



Sandhurst and District Gardening Club
Minutes of the 60th AGM held at Sandhurst
Community Centre on Wednesday February
16th 2023 at 7.15 pm

1.	Welcome & Minutes of 2022 AGM	Chris Dresler
	The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the 2022 AGM.	
2.	Matters arising	Julie Sheppard
	<p>Arising from last year's AOB:</p> <p>ii) afternoon talks – this had been actioned by the committee. The trial was successful, so will be extended to this year for the winter months of Oct., Nov, Jan & Feb. An alternative to the 1st Monday of the month will be sought.</p>	
3.	Chairman's report	Chris Dresler
	<p>At last, a nearly normal year for the club after the Covid years. We have had some interesting topics with good speakers coupled with a couple of cancellations due to illness or bad weather but we were able to fill the gap as usual. We are back to about 60 members attending still short of the 100 but I suspect some people still don't want to mix just yet; perhaps that is why the Christmas party numbers were low., which was disappointing because for the committee it is a lovely end to the year. We don't have to watch the clock like we have to on a club night.</p> <p>The flower shows were also very successful again with lower visitor attendance. The trips out were fantastic and the loW holiday hugely enjoyed after all the lockdown stuff.</p> <p>We had a most wonderful plant sale run by Gareth and Sunil in Broomacres which raised a huge amount of money for the club – to be repeated again this year on Saturday June 3rd 1-.00-1.00pm.</p> <p>Following on from last year's AGM we managed 2 afternoon meetings in the Kitty Dancy room which were well attended. You can comment on these under AOB.</p> <p>We still need helpers to run this big club of ours and it is only the relentless pursuit of Jane Heritage that the trading Hut is very much operational. It shouldn't be so hard to get volunteers to help; it is not onerous and we all benefit in every aspect of the club's activities.</p> <p>Finally with regard to the Queens' award of which Parm (owner of Park Café) has put us forward for, we hope to have some news at our 60th birthday party on 8th July here.</p> <p>One thing I would like to finish on after starting this club 60 years ago is that although I am no longer a committee member, I shall be around helping with shows so the new team will not be alone but I would like to thank those committee members who have been with me may, many years for your tremendous help and support in every way. The club wouldn't have been so successful without your commitment.</p> <p>Proposed by: Hilary Corio Seconded: Pat Roome <i>There were no questions from the floor.</i></p>	
4.	Treasurer's report	Steve Roome

1. Hut Sales to Members were up by £1,641 or almost 12% although some of this was due to increases in selling prices. The profit margin for the year of 10% was lower than the 14% last year which resulted in a decrease in profit of £502 to £1,503. The lower profit margin was due to increases in prices from suppliers as well as some suppliers charging delivery costs.
2. Subscription income increased by £440 to £1,346.
3. Other Income of £92 was from Donations.
4. Expenses were broadly in line with previous years, although Insurance costs were £76 higher at £302 following a review of the level of cover required, Trophy Engraving was £295 compared to nil last year and donations increased by £330 to £585 as we agreed to donate a third of the profit on the Plant Sale to the Club's charity Greenfingers. Stationery, Hut maintenance costs and Sundry Expenses were lower by a combined £306, however the biggest change was nil expenditure on Hut Repairs compared to a spend of £3,672 last year.
5. The deficit on Activities increased by £565 (Deficit of £761 compared to £196). The deficit on Club nights was £69 with the costs of Hall Hire and Speakers increasing, however these costs were offset by the surplus from raffles and refreshments of £437 together with the magnificent amount of £916 raised by the Plant Sale. There was no Christmas Party in the year with the only cost being £30 which was the entertainment cancellation fee. The deficit on Shows was £425 on the Summer Show and £272 on the Autumn Show where a saving of £126 was made on the Hall Hire due to the Kitty Dancy Room not being available. The surplus on Coach trips was £30 which was the trip to Hilliers. The IOW holiday and Canal Trip were sold to members at cost.
6. Overall income over expenditure moved from a deficit of £3,386 to a deficit of £531.
7. Cash & Bank Balances increased from £14,708 to £16,835

Overall, the Club is in a healthy financial position with a good cash reserves to cover any unforeseen circumstances, however we are very dependent on the profit from the Trading Hut to subsidise the Club's other activities and without this Membership Fees would need to be considerably higher for the club to remain financially viable.

In response to a question from the floor, Steve confirmed that the transaction fee for the card reader would be approx. £300 pa, based on current average income. This was offset by the increase in membership fees.

Proposed by: Claire Shenton Taylor Seconded: Colin Killick

5. Trading Hut report

Jane Heritage

Yet another challenging year for the club mostly caused by trying to keep up with price changes which mainly affected fertilizers. In 2021 the income was £15,118 but last year it increased to £16,753. Another record broken but some of this would be the increase in prices. Once again, we bought some stock for California Club which helped us get the best prices and keep the stock turning over. This amounted to £990. The seed bill was £968. The club makes no profit on seeds and just a minimal amount in the California bulb order. Hut expenses, other than stock purchased, were very low at about £96. Profit last year was approximately £1500. This money is essential as it supports all other aspects on the club – speakers, hall fees, etc. Last year many members were trained to work on the counter and have recently been getting to grips with learning how to use the new card reader. Lesley Williams has been doing a sterling job recruiting volunteers each month. Thanks to her and all those that help out on the counter, on the gate and with the lifting. There are a group of members who help with deliveries and without them we couldn't have a hut. A special thank you to Peter

Radband, who has helped with deliveries and whatever else I have thrown at him, sometimes at very short notice.

Many thanks to Graham and Helen Harding who are now old hands at keeping the bird food topped up. Also, thanks to Ruth Page & Liz Crow for organising the bulbs and David Dunford the seeds. I would also like to give a big thank you to Carole Edge (here tonight) and Beverley Morgan who, together, have agreed to be responsible for keeping the hut stocked. Without them there would be no hut. There's now a notebook on the hut counter, so those on hut duty can report any issues with stock either via the book or by email. This will be checked regularly.

All we need now is someone to be responsible for the hut maintenance, which is a small but necessary job. No takers so far.

I've been thinking about my time at the hut and on the committee. Chris no doubt has the dates. The club has been a large part of my life and as result I have met many new friends especially the committee. It has been very enjoyable – most of the time but now is the time to step down and have more holidays!!

Things I won't miss are the workload, problems with deliveries, dealing with the council, bringing stock to club nights and the shows and the occasional grumpy member but I will miss playing shops, spending the clubs' money, chatting to members and your kind words. Looking back, apart from helping make the hut a great success I think my greatest achievement was organising, with my husband, the 'click & collect' during Covid so you could all carry on doing what we all love – gardening.

The members recorded their thanks to Jane for her work over the years with the hut.

Proposed by: Colin Killick Seconded: Graham Harding

6.	Election of committee	David Dunford
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Background
Several factors

- The current committee is ageing Ruth and Derek after many many years of service are stepping down.
- Jane registered her intention 4 years ago that she would leave the committee and her vital role to the club of running the trading hut for over 20 years.
- The latter is particularly important as it generates the revenue to cover hall and speaker costs including the addition new winter afternoon talk and allows the club to subsidise important events. Without the trading hut, subscriptions would have had to increase 6-fold at least and would likely see a significant drop in membership.

As you are aware we were unable to find a single individual to take on Jane's role so the solution was clearly a team approach. This has now been running for some time;

- Trading Hut: Carole Edge & Beverley Morgan are responsible for the stock and Lesley Williams the hut duty rota. Helen and Graham Harding are responsible for all bird food ordering and bagging up. There is also a list of helpers for deliveries which Carole & Beverley use. In addition, there are other volunteers to operate the hut. Thanks must go to all of you for giving up your time to do this which shows the inner strength of the club. We still need a focus for maintenance

In a similar vein we needed to generate a show team. No inconsiderable feat as Chris has led this important element for any Gardening Club ever since I have been a member of the club and probably long before.

- Show team are: Adele Cox, Carole Hickman and Lori Bird. They have a developing understanding of show activities and will no doubt bring fresh ideas. Again, they will be supported from the existing committee with volunteers from to help set up, steward etc. So look out for the invites.

	<p>In addition, the 60th Anniversary element of the club is being masterminded by Claire Shenton-Taylor, Lydia Stonestreet and Sheraton Winter. So look out for further details next month.</p> <p>Now to the committee structure. The committee have considered the options and the proposal we will put forward is to refine the committee structure to create a management committee of a maximum 6 members comprising the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer interfacing with these sub groups and responsible individuals who lead club activities.</p> <p>To do this formally we have to make minor alterations to the club rules, which were due for review and revision anyway. It is our intention to provide visibility of the proposed rule alterations via a Special General Meeting attached to the April Club night. We intend to get these changes, once agreed by the current committee, to you at least 14 days prior to the SGM and hopefully significantly before that for comment. Once the rule changes are adopted then the management committee will be confirmed at the SGM.</p> <p>The proposal from the current committee is “The committee will continue until the SGM and the intended restructure”.</p> <p>It was clarified that the number of people on the management committee would be up to 6, although flexibility was important.</p> <p>Proposed by: Graham Harding Seconded: Hilary Corio</p>	
7.	AOB	Julie Sheppard
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Membership fees – there was disparity between joint and single membership fees being different, especially as the majority of communication was by email now, negating the need for postal costs. It was agreed the committee would consider this when reviewing membership fees next autumn, as they were already set for the current year. ii) A suggestion to increase membership to include tea/coffee on club nights was made. This would support the ‘cashless’ approach. Another member stated that this would disproportionately affect the majority of members who did not attend club nights. The committee agreed to consider it. iii) The suggestion was made for members to bring their own mugs on club nights to save use and washing up of cups and saucers. some members stated they either didn’t have their own ‘travel’ mugs and/or didn’t want to take dirty mugs home. Some members would also forget their mugs and cups/saucers would have to be used anyway. The committee agreed to consider it. iv) Members asked if future afternoon club sessions could NOT be on the first Monday of the month, as this clashed with sessions offered by the library. v) Members asked is some coach trips could be organised on a variety of different days. vi) It was confirmed that a committee member is present to ‘meet and greet’ folk at the afternoon sessions. vii) A question was raised about checking if any non-members attend the afternoon sessions and/or the evening sessions. It was acknowledged that there is nothing formally in place for this. However, with the fee being so small (50p) it is unlikely that more than £5.00 pa is lost in this way and that any measures put in place to address this would be far more arduous than the revenue received warranted. 	
8.	Presentations	Chris Dresler
	<p>The help of certain members over the past year was acknowledged with a small gift.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Hunt for managing the website • Pat and Gill for their hard work on creating and maintaining the flower border outside the Memorial hall 	

	A presentation of a rose was made to Jane, along with a garden voucher on behalf of the club, as recognition in a small way of all the time and help she had given to the club and also to Chris personally. Chris also presented her with a small token of her thanks,
9.	Close of meeting
	The meeting closed at 8.00 pm