

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Cornwall Agricultural Association held at The Pavilion Centre, Royal Cornwall Events Centre on Thursday, 14 March 2019**

In the Chair, Sir Nicholas Bacon, President, who welcomed those present to the meeting and asked all to stand in memory of Mr Julian Williams, former a Vice President and Vice Chairman.

### **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held on 15 March 2018 were approved and signed, having been circulated to Council Members and available to other members attending the meeting.

### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### **APOLOGIES**

The Rt Hon The Viscount Falmouth, The Hon Evelyn Boscawen, Sir Richard Carew Pole, Lord St Levan, Mr Ted Coryton, Mr Peter Bickford-Smith, Mr Michael Galsworthy, The Rt Revd Tim Thornton, Mr Michael Latham, Lt Cdr Nicholas Trefusis, Lady Carew Pole, Iona, Lady Molesworth-St Aubyn, Messrs J P Oatey, S F Knowles, G Blight, R H Olds, P J Sobey, R J Thomson, L D Pengilly, P J Olds, J Perry, B Trewin, P D Hardaker, A L Pascoe and Mesdames A Melhuish, B Dyer and E Bowden and various members of the Association.

### **TO RECEIVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2018**

The Chairman invited Mr Brian Harvey of PKF Francis Clark LLP, to give the financial report.

Mr Harvey began his report by saying how important the weather conditions over the duration of the Royal Cornwall Show were and their potential effect on the financial results for the year. Largely favourable weather for the 2018 show had, for instance, resulted in an increase in admission income of £157,000 on the prior year.

The overall results given by Mr Harvey showed a very successful year for the Association in which a surplus for the year of £217,000 was generated, before a further £96,558 of gains on investments were added meaning an overall surplus of £313,776.

In terms of attendance, the total admission was £906,462, with 11,173 people purchasing their tickets online, accounting for £230,000 of ticket sales. Whilst considering membership he added that Annual Members' subscriptions were £981 or 0.5% higher than in 2017.

All trade stands had again been sold, with a waiting list, although cattle and horse show entry fees had decreased. As budgeted catalogue and refreshments income was lower, reflecting the performance at the previous year's wet Show and the effect on tenders.

Overall Show Income totalled £1,890,978, an increase of 10.5% on the prior year and 2.6% ahead of budget.

Show Income was again bolstered by other income, which arose from Membership Subscriptions, Showground Lettings, Pavilion Lettings and other activities. Site Lettings had increased by £22,500 which was £17,500 ahead of budget and had included some excellent events.

Whilst the Pavilion performance was down, it remained in a position of surplus and continued to provide facilities to members at the Show and to the Association throughout the year.

Overall Income from all sources was £2,369,825, being ahead of budget by £59,775 and £198,543 ahead of the prior year.

In terms of Show Expenditure, Mr Harvey reported that this had decreased to £1,467,000, being £21,000 less than in 2018 and £49,000 under budget. Most encouragingly the main variance being between the cost of preparing the Show and general Showground costs, which was £45,000 or 4.2% below the previous year and 4.5% below budget.

The variance in Preparation of Showground costs to budget resulted largely in wages, hired in labour and contractors and also water costs. The decrease in wages being as a result of greater work being undertaken by staff 'in house'. All other items of Show expenditure being £24,000 greater, which largely reflected an inflationary increase as well as costs relating to e-ticketing, main ring attractions and marketing expenditure.

Other costs in support of the Show had increased by £61,000 to £685,000.

Office salaries were £19,000 greater than the previous year and £7,000 over budget, due mainly to incremental pay rises together with increased NIC and Pension contributions and overtime in relation to staging HRH The Prince of Wales' Countryside Parade.

Travel and Motor expenses were £8,000 above budget with increased insurance, fuel and repair costs. In addition there had been travel costs in relation to Emma Parkyn's time at the Minnesota State Fair and the Secretary attending the RASC Conference in Canada.

The other increases being in relation to lighting and heating and education, with education being under a new separate heading for the first year. Education costs were essentially associated with the running of the education trailer, employment costs and the staging of the Farm and Country Days.

Mr Harvey then emphasised to those present the importance of the charitable objectives of the Association and as Trustees members of the Council needed to always have these objectives in mind in building, maintaining and spending reserves.

Overall expenditure for the year was £2,152,607 being £1.9% greater than 2018 and 0.4% greater than budget.

The overall result therefore gave a surplus of £217,218 before gains on investments.

Mr Harvey then referred members to the Balance Sheet noting that fixed assets had decreased to £3,051,970, as depreciation has exceeded capital expenditure in the year.

Investments had grown by £336,243 to £1,685,454, mostly due to £327,000 being transferred into the portfolio for investment and with £88,000 of investments being realised in the year. The year-end cash at bank was £582,936.

Bank loans had reduced by £43,000 and a further £125,000 had been repaid, post year end.

Overall the net assets of the Association as at the 30 September 2018 stood at £4,976,866, a £313,776 increase on 2017 which represents a very strong position.

Mr Harvey concluded by saying that this was another very successful year, financially, building on an already solid foundation.

Sir Nicholas Bacon thanked Mr Harvey for his report and asked for any questions from the floor, of which there were none.

### **TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITORS**

Mr Robert Sloman thanked Mr Brian Harvey and PKF Francis Clark LLP on behalf of the Association. Also, he thanked Mr Adrian Rundle, who had now left the bank, for his past contribution as Lloyds Bank PLC Relationship Director. Mr Sloman welcomed Mr John Perry who had taken over his role.

Mr Sloman welcomed Mr Mark Hoskin as Honorary Assistant Treasurer.

He spoke of the importance of the staff of the Association and of the volunteers who support the Show.

Mr Robert Sloman then proposed the re-appointment of PKF Francis Clark LLP as the Association's auditors for the coming year.

The proposal was seconded by Mr Jonathan Coode and passed unanimously.

Sir Nicholas Bacon then spoke of his promise to bring a bit of Norfolk weather to Cornwall and he felt that in the main the weather was favourable for the Show, with the financial results reflecting that. The Royal Cornwall Show was seen as an agricultural show, which was not the case for many shows throughout the country. The 'icing on the cake' was in hosting The Prince's Countryside Parade to celebrate The Prince of Wales's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday in the presence of Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall, which he said was a fantastic achievement. Finally, Sir Nicholas thanked Miss Elaine Lutey for her assistance throughout the year.

### **ELECTION OF PRESIDENT FOR 2019**

The Chairman, Mr Michael Williams, thanked Sir Nicholas Bacon for everything that he had done for the Royal Cornwall Agricultural Association as President Elect and latterly President, in particular in being instrumental in his part in the visit by TRHs The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall and the honour in hosting The Prince of Wales's Countryside Parade at the Royal Cornwall Show. He asked that thanks also be conveyed to Lady Bacon who participated with her own programme of visits during the Show.

Mr Williams then proposed Mr Ted Coryton as President for 2019, saying how it gave him great pleasure to do so and how Mr Coryton had much enjoyed his year as President Elect.

The proposal was seconded by Lady St Levan and then passed unanimously.

Mr Williams added that Mr Coryton was sadly unable to attend the Annual General Meeting, but had asked him to convey his apologies and to say how it was a great honour to have been elected President having enjoyed his year as President Elect.

### **ELECTION OF PRESIDENT ELECT**

Sir Ferrers Vyvyan proposed Mr John Willis as President Elect for 2019. He said that Mr Willis had been educated at Downside School, then served briefly with the Royal Marines before marrying Katharine and returning to Cornwall in 1986 to become a Chartered Surveyor

and subsequently a Land Agent and Partner in Stratton and Holborow. He and Katharine live at Croan, near Wadebridge with their children James, Cicely, Olivia and Sam. Being a beneficiary in the Tremayne Estate, Mr Willis has connections with Heligan and runs a 2400 acre estate, incorporating commercial forestry. He was also Managing Director of Pentewan Sands Limited and of Heligan Development Limited with property in Cornwall and Worcestershire and was a co-founder of the Wooden Hand Brewery. Mr Willis was a past CLA County Secretary and will hold the position of High Sheriff of Cornwall for 2019 / 2020.

The proposal was seconded by Mr Robert Sloman and then passed unanimously.

The formal presentation of the Director of Showyard's badge was then made to Mr Paul M Richards by Sir Nicholas Bacon, having previously been elected to that role.

## **TO ELECT 12 PERSONS TO THE COUNCIL TO SERVE FOR THE ENSUING THREE YEARS**

### Eastern Division

Mr R G C Hancock  
Mr P W Hodge  
Mr R Jenkin  
Mr A Lutey  
Mr R A Sloman

### Western Division

Mr E Bowden  
Mr F J Dyer  
Mr R J Laity  
Mr J L Richards  
Mrs R M Thomas  
Mr K R Williams

### Irrespective of Locality

Mr P M Richards  
Mr S L Edmond  
Miss A Jewell  
Mr J Walkers  
Mr P J Laity

Proposed en bloc by Mr Michael Williams, seconded by Mr Eric Sleep and passed unanimously.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Secretary gave the election results of the four people who had been elected to the General Purposes Committee from those newly elected to Council for the ensuing three years as being Mr Richard Jenkin, Mr Alan Lutey, Mr John Richards and Mr Redvers Williams.

Mr Riddle gave a report on the Farm and Country Days and the educational initiatives of the Association. The two day in March were again fully booked with a total of 1500 children from 34 schools due to attend with 2020 also being virtually fully booked. He also asked that anyone involved with a school encouraged them to arrange a free visit by the Roadshow to help educate children in agriculture and food production.

The Secretary continued with a report on the forthcoming Royal Cornwall Show and how trade stand bookings were full. The livestock and equine schedules had been sent with entries being received, however it was unknown how the outbreak of equine flu in the UK could affect those entries. The British Equestrian Federation recommended all horses to have mandatory vaccinations before attending the Show and this had been adopted by the Association.

The trophy which had recently been purchased by the Association was on display for members to see. This was originally presented to the Association in 1867 although little else was known of its history.

Mr Riddle continued saying how the Capital Expenditure programme was progressing throughout the Showground, including the new Space to Change facility which was nearing completion.

Sir Nicholas Bacon then invited Miss Nicola Chegwidden to give a presentation on her attendance as a Next Generation delegate at the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth's Agriculture Conference in Edmonton, Canada. Miss Chegwidden had been supported by a bursary of \$1000 Canadian Dollars from the RASC, as a benefit of the RCAA being a member and also a cash bursary from the Ken Thomas Charitable Trust.

Miss Chegwidden spoke of her experience at the Conference and thanked the Royal Cornwall Agricultural Association and the Ken Thomas Charitable Trust for their support enabling her to attend. Her presentation included details of the diverse farms visited together with visits to agricultural and related businesses. She said that she had also had the opportunity to see some local attractions. There were 72 New Generation delegates from across the world at the Conference which concluded with a Gala Dinner. Miss Chegwidden said how very grateful she was for the opportunity which had reinvigorated her interest in agriculture and given her contacts across the world.

Sir Nicholas Bacon then thanked Miss Chegwidden for her presentation and for her enthusiasm.

The Secretary added his report on his attendance at the RASC Conference saying that another Cornish NG delegate, supported by The Farmers Club, was Mr Geoffrey Bastard from Launceston.

The presentation of awards (in the form of glass tankards) to the Summer and Winter Points Championship winners was then made by Sir Nicholas Bacon.

#### Summer Points Championship

Points offered at Liskeard Show, Praze Fair Show, Stithians Show, Camborne Show (no sheep), Launceston Show and Camelford Show.

Most Points – Cattle	1 <sup>st</sup>	A R & D L Walters & Family Higher Rillaton Farm, Rillaton, Callington
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	D W & G N Renfree Trecorme Barton, Quethiock, Liskeard
Most Points – Sheep	1 <sup>st</sup>	S & G Renfree Dannett Farm, Quethiock, Liskeard
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mr Thomas Nancekivell Heatham Farm, Kilkhampton, Bude

#### Winter Points Championship

Points offered at Liskeard, Helston, Wadebridge and Truro Prime Stock Shows

Most Points – Cattle	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mr A M C Eddy Treloweth Manor, 10 Treloweth Lane, St Erth, Hayle
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mr N & Mrs E Bunkum Tregarrick Farm, Merrymeet, Liskeard
Most Points – Sheep	1 <sup>st</sup>	G & S Renfree Dannett Farm, Quethiock, Liskeard
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mr R A Rundle Treworthal Barn, Cubert, Newquay

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.20 pm.