

Haworthia Society Committee Meeting

Saturday 4th February 2023

Zoom meeting

10.00am

Present: Les Pearcy (chair), Tony Roberts, Les Hewitt, Adrian Weatherill

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Bill Darbon, Bill Hildyard
2. **Minutes of the last meeting:** The previous minutes of 19th March 2022 were approved by the committee.
3. **Matters arising:** Public liability insurance. Tony had arranged this for 2022 and renewed for 2023.
4. **Chairman's report:** Les confirmed that following the Convention last November, Stirling Baker had resigned as Show Secretary. Les Hewitt would now take on this position.

5. **Financial & Membership update:**

The Convention made a loss of £854, although for a number of reasons this was expected.

Gross seed sales of £687 and gross DVD sales of £378.

Subs 2023 received so far are £1,765 which was typical for this time of year but a long way to go.

The GM book – costs for 600 copies and sending to all 2022 members totalled £2,995.

In January we sold 67 copies to new members and mainly non-members – gross income of £1,180.

Currently, have a deficit of £1,957 for this financial year.

Only major expenditure before 'year-end' is printing and postage for the February Haworthiad (estimate £1,600).

Membership Update: A further 39 subscriptions had been received in January 2023.

	Members at 31/12/2021	Members at 31/12/2022	Plus NEW 2023 members joined by 31/12/2023	Members at 01/01/2023	Members at 02/02/2023
UK	195	191	6	113	136
Associate members	1	1	0	1	1
Europe	68	64	1	25	31
Rest of World	128	128	7	58	68
Total	392	384	14	197	236

6. **Secretary's report:** Adrian confirmed that the minutes of General and Committee meetings were now posted on the website and available to members. This necessitates an amendment to the Constitution which would be approved at the General Meeting later this year. This also provides an opportunity to make any other needed amendments. One already identified amendment was regarding life members, actual vs constitution. Any other amendment should be forwarded to Adrian who will coordinate.
7. **Editor's report:** Bill Hildyard had informed Les that he was considering his position as editor. Although not a resignation at the moment, Bill felt that the committee should consider potential replacements. Following a discussion by the committee, Les agreed to contact an identified person who might be interested in taking over the role.
- Articles still needed for Haworthiad.
8. **Sales Officer's report:** Sales of back publications have been steady over the last 6 months and there have been enquiries about the Marx book.
9. **Publicity Managers Report:** The society had a stand at the BCSS National Show held at Newark during September 2022. This was well received and 5 new members signed up during the show. The society also put on a display at the Birmingham autumn show.
10. **Seed Distribution Report:** Orders are now successfully being dispatched to USA.
- Aug 2022 - 34 orders, 630 packets, £197.50 sales gross
- Nov 2022 - 58 orders, 872 packets, £488 sales gross
11. **Event Managers Report:** The Oxford Show joint show is booked for 1st July 2023. The schedule has been agreed with Ian Armstrong who is judging the Haworthia section, Les Hewitt has agreed to judge the other section of the show.
12. **Convention Feedback & Pricing for Selling Plants at The Convention:** The feedback from the convention was mostly positive with some participants stating that it was one of the

best conventions they had attended. However, there was also a view that it was the same speakers with the same topics each time. This has not been helped by recent zoom events over the last few years at which some of the speakers had given similar talks.

The committee has undertaken to review the future of the convention, whether there should be another convention and if so, what format (live talks verses zoom talks). The committee had also received correspondence regarding the cost of selling plants at the convention particularly for nurserymen who attend. This will also be reviewed along with the future of the convention.

13. **Marx Book:** The book is selling well. Les Pearcy agreed to send a copy of the book to Sheila Cude, editor of Cactus and Succulent Review with the aim to have a review in a future publication.
14. **Resignation of Stirling Baker as Show Manager:** Following Stirling's resignation, the committee felt that his time, efforts and achievements for the Society needed to be recognised. Les will coordinate an article for Haworthiad.
15. **Any other business:** As the committee had reduced in numbers, succession planning was discussed. Les agreed to contact some identified members who might be interested in joining the committee.

The meeting finished at 11.18am

Next meeting to be arranged in 3 to 4 months prior to the Oxford show.

Dr Adrian Weatherill

Secretary, The Haworthia Society