

# THE HAWORTHIA SOCIETY

## Minutes of The Haworthia Society General Meeting held via zoom at 2pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023

**Officials Present:** Les Percy, Colin Walker, Tony Roberts, Les Hewitt, Bill Darbon, Lawrence Louka, Arthur Dixon, Adrian Weatherill

**Total number of attendees:** 28

**1: Apologies for absence:** Ian Armstrong, Derek Tribble, Graham Walker, Ess Green, Anthony Brook

**2. Minutes from the Last Previous GM:** The meeting minutes of the previous GM were unanimously approved.

**3. Matters Arising:** None.

**4. Chairpersons Report:** Les Percy reported that the last GM, held in Nov 2021, was the first held by an online Zoom meeting. This saw an increase in attendance to over 30. This was followed by a talk by our President, Derek Tribble.

The Convention was delayed by a year by Covid and was eventually held in October 2022. This included four international speakers from South Africa, Czechia and the USA as well as from the UK. It was a great success.

The Society was represented at the BCSS National show as well as at BCSS shows at Oxford and Birmingham.

A new publication on Gerhard Marx Hybrids was produced and thanks must go to Gerhard for not only authoring the book, but also donating one on his paintings for the Convention auction.

Both Stirling Baker and Bill Hildyard have retired from the committee and thanks go to both for all their efforts for the society over the years.

We have been maintaining committee via the Zoom facility and this has enabled both the full committee and subgroup meetings to take place.

There are four new co-opted committee members who hopefully will be formally elected to the committee.

Many thanks to the committee for all the hard work they do to maintain the Society and welcome new members.

**5. Treasurers and Membership Report:** Provided by Tony Roberts. See Appendix.

**6. Editors Report:** Since the retirement of Bill Hildyard as Editor, an Editorial Board to produce Haworthiad had been formed with Lawrence Louka as the Editor, The aim was to build up a bank of articles, encouraging new authors, staying in touch with our experts and more contact with other organizations.

**7. Event and Show Managers Report:** Les Hewitt provided this report.

The BCSS held their National Show in 2022 at the Newark Showground, Nottinghamshire. The Haworthia Society staged a publicity stand with Les Hewitt and Les Percy who were able to meet current members and other interested growers. The Aloe, Gasteria and Haworthia classes were well supported with many magnificent exhibits being shown.

In 2022, the Birmingham BCSS branch staged their autumn show at Edgbaston Botanical Gardens. Adrian Weatherill attended and staged a publicity stand and plant display. The show was well attended and there was plenty of interest for the Society.

In 2023, the main event was the BCSS Oxford show. 33 of the 95 classes were allocated to the Haworthia Society. Again, this event was very well attended.

**8. Seeds Distributors Report:** There continued to be problems with the international trade in both seed and plants. Phytosanitary certificates are required to and from Europe and it's almost impossible sending to Australia. The cost of these certificates makes it uneconomical to send seed orders to EU countries although to the USA is getting back to normal. Since the last GM there have been four seed distributions with over 2200 packets of seed from approximately 100 types making up over 150 orders.

Donations of seeds would be most welcome.

Seed List	Packets Sold	People	Numbers Listed	Sales £ approx
Aug 2022	630	34	31	197.00
Nov 2022	1090	69	53	550.00
Aug 2023	250	20	5	95.00
Dec 2023	267	28	14	178.00
Total	2237	151	103	1020.00

**9. Sales Managers Report:** Bill Darbon reported that the stock of Gerhard Marx book "One hundred Gerhard Marx Haworthia hybrids" was low with less than 20 copies remaining.

**10. Secretary's Report:** Adrian Weatherill explained that following the approved changes to the Constitution at the last GM, minutes of General Meetings, Committee meetings and proposed Constitution changes were now posted onto the Website. This provided more transparency to the members concerning the actions of the committee.

The proposed Constitution changes as summarised in Haworthiad and displayed in full on the website were presented to the meeting. These were unanimously approved.

**11. Election of Officers:** Derek Tribble had decided not to stand for re-election. The committee thanked him for his time as President.

Dr Colin Walker had agreed to become the new President and was unanimously approved by the meeting who welcomed him into his new role.

**12. Committee Re-election:** Since the last GM, Stirling Baker and Bill Hildyard had both retired from the committee. The existing members of the committee, Les Percy, Tony Roberts, Les Hewitt, Bill Darbon and Adrian Weatherill had agreed to stand for a further 2 years. In addition, Lawrence Louka had agreed to become Editor and Ess Green, Ian Armstrong and Arthur Dixon had agreed to join the committee. They were unanimously approved by the meeting.

**13. Election of Auditor:** The current auditor, Graham Walker, agreed to continue for the next 2 years which the meeting unanimously approved.

**14. 2024 Convention:** The next Convention would be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at The Hilton Hotel, Leicester. Further details of this event would follow. A small team consisting of Ian Armstrong, Les Hewitt, Bill Darbon and Adrian Weatherill had been formed to organise the Convention.

**15. Website and Facebook:** Over the last few years, little had been done on the web site. With the approval of Ess Green to the committee who would be responsible for the website, a lot of changes will be made over the coming years. The committee also has Ian Armstrong and Arthur Dixon who will become involved with the Facebook page.

**16. AOB:** Colin Walker commented that only about 5% of the membership had attended the Zoom GM and could the committee do more to encourage members to attend. It was explained that the Zoom meetings had at least doubled the number of attendees over physical meetings at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens but the Committee would discuss attendance and see if there was anything more that could be done to improve attendance.

Several questions were raised during the GM including Zoom chat which could be summed up as

- 1) Could there be an electronic version of Haworthiad?
- 2) Could zoom be used at the convention?
- 3) Could talks be recorded and made available after the Convention?

The committee agreed to include these questions for discussion at a future committee meeting.

**The Meeting closed at 4.16 pm and was followed by a presentation by Colin Walker on “The Tree Aloes: Aloidendron”**

**Dr Adrian Weatherill**

**Secretary, The Haworthia Society**

APPENDIX:  
Treasurer's Report  
and Membership

# Receipts and Payments Account for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

Tony Roberts, Haworthia Society Hon. Treasurer

Receipts	2022-23	2021-22	Payments	2022-23	2021-22
Subscriptions, consisting of:			Journal Printing	£1,880	£1,805
UK Subscriptions 2022 <sup>a</sup>	£196		GM Special Edition Printing	£1,492	£0
UK Subscriptions 2023 <sup>b</sup>	£2,328		Other Printing	£30	£27
Overseas Subscriptions 2022 <sup>a</sup>	£615		Postage & Mailing House costs	£5,076	£3,002
Overseas Subscriptions 2023 <sup>b</sup>	£2,048		Stationery	£46	£2
Total Subscriptions	£5,187	£5,187	Travel Expenses	£61	£0
Seed Sales	£760	£359	Internet Hosting, Website, ZOOM	£493	£92
Books	£1,874	£162	Sundries (RHS memb., insurance, gifts, etc)	£123	£112
Journals and Binders	£47	£181	DVD Production Costs	£16	£10
Plant Sales, Commission, Donations	£0	£11	PayPal Charges	£273	£189
DVD Sales	£607	£595			
Badges	£66	£78			
Gift Aid Tax Credit	£393	£417			
Interest (Bus. Res. Acc.)	£24	£0			
<b>Sub-total (excl. Convention)</b>	<b>£8,957</b>	<b>£7,361</b>	<b>Sub-total (excl. Convention)</b>	<b>£9,491</b>	<b>£5,239</b>
Convention Receipts, consisting of:			Convention Payments, consisting of:		
Convention Fees	£9,031		Hilton Hotel Bill	£8,718	
Plant sales commission	£350		Travel Costs	£2,242	
Proceeds from raffle	£112		Postage, printing, meals, etc.	£195	
Net proceeds from auction	£862		PayPal charges	£54	
<b>Total Convention Receipts</b>	<b>£10,355</b>	<b>£10,355</b>	<b>Total Convention Payments</b>	<b>£11,209</b>	<b>£0</b>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>£19,313</b>	<b>£7,361</b>	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£20,700</b>	<b>£5,239</b>
			Surplus (or if minus, Deficit)	£-1,387	£2,122
			<b>Total</b>	<b>£19,313</b>	<b>£7,361</b>

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# Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2023

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<b>Balance at 1st April 2022</b>	<b>£31,600</b>	consisting of:	
		NatWest Current Acc.	£31,574 <sup>c</sup>
		Cash (Tony)	£23
		Cash (Bill D.)	£4
Surplus for Year (or if minus, Deficit)	<b>-£1,387</b>		
<b>Balance at 31st March 2023</b>	<b>£30,213</b>	consisting of:	
		NatWest Current Acc.	£10,121 <sup>c</sup>
		NatWest Business Reserve Acc.	£20,024
		Cash (Tony)	£54
		Cash (Bill D.)	£13

<sup>a</sup> including earlier years

<sup>b</sup> including later years

<sup>c</sup> of which £1,114 are restricted funds (Conservation Fund)



Plus stock of books, journals, binders and badges

1st April 2023

## Receipts and Payments Account for the Period 1st April 2023 to 30th November 2023

### Receipts

Subscriptions 2023	£1,110
Subscriptions 2024	£1,201
Books	£893
DVD Sales	£377
Other Sales (seeds, binders, badges)	£299
Gift Aid Tax Credit	£400
Interest (Bus. Res. Acc.)	£149

**Total Receipts** **£4,429**

### Payments

Journal Printing	£1,200
Other Printing	£21
Postage & Mailing House costs	£2,441
Internet Hosting, Website, ZOOM	£194
Sundries (RHS memb., shows, insurance, gifts, etc.)	£337
PayPal Charges	£140

**Total Payments** **£4,333**

## Membership 2018-2023

	Members at 31/12/2018	Members at 31/12/2019	Members at 31/12/2020	Members at 31/12/2021	Members at 31/12/2022	2023 Members at 30/11/2023	2024 Members at 30/11/2023
UK	183	190	191	195	191	190	87
Associate members	3	1	2	1	1	1	0
Europe	57	69	63	68	64	62	17
Rest of World	113	123	122	128	128	121	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>128</b>

