



**Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society Ltd
Annual General Meeting 2025/26
Statement of President**

Kim Conchie

I am honoured and delighted to be appointed President of The Poly. I will undertake to add value, connections and energy to any aspects of The Poly's Strategic Plan that I can. Specifically, I feel I can assist with improved outward communications, business introductions, sponsorship and proposing events involving potential supporters, sponsors, advocates and influencers across The Duchy and beyond. I will enjoy advocating The Poly, its programme of activities and shows while personally feeling the glow of being more closely engaged with this wonderful Cornish, but globally significant, forward-looking institution.

Some years after graduating from Cardiff University with joint honours in English & Economics, Kim co-founded Brass Tacks Publishing in 1986. Brass Tacks became one of the top customer publishing and website creation agencies in UK with offices in London, Bristol and Edinburgh, before Kim sold the company to Chime Communications plc in 2000. Kim continued to work for Chime and its subsidiaries until 2009. He was Chair of APA, the UK trade body for publishing agencies, from 1997-99.

Moving to his spiritual and maternal home in 2002, Kim was CEO of Cornwall Chamber of Commerce from April 2012-July 2024 and is now Life Vice-President to acknowledge his influence on the Cornish economy during that tenure. He created the 30 Under 30 awards, the Chamber Angel Network, was a judge on The Western Morning News Business Awards, sat on the Truro & Penwith College Employment & Professional Committee and was Chair of Governors at Truro School. He chaired Cornwall's Raising Aspiration & Achievement Strategy board and served on the Falmouth and the Penryn Place Shaping Committees.

He is Chair of Trustees at Cornwall Community Foundation. Kim was made a Cornish Bard in 2024 and given the bardic name Kannas Kann (Bright Messenger) 'for his extensive contribution to cultural life in Kernow' having served on boards at Kneehigh Theatre, Golden Tree Productions, The Exchange and Newlyn Galleries,

St Petroc's Poetry Competition, feast, Krowji and Creative Kernow amongst others. He has been chair of judges for the RCPS Medal for Industry and gave the Smales Lecture at The Poly in 2019. He and his wife Sarah are Poly members. Each year he is a judge for the Cornwall Sustainability Awards, for the Cornwall Heritage Trust award and their blue plaque scheme. He has spoken at many conferences about the importance of the Kernewek language on Cornwall's prosperity and values.

Kim co-founded Navas Drinks Ltd in 2018 which produces top quality Cornish mixers using Cornish spring water and hand-selected botanicals. The company has supported the work of The Eden Trust from its formation. He sold the company in 2025.

In October 2019, Kim was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Cornwall. He serves on the Business Group of DLs encouraging best practice in business including encouraging and assisting business applications for the King's Award for Enterprise; and on the King's Award for Voluntary Service group writing citations and encouraging volunteer-led organisations to apply for a King's Award for Voluntary Service.

In his leisure time, he is a life member of Cornwall Heritage Trust, a vice-president of Cornwall RFU, Falmouth Rugby Club, and a member of the South West Coast Path Association. He is a Fellow of The Royal Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, a member of Art Fund, a long-time Friend of the Royal Academy, a keen collector of contemporary Cornish and Newlyn School art with which he has a family connection; and of Cornwall Historic Churches Trust.