



University Horticultural Officers Conference 2015
Annual General Meeting

Held on Thursday 24th September 2015 at
John Deere head office, Langar, Nottinghamshire

Attendees:

Alan Horgan	Nottingham Trent University
Alan Stealey	University of Bristol
Calum Ryan	University of Sheffield
Christopher Wright	University of Kent
David Bibb	Aston University
David Chavasse	Edinburgh University
David O'Driscoll	University of Birmingham
Doug Brooke	University of Sheffield
Iain Park	University of Exeter
Ian Sherwood	University of Oxford Parks
Ian Sturzaker	Lancaster University
Ian Walker	Newcastle University
Jamie Whitehouse	University of Leicester
Jane Barker	Keele University
Jane Marriott	University of Glasgow
Jim Moffat	University of Strathclyde
Jim Swan	Heriot Watt University
John Howes	University of Northampton
John Turpin	Edinburgh University
Mat Baldwin	Canterbury Christ Church University
Marcus Clayton	University of Essex
Martin Wyss	University of Southampton
Maurice James	University Winchester
Nathan Wells	University of Bristol
Nigel Hodge	University of Surrey
Paul Edwards	Swansea University
Paul Evans	Aberystwyth University
Paul Griffiths	University of Kent
Richard Corby	De Montfort University
Richie Fluester	University of West of England
Rob Davey	University of Essex
Russ Bissett	University of Portsmouth
Roger Boxall	University of Warwick
Stephen McFarlane	Goldsmiths, University of London
Toby Nenning	Fxplus
Tom Everett	UEA Norwich
Tom Vasey	Newcastle University



1. Welcome

Jamie Whitehouse welcomed delegates to the AGM - held in a conference room of John Deere head office, Langar, Nottinghamshire - in particular new attendees and those who had not attended for some time.

2. Notes from the last meeting

The notes of the last meeting, held at University of Bristol 2014 were agreed as a true record.

Alan Stealey (University of Bristol) read the action points from the previous AGM:

- 2a: Tom Vasey (Newcastle University) has introduced a 'discussion page' - on the University Horticultural Officers Group web site (<http://www.universityhorticultural.co.uk/>) - in response to the suggestion raised in 2014
- 2b: Alan has looked at the geological spread of UK universities. *(Post meeting)* A map showing this distribution can be found at: <http://www.scit.wlv.ac.uk/ukinfo/>. Additional work is required to consider regional networking. John Turpin commented on the benefits for having regular meeting in his region and recommended such communications for other areas of the UK.
- 2c: Nicolette Smith (University of Bristol) has sent out letters of thanks to the event company who had contributed to the Bristol conference as requested.
- 2d: Alan confirmed that he had sent a vote of thanks (including a hamper of Bristol goodies) to John Downing, on his retirement, acknowledging his active role in setting up and supporting the Horticultural Conferences

3. Finances

Jamie mentioned the financial support provided by the sponsors. With their help (together with the £700 surplus which had been transferred from the Bristol Conference) this had ensured the cost of the conference to the attendees had remained at the same rate as last time.

Jamie stated, with every ones agreement, that £400 would be provided to Tom Vasey for continued support of the University Horticultural Officers Group web site. Ian Walker (University of Newcastle) suggested that there should be an acceptance for the fact that such a figure would need to be provided from future conference surpluses; and the suggestion was given a general approval. Tom explained that the level of funding was currently on par with the actual costs, but that there would be increased financial consequences if the group wanted further design changes (e.g. addition web pages). Tom was acknowledge by the group for the sterling work that he has given to the web pages.

Jamie state that the conference had generated a healthy surplus and, once all costs had been accounted, for a named figure would be passed on to the organiser for the next conference.

4. Communication

Jamie suggested that if delegates felt that they had taken a particularly fine photograph, during the conference, they should submit it to Tom for inclusion on the Web page. He further expressed the opinion that this could include photos from earlier conferences – i.e.



prior to the Bristol and Newcastle (from which images are already available) – together with remembrances about those conferences.

Action: Group

5. Membership

Jamie explained the Leicester communication strategy, which has built upon Bristol's contact list, to yet again increase the number of attendees. This information would be given to the next conference organiser.

6. Collaboration Working

Jamie raised the subject of joint tendering for goods and services. Within his region collaboration by the universities had seen substantial savings of goods, such as bedding plants. As a result there is a clear recommendation that such collaboration should be considered by other regions.

Action: Group

7. Future Conferences

Jamie asked for any interest in hosting future conferences; with Reading having dropped out (and Leicester stepping in) the sequence of potential hosts has been broken. Jim Swan (Heriot Watt University) has agreed to consider running the spring 2017 conference. Nigel Hodge (University of Surrey) indicated his willingness to be the alternative if Jim found it unfeasible.

The University of Kent will host the conference in late summer 2018

8. AOB

John Turpin offered the groups sincere thanks to the Chairman for hosting the "excellent – if exhausting conference" and also extended the note of appreciation to Lisa (in absentia) and other organisers behind the scenes.

In return Jamie offered John, as this was his last event before retiring, our grateful thanks for establishing the conferences in the first place. Cards, capturing notes of appreciation and farewell, were presented to John.