

Haworthia Society Committee Meeting

May 27, 2025, 7pm BST by Zoom

Attending: Colin Walker, Les Percy, Tony Roberts, Lawrence Loucka

Regrets: Bill Darbon, Les Hewitt

Invited: Steven Molteno (absent)

Meeting had quorum, although no votes were taken

Next meeting TBD, within 30 days.

Topics:

- Social media strife
- Committee vacancies
- Filling the seats
- Haworthiad

Discussion:

- Some aspects of society are going well (convention, Haworthiad), others not (social media). Ian, Adrian, and four admins have all resigned.
- Les Percy gave notice a few months ago that he would be stepping down. He has agreed to stay on until the BGM.
- Les Hewitt gave notice. Tony later explained that Les H. felt left out when Bill and Ian took over the convention and the Oxford show.
- Might Les H. accept new assignments and help find his replacement?
- The committee is not aware of what is going on with social media. Ian resigned, Adrian got involved and resigned, and all moderators have resigned.
- Suggest appealing for volunteers in the June issue of Haworthiad. Colin doesn't expect many, so we should also recruit.
- Strling Baker has stepped forward as chair. At least two of the committee members do not support this.
- Current membership is 325, 50 less than the same time last year.
- Haworthiad vacancies (inside cover) – remove Adrian, Ian, Les H. Leave Ess [LL, disagrees – he should be asked to submit his resignation and be encouraged to continue to help with new website design. He might also help find or vet his replacement.]
- Consider asking Ian or Daniel Jackson to take on Events.
- Perhaps there is a role Les H might take on. Tony and Les P to approach.

- Others: Steve Morgan, Steve Molteno – people from the convention, local representatives, other societies, countries.
- Marc Rubelli may become the new South Africa representative as Sean Gildenhuys has stepped down. Postal service in RSA has collapsed. We may want to offer digital subscriptions.
- Consider delaying printing Haworthiad until we have a coherent message. This could take a few weeks. The journal might be delayed.

Social Media:

- Ian had perceived conflicts of interest around the Facebook group rule on self-promotion and sales. He chose to step down as one of the Facebook administrators. Lawrence stepped in and included Ian in deliberations. Lawrence made a presentation to the committee on a media vision and action plan.
- Ian resigned from the committee. Lawrence was given pro tempore. Gill stepped forward.
- Adrian offered to run for chair and started acting as such without a committee vote. He was given access to the Haworthiad dropbox, background on the editorial board, the new Facebook group's purpose and plans. While Lawrence was trying to organise the mods, Adrian was being disruptive. Gill made Adrian an Admin without consultation. Gill reported that Adrian intended to deactivate the group. Lawrence immediately removed Adrian's admin rights due to this security risk and informed him and others.
- A toxic environment was allowed to fester, where moderators were harassed and traumatised. This should never have been allowed to happen; putting good people in harm's way and not acting is a leadership failure.
- The 'clique' continued to take direction from Ian and Adrian, not the committee or Lawrence.
- Adrian resigned as secretary. Shortly thereafter, Gill withdrew, and one after the other, so did Heather, Alison, and Carlos.
- Within 4 days, six new moderators volunteered: Aditya, Bayer, Cilliers, Cozzolino, Nitu, Theodoris.
- Why do we need social media? Our membership is in decline. We are not appealing to younger people who prefer to consume differently. We are becoming obsolete. The Facebook group has >20k members and some >9k active in any given 30 days. We will use the FBV group to promote the society and hopefully attract new subscribers.

Vacancies:

President	Colin Walker
Chair	Stepping down
Treasurer	Tony Roberts
Membership	Open
Secretary	Open
Sales	Bill Darbon
Events	Open
Editor	Lawrence Loucka
Web	Open
Social Media	Open

Assignments:

1. Schedule the next meeting within one month. Must have quorum.	Les
2. Share the list of convention attendees and vendors.	Les
3. Contact Ess.	Les
4. Rewrite the Chair Report	Les
5. Speak with Les H.	Tony
6. Contact ex-mods and Ian,& welcome them back (later)	Lawrence
7. Publish minutes	Lawrence
8.	
9.	
10.	