalling £64.50. The Bramhall Hall Flower club are aware of the debt and hope to make payment as soon as possible.
- Each Area receives a promotional discount for each copy purchased. This covers admin items e.g. FA Awards, postage of magazines to clubs, Area order of magazines, promotion of the magazine etc. Area order is used to satisfy additional copies for members and sale at shows. Orders placed ahead of cancellation of shows, resulting in a small surplus stock. These may be sold at 2021 shows.

• **The Flower Arranger Award**

Congratulations to all who promote our magazine, with special thanks to:-

1st Wistaston & District FC

2nd Leek FC

This year, F&GP supported my proposal for an award for highest number purchased by club - Disley & District FC, with 30 subscriptions. Pam Orton was aware of award before her passing

- 2021 club subscription rates held at £12.80 for 4 editions
Order form forwarded to clubs via email contacts by Area Secretary mid-July requesting orders by 16th November. Due to number of contacts from CFAO re non receipt, email direct to them who provided a contact email
- Contact to Area Flower Arranger officer can be made via: flower.arranger@nafascheshire.org.uk or link on website contact button

b) **Judges, Demonstrators, Speakers and Education – Nicky Wylie**

Information covered by Area Reps

c) **Social Committee - Louise Jones**

- We only held one event this year. This was an inspirational demonstration from Tom Hodge from Southport. The stage looked wonderful and was full of many beautiful flowers.
- Unfortunately, our Area Lunch to celebrate our Golden Anniversary was postponed but, all being well, this will take place in July 2021.
- A huge thank you to the Social Committee for all their hard work and a sad goodbye to Maureen Walker who has had to leave the committee due to grandparenting duties.

d) **Royal Cheshire County Show Team - Joan Wilkinson.**

- Unfortunately, this year we had to cancel the show. The Cheshire Agricultural Society invited NAFAS to participate in putting on a virtual show. The co-chairman organised the website and did a marvellous job under such short notice.
- We have made preparations for next year's show including the ordering of new mechanics which we hope will spark the imagination of our competitors. If it does go ahead, it is our intention to re-print the schedules with the new date and distribute them to all the exhibitors who have already entered to give them first chance to re-enter either the same classes or maybe some different ones, before throwing it open to everyone else. The schedule will remain exactly the same as this year.
- We have also decided to change the name of the marquee which will now be called Theatre of Flowers although we will still be under the umbrella of NAFAS. We feel that this will be more appealing to the public and will also let everyone know exactly what is in the marquee. Rob at Cheshire Agricultural Society has very kindly said that he will have a banner made for us for which we are very grateful.
- Gill and I hope that it will be possible to produce a successful show with lots of amazing exhibits like we have always seen in the past. We need to show what NAFAS ladies can do and I am sure that after this very dark time, the public will be more than pleased to enter our Theatre of Flowers and marvel at the talent that Cheshire has to offer. Please all stay safe and Gill and I and our wonderful committee look forward to seeing you all at the next show.

e) RHS Tatton - Pam Mosedale

- You will be aware that the show did not take place this year but you may not be aware that we would not have been there anyway.
- There was a new Show manager and Flower School manager and they wanted to change things and streamline suppliers with the RHS Chatsworth Show. The hands-on activity was to be run by Flowers from the Farm.
- Our previously agreed activity of hosting workshops throughout the five days of the show was reneged upon by the new show managers.
- We will have to wait to see what opportunities next year's show may bring.

Reports adopted en bloc: Elworth FC

15. NAFAS REPORT- Nicky Wylie

- NAFAS is in financial crisis. The loss from the national show and income from COVID related issues such as reduction in sales of the FA, reduced in affiliation fees. There has been a change at the board, with internal disputes happening with the resignation of 2 of the new directors.
- Very fortunate to have Osborne House, which has been valued at 4.5. million. The plan is to sell the property with the clause that we can lease it back for 18 months to give us time to relocate. Studies are currently in place as to where this will be.
- The board are meeting virtually every 2 weeks and weekly at time. This is one of the positives that COVID has given us.
- NAFAS and all the areas need to work together. We are stronger as one body, and as a national charity we can have a higher presence. We need this to maintain that standards of teaching, demonstrating and judging continue. It shouldn't be a them and us situation but a WE situation. But the main problem that we have is that we are an association and not an organisation. There is often criticism that they do not guide enough but clubs and areas also want their own autonomy. We are often compared to the WI. But the WI are an organisation and therefore can be prescriptive. This is a conundrum which needs to be addressed.
- National AGM is next Tuesday 6th October 2020 on YouTube. Open to anyone. Reps to send information to members.

QUESTIONS

- Sharon Nolan – Is there little or no opportunity to ask questions at the National AGM?
Nicky Wylie – You can ask questions but they should be written down and sent before the meeting.
- Tracy-Anne sent congratulations to Nicky for becoming a director at National level, so that Cheshire will have a voice.
Nicky Wylie – She said was looking forward to it. She also said she was passionate about the cause.

16. NAFAS SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Judges: Sue Clissold.

Latest information from National Judging Committee held on 22/9/2020 is as follows:

- A new booklet Show Work for Beginners is now complete and with the Publications Team. Release date and cost to be finalised.
- Still Life - Lesley Sturdy has agreed to put together information on this subject. Topic crops up frequently and not sufficient information in the Competitors Manual. Details as to whether a leaflet or booklet will result to follow.
- Good activity on the Judge's Facebook page and Instagram with the plant ID videos from Margaret Rumens garden proving popular.
Many virtual competitions taking place which have also been well received.

- Judges Conference in Dromantine still on schedule to go ahead.
- Alan Beatty NIGFAS is joining Committee. Margaret Rumens term of office has now ended and Joan Magee is the new National Judges Committee Chairman
Unfortunately our own Area Judges training has been put on hold until next year and is now:
14th Feb 2021 - Period Flower Arranging day
8th March 2021 - Mock Test (Alan Beatty)
Interim day by zoom to be arranged to discuss mock test results
19th April 2021 - Test.

b) Demonstrators: Diane Fair

- The National Demonstrators Committee – Chairman Elizabeth Graham, James Burnside, Jacqui Arnold, Pam Lewis and Nigel Whyles have met twice in London and twice via zoom this year.
- The main event for 2020 should have been the National Tests and Pre-National Assessments for demonstrators but due to the pandemic these had to be cancelled. They are now rescheduled for 21st and 22nd April 2021 at Northwich Memorial Court. 12 candidates are committed to taking these tests.
- The ticket Officer is Vanessa Keys at Headquarters please apply for tickets -£12 per ticket per day. vanessa@nafas.org.uk or 02072475567 for card payments or cheques made payable to NAFAS -please include a SAE- to Vanessa Keys, NAFAS, Osborne House, 12 Devonshire Square, London, EC2M 4TE. This event is still being planned and it is hoped that The Cheshire Area will fully support these 2 days. The final decision on details of this event will of course be subject to Government guidelines-numbers able to attend, social distancing etc.
- The Demonstrators Symposium is being planned for 21st-24th April 2022
- A demonstrator's bulletin was issued in the summer.
- The next Demonstrators Representatives day will be in January 2021 and probably will be held by zoom.
- All National Demonstrators have been asked to let the Committee know if they are willing to do a demonstration for clubs by zoom, YouTube or video link. A list will be compiled. It will be up to the club to negotiate with the demonstrator regarding costs- fee, flowers and any other expenses incurred.
- **Area report**
- The Demonstrators Refresher Day was held on 15th March 2020 just before lockdown- only 10 demonstrators-including myself, felt able to attend due to health worries.
- The Pre-Disciplines course should have taken place during the spring but had to be postponed due to the pandemic. We had 8 people interested in taking the course which could potentially lead to someone becoming a demonstrator, judge or competitor.
- I have kept in touch with the demonstrators on our Area List during the last 6 months- passing on information from Headquarters. I have also been asked by Elizabeth Graham to compile a list of Area Demonstrators willing to demonstrate online, either as a virtual presentation /demonstration or by means of a video link, YouTube - I know 4 of our demonstrators have already done some of these.
- I have decided to retire from demonstrating next year after 33years but will continue to be the Demonstrators representative till the AGM in 2021. I shall continue to teach and judge.

c) Speakers: Kathleen Williams

- There is nothing to report in addition to my last report but as I have been contacted about demonstrations and presentations being cancelled, I wonder if this is the time to re-think "Speakers". The following proposals may be the way forward but obviously in consultation with the Cheshire Area Council.
- Encourage all speakers to develop a title that is relevant to flower clubs.
- Request a budget from the club of about £25.00 so that as the talk comes to the end a simple flower arrangement could be produced (either to be done on stage or pre-prepared) which gives the club something to raffle
- Organize a meeting with all the Area speakers to put together a "flyer" with a revised list of titles – almost like a mini-demonstration which has the advantage of being cheaper and available at the last minute in case a demonstrator has to cancel. WE WOULD NEED TO EMPHASISE THIS WOULD BE IN AN EMERGENCY AND NOT TO BE USED INSTEAD OF A DEMONSTRATION.
- Try to develop each speaker to have a title suitable for an AGM, something they have not done in a demonstration e.g. Flower Arranging in the 1960's. or relevant to their title e.g. Victorian Flowers the Duchess of Bedford would have used when having afternoon tea.
- The example I would use would be to talk about Aalsmeer – the flower market of the world and to do a design in a small Dutch bucket which could also have the advantage of being foam free.
- This is obviously not the time to be organizing meetings but it may be worth trying to come up with something to offer clubs with a restricted audience when they start meeting next year.

d) Education No report

e) Junior Liaison - Judy Gratton

*Adoption of NAFAS and NAFAS Sub Committee reports en bloc,
Upton by Chester FC, All agreed*

17. ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO NAFAS

- a) Judges – Mrs Clissold
- b) Demonstrators – Mrs Diane Fair
- c) Speakers – Mrs Kathleen Williams
- d) Education – Mrs Sharon Nolan
- e) Junior Liaison - Judy Gratton.

Adoption of NAFAS representatives en bloc, Macclesfield FC

18.

CITATION - NICKY WYLIE - Louise Jones

Nicky’s application to be a Director for NAFAS states ‘I acknowledge that I have only been involved with flower arranging and NAFAS for a relatively short period of time compared to many, a mere 10 years’ but I would say what a 10 years.

From flower arranging beginner to Bramall Hall Chairman. In 2011 gaining first place at Royal Cheshire Show to 2018 gaining first place at the Nationals. Flower arranging at Westminster Abbey. Three silver gilt medals at Chelsea in three consecutive years...and then to helping and supporting NAFAS.

From Club Chairman to Area Chairman and now on to becoming a Director of NAFAS.

Nicky listens to the ideas of others and is a huge encourager- allowing others to get on with their roles using their own talents and expertise- yet you can pick up the phone to talk things through, knowing that you will get sound and thoughtful advice.

During her time as Chairman, she led the fundraising for the Cheshire exhibit at Chelsea, a total of approx. £20,000 raised, even making a small profit. She then led the Cheshire area team who represented NAFAS to produce a wonderful exhibit which was awarded a silver gilt medal. She brought over Per Benjamin to Cheshire area and what a show that was!

In the last 6-months Nicky has led the Area Officers in questioning what is happening at National re the finances etc.

Thank you to Nicky for your 10 years of flower arranging; 6 years spent in as an Officer for area and we wish you every success as you continue journey with NAFAS at National Level but we certainly won't be losing you from our Area as we have a job ready for you.

May I on behalf of the Officers thank you for being a pleasure to work with and we have had good fun on the journey. In recognition of all your hard work we would like to award you the title of **Associate of Honour**.

Nicky was presented with her Associate of Honour badge and a present as retiring chairman by her daughter Emma.

Nicky Wylie – Thanked Louise and she was sure that Cheshire Area would go from strength to strength and that she will still be around giving information from the south.

- Pat Wood, Disley – Cranage Lunch contract. Who would attend? Who will lose the money? Have protection for not losing the money again.

Nicky Wylie – There is no contract. We have taken the financial hit already. No action will be taken until the virus is safe, (no deposit has been taken).

What venue did Wistaston club use?

Jean Jones, Wistaston - Wistaston Memorial Hall which is fully risk assessed. ACRE is a source for guide lines when assessing venues. They are accessible on line for information and pictures

- Sharon Nolan – Is Tracy Ann’s personal email address to be used and the generic one dropped?

Tracy Anne – No, **only** affiliation fees to be sent to personal address all other business to generic email address.

- When are the new Generic addresses going to be updated?

Nicky Wylie – ASAP Area addresses will be updated.

- Joan Broughton, Appleton Afternoon club – What are the maximum numbers can you have in a hall safely?

Jean Jones, Wistaston – Depends on the individual hall. Has to be calculated with individuals being 2m apart.

Nicky Wylie, – Clubs can meet with over 6 if they are not mingling. We are classed as Education.

There have been 50 participants at this AGM.

- Collette Dunkley, New Brighton and Irene Preston, Elworth wished Louise well as new chairman and her new job and thanked her for all she had done.

Meeting finished at 11:55 am

20. DATE OF NEXT AGM: Thursday, 28 October 2021. 7.0pm

Signed

Date