



**Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held in the Margaret Harker Hall, Yarmouth Road, Blofield,
on Wednesday, 13th March, 2019, from 7.30 p.m.**

1) Welcome: Mrs Sylvia Nelthorpe, the Club's President, warmly welcomed members to the AGM. She invited all to stay on after the meeting for light refreshments, complete a word search kindly provided by Jacky Heath, and look at the composting information stand.

2) Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting (14th March, 2018) were made available for members to review. These were proposed as an accurate record of the meeting by Chloe Veale and seconded by Christine Goodwin, and will be signed as such by the Chair.

3) Matters arising therefrom: there were no outstanding matters arising from the last meeting.

4) Treasurer's Report: a copy of the accounts for the year ending 31st December, 2018, was given to each attendee to review. Treasurer Mr Alan Drake confirmed a surplus for the year of £53.03, which taken with a healthy bank balance meant the club was in good form, financially. The accounts had been reviewed and signed by the Independent Financial Examiner, Mr D Clark, and are available for any member to examine. The club confirmed its gratitude to Mr Clark for again acting in this capacity.

Having reviewed the financial position, the Committee proposed that annual club membership remains at £7 per annum, with guests being asked to pay £2 per meeting. Mr Drake confirmed that fees are payable from April each year, and requested that members bring along £7 in an envelope and complete the form which will request contact details and show compliance with GDPR requirements.

Mr Drake established that affiliation fees and insurance had been paid to the Royal Horticultural Society, and the affiliation fee to the Norfolk & Norwich Horticultural Society will be paid later this month.

As no queries were raised by members, the adoption of the accounts was proposed by Susan Rowe, seconded by Pat Thomas and agreed by the meeting.

5) Chair's Report: Mrs June Drake thanked the committee and all members who had helped to run the club for another successful year. Tasks such as organising the raffle, offering refreshments after each meeting, getting out/putting away the chairs, preparing and photocopying posters and leaflets and being the Club's representative on the Margaret Harker Hall committee helped to make the club run smoothly, for which she was most grateful. This assistance is offered by members who are not committee members and all were encouraged to consider how they could help support the club.

Mrs Drake reported that unfortunately two members had retired from the committee during the year, and thanked Margaret Bailey and Marion Fell for their support whilst on the committee. She confirmed that new committee members would be made very welcome. There were 69 club members last year and she hoped that perhaps two or three would consider offering to join the committee. There are only 3 committee meetings each year but different perspectives are needed to ensure the club keeps up to date and offers what members need. She suggested that anyone interested should discuss it with herself or Sylvia Nelthorpe.

Mrs Drake hoped that members had enjoyed the programme of speakers last year, and although the number of entries to the annual show had reduced, and attendance was not as good as in previous years, this could be explained by the unfortunate combination of being on the same afternoon as the Wimbledon and World Cup finals and beautiful weather. However she felt it had been a good and successful event, that the standard of entries had improved, and that those who attended seemed to have an enjoyable afternoon.

The issue of forwarding messages via e mail to members who had agreed to this was briefly discussed. This had been the first year that this approach had been undertaken, and certainly a lot of information had been received from the Norfolk & Norwich Horticultural Society (NNHS) and forwarded to members. As it is understood that not all members wished to receive this type of information, it was suggested that members confirm this on the annual membership form.

A local garden visit that might well be of interest to members will be on Sunday, 14th April (11 am – 3 pm) at Richard Hobbs home in Little Plumstead. Other visits arranged by NNHS were briefly outlined with further information being available for those interested.

6) Election of officers and committee:

The current officers and committee members had agreed to continue in their roles in 2019, and therefore their re-election *en bloc* was proposed by Douglas Clark and seconded by Jacky Heath.

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name proposed</i>		
Chair	Mrs June Drake		
Treasurer	Mr Alan Drake		
Assistant Treasurer	-		
Secretary and Programme Secretary	Mrs Susan Rowe		
Show Secretary and Seed Order Scheme organiser	Mrs Sylvia Nelthorpe		
Assistant Show Secretary	Mrs Sue Brown		
Committee members:	Mrs Jacky Heath	Mrs Joanna Wicks	Mrs Maureen Willsher

As had been earlier identified, some important roles are undertaken by members not on the committee, and Marion Barnett has been very efficiently providing refreshments at meetings and the annual show for the last few years. She has asked that someone else takes over the responsibility, and members were asked to volunteer to do so.

Another important role is attending the Margaret Harker Hall committee meetings as the Club's representative, which Peter Mackness has done for many years. Feedback to the committee is much appreciated, as it might affect the smooth running of the club, e.g. because of proposed building works. Again a volunteer to represent the club at this committee was requested.

The importance of having "new blood" and new ideas within the club and committee was again stressed and members encouraged to discuss their thoughts with the President and Chair.

7) Club Constitution – proposed revision of paragraph 8: after discussion, the committee had proposed that Paragraph 8 of the Club's Constitution be revised, so that publicity for the AGM and spring/summer meetings can be published in advance. Heretofore members' endorsement of the programme had been required at the AGM. The proposed wording would read:

"The Club shall meet on the second Wednesdays of March (AGM), April, May, June, July, September, October and November. A formal programme of lectures and other activities for these dates shall be developed by the Committee and presented at the AGM. The Committee may propose visits, social events and additional activities during the course of the year."

Agreement to this revision was proposed by Barbara Basey-Fisher and seconded by Sheila Ashford.

8) Summer Show Schedule for Saturday, 13th July, 2019: Mrs Nelthorpe outlined the proposed amendments to the 2019 show schedule, including the decorative class 37 as “Strawberries and Cream”, class 39 “In Focus”, and some changes to the Home Produce division. Instead of the exhibitor’s own recipe in class 43 – a cherry cake – the recipe to be provided by the committee should be used. This will be printed on the reverse of the show entry form. The revised schedule will be available to members at the April meeting.

9) Proposed Club Programme 2019: the programme of speakers and competition titles was presented by Mrs Susan Rowe. It will be printed on the Club’s membership card, and made available to all members at the April meeting. Having tried to organise a varied and interesting programme of speakers for the past six years, Mrs Rowe appealed for assistance in compiling the programme in the future, so that a different perspective can be gained. Members’ views as expressed in the 2018 questionnaire had been taken into account when preparing the 2020 programme, but support in organising the programme, which is more easily undertaken via e mail and the internet, would be very welcome.

10) Seed Order Scheme: Mrs Nelthorpe confirmed that the seed order scheme offered by Mr Fothergill Seeds is again being well supported by members, and a generous discount on seeds and other items is available if the required order amount is achieved. Catalogues are valid until August.

11) Any other business

a) Norfolk & Norwich Horticultural Society: information leaflets were made available for members and entry into the Spring Show and Plant Fair – Sunday, 31st March (10 am – 4 pm) promoted. As an affiliated group, the club can enter exhibits into NNHS shows. The Spring show schedule is available and the final entry date is 27th March.

b) Information about local events:

- 28th March: Bressingham Winter Garden Spectacular
- 30th March: Garden Fair at Hemblington Hall
- 6th June: Talk about Trees in the Norfolk Landscape to be given by Prof. Tom Williamson at All Saints church, Hemblington.

c) Publicising the Club: copies of the poster confirming the spring/early summer programme are available, as are updated tri-fold leaflets. Members were asked to display posters and take leaflets for friends, neighbours, local garden centres etc. as new, and young, members are needed. Chloe Veale was thanked for composing and printing all these items, and she in turn wished to thank and congratulate Marion Fell for the art work, all of which was hand drawn and not computer generated.

d) Sharpening garden tools: Alan Drake outlined a service he is happy to offer to club members, i.e. cleaning, repairing if necessary, and sharpening shears, secateurs, kitchen knives, hedge trimmers, lawn mower blades etc., all at very reasonable cost. He will offer a donation of 20% to club funds. Any members interested can contact Alan on (01603) 713 501 and tools can be brought along to the club, suitably labelled, or he will collect. Alan was thanked for this very helpful and generous offer.

12) Date of next Annual General Meeting – Wednesday, 10th March, 2020

The formal meeting closed at 8.05 p.m. and was followed by a short social gathering.