

**Minutes of the Third Annual General Meeting of The Lace Guild CIO (48th)  
held at Scarman House, Warwick Conferences, CV4 7SH  
and online (Hybrid event) at 4.00pm on Saturday 20th April 2024**

**Present:** Denise Smith (Chairman) Phil Baldwin (Trustee)  
Christopher Evans (Secretary) Amanda Binns (Trustee)  
Bryan Obaji (co-opted Treasurer) Christine Cooper (Trustee)  
Alison Hopper-Bishop (Trustee) Lizzie Foulon (Trustee)  
Liz Muncey (Trustee)

Plus 22 members of The Lace Guild in-person, Andrea Gaskell (Trustee) and 17 members online. 7 Proxy votes were also received. (56 in total.)

The meeting opened at 4.07pm.

### **1. Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Third annual general meeting of The Lace Guild CIO and thanked them for coming to support the Guild both in-person and online via the hybrid function of the AGM.

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence received from Gwynedd Roberts, Pompey Parry, Jean Willis, Jean Rooke, Dorothy Brown, Caroline West, Rev. Jayne Shepherd and Hazel Cave.

### **3. Minutes of the Second Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the Second Annual General Meeting were circulated ahead of the meeting and remain available on the website.

### **4. Amendments**

There were no amendments.

### **5. Chairman's Remarks**

The Chairman remarked about how wonderful the Lace Exchange event has been today, with interesting talks and exhibitions. The Chairman was very thankful for everyone who contributed and engaged with that day. It was particularly exciting to have the presence of the next generation of lacemakers in the London Lace Club. The Chairman thanked the trustees for all their hard work and continued support, with special thanks to the treasurers both Tessa and Bryan, as well as Andrea Gaskell who is retiring from the Board this year. The Chairman talked about the trustees focus on strategically building a bright future of the Guild and asked Alison Hopper-Bishop M78782 to introduce the Mission Statement, Vision and Values document that was provided for all who attended the day and would be coming out to the membership. The document aims to start to bring forth the objects of the Guild and will help steer the trustees towards the future.

### **6. Trustees' Report**

The Trustees' report was taken as read since it had been made available to all members ahead of the meeting. There were comments from the floor about the availability of the AGM documents and risk of them ending up in the spam box because they are sent via email, suggesting that they could be sent via post for people that registered to attend.

### **7. Finance overview**

The Statement of Financial Activity was taken as read since it had been made available to all members ahead of the meeting. There was a question from the floor about the financial statement recording operating loss of £9,321.49. Tessa Whitlock M16476 explained that this is because our accounting includes that we have had some very generous legacy money donated to us in the period, but that money doesn't not form part of our operating income.

### **8. Adoption of the Trustees' Report & Statement of Financial Activity**

Adoption of the Trustees' Report & Statement of Financial Activity was proposed by Tessa Whitlock M16476 and seconded by Malvary Cole M02004. The vote was carried with 4 abstentions.

### **9. Election of the Independent Examiner of the Accounts**

Tessa Whitlock M16476, proposed that Pandora Jane Hancock be elected as independent examiner of the accounts. There was a question from the floor about whether Dora Hancock meets the requirements for being our independent examiner, which Tessa Whitlock confirmed. The proposal was seconded by Lizzie Foulon M7877.

The vote was carried with 2 abstentions.

## 10. Subscriptions for 2025/2026

The Trustees recommended a change to subscription rates for 2025/2026 reflecting feedback from AGM 2023. The consensus at the AGM 2023 was that if we hadn't restricted the proxy vote to £5, that members would have been prepared to increase by £10, therefore the Trustees suggested a further £5 increase to create the suggested £10 increase.

Christopher Evans M64783 proposed a £5 increase to subscription rates for 2025/2026 again and Tessa Whitlock M16476 seconded. The vote was carried with 6 objections and 1 abstention.

## 11. Election of Trustees

Andrea Gaskell M63525 has retired from the Board. Liz Muncey M23588 and Phil Baldwin E65099 will be stepping down but are eligible for re-election and Bryan Obaji was co-opted by the Board as Treasurer and his appointment needs ratifying.

Christopher Evans M64783 proposed the re-election of Liz Muncey M23588 and Phil Baldwin E65099, seconded by Lizzie Foulon M7877. The vote was carried unanimously.

Ann Day M02245 proposed the confirmed appointment of Bryan Obaji as Treasurer, seconded by Amanda Binns M21045. The vote was carried unanimously.

Question raised by Emily Lonsdale about her election, Secretary Christopher Evans M64783 answered to clarify that because she agreed to join the Board after the proxy form went out and therefore the proxies cannot vote she will be co-opted by the Board after the AGM at the Board meeting in May and ratified at the AGM 2025.

The Board of Trustees for 2024/2025 is as follows:

Chairman	Denise Smith	Trustee	Christine Cooper
Secretary	Christopher Evans	Trustee	Lizzie Foulon
Treasurer	Bryan Obaji	Trustee	Liz Muncey
Trustee	Phil Baldwin	Trustee	Alison Hopper-Bishop
Trustee	Amanda Binns	Trustee	Emily Lonsdale (to be co-opted)

There are vacancies for two trustees.

## 12. Date and Place of 2025 AGM

The Chairman announced that the AGM 2025 will be an online event on Sunday April 13th 2025 at 2pm.

Tessa Whitlock M16476 raised that it was a great shame that today's Lace Exchange event wasn't better supported by members. Comments raised by the floor that an online AGM event is not enough and in-person events are too important post Covid-19. Additional comments from the floor suggested the idea of zoom parties where people that cannot travel get together and hold small events in each other's homes and engage with the zoom together like 'bubbles' during lockdown. Suzanne Plamping M64588 suggested that groups could get together and hire village halls with the zoom AGM event engaged alongside. North Downs Lacemakers event was given as a good example of how local events could be held.

## 13. AOB

Anne Wass M63489 made a plea for more lace making demonstrations in schools to support the work of handicraft teachers. Chairman Denise Smith M24063 answered with the difficulty of getting DBS checks for volunteers because of the costs and The Lace Guild not being big enough for being an umbrella organisation. But that local to the Hollies volunteers had found a way around it to provide enrichment classes at a local sixth form college, where the teacher supervised and therefore DBS not required. Ann Day M02245 suggested that maybe a portion of the legacy money could be used to provide DBS checks. A comment from the floor requested a consideration for a Travelling Threads like project.

## 14. Close of Business Meeting

Meeting closed at 17.02.

## 14. Presentation of Awards and Open Forum

Winner of the Needle Lace Challenge 2024 was announced as Judith Holroyd, Judith wasn't present at the AGM, so the beautiful trophy will be posted out to her. This year saw 7 entries, they were from Pat Gibson, Kathryn Burns, Joan Pilkington, Janet French, Judith Holroyd, Rosemary Turner and Jenny Howarth. They were voted for online via social media and in-person during the Lace Exchange event.

The open forum was opened by the Chairman, a huge thank you from the floor for the continued work of the Trustees and the work that went into holding today's Lace Exchange event.