

Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting of Knitting & Crochet Guild Ltd held at 11.00 on Saturday 13 July 2013 at Hallmark Hotel Derby, Midland Road, Derby, DE1 2SQ

1 Welcomes and apologies

The meeting was quorate and started at 11.00. The Chair of the meeting, Jennifer Short, welcomed 50 members who were present. She had received 42 proxies and 51 members who could not attend had given their apologies, including the Guild Secretary, Barbara Kolator.

2 Announcements

Julia Blanchett explained the Health and Safety arrangements, including fire exits and procedure for evacuation in the event of a fire.

The current directors, who were standing for election later in the meeting, introduced themselves: Anthea Winterburn, Anne-Marie Hedges, Jennifer Short, Julia Blanchett and Maureen Wheeler.

3 Minutes from the 34th AGM on 7 July 2012

The previous minutes were agreed and there were no matters arising.

4 Report of Directors and Statutory Accounts for the Year Ending 31 March 2013

Julia said that copies of the full accounts were available to members, following the independent examination required by the Charity Commission. She reported the Board had been prudent in managing the Guild finances so there was a small surplus of £1985 of income over expenditure, compared with £177 for the previous year.

Jennifer reported that KCG Trading Limited had been dissolved voluntarily on 15 January 2013 and the remaining funds of £311 were transferred to the Guild as dividend. The investment loss of £100 related to the right off of 100 shares in the trading subsidiary.

In response to a question about the valuation of the collection, Jennifer quoted the information in the statutory accounts relating to Heritage Assets. The current value of the collection was fully insured. On completion of the cataloguing, if the collection were to be revalued insurance cover would also be reviewed.

Barbara Smith asked whether funds were received from the BBC in relation to our co-operation with them on a programme. Cynthia Young and other members advised the Guild to invoice the BBC for any money promised as there may be a time limit on submission. Also the BBC might need to send an order to tie up

with any invoice. Julia said that no funds had yet been received, the programme had not yet aired but she would follow things up if Barbara could send details of the discussion and agreement with the BBC.

Jennifer mentioned the compensation of £860 shown in the accounts. This related to a payment of £710 from the company who occupied premises above the Guild at Lee Mills, whose leaking pipe caused the flood. The other payment of £150 came from NatWest Bank for failing to deal properly with the Guild's bank mandate and signatories.

Mary McClean proposed that members accept the accounts and this was agreed.

5 Appointment of Directors

Jennifer said that no further nominations for Directors had been received. The five directors who retired under Articles 26(1) and 30(3) were standing for election. Members duly elected Jennifer Short, Annmarie Hedges, Anthea Winterburn, Barbara Kolator and Maureen Wheeler to form the new Board with effect from the close of this AGM.

6 Appointment of Office-Bearers

Jennifer said that no further nominations for Office-Bearers had been received. Members elected the following Directors to fill these roles until the AGM

2014: Chair, Jennifer Short; Treasurer, Julia Blanchett; Secretary, Barbara Kolator. Vice-Chair remains vacant.

7 Board Report on 2013-2013

Jennifer explained that the last year had been difficult for the Guild. With only 3 directors it had not been possible to make all the progress they wanted but they had done their best to keep the Guild going and put it on a sounder footing. The priorities had been to manage the finances and to promote the Guild. One success had been the website, now getting 11,000 visitors a month. However urgent help was still needed for technical support and for web editing.

Behind the scenes the Directors had ensured compliance with Companies House and the Charity Commission; dissolved KCGTL; clarified membership policy; negotiated cheaper insurance with personal accident cover for members between 16 and 85; organised the Convention thanks to hard work by Julia and Jane Smart so members were enjoying an interesting and friendly weekend.

Members had received regular issues of SlipKnot; new membership leaflets, membership cards and business cards had been designed and printed; the Guild had been promoted at local and national shows; GroupSpaces was being used for online membership and payments; members were working with schools

and other groups to promote our education remit. The questionnaire to members had provided much useful information for the Board. They were encouraged by many good wishes and with some members' offers to help. This information was being followed up as quickly as resources allowed.

The Collection Team's successes included: Crochet Week; working with Huddersfield University and MA students; permissions gained by Barbara Smith for members to have copies of Collection patterns for their own use; interest in the Collection came from BBC, Rowan and Vogue Knitting. Major progress had been made in sorting and listing pattern leaflets (over 27,000) and in continuing to catalogue the knitting and crochet items.

Jennifer thanked everyone who supported the Guild in whatever capacity: members who completed the questionnaire; organisers and helpers at all the regional days, shows and events; members who offered expertise on behalf of the Guild; coordinators of local groups and Rita Taylor as Regional Coordinator; moderators for Yahoo, Facebook, Ravelry and Twitter. Lesley O'Connell Edwards and Wendy Poole for editing SlipKnot; Linde Merrick, former Membership Secretary; Marian Dye for examining the accounts; Jane Smart former Director and Guild Secretary. The contribution made by member's spouses was identified as a valuable resource and

thanks were given to those who offer such wonderful support.

Members accepted Jennifer's report with thanks for her contribution as Chair during the year.

8 Future of the Guild

Jennifer summarised some key points from the questionnaire to members. More details were reported in SlipKnot 139. Future challenges for the Guild were: retaining and gaining members, increasing income, affording the lease at Lee Mills and funding the Collections. When the Board met on 8 May 2013 they discussed what makes the Guild unique. Jennifer described this new Vision and the special benefits of Guild membership which are set out in the new membership leaflet. Our Vision for the Guild is outlined below:

- We are a nationwide community of knitters and crocheters committed to education, innovation and the preservation of these crafts
- We aspire to excellence and to achieving high standards in our practice, at every level of experience
- We are known for our expertise and our readiness to share this wealth of information about knitting and crochet

- We encourage members and others to appreciate the skills, knowledge and techniques needed for the art and craft of knitting and crochet
- We are supported by our Patrons: Debbie Abrahams, Kaffe Fassett, Jean Moss and Sasha Kagan

The Board is positive about the Guild's future and has prioritised the following action on:

- Active local groups and online community
- Education and standards of practice
- Branding
- Shows - local and national
- Unique resources about knitting and crochet
- Promotion of collection
 - BBC documentary
 - Vogue Knitting Tour 2013
 - Rowan articles
- Supporting textile students
- Working in partnership
- Workshops
- Funding

Having set out what the Board wishes to achieve, Jennifer invited members to comment and ask questions about these proposals.

Rebecca Price told members that she interviewed patrons in the past and learned that they actively

promote the Guild at events they attend. Jean Moss and Sasha Kagan have also attended Guild events. Linde Merrick pointed out that it was a two way relationship and the patrons need benefit and promotion from the Guild.

Barbara Smith highlighted that members can borrow collection items for shows given prior notice of requirements. Items were being loaned to Alexandra Palace and Harrogate.

A member asked if sponsorship had been applied for. Jennifer said this had not been done systematically because the Board needed more help. However Jamieson and Smith were giving a discount on their yarn which was being used for the display at Alexandra Palace.

Angharad Thomas notified members of the visit to Lee Mills by Vogue Knitting on 1 October 2013. She requested help at Lee Mills in September and advised members to check the website.

Jennifer gave out a paper titled Vision, Objectives and Actions which added more information on future actions. She asked members to read this to help with the discussion on Sunday morning called Show-casing the Guild, so members might contribute about how best to promote the Guild, make more people aware and encourage them to join.

Concluding the discussion on this item, Jennifer asked members if they thought the Board were working along the right lines. Members expressed their full support and thanked the Board for all their efforts.

9 Any other business

Jennifer drew attention to Sheila Williams's Victorian Lace Knitting Workshop on 14 September 2013 and a revised handout with the corrected telephone 01344 621844.

Doreen Capewell informed members that she was offering her stash of yarn on Saturday 3 August in Melton Mowbray. Members were welcome to give a donation for yarn with monies raised going to Homestart.

Sheila Metcalfe asked for help on stands at Yarndale.

Meeting closed at 12.35.