

BRITISH CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting, held on Saturday 11th May 2019 at 11.00 a.m.
at the Holiday Inn, Milton Keynes, Bucks.

<u>Trustees Present:</u>	Mr Ian Thwaites (ITH)	Chairman
	Dr Jim Gibbs (JG)	Vice Chairman
	Eddy Harris (EH)	Secretary
	Mr David Kirkbright (DK)	Treasurer
	Mr Al Laius (AL)	Journal Editor
	Mr Graham Charles (GC)	Bradleya Editor
	Mr Barry Tibbetts (BT)	Shows Committee Representative
	Dr Tony Mace (TMa)	Publications Officer
	Mr Bill Hildyard (BH)	Forum & Website Administrator
	Mr John Arnold (JA)	Legal Advisor
	Mrs Suzanne Mace (SM)	Committee
	Mr Graham Evans (GE)	Committee

AGREED

19/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs Alice Vanden Bon (AVB) (Technical Editor), Tony Morris (TM) (Membership Secretary), Stirling Baker (SB) (Trustee) and Rick Gillman (RG) (Potential Treasurer).

19/15 MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 2ND FEBRUARY 2019

As there was no further alteration of the agreed minutes of the February meeting these were then formally signed by Mr Thwaites.

19/16 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MAY MEETING AND PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

19/22/5 A very late alteration was that this May minute should be subtitled 'Zone 9' as Gloucester Branch zone were not involved in their Zone Convention organisation and the minute should conclude as 'the Zone 9 Convention'.

19/10 German Booklets – Mr Charles showed copies of these and it was generally thought that if permission could be obtained, the text could be translated into English and the booklet reprinted and sold to our members. Mr Charles would contact the German Society to ask if this would be possible (GC).

19/11/11 Cultivation Booklet – Mr Charles showed an advanced copy of the booklet which he said would cost some 10p to produce. He said that he still needed some pictures for it and would circulate a copy to all members of this committee to ensure that they agreed to its content. He said that the printer intended to make them up into packs of 50 booklets complete with plastic stand and that the arrangement that he had with Chris Pugh was that the latter would sell these to garden centres that he sold plants to. It was again emphasised that these were not intended as a replacement for Society Cultivation Leaflets, but written in a general information style and referred within its content to Society Cultivation Leaflets as containing more information. It also contained the offer of £2 off the first year's subscription if they joined the Society. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed that packs could be distributed to branches and nurseries which could distribute them around the general public for free at their proposed publicity events when the public bought a plant, provided that they didn't sell them or give them to garden centres sites and thus compromise the arrangement and intent that Chris Pugh had to help publicise the Society (GC). It was asked if we were allowed to sell the booklets at R.H.S. events and Mr Thwaites said that the R.H.S. were yet to answer that question (ITH). Mr Thwaites said that his intent was that if a branch ran a show/event that actively publicised the Society they could publicise it for free in the journal and be given 50 free booklets. It was said that monitoring these events could be a problem (ITH).

18/59/2b Zone Structure & Identity – Mr Tibbetts had displayed his ideas on restructuring the Zonal system at the A.G.M. and most people who saw this were in agreement with the idea. It still needed some reorganisation in certain areas and then the major problem was the redistribution of current Zone funds to the reduced number of Zones. This would be discussed at our next meeting as a major item (EH).

19/17 ELECTRONIC DECISION RECORDING

1. Forum Insert – Mr Harris had received an email from somebody who wished to copy and paste on his Forum thread a copy of the late Fred Braun's article 'Epiphyllum hybrids and their hybridizers' which had appeared in the 1969 February G.B. Journal. He had passed this to Mr Hildyard for a decision and in further discussion at this meeting, it was said that with the combining of the 2 Societies we now had control of all the material published in their journal. It was said that the person posting the query was not a Society member and further investigation would be conducted (DK).

19/18 COMMUNICATIONS

1. Society Ambassadors – Dr Colin Walker had mentioned this at the A.G.M. in that he had been recently introduced to James Basson, a well known garden designer and had suggested to Mr Thwaites that Jane Blackburn become one of our Ambassadors. This was thought to be good idea and Mr Thwaites suggested that we appointed 5 or 6 more high profile people in this capacity. Mr Thwaites also said that he had already approached James Butterworth and Chris Young of the R.H.S. as possible candidates. Mr Kirkbright said that if he sent the names and addresses of the people mentioned to Mr Morris, this would ensure that they received a copy of our Journal and possibly Bradleya (ITH).

19/19

WEBSITE UPDATE:

Mr Hildyard said that everything was progressing satisfactorily and it was emphasised by Mr Thwaites that once it was considered completed, a rigorous programme of testing the various aspects of the site should be undertaken before we gave a date for its general use. He asked if there were any pages that contained out-of-date information which could be deleted and emphasised that such sites should either be updated on a regular basis or regularly overwritten with advanced publicity details and that most visitors to our Website would only read the information once and therefore it should be written in as accurate and friendly style as possible. There was a discussion on the use of the correct Post Code in the various members addresses and the possible complications the incorrect one would raise and also how we would run and pay via our on-line shop.

19/20

BRANCH WORKSHOP UPDATE & BRANCH TOOLKIT:

Mr Thwaites said that this had been well attended with some 28 people attending, a mix of young and old. The video of the event published on our Website had been well received and he had sent the suggestions and survey from the Workshop attendees to this committee and all branches and Zone Reps. This contained ideas on how the structure of branch meetings could be revised to make them more interesting to members. He had spoken to a couple of the attendees and they both said that they had enjoyed it and both said that it was the most forward thinking event that they had ever attended. The majority of the responses from older members was that they needed newer members and the response from newer members was that the aspect of the branch they did not want to lose which was the experience of its older members. He said that he had mentioned the Branch Toolkit which was a series of guidelines on how the branches could attract and retain more members and he felt that it should appear on all this committee's future agendas (EH). The general comment of the Workshop was that branch meetings should be fun events and organised talks generally shorter and that invited speakers asked to shorten their talks. Mr Arnold disagreed in principle as he felt that long talks were more interesting to him personally, but it was said that a lot of branches now used home grown entertainment and Mr Charles said that all U.S. Societies limited their talks to 45 minutes. Dr Gibbs made the point that the hardest point of this was persuading branches to do this, but it was also said that quite a number of branches/Zones expressed interest in displaying our new publicity stand, which had appeared at the A.G.M., so we had made a start in providing tools for them to use to publicise themselves. It was suggested that possibly David Neville or Simon Snowden might be persuaded to help teach branches how to improve their meetings (ITH). He circulated a marketing plan from Portsmouth Branch which identified 3 types of members that they wanted to attract to the branch and he felt that it was very good in principle and might form the basis of the Branch Toolkit.

19/21

SOCIAL MEDIA:

This was going from strength to strength on all of our media. Mr Thwaites intended to produce YouTube videos and investigate the possibility of using PodCast on our media (ITH). It was said that we should try to publicise the Society more actively on this media..

19/22

ITEMS ARISING FROM THE SOCIETY 2019 A.G.M.

1. It was said that that the attendance had been some 104 members. However, Mrs Mace said that there had been a number of comments from Forum members that the election of the Annual Trustees should be done by all the Society members if there were more nominees than vacancies, as was done for the main Society Officers. This was agreed by this committee, but the Society Constitution and Rules would need modification to reflect this and other recent changes and then the changes voted on at the 2020 A.G.M. before any changes in procedure were made (DK/JA).
2. It had been agreed at the last meeting that the 2020 A.G.M. would be held on 25th April and due to a clash of major events the 2021 A.G.M. would now occur on 17th April 2021.
3. 2018 Branch Innovation Award – Due to an oversight/misunderstanding the award had not been presented at our recent A.G.M. An apology for this would be given to the branch and it was thought that a suitable time for it to be awarded would be at one of the branch events organised by them when the majority of its members would be in attendance. An outline item of the award would appear in the December CactusWorld (AL).
4. Manchester Branch – Peter Bint had asked for a loan of some £2,000 as they had inherited under Philip Barker's bequest his pot stock, moulds and storage costs in order that they could continue providing a suitable service to Society members wishing to buy pots. This had taken most of the branch's £5,000 assets, hence the request for the loan for a period of some 2 years. This was agreed by this committee.
5. Zone 9 – This had its Convention on the day after our 2020 A.G.M. and asked if it could share our speaker. Mrs Mace was trying to arranging for Joel Lode to give 2 talks at our A.G.M. and said it might be possible for him to produce a different talk for the Zone 9 Convention.

19/23

RESEARCH COMMITTEE:

Mr Thwaites said that this was short of a chairman and secretary and the remainder of its committee consisted of 3 other people. They also seemed to have few projects to sponsor and he thought that a suitable one would be what compost was the best for growing our type of plants in. He would suggest that such a project was of interest to our newer members and would suggest that several types of soil mix be investigated over several years to establish which were best for growing succulent plants. There was some comment on this from certain of this committee. He also suggested that he would find somebody to take over of at least the Chairman's role. Suggestions from this committee included Dr Andy Young, Roger Ferryman and maybe Dr Colin Walker. One of these would be contacted (ITH).

19/24

BADGE DESIGN:

The latest design consisting of half of a *Cactus* top and half an *Aeonium* rosette without a line dividing them was generally agreed at this meeting as both a suitable logo and badge. Mr Charles would arrange to obtain a batch of 100 badges in the green and gold colours used in the current design. He estimated that these would cost about £2 each to produce (GC). It was said that Mr Morris had now run out of the old design of badge and was currently returning the monies received from new members for a Society badge.

19/25

G.D.P.R.:

It was said that there were no new issues with this although the question was asked as to which members of the branch was the branch secretary allowed to share its branch members' information with. It was said that this could be shared with major committee members of that branch.

19/26

UPDATE ON TREASURER HANDOVER:

1. Current Treasurer – Mr Kirkbright had agreed to continue as Treasurer until 30th September 2019 and would prepare this year's accounts ready for the 2020 A.G.M. He also said that he would help with the accounts for the 2020 National Show (DK).
2. Mr Thwaites said Mr Gillman had indicated that he did not wish to attend these meetings and Mr Thwaites was of the opinion that he needed to do this or there was no point in him taking on the role. Mr Gillman had also asked for a new computer and software financial package which we had agreed to and also submitted a 10 point procedure requirement before he was willing to take on the position. These points needed to be answered. Mr Thwaites said that that he intended to arrange a conference call between himself, Mr Kirkbright and Mr Gillman to establish if the latter was willing to take over from Mr Kirkbright after September (ITH). The alternative would be to hire an outside accountant at an estimated cost of some £3,500 for basic cover.

19/27

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

1. **Chairman:**

- a) Mr Thwaites said that it had been a busy and productive few months. The highlight of the last period for him was the Branch workshop which was productive and brought together several generations of members, who had a surprising amount in common. There was a lot of positivity and the challenge now would be to take this initiative forward.
- b) We had purchased a large display for the branches to use to promote themselves and the society and he had been told of several new displays being undertaken this year and some planned for next year.
- c) We had made great progress during the last year and we now needed to consolidate our position, support the branches in their promotional activities and concentrate on the web site and direct debits.
- d) He said that the lack of a Marketing/PR manager was disturbing as we really did need this discipline within the B.o.T.
- e) Social media was doing well and numbers of followers were steadily increasing. As soon as the new website was up and running we would initiate a major recruiting initiative.

2. **Vice-Chairman:**

- a) G.D.P.R. permissions have been received from all Branch Secretaries, Zone Representatives and all Officials on the Honorary Officials and details of branch's list, which would be published in the June journal. The majority were happy with their entry to continue as in previous years, with a few asking for the removal of their address or preferring the use of email only for contact.
- b) Jac Saorsa was concerned about the lack of knowledge of the Journal Library that she was experiencing amongst members with whom she had had contact. She would like to write a piece for inclusion in the journal explaining about the library and facilities offered and would approach the CactusWorld editor about this. The library existed in a public space and has been organized with the help of a professional librarian so that everything is very easily accessed. This was agreed.
- c) Peter Bint asked if he could have advance notice of the number of different items that he should expect for distribution to the associates. This request arose from the last set of these that full members received in the March journal which, for the first time, arrived to him in two lots, a few days apart. As the first set had been posted, assuming that was all there was, before the second package arrived, the distribution of those in the second pack had been delayed when it would have been very easy to await all such items, if the second package had been expected. It was agreed that he would be told, if possible (AVB).

3. **Membership Secretary's Report:**

Mr Morris had enrolled 130 new members of whom 79 were full, 33 senior, 11 associate and 7 junior. There were 11 new overseas members; 3 from the U.S.A., 2 each from Australia and Germany and 1 each from Mexico, Japan, France and India. 18 of these new Members also took Bradleya. 2 new members joined using the reduced price offer when purchasing the information pack; this brought the total to 129. The enrolment total for the same period last year was 126. He had reinstated 5 former members.

4. **Treasurer's Report:**

- a) Membership – Mr Kirkbright said that the current numbers at 30th April compared with a similar date last year were as follows: Full 1483 (+6), Senior 1101 (+33), Junior 36 (+8) which when added together gave a journal taking membership of 2620 (+47). Associate Membership was 208 (+6) and Bradleya takers were 503 (-5). Combined journals were now only 47 up on the same date last year and he would have hoped for a much greater increase taking account of the large increase we had had during the mid to latter part of 2018. Of the 1483 Full members so far renewed 359 (24.2%) were overseas with a renewal rate of 89.8%

He had separated out figures for two groups which were very significant:-

Out of 2472 who were members prior to 2018 and remained in membership at the end of 2018, 2156 (87.2%) had so far renewed.

Out of 558 who joined during 2018, only 250 (44.8%) had renewed, i.e. 308 (55.2%) had not. This was despite reminders having been sent out to most. Had the ratio of renewals in the previous group been reflected in this group then a further 236 would have renewed.

One effect of the many late renewals that occurred following the reminders was a very big increase in postage costs. Costs on average were 67p per item for the contract bulk mailing, but individual journals with inserts taken to the post office by Mr Morris cost £1.72; 2 ½ time as much.

- b) Publishing Royalties – Royalty received from Jstor and BioOne amounted to £2026.74 and £9776.48 respectively after deducting VAT, (£11,803.22 in total) over the period of one year.

5. **Shows Committee Report:**

- a) Mr Tibbets said that following the retirement of Ian Thwaites and Stirling Baker from the Committee, Gareth Darbon was voted on at the A.G.M. One other committee member was still being sought. Both Ian and Stirling were awarded the Shows Committee Award at the A.G.M. for their long service for the Committee.
- b) Showing & Judging Weekend (30.8.19 to 1.9.19) – Speakers were proving difficult to acquire this year. Four of the six needed were now confirmed, but the last two were proving difficult. Mr Darbon was hopeful this would be resolved shortly. All judging classes and plant providers had been agreed. Attendance was currently some 10 lower than last year.
- c) National Show (3rd and 4th July 2020) – A small sub-committee had been formed, and was in the process of trying to arrange a meeting at The Milton Keynes Arena with the staff to progress the management of the event. It had been suggested that members have free entry, but it was emphasised that this would contravene Gift Aid rules in that these specified that the Society was only allowed to return 25% of their subscription. It was then suggested that it was made a free event for everybody but it was said that it was costing some £7,000 more than the last National Show. It was finally agreed that members would get in for £2.50 instead of £5 as would our other Society guests.

6. **Research Report:**

- a) Mr Lambie had provided the report and said that unfortunately, there had been no time to discuss this report with the committee members and it reflected the author's personal view, informed by some earlier email exchanges.
- b) There had been no applications for grants since the last meeting.
The secretary, Alan Hill, had notified the committee in November 2018 that, following many years of service, he was resigning from the Research Committee. At the moment the committee had no secretary. Also earlier this year, David Lambie, also found he had to resign as Committee chairman due to changes in his work commitments. At the moment the committee had no Chairman or Secretary. In the absence of these two, the committee needed help from the B.o.T. to recruit new members to take up these roles. Other existing members were happy to offer their professional opinions on any projects but not to take on tasks involved in the committee organization. If needed, David Lambie could provide a personal perspective on the chairman's role.

7. **Conservation Committee:**

- a) The committee met on 17th March 2019. The usual range of topics were discussed. Some email discussion had taken place prior to the meeting, surrounding the Xylellafastidiosa virus and its implications for plant importation, It would appear that at present succulent plants were not considered at risk, but the situation would need to be monitored.
- b) Two Bill Maddams Travel Grants were approved; to Ella Buckley for travel to Arizona, resulting from a fully-costed documented request, and Hayley Thurratt for travel expenses to Kew from Ireland. A further request from Sal Demain was deferred for further details and costings. An application form had now been produced by Mr Miller, and was agreed. This would be added to the website to encourage future applications to be more detailed and consistent, provided the date for applications could be changed on the B.C.S.S. website to 31st December 2019 (from 2016).
- c) No new Conservation projects had been received, and means of being more pro-active in terms of this were discussed. The possibility of producing a database of specialist/important collections held within the society, with a view to their conservation/continuation in cultivation was tentatively discussed, and the means to bring together growers of rare plants to encourage seed production etc. There were clear issues around this which would need careful consideration. Their next meeting would be on 4th August 2019.

8. **Journal Editor:**

Mr Laius reported that the June journal was in the process of being put together and was on schedule. It would contain 11 articles plus all the usual features such as 'In my Greenhouse', 'Top Tips' and 'CactusTalk'. Alice Vanden Bon would be compiling the June issue. He said that looking ahead, he had 12 articles which were already designed with another 6 which were with the production team awaiting design and layout, and 1 which was currently work in progress. There would therefore be enough articles for the next two issues (September & December 2019).

9. **Advertising Officer's Report:**

Mr Quail's written report said that the net advertising revenue for June 2019 was £391, compared to £487, £404 and £645 in June of the three preceding years. A handover date for Journal advertising was currently being arranged with Gregory Bulmer before the next quarter's advertising. This had to be deferred in March/early April because of other work pressures. As before, he had been included in all communications.

10. **Technical Editor:**

- a) The March Journal, of maximum size with the current binding method (96 pages including BCSS News), was printed and distributed on the planned dates, including all the new inserts and in a potato starch wrapper. Phil Crewe carried out the Journal assembly and paging process very successfully with telephone support from Mr Quail.
- b) Reprints – A reprint of the book ‘The genus *Echeveria*’ was requested, and the necessary work to produce a printing specification, invite printers’ quotations, agree arrangements with a printing company and the author, prepare the printers’ files and monitor the progress of the job was completed successfully and in line with the dates required. A similar exercise was also carried out for a reprint and some updating of the Welcome Pack (Information Sheets) and this was completed quickly and successfully.
- c) Discussions with our printers – Our second printer eventually produced acceptable quotations for 2019 printing and was invited to print our June and December Journals. As expected, there were a few initial problems with the March Journal pack, resulting from the change of wrapper to potato starch and the introduction of the new inserts, some of which proved challenging for our printers, and these would be discussed with our printers to try to minimise them for the future. Our printer for June and December would, as for December 2018, be mailing the Journals and inserts in paper envelopes and our September printer (who printed the March Journal) would probably be asked to continue with potato starch wrappers, subject to the outcome of planned discussions. As they were not able to use paper envelopes, the alternative would be to revert to plastic wrappers. We would also continue discussions with them about printing the mailing addresses and other required information directly onto the potato starch wrappers, rather than on a mailing carrier sheet inside. We would continue to talk to both printers about the feasibility of having membership numbers and member names pre-printed by computer on next year’s membership cards.
- d) Successes – Successful, on-time printing and mailing of the March Journal and inserts. Completion of the training of a layout team member to assemble and paginate the Journal. On-time completion of a book reprint and a reprint of the Welcome Pack (Information Sheets).

11. **Bradleya Editor:**

Mr Charles reported that *Bradleya* 37 was published on May 1st, earlier than usual. At 264 pages, it was 8 pages longer than the previous largest edition (2017). The 501 pre-ordered copies were mailed by Lavenham on May 1st using a compostable wrap for the U.K. copies and card envelopes for overseas. The remaining copies (about 240) would be delivered to Dr Mace. It was again printed by Lavenham Press and they did an excellent print job, resulting in sharp natural images. The binding was done with PUR adhesive, stronger and more flexible than traditional perfect binding. *Bradleya* 38, which would be his eighth, was already started with four papers submitted. He expected that enough material would be received to allow for publication in the early part of 2020 to be achieved. There had been a problem with the early publication as the advertisement had mentioned a pre-publication price for a publication which was already published. Mr Charles had no answer to this as he was committed to an early publication by the various authors. There had been no problem using the compostable wrapper, but it was agreed that we would revert to the previous use of a card envelope to protect this prestigious publication.

12. **Publications:**

Dr Mace reported that this quarter had seen the arrival of rather a lot of reprinted and new material. He had also received a new printing of information pack leaflets and wallets which required the insertion of these. A large number of packs were requested for the A.G.M. Last week saw the arrival of 9 boxes of *Bradleya* 37, which was now on sale on the old website. He had received a few complaints about the potato starch wrappers used for the mailing of *Bradleya* 37. Indeed his own wrapper was torn although the journal inside was undamaged. He said that the delivery of some 60 boxes of reprinted *Echeveria* books did not arrive on time (expected 9/5/19) and these would have to be stored in his garage as the book store was pretty full. It had been learnt that John Pilbeam had received his 200 copies on time.

13. **Digital Programme Library:**

- a) A presentation was in preparation using John Ellis’s slides with, at least some, commentary from him. His sad death meant we would have no more input from him, but we hoped to finish it in a way he would have liked.
- b) Use of presentation material on social media had been very successful and the images regularly feature there, gathering a lot of 'likes' and comment.
- c) Scanning continued with a number of slides available including Tom Jenkins material which were being post processed.
- d) Dr Gibbs had provided over 100 images from Vic Morris, mainly of cacti for social media. There were around 1000 more which required some post processing, but should be a good resource for presentations.
- e) Resources for at least 2 more national show programs existed. Slides had been selected for a 2016 program, but the commentary was needed and with no judges' comments, this would be a long job. It was planned after John Ellis' program had been dealt with.
- f) The issue of digital delivery of programs had been highlighted as before as a strategy point needing some agreement. Presumably this awaited the new website, but strategy was needed on the mechanics, e.g. costs, access, etc.
- g) Two sets of slides had been offered to the Society from deceased members. One had been collected by Paul Spracklin in Essex and was being passed to David Lambie in Bristol. A second was being dealt with by the branch with the aim of passing it onto the Society if suitable.
- h) He said that the team would welcome ideas for more digital material, specifically on other succulents.

14. **Seed Purchaser and Distributor Reports (via S. Mace) :**

- a) Seed Purchaser (David Rushforth)– All the seed for the next distribution was either being counted, or awaiting delivery. He would be liaising with Colin McKellar so that he was prepared for next year, and keep him updated with this year's

list. At some stage there would have to be a meeting between them to transfer the necessary materials to him. Unfortunately there was a long distance between them, but possibly E.L.K. might be a possibility if Mrs Mace was willing. He didn't know Colin and he had no recollection of meeting him at any B.C.S.S. event. He planned to do all he could to ensure a smooth transfer.

- b) Seed Purchaser (Colin McKellar) – He had up to 5 counters, excluding himself. He said that he could look to get some requests for assistance for both people willing to donate seeds and anyone willing to assist with counting up on forums and in the journals. Aiko (Talens) had offered any spare African bulbs after he had donated to a couple of other smaller societies. It was not a problem getting seeds for the new members' packs. He could contact Tony Morris to get an idea on quantities straight away.
- c) Seed Distributor (Peter Lewis) – He had just two points to mention. The first was that the restriction imposed in the last list proved to be a huge success in that so many more members were able to receive seeds of their choice rather than being told that particular species had already sold out. He knew that some people were concerned that if such a restriction were to be imposed that there would be many surplus packets unsold at the end of the day. This did not materialise. The other point was trying to get across to members that if they want to purchase seeds it was imperative that they sent in their orders as soon as possible after they have received the Seed List otherwise they could well miss out. Orders were still arriving in April and all of them had to be returned with the payments with a polite letter explaining that first orders for seeds started to arrive around the 13th December and that by the end of February/the beginning of March, all distribution had ended. He ended his report by asking that we please let him know of any decisions made in due course.

15. **CactusWorld Live (via G. Evans):**

- a) Work continued to progress on this. Stirling Baker had completed most of the preparations for the Show element and had managed the production of the souvenir schedule. The event now had its own website, which Sheila Cude would update, and the sellers were all confirmed. The primary focus moving forward would be on promotion, especially to the public, which would require significant assistance from the branches, who had been slow to take up space in the additional marquee. There would also be several short talks given throughout the weekend and, to add more interest to the Succulent Show, there would be displays of various genera or groups of plants including *Euphorbias*, *Sempervivums*, *Mesemb.* and possibly *Liliaceae* and perhaps even some cacti!
- b) Mr Harris had contacted the St John's Ambulance people about cover for the event and had passed the initial paperwork to Mr Evans, for his information. Mr Harris also asked to be informed of any changes that might affect the Marquee layouts.

16. **eNews (via G. Evans):**

eNews continued to be published monthly in the first week of each month, although the mailchimps had sometimes been sent on the first Saturday rather than the planned first Friday and on one occasion later still. The problems experienced with the emails being treated as spam had been resolved by changing the sender's and registered addresses to the B.C.S.S. domain. Feedback remains positive and Sheila Cude's major contribution was gratefully acknowledged.

17. **Robins Report (via G. Evans):**

There were no Robins currently active as all had fallen below their minimum viable numbers, despite attempts to amalgamate a couple of them. The Cold Hardy Robin hadn't flown for some time but was the only one thought to have any prospect of survival. Mike Thewles would look into this, but if there was insufficient interest he would recommend laying the Robins to rest.

19/28. **OTHER UPDATES/POINTS FROM OFFICER'S REPORTS**

Journal Compilation & Pagination – Mr Thwaites had approached somebody (PB) to do the September journal and had then passed the details to Mr Laius as Journal Editor. The latter said that Mr Quail had done this work for the last 3 journals. The last journal had contained several inserts and the two cultivation inserts were not sent to everybody and had been printed on the wrong paper. It was proposed that all future ones and the latter two would be printed on the correct glossy paper and sent out with the June journal so that everybody had a complete set on the correct paper (possibly on A5 sized paper to ensure they fitted undamaged in our journal). As regards the layout we would continue using our team of volunteers and for the journal compilation we were investigating the cost of having this done by an outside company. Mr Thwaites had looked at the reply he had from PB who said that he hadn't the latest version of Quark and hence our existing layout team would not be able to read it, but if we did not need our layout team to upgrade their Quark version it would not matter and PB was still a possibility. In the light of a previous experience with Bradleya which had been a disaster it was asked if we would test the outside company thoroughly. It was said by a number of independent editors that the layout of our journal was thought to be dated and we should consider reviewing it. Dr Mace argued forcefully that our publication was a journal not a magazine and was perfectly okay. Mr Laius said that he would keep this in mind. .

19/29 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 1. Current situation with Mr Rowley Library – He had spoken to Mrs Vanden Bon who had said that Mr Rowley's health was now not very good and Mr Charles said that he now had 'Power of Attorney' and the long term plans were to sell his house and store a few additional pieces of furniture. He also said that there were still many books on classical music and Laurel and Hardy plus Mr Rowley's Meccano sets and it was intended to try to sell these and hopefully get the best price for these. It was then hoped to pay back the Society monies already being paid to store his library. If Mr Rowley went into a care home then, the Society might well think that helping to purchase the future library site might be a better option

than paying for storing his library. It was asked if the library was insured and it was said that it was and was absolutely safe.

2. Society Calendar – It was agreed that we would produce one for 2020 and have it for sale at E.L.K. and the CactusWorld Live event. It was said that if it was marketed properly sales would be better.
3. Labels – The stock of our current label was now getting very low and Mrs Mace said that one of her branch members was investigating getting an alternative source of these. The design of these might have to be altered slightly and she asked how many of the original design had been sold. Mr Kirkbright said that Mr & Mrs Capel had produced 113,700 labels.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded at approximately 5.15pm.

NEXT MEETING: 10th August 2019 at the Holiday Inn, London Road, Newport Pagnell, MK16 0JA (just off junction 14 of M1). It would start at 11a.m. and a buffet lunch would be served at 1 to 1.30p.m.