

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN CLUB SATURDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2019, THE BURNSIDE HALL, SCONE

The president, Julia Corden, welcomed 55 members to the Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Rock Garden Club.

- 1. Apologies** had been received from George WATT, Sue SIMPSON, Margaret YOUNG, Helen DONALD, Jackie THOMLINSON, Avril WALKINSHAW, Ian BAINBRIDGE, Jens NIELSEN, John LEE, Helen GREENWOOD, Ann BROWN, Nqaire BURSTON, Audrey LEACH and Pat WATSON.

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2. Minutes of the AGM held at Burnside Hall, Scone on 10th November 2018.

Bette IVEY proposed acceptance, Barry CAUDWELL seconded, and the members approved.

3. Matters arising

None.

4. President's review of the year

Julia announced that she had given ten lectures for the Scottish Gardener's Forum over the last year including talks on easy alpine. She thanked members who helped with the seed exchange including the seed packers who had enabled 50,000 individual seed packets to go out. She thanked Sandy LEVEN and team for the Dunblane Early Bulb Display and Ian YOUNG and Ian CHRISTIE for lectures. Julia had attended shows from Kendal to Aberdeen but apologised for being late for *Gardening Scotland* as she had been working with NARGS. She thanked Stan da PRATO and his team for their work at the show. She mentioned the success of the David Boyd Event in Lockerbie and the Discussion Weekend at Grantown-on-Spey. She Thanked Bette IVEY, Sandy LEVEN and Ian & Margaret YOUNG for their help and support.

5. Presentation of Honours and awards

An honorary membership had been approved by council for **Zdeněk ZVOLÁNEK** for his 40-year commitment to the club. He helped set up the IRG and is an expert in crevice gardening.

Presentation of merit medals

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Bronze | Ann WRIGHT, York |
| Silver | Mala JANES, Ponteland |
| Gold | Mike DALE, Felton |
| | Barry WINTER, Stockton on Tees |
| | Diane CLEMENTS, Wolverhampton |

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| Gold Bars: | Gold Bar 2 nd | Sue SIMPSON, Drongan |
|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|

Gold bar 2nd Bob and Rannveig WALLIS,
Carmarthen

Gold bar 5th Alan FURNESS, Hexham
Gold bar 5th Don PEACE, Yarm

Gold Bar 15th, 16th and 17th Stan da PRATO, Tranent

AGS Salver for the Plantsman of the year with the highest aggregate of first prize points in section 1: **Stan da PRATO**, Tranent, East Lothian with 5350 points.

Rutland Salver for the highest aggregate of first prizes in section 2, joint winners: **Sheila McNULTY and Peter MOORE** with 450 points each.

Alf Evans Award This award for the best alpine stand at *Gardening Scotland* 2019 was awarded to: **Kevock Garden Plants**.

Golden Jubilee Salver for outstanding service to the club: **David MILLWARD**

David has been convener and show secretary of the Edinburgh and Lothians group, a council member several times, is chair of the show secretaries' committee and still finds time to bring plants to the shows and win Forrest medals.

Crosland Award for the best article in the *The Rock Garden*: **Christopher DG BROWN** for 'The last Paradise' – An expedition through the remote hidden kingdom of Bhutan.

David Lane Award for the best photograph in *The Rock Garden*: **Johan NILSSON** for a photo of *Primula sherriffiae* on page 28 of the July Journal issue 143.

Williamson Trophy for the best entry in section 5 of the photographic/arts competition: **Matt TOPSFIELD**

President's Award for outstanding service to a local group: **Susan BAND**

6. Consideration and adoption of accounts

The treasurer Richard GREEN presented the accounts for the year ending 30th June 2019. Two pages outlining the statement of accounts and the balance sheet were given to each attendee and the full accounts were available for inspection. Richard explained where our money came from and what it was spent on. He pointed out the difference between restricted and unrestricted funds. For example, the restricted funds of the Diana Aitchison fund have to be used to provide grants to young horticulturalists.

He explained that income had been helped by extra donations this year, but that subscription income had fallen again, as it does year on year. Expenses had gone up too particularly on upgrading the website. Not so much money had been spent from the Diana Aitchison fund this year. Richard asked members to encourage anyone they knew who could benefit from the fund to consider applying for an award. The accounts showed a surplus this year, and Richard asked members to consider projects that the Club could support, and to bring them to council for consideration.

The treasurer stated that the Club's investment managers advise that Brexit should not affect the Club's investments due to the internationally diversified portfolio. However, that it could potentially cause issues for the Seed Exchange, and also with VAT and with currency exchange rates. He recommended the accounts for acceptance.

The accounts were accepted. Proposed by Liz MILLS, seconded by Gill LEE.

7. Appointment of examiner of accounts

Richard suggested the reappointment of Ewen DYER of Martin Aitken & Co Ltd as Independent Examiner. This was proposed by Carole BAINBRIDGE, seconded by Peggy ANDERSON and the meeting agreed.

8. Election and appointments:

In accordance with rule 6.1 four members shall be elected to the council annually to serve for three years as ordinary members. Members standing down after 3 years are Barry CAUDWELL, Jean WYLLIE and Hannah WILSON.

The following nominations have been received for new members:

Carole BAINBRIDGE: proposer Julia CORDEN, seconder Sandy LEVEN
Elspeth MacKINTOSH: proposer Carole BAINBRIDGE, seconder Julia CORDEN

Chris PARSONS: proposer Carolyn McNAB, seconder Julia Corden

Hannah WILSON to be Secretary: Proposer Julia CORDEN, seconder Carolyn McNAB

It was proposed that the Club should pay members' travelling expenses to attend joint rock plant committee meetings.

9. Date and place of AGM in 2020

7th November 2020 at 11 am, Burnside Hall, Scone.

Robert POTTERTON to be one of the speakers.

10. Any other competent business

It was announced by David MILLWARD that the Early Bulb Show would be held in Dunblane on February the 22nd 2020, a week later than usual. Julia reminded members that the International Rock Garden Conference would take place in 2021, and that the next David Boyd Event will be May 16th-18th 2020 and include a tour of Mull. Julia gave a vote of thanks to Honorary President Bette IVEY.