

**Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
held in the Courtroom at Trewithen Gardens  
on Saturday 1st June 2024 at 1.45 pm**

**PRESENT:**

Branch Chairman: John Marston (in the Chair for this Meeting), Secretary: Robbie Sampson.

Barbara Sampson, James Phethean, Jan Phethean, John Wooton, Linda Wooton, Joey Warren, Emma Page, Diana Gilding, Bob Mehen, Richard Fulcher, Nicola Johnson, John Ashworth, Mary Ashworth, Gary Long, Francis Banham.

Present on Zoom: Graham Mills, Polly Cooke, Barry Cooke, Ted Brabin, Rama Lopez-Rivera, Alastair Stevenson, Sian Thomas.

The meeting was quorate with more than 14 attendees.

The Attendees were notified in the cover page of the Chairman's Power Point presentation that the Zoom meeting was being recorded to aid Minute taking.

John Marston, Chairman of this meeting, apologised on behalf of Group Chairman Graham Mills who was not able to attend this meeting. John then welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. Votes taken within the Court room were to be added to those of 'non attendees' pre-voting.

**1. Apologies, 59 received from:**

Philip Eastell, Andrew Blackwell, Anne Magor, Polly Cooke, Barry Cooke, Barry Tibbetts, Caroline Bell, Diana Garner, Dr David Davies, David Millais, Susanna Millais, Elizabeth Selzer, Emma Dunne, Fiona Parrott, Francois Gordon, Gianmario Motta, Gillian Rolfe, Gordon Wolfe, Helga Lohan, Jane Watkins, Helen Oakes, Joe Whelan, John Sanders, John Talbot, John Weagle, JP Gellatly, Judy for Andrew Hallett, Kate White, Laura Jones, Leigh Murray, Lord Digby, Matthew Biggs, Matthew Heasman, Michael Timberlake, Monique Gudgeon, Ned Lomax, Pam for Dr DJ Coombes, Pam Hayward, Sally Hayward, Pat Short, Paul Holmes, Penny Tomlin, Pete Rule, Peter Shotter, Philip Eastell, Philip Putwain, Richard Robinson, Roger Dixon, Ros Rawling, Rosemary Legrand, Rowan Griffiths, Russell Beeson, Seamus O'Brien, Sian Sefton, Steve Lyus, Sylvia McQuire, Tom Cutter, Ros Smith, Jim Gardiner.

**2. Minutes of the last AGM:**

The last AGM was held at Ness Botanic Gardens on Saturday 13th May 2023 at 1.45pm.

The Minutes published on the website were unanimously agreed, to be a true record by those present, supported by 40 Absentee votes; there were no objections. The Minutes were signed as a true record by the Chairman of the Meeting.

**3. Matters arising:**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the last AGM.

4. Chairman's introduction and Review of 2023

RCMG Chairman, Graham Mills, had prepared a Power Point presentation for 2023, which was displayed and narrated by John Marston.

This included the Treasurer's and Independent Examiner's Reports: a membership fee increase will be instigated at the next annual payment request.

The Membership report, Bursaries sub-committee report, Events, Communications, Plant Committee, Outstanding Gardens Scheme, Yearbook Editor, Bulletin Editor, Archivist, Website and Branches were included giving Branch Chairman's details as follows:

International: Rama Lopez-Rivera, Ireland: Seamus O'Brien, New Forest: Rosemary Legrand, North Wales and Northwest: Ted Brabin, South East: Barry Haseltine, South West: John Marston, Wessex: Sian Thomas, West Midlands: Vacancy

NOTE: As given on the Agenda, the Trustees' Report is available online.

5. Re-Election of Trustee: Graham Mills. Carried

5. Election of officers of the Management committee: None proposed.

7. Re-election of officers for 2024-2025: Chairman: Graham Mills

Vice Chairman: Barry Cooke, Secretary: Robbie Sampson, Treasurer: Philip Eastell,

Membership Secretary: Philip Eastell

Bulletin Editor: Peter Furneaux, Lead Yearbook Editor: Vacancy, Webmaster: Graham Mills,

Group Communications Officer: Mark Bobin, Events Co-ordinator: Vacancy

Advertising Officer: Philip Eastell

Plant Committee Chairman and Archivist: Pam Hayward,

Recommended Gardens Scheme: Nick Butler.

All Carried

8. Re-election of independent examiner: Jacky Havenga. Carried

9. Any Other Business of which notice has been received: None

10: Venue and Date of next AGM

Details of the venue and timing of the 2025 AGM will be confirmed at a later date.

The AGM concluded at 14:15

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John Marston announced that the recipient of the Chairman's Award 2023 was Philip Eastell for long service and valuable contributions.

The Centenary Cup was won by Caerhays Garden Team and was presented to them by John Marston.

The Chairman of the Meeting thanked Trewithen Gardens for hosting the event. He thanked the Competition Judges, John Sirkett and Dr John David. The Secretary then thanked the Galsworthy Family, Trewithen Reception and Catering staff and Gary Long for his IT support and always being there at moments of crisis; a calm hand on the tiller. And finally he thanked the Chairman, Chief Steward, event organiser and friendly face, John Marston. Thanks also to Sally Hayward for her photographic skills.