



Annual General Meeting Minutes

Thursday 20 April 2023, 1400 hours
Members Pavilion, Norfolk Showground

	<p>Present: Julian Taylor, Matthew Hutton, Robert Alston, Jonathan Barber, Elizabeth Ellis-Paul, Douglas Young, Henry Cator, Michael Pollitt, Michael Gurney, Will Sargent, Simon Evans, Louis Baugh, Fran Baugh, Kerry Gibb, Andrew Howlett, Ken Leggett, Carole Slaughter, David Hastings, David Richardson, Clare Whelan, Susie Scott, Jill Scott, Chris Hill, Felicity Daniels, Joshua Spink, David Bolton, Michael Gamble, Michael Cook, Jeremy Robson, Sarah De Chair, Simon Daniels, Poul Hovesen, Rob Richardson, Laurie Hill, Sir Richard Jewson, Michael Mack, Stephen Temple, Christopher Self, Duncan Anderson Brown, Robert More, John Carrick, David Feakes, Revd Canon Sally Theakston, Peter Seaman, Andrew Spinks, Emma Haley, Ian Lonsdale, Nick Hunt, Lord Cholmondeley, Tony Bambridge, Simon Fowler, Anne Richardson, Sarah Ellero, Nick Saffell, Belinda Clarke, Steffan Griffiths, Roly Beazley, Kristopher Harper-Allison, Peter Rout, Mark Bowen, Gail Sprake, Helen Reeve, Catherine Scott, Nicky Dulieu, Julian Wells, Grant Pilcher, Simon Hickling, Charlie Savory, Luke Lockhart, Ches Broom, Tim Papworth, Kyle White, Clarke Willis.</p> <p>In Attendance: RNAA: Mark Nicholas, Holly Whitaker, Mike Parker, Jonathan Betts, Fearn Ainsworth, Sam Berney, Jacob Stirling, Helen Bibby – Minutes</p>
1	<p>Welcome and apologies for absence: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting of the RNAA. Mark Nicholas confirmed the meeting was quorate.</p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from: Adam Case, Andrew Barnes, Angela Reynolds, Catherine Richards, Catriona Bowen, Christopher Nix, Claire Crawshay, David Moar, Emily Norton, General The Lord Dannatt, Baroness Shephard, Gordan Reynolds, Ian Baker, Sir Jeremy Bagge, John Gordon, Jonathan Clarke, Jonathan Molineux, Kate Bowen, Lady Dannatt, Marion Jones, Peter Mortimer, Robert Carter, Sarah Jones, Simon MacFarlane, Sir Nicholas Bacon, Stephen Howlett, Revd Canon Paul Thomas, William Haire, Julia Howlett, Ben B Turner, David Horsfall, James Chapman, Nigel Bloom, Suzannah Long, Rory Long, David Hughes.</p>
2a	<p>Minutes of meeting held on 21 April 2022: The minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2022 were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.</p>
2b	<p>Matters arising from the meeting held on 21 April 2022: There were no matters arising from the meeting held on 21 April 2022 that are not covered elsewhere on the agenda.</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 2022:</p> <p>The Chairman presented his report noting that the principal achievement had been the return of the Royal Norfolk Show after an absence of two years. The Show had been missed and although changes had been made, it had been a very successful event.</p> <p>The Chairman confirmed that T M Browne Limited were being appointed as the contractor for the Norfolk Events Centre extension project. Whilst the RNAA would fund the majority of the project two grants had been received from the Garfield Weston Foundation and New Anglia LEP. Two new trustees Emily Norton and Laurie Hill had been appointed to replace Catherine Scott and Grant Pilcher who were both standing down. A bouquet of flowers was present to Catherine who had served as a trustee for 6 years. After serving as a trustee for 15 years and prior to that as both a steward and treasurer, Grant Pilcher was presented with a walking stick. Grant will remain involved with the RNAA and is going to chair the RNAA Opportunities Fund sub-committee.</p> <p>The Finance Director presented the accounts for 2022. It had been a challenging year to bring the Show back as costs were very hard to predict and had increased significantly from 2019. However, it was pleasing to note that the Show delivered a surplus of £182k due to tight budgeting and an increase in the price of admission tickets. Norfolk Showground Ltd had performed well over the year now that covid restrictions had been lifted. There had been significant investment made to the Showground including upgrades to the electricity supply, the completion of the water project, and the installation of PV cells on the Norfolk Events Centre roof as well as a reduction in the Association's borrowing. The investment portfolio had performed well and stood at £820k.</p> <p>The current economic climate and high Show costs for 2023 meant that the predicted surplus for this year is budgeted at £50k. It was pleasing to note that the first quarter figures for 2023 are ahead of budget.</p> <p>The Chairman proposed the approval of the Report of Council and Board of Trustees together with the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022.</p> <p>Louis Baugh seconded the proposal. The motion was carried unanimously.</p>
4	<p>To offer a vote of thanks to the retiring President the Most Honourable The Marquess of Cholmondeley GCMG DL:</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Lord Cholmondeley who had been President for three years due to the Show being cancelled in 2020 and 2021 and he was presented with a photograph album of the highlights of his tenure as President. Lord Cholmondeley was the second longest serving President after Sir Edward Mann who served for four years during the Second World War. Lord Cholmondeley thanked Mark Nicholas, Robert Alston, Holly Whitaker, David Horsfall, Chris Nix as well as the team at the Showground and show stewards for all their help and assistance during his Presidency. He had thoroughly enjoyed his time as President and was proud to have been associated with such a distinguished organisation.</p>
5	<p>To receive the recommendation of Council that Mr John Cushing OBE, be elected as President for 2023 - 2024:</p> <p>Robert Alston proposed that Mr John Cushing OBE, be elected President for 2023 – 2024.</p> <p>Simon Hickling seconded the proposal. The motion was carried unanimously.</p>
6	<p>To receive the recommendation of Council that The Lady Dannatt MBE, be elected Deputy President for 2023 - 2024:</p>

	<p>Robert Alston proposed that The Lady Dannatt MBE, be elected Deputy President for 2023 – 2024.</p> <p>Henry Cator seconded the proposal. The motion was carried unanimously.</p>
7	<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 members will retire from Council having served a term of three years: Edward Baskerville, David Bolton, Sarah Ellero, Simon Evans, David Hastings, Emily Norton, Andrew Spinks, Sam Steggles, Stephen Temple, Ben B Turner.</p> <p>Nominations had not exceeded vacancies, and the following were elected to serve Council until April 2026: Felicity Daniels, Christopher Deane, Andrew Dewing, Michael Gurney, Ian Lonsdale, Caroline Morton, Rachel Rusholme Pilcher, Suzie Scott, Peter Seaman, Carole Slaughter, Josh Spink, Rod Tuck, Julian Wells, Clare Whelan.</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 Council, Lewis Harrison – BAGMA, The Reverend Canon Sally Theakston – The Bishop’s Chaplain and Chaplain to the RNAA.</p>
8	<p>To appoint an Auditor and to authorise the Trustees to set the remuneration thereof:</p> <p>Clarke Willis 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>Michael Pollitt seconded the proposal. The motion was carried unanimously.</p>
9	<p>To receive a report on the appointment of Honorary Vice Presidents and Royal Norfolk Show Fellows:</p> <p>Mark Nicholas reported that the following are declared Honorary Vice Presidents from today’s date to a date in the future to be advised individually:</p> <p>Janice Broughton, Catherine Scott, Simon Fowler, Julia Howlett, Stephen Howlett, Susan Palmer, Grant Pilcher, Jeremy Robson, Revd Canon Paul Thomas.</p> <p>With immediate effect Mike Garrett and Fred Milk are appointed Royal Norfolk Show Fellows.</p>
10	<p>To receive a report on the award of the Timothy Colman Prize:</p> <p>The Timothy Colman Prize was awarded to Louis Baugh who has held many prestigious offices in the farming community both at local and national levels, including President of Norfolk Young Farmers, Chairman of the Norfolk Campaign for the Farmed Environment, and has been a stalwart of the NFU, winning the Meurig Raymond Award in 2019.</p> <p>Mr Baugh is also head steward of the Discovery Zone at the Royal Norfolk Show and became a Deputy Lieutenant of Norfolk in 2016. He has made an outstanding contribution to agriculture and is a worthy winner of the Timothy Colman Prize. Louis Baugh thanked Mark Nicholas for the award which he was humbled to receive. He also thanked the RNAA staff and his stewarding team as well as his wife Fran who is often left to deal with issues on the farm when he is away doing all the other things.</p>
11	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p>Mark Nicholas informed the meeting that he had received a sporting challenge from Suffolk Agricultural Association. A response would be considered in due course.</p>

12	<p>Managing Director's report:</p> <p>Mark Nicholas reported that it was a very exciting time for the RNAA. A recent consultation event with its stakeholders (Leading the Field) had generated a lot of useful information. The Showground infrastructure had been upgraded and new commercial projects were progressing to ensure the site remains commercially successful and viable. A new strategy had been developed for charitable outputs in addition to the Show and the FFDT was spearheading the delivery of the educational element of the RNAA objectives. The new Food, Farming and Environment Forum is being developed which will enable the RNAA to better support the agricultural industry, share knowledge, and help solve problems by working with a broad range of organisations.</p> <p>Looking forward to this year's Show 82% of trade stands have been secured, although the current economic climate has been challenging and the retail element of the Show will be slightly different as some exhibitors have chosen not to return or have moved to sponsorship rather than having a stand. It was pleasing to note that the Show will host the Simmental Cattle Society national show. A new STEMM village promoting science, technology and engineering will be introduced this year. The Norfolk Chambers of Commerce and the RNAA are working together to make it possible for smaller local businesses to attend the Show.</p> <p>The equestrian show rings are currently being reorganised which will give a more user friendly experience as well as the extra space needed to meet British Showjumping Association regulations. The Norfolk Music Hub will not only provide musicians for the three band stands, but also have a big sing in the grand ring on the Wednesday with over 3000 people which will be steamed across the UK. On Thursday they hope to stage a Guinness World Record attempt for the most people playing recycled musical instruments!</p> <p>For the King's Coronation the Norfolk Lieutenancy are organising a Norfolk Community Champions event in the grand ring on Wednesday evening where two people from each charity will be invited to attend the Show and take part in a Grand Ring tribute addressed by the Lord Lieutenant. Following feedback from visitors and the section debrief meetings, buggy transport will be provided from the outlying car parks to the main site.</p>
13	<p>Presentation To the RNAA by Emma Haley, Charity Manager, YANA:</p> <p>Emma Haley gave a short presentation about YANA. Emma thanked the trustees of the RNAA together with Mark Nicholas and his team for all their support and presented a YANA plaque to the RNAA in recognition of this support.</p> <p>This concluded the formal part of the meeting.</p>
14	<p>Presentation by the Rt Revd Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich:</p> <p>The Rt Revd Graham Usher gave a presentation about his and the Church of England's involvement in local communities. The presentation included how important church buildings were for their history, treasures and also how they have had to evolve in recent years to deliver new initiatives to the communities they serve. With the loss of public houses, banks, post offices and village halls, the church was now a lonely focal point and often used to set up cafes, food banks and feeding initiatives particularly in some of the more deprived parishes.</p> <p>The different uses for land and buildings owned by the Church of England was interesting and innovative and the Church is conscious of what is required to help slow climate change and help save the earth's resources.</p> <p>Last year saw the first Bishop of Norwich Sustainable Environment Young Employee of the Year Award presented to Jamie Hipperson together with a cheque for £1000. The deadline</p>

	for entries for 2023 closes on the 15 th of May. The Rt Revd Graham Usher thanked those present for their contributions to saving/improving the environment.
15	<p>Date of next meeting: The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and confirmed the date for the next Annual General Meeting is Thursday 18 April 2024 at Norfolk Showground.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 15.08.</p>

Signed:

R Alston
Chairman

Dated: 18 April 2024