

LNHS Botany Section

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Zoom on Thursday 24 November 2022 at 6.30pm

George Hounsome chaired the meeting. Around 50 members and guests present.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** None. All votes in favour of the resolutions include three votes submitted in advance of the meeting by the administrators of the Zoom meeting.
- 2. Minutes of the last AGM held 18 November 2021:** These had been made available before the meeting. Approval as a true record was proposed by Mark Spencer and seconded by Maria Roberts. 21 for, 0 against, 3 abstentions.
- 3. Annual Report and Financial Statement:** George Hounsome reported that the year had seen considerable changes to the Botany Section committee. Sarah Graham-Brown had stepped down as Secretary and been replaced by the enthusiastic Andrew Planet with Robin Blades agreeing to minute meetings. Jon Agar had taken over from George as Field Meetings Secretary. George now chairs committee meetings following the retirement of David Bevan after many years of demonstrating his impressive knowledge of botany and contacts in the botanical world. The lack of an Indoor Meetings Secretary causes some problems. While a speaker for the AGM and the botanical photos show had been arranged by other members of the committee, the botany quiz had not. Someone needed to agree take charge of these and other events to ensure that they happen, even if this is now done using Zoom.

The field meetings programme had restarted in earnest after the Covid hiatus. There had been twenty six meetings with an average attendance of fourteen for those where George had the figures. The Section is very grateful to the leaders for the time and effort they put into making these meetings interesting.

Julie Berk, Wendy Knowles, Maureen Parry and Saba Rokni had joined the committee and he hoped they found their roles interesting and enjoyable. New folk mean new ideas and approaches and he hoped those would be demonstrated in the year to come.

There had been no transactions through the Section bank account during the year. The signatories for the bank account need to be updated.

Adoption of the report was proposed by Keiron Brown and seconded by John Swindells. 33 for, 0 against, 1 abstention.

- 4. Nomination and election of officers and committee:** The following were nominated by Mark Spencer and seconded by Andrew Planet.
 - a) Officers:**
 - Chair:** George Hounsome. 33 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

Secretary: Andrew Planet. 32 for, 0 against, 1 abstention.

Representative on Council: Maureen Parry. 33 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

- b) **Committee members:** Jon Agar (Field Meetings Secretary), Paul Bartlett, Julie Berk, Robin Blades (Minutes Secretary), Annie Chipchase, Ian Kitching, Wendy Knowles, Mario Maculan, Saba Rokni, Mary Clare Sheahan, John Swindells. All 34 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions except Julie Berk (33:0:0) and Ian Kitching (33:0:1).
- c) **Recorders:** Peter Howarth – Bryophytes; Mark Spencer – Flowering Plants and Vascular Cryptogams; Andy Overall – Fungi; John Skinner – Lichens. All 36 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions except Mark Spencer (35:0:1).
- d) **Representative on Library Committee:** No nominees.

- 5. **London Flora Project:** Mark Spencer reported that work is a bit in abeyance because of data sharing issues which need to be resolved by LNHS, GIGL (Greenspace Information for Greater London) and BSBI (Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland). Good progress had been made on a list of axiophytes (plants indicative of key habitats) with the assistance of GIGL and Paul Losse of Salix Ecology.
- 6. **Any other business:** The next AGM will be around the same time next year on a date to be announced. Maria Roberts thanked all recorders, officers and committee members for their work during the year.