

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

**Held on Thursday 26th April 2018 at 7.30 pm,
in the Members Room 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 posted on the Society web site and drew members' attention to the printed Annual Report sent a few days previously. He also warmly welcomed six past Presidents to the meeting and Rachelle Robinson who had recently taken up the position of Horticultural Secretary.

Present: Mr Rob Perchard (President & Chairman), Mr Paul Houzé (Vice President, Agricultural Dept.), Mr Graham de Gruchy (Vice President, Horticultural Dept), Mr Steve Le Feuvre (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 Hambrook (Manager, Jersey Island Genetics), Mrs Rachelle Robinson (Secretary, Horticultural Department), Mr David Cottrell (Assistant Manager, Jersey Island Genetics), Mr Laurence Agnès, Mrs Collette Bisson (Hon Life Member), Mr Colin de la Haye, Mr Max de la Haye (Hon Life Member), Paulette de la Haye, Mrs Jennifer Ellenger, Mr Neil Fauvel, Mr Derrick Frigot MBE (Past President & Hon. Life Member), Mrs Christine Gill, Mr Charles Le Cornu (Past President & Hon. Life Member), Mr John Le Feuvre (Past President & Hon. Life Member), Mrs Sarah Le Feuvre, Mrs Suzanne Le Feuvre, Mr Andrew Le Gallais, Miss Rebecca Houzé, Mr Richard Leith, Mr David Leng, Mrs Jennifer McMullon, Mr John McMullon, Mr Ian Mitchell, Mr & Mrs Tim Pallot, Mr Vernon Pallot, Mr Tom Perchard, Dr David Pope, Mr Martin Preisig, Mr Graham Querée, Mr Kevin Roberts, Mr Lewis Rondel (Past President) with Mrs Pam Rondel & Mr Jack Rondel, Mr Martin Rouault, Mr Chris Taylor, Mr Peter Williams. Also present was Mr Don Connolly of Messrs Alex Picot (the Society auditors).

Apologies: The Lieutenant Governor of Jersey, the Bailiff of Jersey, the Dean of Jersey, Mr Alasdair Crosby, Phyllis de Gruchy, Mrs Helen McGugan, Mrs Rosemary Boleat, Mrs Jane Blackie, Mrs Joanne Dauny, Miss Victoria Le Feuvre, Mrs A Godfrey, Mr John Hidrio (Hon. Life Member), Mrs Barbara Hidrio, Dr Tim Wright, Mrs Louise Agnès, Mrs Pam Querée, Mr Graham Stephens, Mr Dale Hector, Mrs Jo Ann Perchard, Mr Derek Russell, Miss Mary Billot, Mr & Mrs D Goddard, Mrs Louise Noel, Mrs Pam Laurens, Mrs Lucy Le Moignan, Mrs Muriel Le Gresley (Hon Life Member), Mr & Mrs G Hamilton.

Item 2) To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Society held on 20th April 2017:

The minutes were approved on the proposition of Mr Derrick Frigot and seconded by Mr Chris Taylor with all in favour and were duly signed.

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

There were no matters arising.

Item 4) To receive the Annual President's, Treasurer's and Departmental Reports for 2017:

The President noted that these reports had been circulated in the printed magazine to which he had received much positive comment on the presentation. He felt that the magazine successfully drew attention to the variety and quality of the Society's work and thanked the exhibitors and volunteers who help stage the events. He also spoke on the process the Council had embarked upon for future planning and assured members that the Council was driving forward with plans in response to the feedback from both the questionnaire that was sent out earlier in the year and the strategic planning day held in March.

Mr Le Gallais congratulated the President on the way the reports had been presented and it was clear that there were many exciting developments in hand. He also commented on how well the Showground was looking considering the extremely wet winter, and asked for an overview of the status of the new extension building and how this would affect the finances. The President replied that whilst there had been unforeseen delays in completing and commissioning the building, both he and the Council remain convinced that replacing the marquee with a building will prove to be the right decision for the future and once complete members will see that it is a fine asset. The Society had been working with the planning authorities during the year and it is anticipated that the building will be commissioned in the next few weeks. Mr Godfrey added, in regard to the finance, that the new facility will increase the capacity of the Showground, both in scale of event and also by enabling multiple events to be staged, thus generating extra revenue, also the Society has invested in additional fittings, e.g. the blackout lining, which will enable rates to be increased. Mr Le Feuvre added that he had a target to see Showground revenue increased by 20% over the next two years whilst still accommodating the community events at reduced rates. The President emphasised his thanks to the staff for their perseverance in keeping this project moving forward over what had been a difficult period and with this the reports were unanimously adopted.

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Item 5) To receive the consolidated accounts for the Society for the year ending 31st December 2017:

The President introduced Mr Don Connolly, from Society auditors Messrs Alex Picot, who presented the accounts and commented on the audit process.

Mr Connolly provided a detailed explanation of the Consolidated Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet. He spent some time on the main variances from last year. These were in relation to the investment holdings, as RJA&HS Holdings Ltd had been wound up during the year with the funds returned to the Agricultural Department. Also the trading figures of Jersey Island Genetics were considerably different with greater turnover as a result of the dairy development programmes in Africa. There had been some £40k of additional estate expenditure in providing marquees for events that had been planning to use the new building. There had also been an increase in employment costs as new staff had been engaged. With regard to the Balance Sheet it was noted how Cash at Bank had decreased and Freehold Property increased as funds had been spent on the new building. In overall terms, had the Society not experienced the delays in commissioning the new building, it would have made a profit, indicating that the Council's plans were coming to fruition.

The President thanked Mr Connolly for his presentation and asked if there were any questions. Mr Le Gallais wished to note that with the combined assets of the Society and Jersey Milk Marketing Board next door now approaching some £15m it showed how the dairy industry had, over the years, been able to create wealth for the benefit of the whole Island and it is something of which members can be proud. John Le Feuvre echoed the statement referring to changes in the industry over the years and the importance of ensuring that it carries on. There were no further questions on the accounts which were duly received on the proposition of Mr Taylor and seconded by Mr Le Gallais.

Item 6) To elect one member to the Council to serve a three year term (2018 to 2020 inclusive):

The President reported that one nomination had been received for Mr David Leng, proposed by Mr Tom Perchard and seconded by Mr Paul Houzé. Mr Perchard spoke of how David had taken over the management of the Blanc Pignon herd with enthusiasm following his moving to the Island with his family and made reference to how he had run his own tree surgery and landscape gardening business in the UK prior to the move. Mr Houzé was delighted to second the proposition. The President declared that with no further nominations received Mr Leng was duly elected. Mr Leng thanked his proposers and was pleased to be elected.

Item 7) To elect one member to the Agricultural General Committee for a three year term (as above):

The Chairman reported that one nomination had been received for Mrs Sarah Le Feuvre, proposed by Mr Frigot and seconded by Mr Le Cornu. Following speeches from the proposers the Chairman declared Mrs Le Feuvre duly elected.

Item 8) To elect two members to the Horticultural General Committee for a three year term (as above):

The Chairman reported that two nominations had been received; one for Mr Graham Querée, proposed by Mr Graham de Gruchy, and seconded by Mr Graham Stephens, and one for Mr Martin Preisig, proposed by Mrs Jennifer Ellenger and seconded by Mr Martin Rouault. Following speeches from the proposers the Chairman declared the two nominees duly elected.

Item 9) To award Honorary Life Membership to Mr Lewis Rondel:

The President made the presentation of Honorary Life Membership to Mr Lewis Rondel explaining that the Council had unanimously agreed that Lewis' achievements over the years had been very worthy of the award. He explained how Lewis had been an excellent cattle breeder, accomplished potato grower, successful businessman and more latterly enthusiastic keeper of Rondel Farm Shop. As a young breeder he had won the national competition for cattle judging with the Young Farmers Club, developed the Natalie cow family taken over from Dr Stapleton and bred several Supreme Champions, and shown the bull Griselda's Dreamer, which unusually had also made Supreme Champion. He had proved to be a progressive leader of the industry, serving as President of the Society from 1999 to 2001, hosting Her Majesty The Queen as she opened the new Showground facilities. Lewis accepted the award and thanked the Council for the honour with an amusing speech to much applause.

Item 10) To consider a recommendation to amend Fundamental Rule 14 regarding Honorary Life Membership:

Mr Godfrey explained the rationale as set out in the agenda which was to remove Rule 14.3 which limited the Council to only making one award of Life Membership per year. It had proved difficult for example in the case where a couple were equal partners in achievement to recognise only one of the couple. The Council

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were committed to retaining the prestige of the award but felt some flexibility should be provided to recognise more than one individual in any year. The proposal to remove Rule 14.3 was agreed on the proposition of John Le Feuvre and seconded by Tom Perchard with all in favour.

Item 11) To approve the annual subscription to be effective from 1st January 2019:

The Chairman 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. Mr Steve Le Feuvre explained that he had proposed this on Council as he felt that this was not the time to change rates with the Society embarking on the Strategic Planning exercise and possibly including new membership categories. The recommendation was proposed for adoption by Mr Rouault and seconded by Mr Frigot with all in favour.

Item 12) To conduct any other business:

History of the Jersey Herd Book: It was noted that the book had been printed, was awaiting binding and would be launched shortly.

Jersey Overseas Aid: It was noted that an open meeting would be held during the year at which Mr Hambrook would be able to update members on progress with the dairy development projects in Africa.

Vote of thanks: Mrs Jennifer Ellenger thanked Mr Perchard, on behalf of the members, for his leadership during the year. Mr de Gruchy also thanked the President, on behalf of the Horticultural Department, for the interest he had shown in the Department's work.

There was no other business raised and the meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

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

The President / Chairman:

Vice President (Agricultural Dept):

Vice President (Horticultural Dept):