

TITLE: British Association of Landscape Industries: National Annual General Meeting
DATE: Tuesday, 10th September 2024 at 10:30am
LOCATION: The Loft, Hall 3 within GroundsFest, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG

PRESENT:

Tessa Johnstone : Chair (Johnstone Landscapes)
Wayne Grills : Chief Executive
Richard Stone : Honorary Treasurer (Bawden Managed Landscapes)
Adrian Wickham : Vice-Chair (Glendale)
Paul Downer : Director (Oak View Landscapes)
Richard Gill : Director (Green-tech)
Matt Nokes : Director (Ground Control)

Together with the following British Association of Landscape Industries members:

Charles Blumlein (Location Landscapes), Mike Wale, Brian Herbert (Outdoor Options), Jenny Hall (Crowders), David Twist (Elite Landscapes), William Innes-Taylor (Hilliers), Max Drummond-Smillie (Fargro), Hamilton McNaughton (McNaughtons Landscaping), Giles Doland (Zinco), Chris Bridgman and Suze Miller (Bridgeman and Bridgman), Jeremy King and Tom Stabler (Boningale), Alison Rees & Samantha Butcher (Inscapes), Stuart Ridd-Jones and Lee Andrew (Harrowden Turf), Dawn Wallis, Tom Rimell and Tom Atkin (Smart Cut), Ben Shaw (Adtrak), Kersten Catella (Wyevale Nurseries), Mark Youde (Landscape Academy), Dean Bolton-Grant (Grant Horticulture), Martyn Mogford (Clifton Nurseries), David Griffiths (Eljays 44), Mark Gregory (Landform Consultants), Paul Cowell (P C Landscapes), Andy Griffiths (Instarmac), Noel Brock (Frognaal Gardens), Kim Sones (Sones Accountancy Services), Chris Armstrong (Overtec), Sam Revill and Matt Beardmore (Talasey), George Davies and Freddie Smith (George Davies Turf), Spencer Funnell (Kress UK), Simon Packer (Woodland Horticulture), Paul Lynch (Elmtree Garden Contractors)

Association staff in attendance:

Nicky McMurdo : PA to Chief Executive (Minutes)
Emily Feeny : Events Project Manager
Katharine Hughes : Marketing & Communications Manager
Richard Gardiner : Technical Officer

Attendees:

Welcome & Introduction

Tessa Johnstone welcomed members to the 2024 National AGM.

1. Apologies:

Ricky Whiteman (Gavin Jones), Matt O'Conner (John O'Conner Grounds Maintenance), Jeremy Rodway-Smith (Benchmark Grounds Maintenance), Adrian Turner (TW Landscapes), Ryan Markham (Hy-Tex (UK)), Kevin Gould (Randle Siddeley), Richard Curle (Landscape Associates), Darren Stobbart (The Plantman & Co), James Coles, (Coles Nurseries), Catherine Emerson (Wallace Contracts NI), Sue Payne (Quality and Service), Jeff Hewitt (Hewitt Landscapes), John Hulbers (Tamar Nurseries), Robin Templar-Williams (Robin Williams & Associates), Colin Byrne (Dagenham Landscapes), Chris Broadbent (Horticon), John Payne (Paynes Turf), Ian Kenrick (Ian Kendrick), David Kibblewhite (Kibblewhite Gardens), Jon Lonsdale (Environmental Design), Alison Chalmers (SGS Group (North) Jules Simmons (M J Abbott), David Robinson (Up the Garden Path), Matthew Bennett (Bennett Landscapes & Maintenance, Peter Cunliffe (Northumbrian Landscaping), Jeremy Lawton (W A P Lawton & Son), Paul Griffiths (Canary Wharf Management), Debbie Carroll, David Dodd (The Outdoor Room), Jason Lee (Countrywide Grounds Maintenance), Matthew Carr (M J Carr Landscape Construction), James Heweston-Brown (Wildflower Turf), Tony Benger (Tony Benger Landscaping), Alistair Bayford (Frosts Landscape Construction), Ben Parkinson (The Garden Project Co.), James Scott (The

Garden Company Ltd), Amanda Bateman and Daniel Major (West Hill Garden and Landscaping), Rod Winrow (Garden House Design)

2. **AGM Calling Notice:** In accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the AGM Calling Notice was sent to all voting members on 14th June 2024.
3. **Declaration of Interest:** There were no interests declared that would compromise the validity of decisions made at the AGM.
4. **Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting:** The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the British Association of Landscape Industries held on 20th September 2023 were proposed by Paul Lynch, seconded by William Innes-Taylor and accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings.
5. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last AGM.
6. **National Chair's Report:** The Chair asked for her report to be taken as read. There were no questions surrounding the Chair's report.
7. **Chief Executive's Report:** As part of the Annual Report and Accounts 2024, the Chief Executive's report was taken as read.

Wayne Grills thanked a number of people for their continued support namely Tessa Johnstone, Chair and Adrian Wickham, Vice-Chair. Acknowledgement was also made to Richard Stone, Honorary Treasurer and Matt O'Conner, Immediate Past Chair who continued in their roles providing the Board with consistency and valued experience.

Wayne reported on a busy year explaining the Association had engaged with an external consultant to look at the membership journey and marketing. GoLandscape continues with two areas of operation, Careers and Skills. Progress has been made with the GoLandscape Skills Academy with the first pilot due to take place in the Autumn of 2024. GoLandscape's Ambassador network continues to grow, however there is always space available for anyone wishing to get involved in re-establishing and promoting the industry at career events.

Lobbying and collaboration continues to be at the forefront of the Association's agenda with Wayne being actively involved with the Environmental Horticulture Group in addition to working jointly with other industry organisations.

Last year's National Landscape Awards was a great success and looks set to be a sell out event again in 2024 with already over 700 tickets sold.

8. Honorary Treasurer's Report and Financial Accounts:

As part of the Annual Report and Accounts 2024, the Treasurer's report was taken as read.

Richard Stone reported no questions had been received prior to the meeting. There were no further questions relating to the Honorary Treasurer's report

9. **Regional Reports:** As part of the Annual Report and Accounts 2024, each of the region's reports were taken as read. The Regional Chairs and committees were thanked for their hard work and contributions made over the past 12 months and for which they continue to make. There were no questions raised.
10. **Propositions:** The following propositions were put to members at the AGM and voted on along with proxy votes received.

A. Accept and approve the financial accounts for year ending 31/03/24.**Proposed:** Paul Downer**Seconded:** Paul Lynch**Meeting****In Favour:** 27 votes**Against:** 0 votes**Abstention:** 0 votes**Proxy****In Favour:** 10 votes**Against:** 0 votes**Abstention:** 0 votes**Total****In Favour:** 37 votes**Against:** 0 votes**Abstention:** 0 votes

The motion was carried.

B. Proposal to increase membership fees by 3% for the period April 2025 to March 2026.**Proposed:** Richard Gill**Seconded:** Paul Lynch**Meeting****In Favour:** 25 votes**Against:** 0 votes**Abstention:** 0 votes**Proxy****In Favour:** 8 votes**Against:** 2 votes**Abstention:** 0 votes**Total****In Favour:** 33 votes**Against:** 2 votes**Abstention:** 0 votes

The motion was carried.

C. Election of existing board members offering themselves for re-election

Tessa Johnstone and Stuart Simpson have both submitted their resignations from The Board and Shaza Ali and Tim Howell also resigned earlier in the year, all due to their own personal reasons and work commitments. Under normal circumstances a proportion of the Board would need to retire by rotation. However, due to the vacant positions in existence as a result of those resigning and retiring, there is no requirement for any further Board members to retire by rotation. The Board therefore recommended Adrian Wickham was appointed National Chair and Matt Nokes be appointed as Vice Chair as well as Richard Stone remaining as Honorary Treasurer and Matt O'Conner, Immediate Past Chair.

Proposed: Paul Downer**Seconded:** Charles Blumlein**Meeting****In Favour:** 29 votes**Against:** 0 votes**Abstention:** 0 votes**Proxy****In Favour:** 9 votes**Against:** 0 votes**Abstention:** 0 votes**Total****In Favour:** 38 votes**Against:** 0 votes**Abstention:** 0 votes

The motion was carried.

D. Election of nominated members to the Board

Fourteen members had been nominated to fill five vacancies on the BALI Board with effect from today's AGM. Each member was provided with a voting slip and asked to vote for a maximum of five nominees whose CV's were published within the AGM booklet. The votes were subsequently counted during the meeting including any proxy votes received by the deadline date and the result confirmed as follows:

Mark Gregory	44	Elected
Paul Lynch	32	Elected
Alistair Bayford	29	Elected
Kersten Catella	29	Elected
David Twist	22	Elected
David Dodd	21	
Samantha Butcher	19	
Will Innes Taylor	19	
Dean Bolton-Grant	14	

