



Annual General Meeting Minutes

Thursday 21 April 2022, 1400 hours
Members Pavilion, Royal Norfolk Showground

	<p>Present: Peter Mortimer, Robert Alston, Lord Cholmondeley, Baroness Shephard, Robert More, Henry Edwards, Simon Daniels, Ches Broom, Ben Turner, Simon Evans, Robert Richardson, Grant Pilcher, Tim Papworth, Charlie Savory, Chris Self, Roly Beazley, David Richardson, Will Sargent, Luke Lockhart, Felicity Daniels, Sir Richard Jewson, Ian Lonsdale, Revd Canon Paul Thomas, Simon Hickling, Peter Webb, Jill Webb, Michael Pollitt, Kristopher Harper, Douglas Young, Janice Broughton, Andrew Spinks, Kerry Gibb, , Mike Gamble, Sir Nicholas Bacon, Revd Matthew Hutton, Anne Richardson, Mark Bowen, Louis Baugh, Sarah Ellero, Catherine Scott, Lesley Penniket, Julia Howlett, William Meen, Frances Lloyd, Duncan Anderson Brown, Charlie MacNicol, Fabian Eagle, Ben Du Brow, Peter Rout, Jonathan Clarke, Nick Saffell, Chris Graf-Grote, Chris Nix, Chris Hill, Hayley Mace, Kate Bowen, Nicholas Hunt, Catherine Richards, Mark Little, Stephen Howlett, David Hastings, John Carrick, Peter Joyner, Sam Steggles, Sarah de Chair, Michael Mack, Nigel Cushion, Jonathan Barber, Tony Bambridge.</p> <p>In Attendance: RNAA: Mark Nicholas, Holly Whitaker, Maria Skitmore, Mike Parker, Jonathan Betts , Fearn Ainsworth, Helen Bibby – Minutes</p>
1	<p>Welcome and Apologies: Robert Alston welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting of the RNAA. He confirmed the meeting has been moved to the Members' Pavilion as St Walston's Hall was now being rented out as part of the diversification of activity.</p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from: Henry Cator, Peter Riches, Sir Jeremy Bagge, Jack Royall, Will Richmond, Ian Baker, Revd Angela Reynolds, Gordon Reynolds, David Bolton, Stephen Temple, Rod Tuck, Susie Scott, Michael Cooke, Caroline Dixey, Adam Case, David Horsfall, William Brigham, Tim Hayward, Robert Carter, Nicky Dulieu, Belinda Clarke, David Feakes, Nigel Bloom, Gail Sprake, John Cushing, Edward Baskerville, Frances Baugh, Jonathan Molineux, , Helen Reeve, Cat Bowen, Peter Seaman, Stuart Morton, Alan Williams, Suzannah Long, John Fuller, Andrew Barnes, Gen The Lord Dannatt.</p> <p>Mark Nicholas confirmed there was a quorum of members present.</p>
2a	<p>Minutes of the Last Meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2021 were approved and signed as a trues and accurate record.</p>
2b	<p>Matters Arising: There were no matters arising from the meeting held on 23 September 2021.</p>

3	<p>To receive the Report of the Council and Board of Trustees and the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021:</p> <p>The Chairman introduced the report noting that the last year had been a challenging one, as a number of staff had left due to the restructuring of the Association, following the impacts of the pandemic. The Chairman expressed his thanks for all they had done over the years and wished them all the best of luck in the future. He said it was good to welcome so many people back to the Showground. The last year has been a busy one with repairs to the electricity network completed, improvement made to the road network, and, after 14 years the disposal of land to Persimmon Homes had been completed providing much needed funds for re-investment in the estate.</p> <p>Looking forward the food hall and market garden project is progressing and will bring benefits to farmers and local producers as well as engaging with the local community and meeting some of the Association's charitable objectives. Dr Catherine Richards and Dr Jonathan Clarke had joined the Board of Trustees. Roly Beazley who has been a trustee since 2014 is stepping down today, he was thanked for all his hard work and advice, particularly regarding the water project, which he will continue to oversee until completed. The Chairman said there was lots to celebrate going forward including the return of the Royal Norfolk Show, 175th anniversary of the Association, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the RNAA ball on 26 November 2022.</p> <p>Charlie Savory, Honorary Finance Director, reported on the Statement of Accounts in a very challenging year for the Association, but was pleased to report that the finances were in a much better position than at the last AGM. The recent land sale was being treated separately in the accounts and would be ring-fenced for specific projects, and the money will be received in four tranches. The pandemic had led to the cancellation and postponement of many events and the receipt of grant funding from the Culture Recovery Fund (round 2) had been instrumental in supporting the Association through these difficult times. The Association had three loans, outstanding totalling £521k, and £111k had been repaid. The Honorary Finance Director explained that a cautious budget had been prepared for the 2022 Show with an anticipated attendance around 75k. The planning for the Show is progressing well but the team have been faced with rising costs and high inflation but it is hoped that the show will see a small surplus. In summary it has been a challenging but rewarding year and thanks must be recorded for all the help from the Executive team. There were no questions on the report to Council or the Statement of Accounts.</p> <p>Robert Alston proposed the approval of the Report to Council and the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021.</p> <p>Louis Baugh seconded the proposal. Carried unanimously. Louis Baugh stated that Mark Nicholas, the staff team, and the trustees should be commended for all their hard work during a very difficult period for the Association</p>
4	<p>To receive the recommendation of Council that the Most Honourable The Marquess of Cholmondeley KCVO, DL, be elected as President for 2021/22:</p> <p>Robert Alston proposed that the Most Honourable The Marquess of Cholmondeley KVC O DL be elected President for 2021 – 2022.</p> <p>Simon Hickling seconded the proposal. Carried unanimously.</p>
5	<p>To receive the recommendation of Council that John Cushing OBE, be elected Deputy President for 2022- 2023:</p>

	<p>Robert Alston proposed the John Cushing OBE be elected Deputy President for 2022 – 2023. John Cushing was not present as he had Covid, the Chairman hoped he made a speedy recovery and recorded best wishes from those present.</p> <p>Luke Lockhart seconded the proposal. Carried unanimously.</p>
6	<p>To receive a Report on the election of Members to fill vacancies on the Council arising from automatic retirement:</p> <p>Mark Nicholas reported that the following people will retire from the Council having served a term of three years: Felicity Daniels, Tim Hayward, Nicholas Hunt, Lt Col Ian Lonsdale, Lesley Penniket, Ken Proctor, Suzie Scott, Peter Seaman, Rod Tuck.</p> <p>Nominations had not exceeded vacancies, so the following were elected to serve Council until April 2025: Duncan Anderson Brown, Tony Bambridge, Fran Baugh, Janice Broughton, Guy Gowing, Chris Graf-Grote, Poul Hovesen, Charlie MacNicol, Helen Reeve, Kyle White, Clarke Willis.</p> <p>The following have been co-opted onto the Council for the ensuing year: Councillor Fabian Eagle – Norfolk County Council, Councillor John Fuller OBE – South Norfolk and Broadland Council, Lewis Harrison – BAGMA, The Reverend Canon Paul Thomas OBE – RNAA Chaplain.</p>
7	<p>To appoint an Auditor and to authorise the Trustees to set the remuneration thereof:</p> <p>Luke Lockhart proposed the re-appointment of Price Baily as Auditor of the RNAA and authorised the Board of Trustees to fix the remuneration thereof. This had been put out to tender.</p> <p>Chris Nix seconded the proposal. Carried unanimously.</p>
8	<p>To receive a Report on the appointment of Honorary Vice Presidents:</p> <p>Mark Nicholas reported that the following are appointed Honorary Vice Presidents until a date in the future to be advised individually:</p> <p>Gail Sprake and Roly Beazley. A brief resume was given on each person.</p>
9	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p>The Timothy Colman Prize was awarded to Chris Hill, the agricultural editor of the Eastern Daily Press who has been an ardent supporter of the RNAA, agricultural mental health, and has been instrumental in raising the profile of farming in this region in the press.</p>
10	<p>Date of Next AGM:</p> <p>The date of the next AGM will be Thursday 20 April 2023 at 1400 hours, Members' Pavilion. The AGM formal business concluded at 1432 hours.</p>
11	<p>Presentation by Mark Larwood from E T Larwood & Sons:</p> <p>Mark Larwood gave an interesting presentation about the family farm E T Larwood & Sons which is a mixed dairy and arable farm run by the family and the challenges they face</p>

	together with his thoughts on the future of dairy farming in East Anglia. Mark was the winner of the Farmers Weekly Dairy Farmer of the Year in 2021.
12	Meeting Closed: The meeting closed at 14.55.

Signed: R Alston

Dated: 20 April 2023