

## **Outcome of the THACS Annual General Meeting**

The THACS AGM took place on the evening of Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February and my thanks go to the 31 members who took part. Their participation ensured that the meeting was quorate and went smoothly. Our previous two AGMs were held using Zoom, so it was good to all meet in person this time.

This was an unusual AGM because of the need to review the viability of the society and to propose a way forward. The three elected officers – me as Chairman, Malcolm Allen as Treasurer and Tina Lord as Secretary – had all declared our wish to stand down from our current roles at this AGM but there were no nominated successors.

## **Recruitment Campaign**

A previous appeal led to the recruitment of two new people – Martin Taylor and Kristina Lawson - who are bringing energy and fresh ideas to the committee. There are also two experienced committee members - Terry Brand and Lynne Burgess - who are happy to continue in their current roles. However, none of these committee members wanted to take on any of the elected officer roles, so - if they were elected - we would have a skeleton committee of just four people, without a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer or Secretary. Under those circumstances, it would not be possible to function as before and THACS would no longer be viable. So, what else can we do?

We addressed that issue at the Extraordinary General Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November. Following that, we extended our recruitment campaign beyond our members and the readers of the Tewin Magazine. Colourful recruitment flyers were delivered to every Tewin household in December and I would like to thank Todd Canton and his team of distributors for their help. However, the flyers failed to generate any responses.

## **Members Survey**

We sent out a questionnaire to the wider membership to seek their views about the future of the society. At that time, there were four possible scenarios and these were put to our members in the on-line survey. This was the first on-line survey that THACS had done and it was made possible by the welcome help from Peter Burgess.

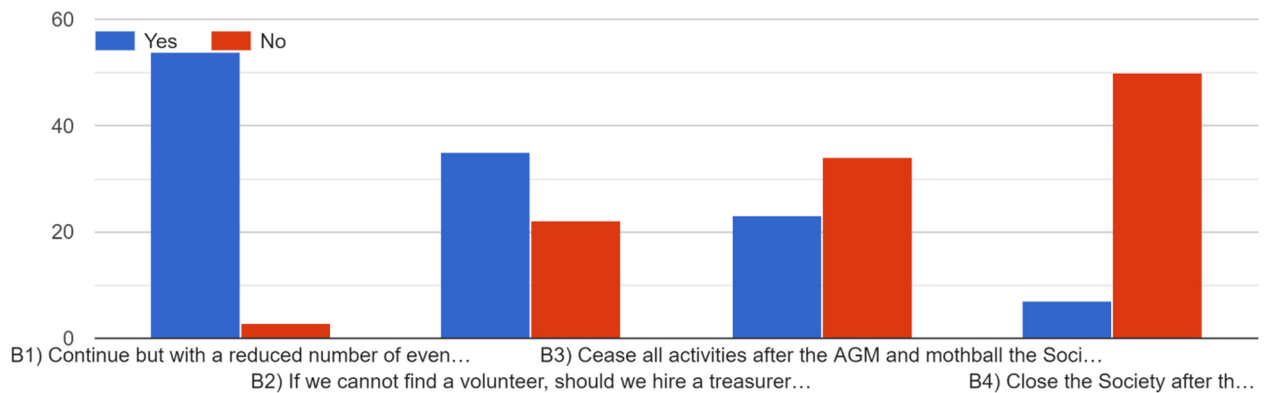
The invitations to complete the survey were sent on 21<sup>nd</sup> November 2022, the survey closed two weeks later on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and we received 57 responses. A summary of the results is shown below.

## Results of Members Survey

Which, if any, of the following scenarios would you support?

Scenario	YES	NO
<b>B1)</b> Continue but with a reduced number of events. (A small committee might be able continue with some events, provided there is a treasurer to manage the financial aspects.)	54	3
<b>B2)</b> If we cannot find a volunteer, should we hire a treasurer (with a possible increase in the subscription)?	35	22
<b>B3)</b> Cease all activities after the AGM and mothball the Society, ready for it to be revived at a later date.	23	34
<b>B4)</b> Close the Society after the AGM and dispose of all its assets.	7	50

B) Possible scenarios if we are not able to fill the vacant positions Which, if any, of the following scenarios would you support?



**B1)** Continue but with a reduced number of events.

This was the preferred option, especially when enhanced by ideas of changing the way the society operates.

**B2)** If we cannot find a volunteer, should we hire a treasurer?

This issue was divisive and its viability is dubious. Consequently, this option has been abandoned.

**B3)** Cease all activities after the AGM and mothball the Society, ready for it to be revived at a later date.

If the society is unable to continue, then this is the most supported option.

**B4)** Close the Society after the AGM and dispose of all its assets.

This option has been rejected by the membership and consequently abandoned.

The preferred option is to continue but with a reduced number of events (B1). However, this was dependent upon having a Treasurer to manage the financial aspects of THACS events. It may be possible to run the society without a chairman or secretary, but the treasurer's role was considered to be essential. We do not have a Treasurer to succeed Malcolm, so this option is not viable.

The only remaining option seemed to be to cease all activities after the AGM and mothball the Society, ready for it to be revived at a later date (B3).

## **Proposed Way Forward**

We devised a way to keep the society alive whilst we deal with mothballing it (giving us a combination of B1 and B3) and this was proposed at the AGM: -

A team will be established to mothball the society, with the aim of completing the project by 31/10/23 (the end of our current financial year)

I will be the Project Manager, working with Malcolm and others as necessary.

In order to give the mothballing project the necessary legitimacy and accountability, we ask you to re-elect Malcolm and me to our current positions ***on the understanding that we would not be doing anything other than managing the mothballing project and supporting the skeleton committee with anything they wished to organise in the meantime.***

## **Elections**

The members at the AGM accepted that proposal and kindly showed their acceptance by electing Malcolm as Treasurer and me as Chairman, with the changed responsibilities specified in the proposal.

Existing committee members Terry Brand and Lynne Burgess were re-elected and newcomers Martin Taylor and Kristina Lawson were elected onto the committee.

These elections gave us the mandate needed for the mothballing project and will enable Malcolm and I to devote the time and effort to it, free from most of the usual responsibilities of Treasurer and Chairman. It also keeps a THACS committee ticking over, ready to run events and to welcome any newcomers.

Some key people stood down from their roles.

- 1) Tina Lord, who had been Secretary for six years
- 2) Alice Greenwood, who had been a committee member for eight years
- 3) Graham Spring, who had been our Independent Financial Examiner for at least ten years.

All three were given a good send-off, with tributes and gifts.

I also received a lovely tribute and gift, in appreciation of my fourteen years as Chairman.

## **Constitution and Rules**

We now have a committee consisting of a Chairman and a Treasurer with changed responsibilities, together with four committee members. The posts of Vice Chair, Secretary and Auditor are vacant.

The society is now in violation of its own Constitution and Rules. However, the constitution is silent on the consequences of such violation, so this puts us in an awkward situation.

I proposed that we take a pragmatic approach and suspend the Constitution and Rules for the foreseeable future. This proposal was accepted by the meeting.

## **The Mothballing Project**

A brief over-view of the mothballing project was presented to the meeting. This will be the subject of subsequent news updates.

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