

AGM & Day Conference, 23rd March 2017

The GIMA Annual General Meeting and Spring Day Conference was held on 23rd March at Horticulture House, Chilton, Oxfordshire. A well attended event heard presentations from Charlie Lacey of Decco, Michael Burrell an experienced parliamentary lobbyist, Trevor Pfeiffer of Garden Trade News and Matthew Mein, Event Director of GLEE.

George Bullivant of Gardenforum website chaired a debate with suppliers on the impact of Brexit. He also explored suppliers attitudes to the breadth of retail channels now available to them including on-line & Amazon compared to the traditional garden centre routes.

A summary of the supplier debate can be found here:

<https://www.gardenforum.co.uk/headlines/should-garden-suppliers-sell-online-and-through-amazon/>

The GIMA AGM was held earlier in the day where Chris Ramsden from Hozelock was re-elected as President for another year, as was Richard Pyrah from Kelkay as Vice President. The Association also reported a strong financial position with a healthy operating profit being recorded. GIMA membership continues to grow steadily, with a net growth of 3% being recorded in 2016 and plans to grow again in 2017.

Charlie Lacey, Chief Operating Officer of Decco gave delegates an overview of the business operations and the benefits of working with Decco to supply independent High Street DIY Stores as well as Garden Centres around the UK.

Michael Burrell, one of the UK's most experienced parliamentary lobbyists, provided delegates with some useful tips on how to get the UK garden retail industry higher on the agenda with the government, with particular reference to the current Brexit negotiations.

Trevor Pfeiffer gave delegates a whistle stop tour of some inspiring displays 'Creating Memorable Experiences' from his tours around the UK visiting and judging garden centres for 'The Greatest Awards'.

Finally Matthew Mein of GLEE provided delegates with an update on activity for this year's forthcoming GLEE exhibition in September. GIMA Members were also given a 5% introductory discount for exhibiting at the new GLEE at Spring Fair concession in 2018.

Copies of the presentations from all the speakers can be made available to those GIMA members who didn't attend. Contact the GIMA office for more information tel: 01959 564947 or email info@gima.org.uk

Ends.

