



South London
Botanical
Institute



Minutes of Annual General Meeting 106 1st October 2020 (online)

Present:

Trustees:

Roy Vickery RV (Chair), Emmanuel Asamoah EA, Gaby Avendano GA, Paul Bodley PB, Michael Clarke MC, Mel Harakis MH, Olly Parsons OP, Marlowe Russell MR, Susan Simmonds SS, Cherry Simpkin CS, Jerry Stevens JS, Maria Vorontsova MV

Others: Veronica Hammerstone, Ros Marshall, Adrian Wells, Adrian Ramsay, Ruth Cousins, Elaine Andrews, Karl Simmons, Sarah Davey, Darrell Barnes, Stuart Fulton, Colin Maitland, Rosie Coddington, Andrew Burns, Fran Rowe, Nicky Nicoll, Avril Powell, Beth Lucas, Lauren Gardiner, Sarah Wilson, Sue Wates, Sophie Leguil.

In attendance: Nell Gatehouse NG, Julia Minnear, Caroline Pankhurst,
Independent Examiners: Philip Landergan, Peter Willans (Landergans)

1.	Welcome by Chair Roy Vickery	Marlowe Russell welcomed all until joined by Roy Vickery and explained the decision to hold this AGM via Zoom.
2.	Apologies for Absence were received from: Hilda Castillo-Berger, June Chatfield, Angie Craft, Pat Davies, Judy Marshall, Cath Pearson, Craig Swick, Sarah Webley.	
3.	Approval of Minutes of 3rd October 2019	AGM 105 Minutes were accepted as being a true and accurate record, approved and signed by Michael Clarke. There were no matters arising
4.	Covid 19 Update	Marlowe Russell gave an update on the SLBI's reaction to the current Covid19 pandemic and how we have been mitigating the impact on our key areas since the March 2020 lockdown when we closed our doors. She highlighted the fact that the next 12 months will bring more challenging problems, although the staff remain secure till March 2021. A Crisis Group has been formed to monitor the challenges regularly. Funders have been flexible and some new emergency funding has been obtained.

Founded in 1910 by A O Hume

5.	Annual Accounts and Trustees' Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by EA, Hon Treasurer • Approval of Financial Statement 2019-2020 • Appointment of Independent Examiner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emmanuel Asamoah, Treasurer, presented the report and thanked staff and the Independent Examiners for all their work. He remarked that currently the SLBI remains in a good position. • Financial Statement: Proposed by EA, seconded by MC. Approved. • Appointment of Landergans as Independent Examiners: Proposed by EA, Seconded by MR. Approved. <p>RV thanked all for their work on this year's Annual Report and Annual Accounts.</p>
6.	Report of Activities	<p>Caroline Pankhurst gave a brief report of the SLBI's activities from April 2019 to March 2020, as documented in the Annual Report, focussing on programme, partnerships and people. She thanked our outgoing Education and Outreach Co-ordinator, Helga Krauss, for her work over the past 5 years and welcomed her replacement, Sarah Webley, who joined us in February 2020. She also welcomed our Individual Giving Co-ordinator, Julia Minnear, who joined us in July 2019, and our consultants working on the BEST project.</p> <p>She also thanked Judy Marshall, our library volunteer, for over 50 years of work for the SLBI, and all the SLBI staff and volunteers, as well as our community partners, grant donors and individual supporters.</p> <p>The Chair thanked CP for all her work over the past year.</p>
7.	Notice of Special Resolution: to remove the requirement for the President to be a Trustee	<p>CS introduced the Special Resolution (attached). Proposed CS, seconded RV. Agreed by the meeting and passed.</p>
8.	Elections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to retiring trustees • Rotations of trustees • Newly nominated trustees • President 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retiring trustees: Pat Davies has been a trustee for almost 20 years and the meeting thanked her for all her years of support for the SLBI. Jerry Stevens is also retiring, a more recent trustee who was thanked for his very effective contribution over the last 3 years. • Rotation: Michael Clarke was proposed by JS, seconded by CS. Approved. • Newly nominated Trustees: Gaby Avendano, Paul Bodley, Olly Parsons, Susan Simmonds and Maria Vorontsova proposed by JS, seconded by CS. Approved. • President Rotation: RV proposed by MH and seconded by Darrell Barnes. Approved.
9.	Business Plan 2021-2026	<p>MR gave an update on our draft Business Plan, the draft summary of which is available on our website. The Chair thanked MR for all her work.</p>

10.	Questions from the floor	Questions regarding the stipulation in our constitution regarding the numbers needed for quoracy of a meeting, whether a fixed number rather than a percentage would be more beneficial.
11.	AOB and Chairman's closing comments	The Chair thanked everyone for their comments and support.
12.	End of Meeting	The meeting ended at 7.10 pm.
<p>The meeting was followed by a fascinating talk, 'Pavement Plants by Sophie Leguil.</p> <p>Reports: Notice of Special Resolution, Annual Report and Annual Accounts 2019-2020, Draft Summary Business Plan.</p>		