FRITILLARIA GROUP OF THE ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on 26 October 2014 held in the Hillside Events Centre, RHS Garden Wisley

1. Apologies for absence: Mary Ridley, Peter Taggart, Keith Blundell, Ron Mudd, Brian and Jo Walker

2. Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the last meeting were approved:- Proposed: Jack Meatcher, seconded: Colin Barr

3. Matters Arising: Bob Charman said the accounts for the 2013 AGM had been corrected.

4. Chairman’s Report to AGM 2014

We held two meetings in the last year: In September last year we heard 3 excellent talks. The first by Laurence Hill on: “Fritillaria Bulbs – Unearthing the Truth” who reported on his findings and deductions from observing roots and root growth in the genus. This was followed by Ron Mudd who has been propagating and growing largely Californian species in his garden in East Yorkshire. This was part 1, an initial report of the first few years. We are awaiting part 2 with great interest! Finally we were blown away by the scale of the bulb fields and how they are cultivated in Holland as exposed by John Amand. In March, “A day with Janis Ruksans” was held in the excellent premises of the New Haw Community Centre. There was a most interesting show of plants and the two talks given by Janis were a delight of stories, experiences and superb pictures of plants both in the wild and in cultivation in Latvia. Perhaps we should hold some more meetings there? Incidentally I hope that you found Rannveig’s video demonstration about pollination useful. Did anyone go home and perform the lesson into practice? Did it work? What else can we ask her and her trusty cameraman to do?

The Journal remains a “right riveting read” and we certainly have every copy carefully filed away (somewhere in my study), for future reference. Pat Huff, our excellent editor, is always after articles so please think about reporting on your observations and questions and send them to her. They do not need to be long and even a photo diary of your experiences would be a great place to start.

The new website is now live so please take a good look at it and if you think that it needs more or something a bit different please have a talk with Paul Cumbleton, our webmaster. We realise that it is lacking a lot of detail as yet and we will try and address this in the coming year. In addition, it would be good to run a sort of forum on it and wonder if anyway would like to help as a moderator. Paul will address this later.

Having taken a bit of a dip after the cold winters, the seed distribution has bounced back thanks to what amounts to still very few donors but a lot of people have ordered this year and it will great see the proceeds gracing our Group’s show in a year or two. We need more donors since this will enable more seeds per packet and hence more bulbs being raised.

As a committee we are still thinking over how we can best influence conservation of the genus and we have added this subject to today’s agenda to sound out your thoughts.

Finally, I thank the Group’s Committee who have carried on the work of the Group with great enthusiasm and wisdom.

5. Treasurer’s report

The group has made a profit of £340 this year. The accounts have been submitted to the AGS and also audited separately by an independent auditor. The AGS have not raised any queries.

Bob Charman suggested that the minutes of the last meeting, the agenda of the AGM and the annual accounts are all put onto the overhead projector to save printing costs. A few hard copies will be available if people want them. Bob C, Alice M

Phőbe Friar also suggested an email could be sent to members prior to the meeting with this information. Alice M

Bob Charman would like to retire from the role of treasurer at the next AGM so a replacement will be necessary. He will be writing to the AGS to inform them of this.

Bob C

Proposed: Arthur Nicholls. Seconded: Phőbe Friar

6. Fritillaria group forum

It has been suggested that the Fritillaria group have an on-line forum. A moderator would be necessary and the group were asked for volunteers.

7. Conservation

Kit Strange gave a short talk to the group about the idea that the Fritillaria Group should be involved in some sort of conservation work to enable the group to continue into the future. She asked the group if anybody has any experience that they could contribute. She said that the group needs ideas of what work could be done.

Rannveig asked if the focus would be on conservation in the wild or conserving plants in cultivation. Kit said the work could be on both aspects of conservation

8. Election of Officers: The following committee members agreed to be re-elected:- Bob Wallis (Chairman), Bob Charman (Treasurer), Alice Munsey (Secretary), Pat Craven (Seed Distribution Manager and Membership Secretary), Paul Cumbleton (Website Manager), Pat Huff (Editor of Fritillaria Journal) and the following committee members :- Colin Everett, Laurence Hill, Colin Rogers, Kit Strange.

Jack Meatcher was elected to the Committee. Proposed: Bob Wallis, seconded: Rannveig Wallis.

Thanks were given to Marion Charman for everything she has done on the committee over the last 17 years, and to Pietro Roseo for serving on the committee for 6 years.

9. Any Other Business

Fritillaria meleagris day: Alice Munsey is organising a Fritillaria meleagris day in Oxfordshire in April/May. Details will be posted on the web-site.

Paul Cumbleton has put details of some Fritillaria meleagris sites in the UK on the web-site.

Details of the March meeting: Martyn Rix has agreed to give a talk and we are awaiting a title. Rannveig Wallis suggested that people exhibiting fritillarias in the show, give short talks about their plants – when they got it, how they grow it etc. This could be a 2-way conversation with the Chairman as a moderator. Colin Barr said there had been a forum a number of years ago which had been successful. A forum of some kind will be included in the next meeting.

Jack Meatcher suggested members wear sticky labels with their names on at meetings. Alice will buy some for the next meeting. Alice

Payment of subscriptions: At present the group collects some subscriptions by standing order but members often forget to increase their payments when the subscriptions have increased. The group does not accept direct debits but at some time in the future this may need to change. Arthur Nicholls said direct debit may cost the group money.

Use of RHS Wisley: The RHS has put more restrictions on the Fritillaria Group’s fund-raising activities at these meetings. Colin Barr said the RHS do nothing to contribute to the group using the Hillside Centre. It was agreed that other venues will be researched particularly for the September meeting. Alice