

# THE RHODODENDRON, CAMELLIA AND MAGNOLIA GROUP

Registered Charity Number 1161254

Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales



Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 4 pm via Zoom

## PRESENT:

Chairman and Trustee: Graham Mills Trustee: John Marston, Trustee and Vice Chairman: Barry Cooke, Vice Chairman: David Millais, Treasurer: Jenny Fly, Assistant Treasurer: Simon Toms, Secretary: Polly Cooke, Membership Secretary: Rupert Eley, Yearbook Lead Editor: Mary White, Bulletin Editor: Peter Furneaux, Advertising Officer: Stephen Lyus, Communications Officer: Mark Bobin, Independent Examiner: Russell Beeson.

Sarah Bray, Philip Eastell, Andy Fly, Maurice Foster, Jim Gardiner, George Hargreaves, Rosemary Legrand, Rama Lopez Rivera, Sylvia McQuire, Hartwig Schepker, Pat Short, Leon Teeven, Dan Turner, Joey Warren and Roderick White. Ken Cox attended as a guest.

Graham Mills welcomed everyone and began a slideshow for the meeting.

### 1. Apologies:

Eric Annal, Edwin Atkinson, Lady Frances Banham, Ted Brabin, Nick Butler, Koen Camelbeke, Chris Carnaghan, Marc Colombel, Peter Duckett, Anne Guelker, Miranda Gunn, Judy Hallett, Barry Haseltine, Pam Hayward, Sally Hayward, Matthew Heaseman, Barry Hennessey, Jackson McCarter, Alan Pedrick, Malcolm Pharoah, David Reed, John Sanders, Henny Shotter, Alastair Stevenson, Ivor Stokes, John Talbot, Joe Whelan and Jeremy Wilson.

Twenty-three of the above members who sent apologies also completed an Absentee Voting Form, all were in favour of the Agenda items 2, 5, 6 and 7 and none against.

The Chairman stated that voting might be difficult virtually and asked instead that members show their hands if they objected or disagreed with any of the Agenda Items requiring a vote.

### 2. Minutes of the Last AGM:

The last AGM was held via Skype on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The minutes published on the website were unanimously agreed, to be a true record by those present, supported by 23 Absentee votes, there were no objections. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

### 3. Matters Arising:

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

### 4. Chairman's Introduction and Review of 2020

Graham Mills began by highlighting the restrictions that the Coronavirus pandemic has placed on Group activities and our membership. He continued the review and thanked Jenny Fly, who is standing down as Treasurer, for her hard work over the last five years. He thanked Rupert Eley for his contribution as Membership Secretary for fifteen years and is also standing down. Graham congratulated Mark Bobin who has raised the Group profile through Social Media and also Barry Cooke for the Photographic Competition in 2020. The review also covered the RCMG Bursary Scheme, Events, the work of the Plant Committee, the Outstanding Gardens Scheme, RCMG publications: The Yearbook and Bulletin, RCMG Archives, the new website with Plant Directories increasing in size with time; Graham thanked everyone involved with these aspects of the Group. He continued by thanking the Branch Chairmen for their support of Group members regionally in these difficult times, much of which was virtual.

The Chairman said that all of the elections and re-elections are unopposed, and reminded members present to only show their hands or speak if they object to the following:

### 5. Election of Trustee:

John Marston has volunteered to continue as a Trustee. John was elected unanimously by those present, supported by 23 Absentee votes. There were no objections.

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## 6. Election of Officers to the Management Committee:

Simon Toms has volunteered to become Treasurer, Philip Eastell has volunteered to become Membership Secretary and Wendelin Morrison has volunteered to become Events Co-ordinator. All were elected unanimously by those present, supported by 23 Absentee votes. There were no objections.

## 7. Re-election of Officers for 2021-2022:

Chairman: Graham Mills  
Vice Chairmen: David Millais and Barry Cooke  
Secretary: Polly Cooke  
Bulletin Editor: Peter Furneaux  
Yearbook Lead Editor: Mary White  
Webmaster: Graham Mills  
Communications Officer: Mark Bobin  
Advertising Officer: Stephen Lyus  
Plant Committee Chairman and Group Archivist: Pam Hayward  
Outstanding Gardens Scheme: Nick Butler

All were elected unanimously by those present, supported by 23 Absentee votes. There were no objections.

## 8. Election of Independent Examiner:

Russell Beeson is standing down as the Group's Independent Examiner and Graham thanked him for his hard work and contribution to the Group. The position is now vacant.

## 9. Any Other Business (of which notice has been received)

There was no other business.

## 10. Venue and Date of the next AGM:

The next AGM will be held at Ramster Garden on Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup> 2022

The AGM concluded at 4.22 pm

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Graham Mills continued with the Chairman's Award, the recipient in 2020 was Ivor Stokes.

He then handed over to Polly Cooke for the RHS Awards Presentations for 2019 and 2020. Polly introduced the Awards with a brief history of the Cups to be awarded and more about AJ Waley, whose donation allows the annual presentation of the A J Waley Medal. The virtual Presentations were as follows:

Barry Cooke presented the A J Waley Medal to Jim Inskip for 2019 and to Philip Holmes for 2020. Jim has already received his medal and Barry will do an in-person presentation to Philip at Nymans when restrictions allow.

Roderick White presented the David Trehane Camellia Cup to Maurice Foster for 2019 and to Jeremy Wilson for 2020.

David Millais presented the Loder Rhododendron Cup to Ken Cox for 2019 and to Hartwig Schepker for 2020.

Jim Gardiner VMH presented the Rothschild Challenge Cup for 2019 to Dan Turner of Millais Nurseries. The Cup was not Awarded in 2020. Jim then presented the Jim Gardiner Magnolia Cup to John Ravenscroft for 2019 and to Philippe de Spoelberch for 2020.