The Scottish Gemmological Association – 2019 AGM Minutes

4th September 2019, 7.30pm – Eric Liddell Centre

Present: Alistir Wood Tait, Jan Calligan, Nean Wilson & Association Members

Apologies

- Lauretta Sanders
- Kerry Gregory
- Lesley Skinner
- Carmen Garcia Carballido
- David Callaghan
- Glynis Hunt
- Pauline Jamieson
- Joanna Thomson
- Barbara Kolator
- John Baldwin
- Meg Rome
- Xanthe O’Connor

Minutes of 2018 AGM

- Available to view via the Associations website (www.scottishgemmology.org)

(Proposed by Jan Calligan, Seconded by Brian Jackson)

Chairman’s Report

- This will be made available to view via the Associations website (www.scottishgemmology.org)

- In summary we had various guest lecturers speaking on interesting topics throughout the year, starting with the post 2018 AGM talk on the Hunterston brooch by Alan Hodgkinson, through to the most recent evening at Lyon & Turnbull. There were various field trips, including Whitby and the conference trip to the V&A Dundee. Committee members also maintained a presence at various external events, including the BCU Industry evening. The annual conference was once again a resounding success in terms of both the academic and social activities provided. The annual Christmas dinner saw an opportunity to recognise Gilly Pollard’s contribution to the industry, and finally the Gemset competition continues to go from strength to strength.

- Our members are currently at approx. 140.

- Thanks must be extended to everyone who helped organise the events; including Jan Calligan for her continued work throughout the year, Jacqui Mathieson for her work on the Gemset competition and also to Gillian O’Brien for setting up a location in Scotland for gemmology exams and tutoring.

Accounts & Financial Statement

- These have been posted online, in summary quoting net assets of £48,846. Please refer to website for full details.
- No comments were made by members.

*(Proposed by Brian Jackson, Seconded by Katie Innes)*

**Election of Management Committee Members**

- **Treasurer:** the position has become vacant after Joanna Thomson stood down. Nean Wilson is proposed candidate to fill the position. *(Proposed by Jan Calligan, Seconded by Alan Hodgkinson).*

- **Secretary:** the position has become vacant after Andrew Dobrzanski stood down. Ruth Davis is the proposed candidate to fill the position *(Proposed by Jacqui Matheson, Seconded by Clare Blatherwick).*

- **Chairman:** Due to current business commitments Alistir T is stepping down as Chairman, however remaining on the committee, Alan H is stepping into the position temporarily.

**Proposed updates to the SGA constitution**

- It was discussed that the now ten year old constitution needs to evolve, and that the committee will work to develop this and feedback to the membership at the relevant stages. Main items for discussion are:

  - **The creation of a Deputy Chairman** position on the committee, with the view to proposing Clare Blatherwick for the position. This was suggested so as to spread the responsibilities and duties, mainly of the chairman, and of the committee during busy periods.

  - **Addressing how we bank,** new Treasurer Nean W is looking into how best to progress this and will present suggestions to the committee in due course.

  - **Membership and recruitment** is a primary area of focus. Katie I suggested that new members may be deterred by the formality of joining and meetings, how we handle nominations and access to the meetings will be looked into (ie. First meeting is free etc.)

  - **Creation of a committee position for a Non-Scottish resident.** Currently approx. 50% of members (and approx. 75% of conference delegates) are not based in Scotland. The creation of a nominal position would help to reflect this and also work to raise the associations profile out-with Scotland. Charles Evans suggested that similar appointments in London for the GEM-A have been very helpful and helps to prevent insular approaches. The committee would welcome suggestions for potential candidates.

  - **Subs for 2019/2020** will remain the same, £30 annual subscription for members, and £15 for students.

**Proposed events for 2019/2020**

- Speakers have been confirmed for our Autumn lecture programme, including Ian Bone speaking on Ethical Mining of Australian gemstones (Tuesday 24th September), Marco Campos Venuti speaking on Agates (Wednesday 30th October) and Elizabeth Passmore speaking on Andrew Grima (Wednesday 27th November).

- Planning is ongoing for a trip to Malcolm Appleby’s studio in Perthshire on 23rd November (with the possibility of also visiting Aberdeen Museum afterwards TBC.) He can accommodate 20-25 people, and the Christmas shop will be up and running.
- Annual Christmas dinner will take place in the first two weeks of December.

- The first Autumn Gemmology Symposium/Conference will take place on the 9th November at The Royal Scots Club, Edinburgh, 9.30-4pm (TBC). Speakers include Adam McIntosh (Two Skies), Kim Rix, Mary Michel (Incorp. Of Goldsmiths), Helen Plumb (Just Gems) and Rachel Walcott (NMS). Lunch and refreshments will be included. There will also be contributions from the Scottish Mineral and Lapidary Club and Ewen Taylor, with a visit to Elements and lectures there afterwards. This is primarily aimed at generating new members, particularly students or those with an interest in jewellery/gemmology. Aiming for 50 delegates, with a cost of £40 for non-members, and £20 for members/students, the association will subsidise the event. The colleges have already expressed their enthusiasm for the event, and the website/social media will be updated in the coming week.

Members Forum

- Alan H asked what Helen P would speak on at the symposium, Jan confirmed it would possibly be opals.

- Claire B asked how many new members we gained this year, and who were they. Katie I confirmed that we currently have 144 members. Most new members are students who were involved in either Gemset or the Conference, but generally membership is pretty level from last year. The November symposium will hopefully boost this.

- Clare B highlighted how key it is that we encourage new members, and suggested possible tie-ups with other associations (such as The Society of Jewellery Historians) and that we could incorporate the word ‘jewellery’ into the Assoc. branding. Jan C confirmed that Marco C.V’s talk is in partnership with the Lapidary Club, and Elizabeth Passmore’s talk with the Costume Society. We can’t change the Assoc. name but we could add a strap line – this will be discussed by the committee.

- Charles pointed out that retailers are not sending their staff for training as much now, believes it is because millennials don’t stay in in a position as long and so companies are more reluctant to invest in them. This has made corporate membership of the GEM-A much lower.

- Louise Johnson asked if there were anything retail members could do to generate a mailing list.

- Jan / Alistir will approach the NAJ to see if there are any opportunities to be had in collaboration in Scotland.

- Jacqui M suggested that we produce something in print to take to venues like Coburg Studios etc.

- It was suggested that we put on more ‘workshop’ style events aimed at students.

A. O. C. B

- **Banking:** Three new signature’s are required for Association’s banking, these are Katie I, Jan C and Nean W. *(Proposed by Jacqui Mathieson, Seconded by Alan Hodgkinson).*

- **Thank-you!** Finally we would like to extend our thanks to all the work and dedication that Alistir has put into the SGA as Chairman over the years, it really is appreciated, and while he
has stepped down in his position as Chairman, he will still very much be part of the committee moving forward.