

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
ROYAL JERSEY AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

**Held on Thursday 28th April 2016 at 7.30 pm,
in the Exhibition Hall at the Royal Jersey Showground**

Item 1) Welcome and to receive apologies for absence:

The President welcomed members to the AGM noting that the full set of agenda papers had been circulated in the information booklet to all members.

Present: Mr Ian Mitchell (President & Chairman), Mr Paul Houzé (Vice President, Agricultural Dept.), Mr Graham de Gruchy (Vice President, Horticultural Dept), Mr Christopher H Taylor (Treasurer, Agricultural Dept), Mr Alan Le Troquer (Treasurer, Horticultural Dept), Mr James W Godfrey (Chief Executive & Secretary of the Society, who took the minutes), Mr David Cottrell (Assistant Manager, Jersey Island Genetics) Mr Peter Andrieux, Mr Alasdair Crosby, Mrs Graham de Gruchy, Mr Max de la Haye (Hon Life Member) & Mrs de la Haye, Mr Steve Falle, Mr Neil Fauvel, Mr Derrick Frigot (Past President & Hon. Life Member), Mr Peter Goguelin, Mrs Nance Hicklin, Miss Becky Houzé, Mr John Jackson, Mrs Pam Laurens, Mr Charles Le Cornu (Past President & Hon. Life Member), Mr John Le Feuvre (Past President & Hon. Life Member), Mrs Sarah Le Feuvre, Mr Steve Le Feuvre, Mrs Ivy Le Troquer, Mr Ricky Leith, Mrs Jennifer McMullon, Mr John McMullon, Mr Vernon Pallot, Dr & Mrs David Pope, Mr & Mrs Graham Queree, Mr Kevin Roberts, Mr Lewis Rondel (Past President), Mr Martin Rouault, Mr Peter Williams. Also present was Mr Don Connolly of Messrs Alex Picot (the Society auditors).

Apologies: The Lieutenant Governor of Jersey HE General Sir John McColl & Lady McColl, the Bailiff of Jersey Mr & Mrs William Bailhache, The Dean of Jersey the Very Reverend Bob Key and Mrs Daphne Key, Mr David Hambrook (Manager, Jersey Island Genetics), Mrs Louise Agnès (Secretary, Horticultural Department), Mrs Margaret Andrieux, Mrs J Frigot, Mrs A Godfrey, Mr & Mrs Geoffrey Hamilton, Mr John Hidrio (Hon. Life Member), Mrs Barbara Hidrio, Mr John James Le Feuvre, Mrs Suzanne Le Feuvre, Miss Vicky Le Feuvre, Mr Andrew Le Gallais, Mr & Mrs Robert Perchard, Mr Tom Perchard, Mr Derek Russell, Mr Roger Trehwella.

Item 2) To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Society held on 30th April 2015:

The minutes were approved on the proposition of Mr Derrick Frigot and seconded by Mr Max de la Haye with all in favour and were duly signed.

Item 3) To discuss any matters arising from the minutes:

The President raised the issue highlighted at the last meeting AGM under item 5, whereby Mr Le Gallais had asked about the proliferation of beef cross animals in the island and the practice of breeding these animals back to a beef bull. Mr Godfrey noted that the number of beef cross animals was monitored as part of the Herd Book registration system and, as can be seen from the report, numbers have been stable for the last few years with between 250 and 300 alive at any one time. The Agricultural General Committee did not see this as an issue of concern.

Item 4) To receive the Annual President's, Treasurer's and Departmental Reports for 2015:

The President noted that these reports had been circulated in the book of agenda papers and asked if there were any questions members would like to raise. The reports were unanimously adopted on the proposition of Mr Charles Le Cornu and seconded by Mr Steve Le Feuvre.

Item 5) To receive the consolidated accounts for the Society for the year ending 31st December 2015:

The President welcomed Mr Don Connolly, from Society auditors Messrs Alex Picot, who he would ask to comment on the audit process but first asked the Agricultural Department Treasurer, Mr Chris Taylor, to comment on the accounts as presented in the agenda book. Mr Taylor highlighted the following items from the consolidated accounts:

In round terms the Society's trading position had greatly improved with the underlying running deficit having been reduced by over 40% year on year. Unfortunately the investments had not done so well and, as a result of presentational changes, the consolidated P&L account now included the net position of changes in the investment valuations which showed a net loss of £7k in 2015 compared to a gain of £106k in 2014. This had overshadowed the results leading to an increased consolidated deficit year on year being posted. The main items to note were:

- The Trading Income (Jersey Island Genetics) was broadly consistent allowing for the changes in AI provision for which he acknowledged the conscientious management of David Hambrook.
- A successful Summer Fair with income over double the prior year had meant that the net cost of Society shows had been reduced by 26% for which he acknowledged the hard work of Louise Agnès.

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- The Real Estate revenues had grown by 26% and were the star performer. This had come from increased bookings at the Showground and the letting of a further office suite for which he acknowledged the excellent work of Dave Cottrell.
- The control of overheads and reduction in payroll, together with the revenue improvements, had combined to show a significant improvement in the underlying deficit for which he acknowledged the overall guidance of James Godfrey.

The President thanked Mr Taylor for his summary and asked Mr Connolly to comment on the audit. Mr Connolly explained that he had been able to report to the Council that he had no concerns over the financial management and that the accounts reflected a true and accurate position of the Society's financial affairs. He noted that with the reduction in staffing, i.e. no longer employing a dedicated book keeper, there was more of a concentration of financial matters into fewer hands, but he was content with the way the management were addressing this by arranging regular reviews.

The President asked if members had any questions and Mr John Le Feuvre asked about the financial arrangements for constructing the new storage units. Mr Godfrey confirmed that in round terms the units had cost £300k and were producing rental revenues of £30k, being a return in the region of 10%, at the same time providing the Society with three units, and was considerably better than the five year average return from the investment portfolios. Mr Steve Le Feuvre congratulated the Council and Staff on the control of costs and development of income which is so important for the long term security of the Society.

The President remarked on the improvements made to the Showground in recent months and the positive comments made to him by users of the facilities. In reply to a question from Mr John Jackson regarding the performance of the financial investments, he confirmed that the last year had been a challenging one for investments with markets down generally although the Society's portfolios performed slightly better than the benchmark.

The President thanked Mr Taylor, Mr Connolly and Mr Godfrey for their presentations and explanations, and the meeting approved the accounts on the proposition of Mr Derrick Frigot and seconded by Mr Peter Goguelin.

Item 6) To elect a Vice President (Agricultural Department) to serve a three year term from 2016 to 2018:

The President reported that one nomination had been received for Mr Paul Houzé, proposed by Mr Derrick Frigot and seconded by Mr Ricky Leith. Mr Frigot, in proposing Mr Houzé, spoke of Paul's record of service to the Society and the respect in which he is held as a cattle breeder. Mr Leith was delighted to second the proposition. The President declared that with no further nominations received Mr Houzé was duly elected Vice President. Mr Houzé thanked his proposers and commented on how pleased he was with the direction of the Society in recent years and he was proud to play a part in this.

Item 7) To elect a Vice President (Horticultural Department) to serve a three year term from 2016 to 2018:

The President reported that one nomination had been received for Mr Graham de Gruchy, proposed by Mr John Hidrio and seconded by Mr Alan Le Troquer. Mr Le Troquer explained that unfortunately Mr Hidrio was unable to attend the meeting and, in proposing Mr de Gruchy, spoke of Graham's energy and commitment to the Society. He had proved to be an excellent Vice President during his first term and conscientious Chairman of the Horticultural Committee. The President declared that, with no further nominations received, Mr de Gruchy was duly elected Vice President. Mr de Gruchy thanked his proposers and paid tribute to all the helpers and volunteers who ensured that the shows were so successful.

Item 8) To elect an Honorary Treasurer for Horticulture to serve a three year term from 2016 to 2018:

The President reported that one nomination had been received for Mr Alan Le Troquer, proposed by Mr John Hidrio and seconded by Mr Martin Rouault. Mr Rouault, in proposing Mr Le Troquer, spoke of his prudence with expenditure and hard work for the Department. The President declared that with no further nominations received Mr Le Troquer was duly elected. Mr Le Troquer thanked his proposers.

Item 9) To elect one member to the Council to serve a three year term from 2016 to 2018:

The President reported that one nomination had been received for Dr David Pope, proposed by Mr Graham de Gruchy and seconded by Mr Martin Rouault. Mr de Gruchy, in proposing Dr Pope, spoke of his integrity and different perspective that he brought to the deliberations of the Council. The President declared that with no

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further nominations received Dr Pope was duly elected. Dr Pope thanked his proposers and looked forward to serving a second term on such a 'go ahead' committee.

- Item 10) To elect three members to the Agricultural General Committee for a three year term (2016 to 2018):**
The President reported that two nominations had been received; one for Mr Tom Perchard, proposed by Mr Steve Le Feuvre and seconded by Mr Derrick Frigot, and one for Mr John McMullon, proposed by Mr Derrick Frigot and seconded by Mr Lewis Rondel. The President declared the two nominees duly elected.
- Item 11) To elect two members to the Horticultural General Committee for a three year term (2016 to 2018):**
The President reported that two nominations had been received; one for Mr Kevin Roberts, proposed by Mr Peter Goguelin and seconded by Mr Martin Rouault, and one for Mr Steve Falle, proposed by Mr Alan Le Troquer and seconded by Mr Graham de Gruchy. The President declared the two nominees duly elected.
- Item 12) To approve the annual subscription to be effective from 1st January 2017:**
The President explained that the Council were recommending that the subscriptions remain at the current rates being Full Membership at £27, Joint Membership at £40.50 and Junior Membership at £7. The recommendation was proposed for adoption by Mr John Le Feuvre and seconded by Mr Charles Le Cornu with all in favour.
- Item 13) Any other business:**
The President made a special presentation to Mr John Jackson following his recent retirement after 18 years service to the States of Jersey as Livestock Advisor. Mr Jackson was presented with a suitably engraved bronze bust of a Jersey cow, by John McKenna. Mr Jackson thanked the Society and spoke of the enormous range of issues that had crossed his desk during his work over the last 18 years. He felt that the dairy industry was in a much better place now and had a good future; he felt privileged to have been involved over this transformational period and wished the industry and the Society every success in the future.

Mr Steve Le Feuvre remarked on the excellent booklet circulated to members and wealth of information that it contained. He felt that the Council had established its area of responsibility well but questioned the frequency of meetings held by the Agricultural General Committee. Mr Houzé agreed saying that he would be reviewing the role of the Committee particularly in relation to the responsibilities of Jersey Island Genetics and the need to avoid duplication.

The President then opened discussion on further potential developments at the Showground, explaining that part of the reason for meeting in the Exhibition Hall was to view how it is rigged to achieve full 'black out', which is commonly required for the larger events. The Council was researching the possibility of enabling this to be achieved by painting the Hall black and blocking off the roof lights. Mr Godfrey then expanded on how Showground revenues had grown in recent years and were budgeted to be the largest source of funds for the Society during the coming year. He congratulated Dave Cottrell, who had assumed responsibility for Showground bookings, explaining that his sales ability and customer service had been a significant factor in the current growth. He explained the need to upgrade the marquee, and how the Council had established a Finance Sub-Committee to examine the business case for replacing the marquee with a permanent building. A planning application had been submitted so that there need not be a delay in the event that there was agreement to proceed with construction. This is because the works will take an estimated six weeks and the only period available for this is July and August as the venue is booked out for the rest of the year. He concluded by saying that he would be happy to discuss any developments with members on an individual basis at any time.

There was no other business raised and the meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

These minutes were signed subsequently, on adoption, on the (date) by:

The President / Chairman:.....

Vice President (Agricultural Dept):.....

Vice President (Horticultural Dept):.....
