

Annual General Meeting of the Hardy Orchid Society at Kidlington, Oxford

on Sunday 13th April 2025 at 10.30 am

MINUTES

1. Apologies for absence. Three members apologised for their absence

2. Minutes of the last AGM of Sunday 17th March 2024 as posted.

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising. None

4. Chair's Report

Chair's Report to HOS AGM 13th April 2025

Celia Wright

After welcoming attendees the Chair reported on recent meetings and listed dates for later this year and 2026:

2025

St Chad's Leeds	Saturday September 6 th
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Kidlington	Sunday November 16 th
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2026

Kidlington (AGM)	Sunday April 26 th
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St Chad's Leeds	Saturday September 5 th
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Kidlington	Sunday November 15 th
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The Chair gave a big 'Thank you' to all the members of the Committee who give a lot more of their time than they should to the Society.

She continued:

As well as taking on the Chair role, I book speakers for the meetings. This has been challenging this year. It has been harder to find volunteers to speak and a number of speakers have had to change their commitments at short notice. We are now sending out booking forms for meetings earlier than previously – for example, the form for the Leeds meeting this September will be going out with the Spring issue of our journal this month. Please talk to me today if you might like to speak at a future meeting.

I am standing down from the role of Chair at this meeting as I don't think as fast as I have done in the past and this makes me less effective. I've enjoyed all my years in that role but am glad to hand it on now. I am grateful to Simon Tarrant who is standing as Acting Chair for the coming year in my place. I will continue on the Committee for a further year in my other role as speakers finder for our meetings.

Thank you for listening.

5. Treasurer's Report

Summary for the Financial Year ending 31st December 2024

We started the year with Total Funds of £ 55,303.98

Our income for the year was £ 20,218.71

Our expenses for the year were £ 13,312.75

Providing a surplus of £ 6,905.94

Accumulated funds at the year end are £ 62,209.94

- Balance sheet as at 31/12/2024

Balance Sheet as at 31/12/2024

		31 December 2024	
		£	£
<i>Fixed</i>			
<i>Assets</i>	Equipment		0.00
<i>Debtors</i>	Prepayments	0.00	
	Unpaid Invoices	0.00	
	Unbanked Cheques	0.00	
			0.00
<i>Bank</i>	Current Account	12,876.16	
	PayPal Account	109.49	
	Savings Account	50,256.48	
	Stamp Stock	0.00	
			63,242.13
			63,242.13
<i>Liabilities</i>	Creditors	1,032.19	
	Meeting Fees in Advance		
	Subscription in Advance		
	Unpresented Cheques	0.00	
			1,032.19
			62,209.94

Accumulated Funds	55,303.98
net Surplus/Deficit	6,905.96
Total Funds	62,209.94

- Income and expenditure for the period from 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

Income & Expenditure		<i>For the Period from 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024</i>		<i>31 December 2023</i>	
		<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>
Income	Annual				
	Membership		12,889.00		12,984.81
	Meetings		2,919.50		3,163.30
	Interest		963.60		690.75
	Journal				
	Advertising		825.00		0.00
	Journal Sales		2.00		0.00
	Donations &				
	Sundry Income		638.00		800.20
	Seed & Fungus				
	Sales		1,561.61		1,458.29
	Seed Sowing				
	Workshops		420.00		500.00
	Badge Sales		0.00		0.00
	Book Sales		0.00		0.00
			<u>20,218.71</u>		<u>19,597.35</u>
Expenses	Journal Printing &				
	Distribution	5,709.85		6,059.58	
	Secretarial &				
	General	1,122.13		1,662.05	
	Handbooks	0.00		0.00	
	Meetings				
	Expenses	3,454.37		3,893.32	
	Advertising &				
	Website	429.44		134.31	
	BOC,RHS &				
	Insurance	197.00		75.00	
	Repairs &				
	Replacements	0.00		219.59	
	Seed & Fungus				
	Purchase	922.52		1,035.43	
	Conservation	0.00		139.85	

Seed Sowing Workshops	231.30		260.36	
HOSG	1,039.00		1,943.00	
Transaction Charges	207.14		233.07	
Depreciation	0.00	13,312.75	0.00	15,655.56
Net Surplus/Deficit		£6,905.96		£3,941.79

There was some discussion regarding the Conservation Grants. After significant interest in year 1 applications have fallen significantly. As the Society has the funds questions were asked about the possibility of raising the size of the grants. It may be that the current award is too small for many projects.

6. Membership Secretary's Report

Moira explained that she had moved to a standard date of 21st March to make realistic comparisons.

Total memberships on 21st March 2025: 710

Total memberships on 6th March 2024: 698

Increase of 1.7%. (21st March 2023 was 700)

Total members on 21st March 2025: 944

Total members on 6th March 2024: 915

Increase of 3.2%

She explained that field trips are a huge driver. Lots of people find them very exciting. Another key factor in recruiting new members is current members.

Moira had placed a large number of leaflets on a table in the foyer and encouraged members to take them and use them to encourage possible new members.

7. Election of Officers and Committee Members

Post	Current Officer 2024/25	Committee Proposal 2025/26
President	Prof Richard Bateman	Prof Richard Bateman
Chair	Celia Wright	Acting Chair – Simon Tarrant
Vice Chair	Simon Tarrant	<i>none</i>
Secretary	Hilary Pickersgill	Hilary Pickersgill
Treasurer	Colin Ranbow	Colin Rainbow

Membership Secretary	Moira Tarrant	Moira Tarrant
Plant Show Secretary	Neil Hubbard	Neil Hubbard
Photographic Show Secretary	Neil Evans	Neil Evans
Video Competition Organiser	Steve Pickersgill	Steve Pickersgill
Journal Editor and Website	Mike Gasson	Mike Gasson
Speakers Secretary	Celia Wright	Celia Wright
Southern Meetings Organiser	Simon Tarrant	Simon Tarrant
Northern Meetings Organiser	Phil Smith	Phil Smith
Publicity and Outreach	Moira Tarrant	Moira Tarrant
Seed Bank Manager	John Haggard	John Haggard
Journal Distributor	Nigel Johnson	Nigel Johnson
Conservation Officer	Bill Temple	Bill Temple
Deputy Conservation Officer	None	None
Field Meetings Co-ordinator	Richard Kulczycki	Richard Kulczycki
Examiner	Dave Meadows	Dave Meadows

Celia explained that she is standing down and Simon Tarrant will stand in for one year. Many committee members wish to stand down next year. Celia appealed to members to consider if there are ways in which they could help on the Committee.

Election of Acting Chair

It is proposed by Celia Wright and seconded by Neil Evans that Simon Tarrant be appointed as Acting Chair.

Carried unanimously.

8. Date of the next AGM 26th April 2026