

MINUTES
WINCHESTER ART CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
25TH March 2023

1 Apologies for absence

Ron Allan; Lindsay Berry; Sue Bowery; Gill Brophy; Sherry Edmondson; Diane Hitchcock; Jo Richardson; Chris Marlow; Leon Edwards; Joy Reynolds; Mike Ellis

2 Matters arising from last agm on 26 March 2022

None

3 Passing of minutes of last agm on 26th March 2022

The minutes were passed as being a true record of the meeting

4 Chairman's report (Hilary Archer)

Hilary welcomed the attendees and was grateful for their attendance. She stated that she did worry about the future of the club. There are not many committee members and we still lack some key people.

As a result of member's generosity the club made a donation of £500 to DEC Ukraine.

The painting by Paul Dolman which he donated to the club will be auctioned to club members to raise money for the club.

5 Exhibitions secretary Sheilla Bushnell

5.1 Hospital Exhibition

This was the first for two years and there were a lot of entries. We sold 24 paintings.

Thanks to Jane Nicholson for dealing with the sales and arranging payment to the artists and to the club treasurer.

There was one attempted theft of a painting. Joan Willingham had a painting ripped from the wall. Luckily the painting was left in the corridor and Joan could retrieve it. The club does use security screws, but as in a past incident some years ago, the security screws held firm. The weak point were the screws attaching the painting frame to the mirror plates. This is a rare occurrence.

First 2023 Hospital exhibition. Handing in for this is on 16th April. Entry fees to the treasurer in advance. Up to 5 paintings are allowed. Details will be sent soon.

5.2 Annual exhibition 2022

This was the first time that the exhibition was held on the Mezzanine floor of the ARC. It went very well. There were a lot of compliments about it. The number of paintings that could be hung was reduced to 100.

There were 22 sales plus the sale of 6 folios.

One painting was stolen, much to the embarrassment of the ARC staff, who had been on duty throughout the exhibition. Security cameras were in place throughout, and footage from these was sent to the police. The ARC reimbursed the artist in full for the stolen painting.

Catalogues. 400 were published and there were 200 left over. This is more than if the club had charged for them. There will be a charge for them this year. It was noted that the ARC staff did not advertise the catalogues and that many people may not have known that one existed. There a hope that there will be a sales point on the mezzanine floor next year, from which catalogues can be purchased.

Problem about painting of nudes. Paintings of nudes was not allowed last year. This caused some controversy. There was a joint meeting with ARC staff and the Photographic Society to try and resolve this. It was decided that in future “tasteful” paintings or photographs of nudes would be allowed, but nothing “silly”.

6 Programme Secretary Simon Churchill

Simon stated that he is standing down as treasurer to take on this post. Robert Jackson will be taking on as treasurer.

Simon reported that the demonstrations have done well over the last 8 years, with most being done in watercolour, oil or mixed media. He will be sending a questionnaire round to members to ask them what subjects and media they would like in future.

7 Membership secretary Celia Brown

Celia stated that there are 174 paid up members, with 6 new people this year.

8 Treasurers Report Simon Churchill.

Simon reported that the accounts have not been finalised yet. When he and Robert Jackson (the new treasurer) came to do these, a discrepancy was found. This is still to be sorted out. However, the findings so far show that there is a £900 deficit.

This is due to:

a) loss caused by running courses; Over the period 2012-2022 these have made about a £5,000 loss; These will be discontinued for now.

b) Annual exhibition catalogue. 2 out of 4 of those taking out advertisements did not pay, giving a deficit of £170. It is unlikely that this money will be recovered. There was no charge for the catalogue last year, but as reported by Sheila Bushnell, there were a lot left over. When we charged for these, we normally sold about 300. Joan Willingham stated that the lack of interest was probably because people were unaware that there was a programme. The ARC staff were not offering them. Sheila Bushnell stated that Art Society staff are not allowed on the mezzanine to help with the exhibition, but that there will be a sales point in this location in future.

c) Card sales. There has been a problem with selling cards at the annual exhibition for years. Joan Willingham suggested that part of this is due to the card sales being downstairs and away from the main exhibition. Simon warned that the club will not be handling payment for cards in future. The Club gets nothing from this, and it is very time consuming. If members wish to sell cards they will need to take this up with ARC staff themselves.

c) Fall in membership. A lot of people did not re-join over lockdown.

Sources of revenue (other than membership)

The Annual Exhibition sales were good, and gave the highest return in 14 years. The percentage of paintings sold was also high.

9 Presentation to Tricia Spink. Hilary Archer gave a card, cheque and a bouquet of flowers to Tricia Spink in thanks for all the work she has done for the club.

10 Election of Art Club Officers.

Simon Churchill warned about the future of the club if new club committee members were not found. He especially mentioned the role of secretary. He stated that he had changed to Art Club web site, so that members are pointed to the correct club member to contact. This will reduce the load of the job. The committee had discussed what to do, and had said there were three options of a secretary was not found. a) have a club member; b) pay someone part time c) have an external volunteer. Options b) and c) would not increase the work load and so it has to be a club member.

The President Tony Hunt asked that members present elect committee members for 2023. He suggested that as there are no contesters, the members be opted in en bloc. This was proposed by Barbara Frost and seconded by Jane Nicholson. The election of Robert Jackson as treasurer was also accepted.

Any other business

- a) Joan Willingham asked if demonstrations and other meeting start at 14:00 rather than 14:30, to allow people to return in daylight. Simon Churchill replied that this will be happening in November, once the Hall is free.
- b) Painting by Paul Dolman. Simon Churchill showed the meeting the painting and stated that it would be auctioned to the club in the near future.
- c) St Swithins School has an art festival on 6th July and asked if anyone would be interested in participating.
- d) Chris Harrison suggested that the club should try to attract new members from the older generation. Membership will never appeal to the younger generation.

- e) The President Tony Hunt thanked everyone for attending. He stated that Covid had been a difficult time, but that the Club has coped much better than some others. There are good signs of recovery,