



## BPOA AGM 2021 Reports

### Chairman's Report

The committee members and BPOA membership have had an extraordinary amount to deal with over the last 12 months. Your committee members have worked tirelessly on your behalf, in order to represent you and your wishes at the highest levels within the industry and government.

The voice of the BPOA has been heard far and wide throughout the sector and the nation, sometimes getting me into trouble along the way, I am of course referring to our industry pal at Gardeners World. We have made many new friendships, acquaintances and contacts over the year.

#### **In 2020**

We have reduced membership subs to reflect the COVID-19 situation.

Committed funds in support of the Pansy Festival at Floral Fantasia (extension of the Meadowcroft commercial trial)

Published Podcasts to the masses with the help of Wayne and his team.

Endless meetings and discussions with NFU, HTA and AHDB ref the AHDB ballot, possible outcomes and what we want as an industry from a reformed, leaner, keener and meaner AHDB.

Peat issues, including environmental, extraction and alternatives. As a note I have just agreed to join the Growing Media Working Group chaired by Johnathan Marquis (Lovania Nurseries)

Brexit .....

These are just the headlines for this year and much of what we do is behind the scenes.

I would like to thank all the committee members for their dedication and devotion to the industry we all love. A thanks to the business owners who allow us to be involved in the BPOA and naturally our families for their patience, as much of the work we do is out of hours and is of course voluntary.

James Alcaraz  
Chairman



## Treasurer's Report

The accounts for the financial year ending October 2020 have been approved by the BPOA Management Committee on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020.

The accounts show that overall revenue for the year has increased slightly to £40,608 (£38,254 in 2019) and that the surplus for the year was £11,709 (£5,266 in 2019). This means that the overall funds of the BPOA (bank balance) have now increased to £45,543. The administrative expenses have reduced by about 12% from £32,020 in 2019 to £28,927 in 2019. This is mainly as a result of activities being limited as a result of Covid.

Other points to note from the accounts are as follows: -

There was no bad debt to write off in 2020 (£2,893 of historical bad debt was written off in 2019).

Computer costs have risen from £506 in 2019 to £1,138 in 2020 as a result of extra IT expenses including the poinsettia tracker and podcast provision and website maintenance.

While accountancy and bookkeeping costs appear to have risen from £585 to £1,093, this rise is in fact a result of the SAGE costs being included under these headings.

In 2020 a one-off payment of £4,000 was made by Burpee to support Peter Seabrook's Floral Fantasia at RHS Hyde Hall which we administered.

### **Budget for 2020/21**

The main change to the budget for the coming year will be a reduction in subscription income as a result of the 50% "Covid reduction" of the 2020/21 subscription renewal fee. As it stands the budget projects a break-even situation which will maintain the accumulated balance of just over £45,543 enabling the BPOA to be solvent at all times and also consider funding any promotional or other activities that will be of benefit to the industry as a whole.

Lyndon Mason  
Treasurer

Budget 2021	Prv Yr	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	total
AGM Sales	2000			0										£0
Subscriptions	19800		5000	3000	2600									£10,600
NFU Sponsorship	12200			12200										£12,200
General sponsorship	6800			0	0	0								£0
MOU (capitation payment)	0				0									£0
	40800	0	5000	15200	2600	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	£22,800
Overheads														
AGM Expenses	5400	0		1000	0									£1,000
Audit fees	700			700										£700
Unforeseen and Bad debts	200			0				200					0	£200
Bursary	500			500										£500
Consultancy (communications)	0			0			300			300				£600
Executive Officer	11400	950	950	950	950	950	950	950	950	950	950	950	950	£11,400
Insurance Expenses & Subscriptions				0					100					£100
Printing	750		300						300					£600
Professional Fees & Subscriptions	1500				400			400		400			400	£1,600
Promotion & Exhibitions	0							500	0	500				£1,000
Study tours	0			200									200	£400
Telephone conference	200						200							£200
Technical Secretary	2800		600	600			600			600		0	600	£3,000
Travelling/ Subsistence	700	100	0	100		0	200			100	0	200	200	£900
Hyde Hall	4000													
	£28,150	£1,050	£1,850	£4,050	£1,350	£950	£2,250	£2,050	£1,350	£1,950	£1,850	£1,150	£2,350	£22,200
Balance	£12,650	-£1,050	£3,150	£11,150	£1,250	-£950	-£2,250	-£2,050	-£1,350	-£1,950	-£1,850	-£1,150	-£2,350	£600
Cumulative balance		-£1,050	£2,100	£13,250	£14,500	£13,550	£11,300	£9,250	£7,900	£5,950	£4,100	£2,950	£600	



### Technical Committee Report

This year for obvious reasons (Covid-19 and AHDB ballot) it has been difficult to get as much done as we were planning, particularly research wise and with the successful BPOA regional technical days. Both of which are vitally important for the development of our sector and key reasons why being a BPOA member is beneficial for ornamental growers. Despite this, we still managed to get the Poinsettia 'coloured' variety trial completed thanks to the team at Neame Lea, Harry Kitchener and the AHDB. We also sent spare young plants to Cobbins, Barnsfold, Peter Eastwood Plants and ourselves to have smaller trials. This format, although not great from a scientific perspective, was well received and got lots of BPOA members practically involved and invested in the trials. Something which I hope we can emulate more often with future research to get better industry feedback, more industry involvement and ultimately give members more value.

The AHDB ballot, regardless of the outcome, will hopefully be an opportunity for the BPOA and its growers to have a stronger say in how our money is spent and what research is needed. The technical committee is well placed to make sure that gets carried out, we have good relationships with the current AHDB team and NFU, but most importantly our members have a wide range of expertise. From experienced consultants to growers who see technical problems first-hand, every day. Because of this we already have lots of ideas for future research and won't get caught out or be slow to react to a new pest or disease for example. This does however highlight how important it is that regardless of the vote, we must find a way to ensure funding for future research for our grower members is there.

I would like to welcome Robin Squance from Barton Grange and Milena Dicheva from W.D Smith Nurseries who have recently joined the committee. Both of whom have already contributed significantly to our meetings and more. We are very happy to have another two knowledgeable growers on board. Unfortunately, Mike Smith has stepped down from his position on the committee. I would like to thank Mike from everyone on the committee for all his hard work over the years from chairing the committee, helping with numerous trials and the two amazing American/Canadian study tours, to name a few.

We look forward to the spring, the sun on our backs and being able to push on with getting the best research carried out for all BPOA members.

Graeme Edwards  
Chairman



## Executive Officer's Report

It has been an extraordinary year, noted in these preceding reports, as elsewhere in society. In common with many, we have all suffered severe affects on our personal freedoms and of course, countless others have had to deal with profound loss.

As an industry, we can be proud of our contribution to the national wellbeing in promoting gardening for greater numbers of people that literally inspires them with greater health of mind and body. In continuing trading, in a safe way, we have also contributed to the commerce and value of the economy.

Looking forward to a slow release from the strictures of the past months, ornamentals producers can plan for increasing demand which will come from a mixture of larger numbers of amateur gardeners, demand for direct delivery of flowering plants and possibly a reduced pressure from imported garden plants. In the end of course, all demand will be affected by the general health of the economy and the weather patterns in the spring and early summer. We can look forward with some confidence to the possibility of business 'blooming' once more.

In addition to these trading uncertainties that we acknowledge from many years' experience, we continue to deal with the increasing demands of consumers to recognise the environmental impact of our production industry and reduce it steadily to targets set by other agencies. We have made terrific progress over the past years in controlling energy use and waste and dealing with specific issues such as plastics reduction and peat replacement. We have demonstrated often that we have the collective will and ingenuity to find solutions to the problems of environmental protection and we should be able as an industry to say what we have been able to achieve and what are the goals for the future.

The industry will always need, from BPOA, an independent voice to speak up for its members and represent its aims and achievements.

Simon Davenport  
Executive Officer