

# THE IRISH ORCHID SOCIETY

## 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### MINUTES

#### AGENDA

##### Welcome and introductions

Brendan began by welcoming the attendees. It was noted that a quorum was present despite the Ireland-Sweden soccer match being played. Attendees: Deirdre McGrane, Brendan Sayers, Mary Bradshaw, Úna Breathnach, Lisa Coffey, Robert Bradshaw, Hilda Beckett, Olwyn Lannigan, Deirdre McTiernan, Mary Flynn, Anne Kenny.

##### Apologies

Apologies were received from Marie Hourigan, Larry May, Tom Petherbridge and Tom Doran

##### Acceptance of Minutes of previous AGM

Minutes of the 2015 AGM were reviewed by those present. No matters arose from same.

**Proposed resolution:** That the minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting be Accepted.

Moved: Olwyn Lannigan

Seconded: Mary Flynn

Passed

##### Chairperson's Annual report

Since the 2015 Annual General Meeting, we have settled into our usual routine of a field trip to the North Bull Island, some enjoyable members' nights and a talk from a visiting lecturer. Johan Herman's talk on *Recent Travels around the Orchid World* brought a change from the usual faces and was enjoyed by many more than just IOS members. The Society again participated in the Dublin Orchid Fair held by the National Botanic Gardens, which seemed to be a successful event for everyone involved.

The biggest change from the routine this past year was with the Society's newsletter, **Pollinia**. The change is dramatic and one that has been greeted divergently. What must be repeated is our compliments to the Editor, Larry May for producing a newsletter, often with very little contributed content from members. As a record of what we were, are and will be, it is incumbent on us to keep **Pollinia** filled with what is unique to orchid growing in Ireland. We are now, as a charitable organisation, obliged to lodge records of our activities with the Charities Regulatory Authority, and **Pollinia**, with a good report of our activities, has the ability to make that easier and efficient.

We should also scrutinise the routine that we have fallen into and ask ourselves if we have become complacent. The drain of members on specialist societies is not unique to us and those that remain active and involved are due a high quality reward for their efforts.

I must apologise to the Committee as a "reluctant" Chairperson. Pressures on daily life have let me fall into relying on the routine and neglecting the role of communication, one that I do believe is necessary to keep out of falling into a rut. I will attempt to do better this coming year.



**Personal thanks and congratulations:** the Annual General Meeting gives heartiest thanks to Mary Bradshaw, Deirdre McGrane, Lisa Coffey, Marina Andreeva and Aleksandra Kucharezyk for their work on our behalf. It also thanks Marie Hourigan and the National Botanic Gardens for their support.

**BRENDAN SAYERS, CHAIRPERSON**

**Questions regarding Chairperson's Report**

None

**Resolutions regarding Chairperson's Report**

None

**Acceptance of Chairperson's Report**

Proposed resolution: That the Annual Report tabled at the Annual General Meeting be accepted.

Moved: Úna Breathnach

Seconded: Mary Flynn

Passed

**Treasurer's Report**

Mary Bradshaw, Treasurer, presented the Report. At the 2015 AGM, Olwyn had suggested that presentation of two years finances would be useful, hence, both the current and previous year's statements were provided to members.

**Financial Statement 2014/2015 (Amounts in Euro)**

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Subscriptions	670.00	Pollinia	775.22
Life Membership	0	Website costs	193.09
Raffles	699.00	Prizes for raffles	225.98
Sales of bark	134.00	Engraving	60.00
Pleione bulbs	40.00	Orchid flasks	56.25
Potting demonstration	255.00	Stamps	256.00
		Orchid Soc GB sub	27.35
		Bank fees	15.54
		Speaker 1-Doogue	50.00
		Speaker 2-Lambkin	75.00
		Speaker 3-Harris	12.00
		Orchid bark	30.00
Total	1,798.00	Total	1,806.43
Deficit	-8.43		

Cash in Bank, in two accounts, €6,303.46

## Financial Statement 2015/2016

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Subscriptions	636.76	Pollinia	587.55
Life Membership	0	Website costs	236.16
Raffles	979.00	Prizes for raffles	89.98
Sales of bark	15.00	European Orchid Council Membership	70.00
		Envelopes (500)	42.13
		Stamps	103.35
		Orchid Society of GB Subscription	27.00
		Bank fees	15.54
		Speaker	344.70
		Orchid bark	30.00
Total	1,630.76	Total	1,516.41
Surplus	114.35		

Cash in Bank, in two accounts, 6,665.10

### Questions regarding Treasurer's report

Olwyn commented on the difficulty of maintaining a society and queried for how long the IOS could continue on its reserves. It was stated that reserves would sustain the Society for approximately four years. Mary Bradshaw noted that although subscriptions were only slightly higher than those of the previous year, the income from the raffles had been very good. The raffles are our main source of income and we are now sourcing the prizes in IKEA, Woodie's, Homebase, etc. as this represents good quality and value for money. Similarly, at the Orchid Fair, the raffle prizes were not bought from either of the growers present and so our costs were lower than in previous years. It was noted, however, that the new look **Pollinia** has an increased postage cost. The only cost associated with Johan Herman's talk was the book with which he was presented by the IOS and dinner.

Olwyn queried the number of plants bought for the Orchid Fair raffle and the quality of same. Úna replied that plants cost upwards of €15 in a garden centre. She added that members had to keep moving them due to the wind around the entrance to the Teak House, while Brendan added that the position is nonetheless beneficial in terms of catching people as they enter the Teak House. Úna stated that regular members continuously support the raffles.

### Resolutions regarding Treasurer's report

None

## Acceptance of Treasurer's report

Proposed resolution: That the financial statements tabled at the Annual General Meeting be accepted.

Moved: Úna Breathnach

Seconded: Mary Flynn

Passed

## Committee 2016-2017

The committee for the coming year will be as presently constituted.

## A.O.B.

Brendan proposed an amendment to the IOS constitution which would require a unanimous consensus from members present as the membership had not been given notice. It was proposed that Section 4, Clause 3 be amended to allow an individual to retain a committee position in "exceptional circumstances". This would assist in keeping positions filled and possibly avoid vacancies, as has occurred in the past. All members present were unanimous in their support and the amendment was passed. Olwyn noted that the matter had been dealt with in a forthright manner but that hopefully, circumstances would not arise as to require its implementation.

Deirdre McGrane, Secretary, stated that postage cost for **Pollinia** had increased due to the new format, but that as long as a balance was maintained between members who chose to receive the digital version and those who preferred the paper copy this cost could be sustained. Mary Bradshaw stated that there has also been a cost for new envelopes due to the new format. Brendan added that the IOS must be mindful of costs as we cannot afford to diminish our savings. Úna queried whether members were aware of the option of receiving the digital version of **Pollinia** and Deirdre McGrane stated that a notice to this effect had been circulated via a previous edition of **Pollinia**.

Brendan observed that Society members do not contribute a significant amount of material to **Pollinia**, but as members we need to do more. Úna stated that she had sent Larry a piece on the biosphere of Bull Island.

Brendan expressed his unhappiness with one of the photographs of himself in the January edition of **Pollinia** and Robert noted that he should prepare himself for a similar photo in relation to the Johan Herman's talk. Brendan also drew attention to some typos in the previous edition.

Lisa reported that the IOS website recorded similar visitor statistics in comparison to last year, but far more are using mobiles and other devices. The website will therefore be modified to accommodate such users. The hope is to make the website more interactive and all feedback is welcome. Please email [lisa@irishorchidsociety.org](mailto:lisa@irishorchidsociety.org)

Olwyn queried whether Brendan had had any further communication with the RHSI in relation to their suggestion of setting up an orchid group. Brendan stated that they had not contacted him, and that were they to do so, he would be very clear on the issue of duplication. He added that he would encourage RHSI members to participate in the IOS.

Mary Bradshaw noted that the RHSI will be running a one day seminar in the RDS on 30/09/2016. Events will include a floral art demonstration and talks from speakers including Monty Don and Roy Lancaster. Tickets available from [www.ticketmaster.ie](http://www.ticketmaster.ie)

Robert thanked the National Botanic Gardens for the use of their facilities and their continuing support of the IOS and other societies over the past year.

Mary Bradshaw queried whether it would be worthwhile to schedule a talk in the afternoon, during the winter months. Brendan observed that talks taking place in the National Botanic Gardens seem to run on a theme e.g. botany, and that the same people often attend each lecture. He suggested that we reflect on what type of events would increase attendance and garner interest: our members

tend to attend workshops more so than lectures. Therefore, an event that would promote the IOS and yield new members is what we should provide.

Olwyn queried whether the new alphabet in botanical art would feature any orchids. Brendan stated that it would not, but would instead focus on new Irish plants since 2000.

Mary Flynn queried whether there would be a potting workshop this year. Mary Bradshaw replied that it would take place sometime in the spring, as in the past. Brendan added that the IOS would play a greater role in the workshop, as at the Orchid Fair: . IOS desk with information, talks on the history and cultivation of orchids etc. There will be a fee for attendees of the potting workshop.

Brendan reviewed the schedule for the remainder of 2016:

July 7, 2016 18:30 Bull Island Fieldtrip – meet at the Interpretive Centre  
August 2016 No Meeting  
September 5, 2016 19:30 Members' Night – will include a short presentation  
October 3, 2016 19:30 Visiting speaker – Karl Duffy TBC  
November 7, 2016 19:30 Members' Night – will include a short presentation  
December 5, 2016 19:30 Christmas Party and Quiz

### Meeting close

The AGM concluded at 20:22.

Venue: Lecture Theatre, Visitor Centre, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin.

DEIRDRE MCGRANE



### Volume XIV Issue 1

#### ERRATA

**Page 4**, second paragraph, line 4; *D. purpurella* x *D. fuchsii* should read *D. incarnata* x *D. fuchsii*

**Page 5** with six photographs;

top right image should be *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* not *D. incarnata*

middle bottom should read *Dactylorhiza x kernerorum*

bottom right should read *Anacamptis pyramidalis*

### Page 10

The correct name of the plant is *Cephalanthera longifolia*, as in the original.

Member of the **European Orchid Council** <http://www.europeanorchidcouncil.eu/>

The Irish Orchid Society (in Irish: *An Cumann Magairlini na hÉireann*) was founded in 2001 at the Irish National Botanic Gardens in Glasnevin, Dublin, where Society meetings have continued to be held on nine months each year.

The Glasnevin gardens are of great historical significance to orchidophiles, for during the European era of 'Orchidmania' in the mid-19th century, it held one of the finest orchid collections in the world.