

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

**Held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7.30 pm,  
in the West Hall at the Royal Jersey Showground**

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**Item 1) Call to order, welcome and to receive apologies for absence:**

The President welcomed members to the AGM noting the extraordinary circumstances prevailing since the last meeting with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant restrictions on public gatherings which had prevented the holding of an AGM last year. The Council had decided that waiting until such time as a meeting was possible, with the necessary extension of all terms of office by one year, was the preferred option which had been communicated to members accordingly. He also noted that a full set of agenda papers had been posted on the Society web site.

Present: Mr Rob Perchard (President & Chairman), Mr Richard Leith (Vice President, Agricultural Dept), Mr Martin Preisig, (Vice President, Horticultural Dept), Mr Steve Le Feuvre (Treasurer, Agricultural Dept), Mr James W Godfrey (Chief Executive & Secretary of the Society, who took the minutes), Mr David Hambrook (Manager, Jersey Island Genetics), Rachelle Robinson (Secretary, Horticultural Department), Mr Dave Cottrell, Mr Laurence Agnès, Mr Steve Bailey, Jo Dauny, Jennifer Ellenger, Mr Graham de Gruchy (Hon. Life Member) & Phyllis de Gruchy, Mr Colin de la Haye & Paulette de la Haye, Mr Max de la Haye (Hon. Life Member), Mr C du Heaume, Mr Steve Falle, Mr Derrick Frigot MBE (Past President & Hon. Life Member), Christine Gill, Adria Godfrey, Isabella Godfrey, Pat Jackson, Mr Charles Le Cornu (Past President & Hon. Life Member), Cathy Le Feuvre, Mr John Le Feuvre (Past President & Hon. Life Member), Mr John James Le Feuvre, Suzanne Le Feuvre, Mr Andrew Le Gallais, Mr Tom Le Gallais, Mr & Mrs Richard Le Maistre, Mr Alan Le Troquer & Ivy Le Troquer, Mr Paul Houzé, Rebecca Houzé, Jennifer McMullon, Mr John McMullon, Mr & Mrs Nick Middleton, Mr Ian Mitchell (Past President), Mr Vernon Pallot, Jo-Ann Perchard, Mr Tom Perchard, Dr David Pope, Mr Graham Querée, Mr Kevin Roberts, Jennifer Rendell, Mr Lewis Rondel (Past President & Hon. Life Member). 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 Jeremy Neil (Treasurer, Horticultural Dept), Mr Alasdair Crosby, Rosemary Boleat, Pam Laurens, Sarah Le Feuvre, Victoria Le Feuvre, Mr David Leng, Mr Richard & Louise Noel, Mr Derek Russell Mr Barry Raven, Mr Peter Williams, Jayne Luce, Mr Chris Taylor, Mr Neil Fauvel, Mrs Helen Hickman, Mr Tom Robinson, Mr John Hidrio (Hon. Life Member), Barbera Hidrio, Mr Martin Rouault, Helen McGugan.

**Item 2) To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Society held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019:**

The minutes were approved on the proposition of Mr Ian Mitchell and seconded by Mr Graham de Gruchy, 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 2019 & 2020:**

The President noted that reports covering the two year period had been published in the respective editions of the Society journal. He thanked the Committees and volunteers for all their time and efforts in support of the Society. He also thanked the staff for their hard work and determination in keeping the Society so active during the pandemic the results of which shone through in the journals. It has been gratifying to receive many positive comments from members on the quality, both in content and presentation, of the journals.

Mr Le Gallais, to much agreement from the meeting, congratulated the President, Officers, Committees and Staff for delivering such a commendable result during these difficult times. Despite the challenges, the Society has carried on in an extremely strong way and the work in support of the island cow has been exemplary. He commented on the statistics in the Agricultural Department report under the section on breed development, including the herd recording and champion producers, which demonstrated clearly the manifestation of the improvements achieved in the island herd following the importation of genetics in 2008. The article presenting the views of four cattle breeding past-Presidents provided an excellent insight into how the cow had improved in all areas. He also congratulated Lodge Farm on their impressive productivity and how well the top herds were performing on a global standing.

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**Item 5) To receive the consolidated accounts for the Society for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020:**

The President noted that the accounts had been posted on the Society website as advised and introduced Mr Don Connolly, from Society auditors Messrs Alex Picot, who presented the accounts and commented on the audit process.

Mr Connolly, rather than talk through detail of the figures described the results of the Consolidated Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet accounts in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. He explained that his firm had completed the audit and was able to confirm that the financial controls and procedures in place were satisfactory in terms of managing the Society finances.

He remarked that he was pleased to see the Society end the financial year 2020 in such a satisfactory position despite the drop in income from the Showground as a result of government restrictions in place associated with the pandemic. He explained that in April 2020 he had been in contact with the Chief Executive to assess the likely impact of the pandemic, and had been pleased to learn that the Society had been pro-active in taking steps to mitigate any losses. The revised budgets prepared by the CEO had proved remarkably accurate and the careful planning had meant that the Society finished the year with only a small loss of some £1,400 and, with asset values intact, was well placed to keep in business. He drew members' attention to the note in accounts detailing steps taken by the Council which had included deferring Social Security payments, taking out a Business Disruption Loan and receiving Payroll Co-Funding support.

In reply to a question regarding the movement of debtors and creditors Mr Connolly was able to explain that the large movements related to the grants received from Jersey Overseas Aid in relation to the Dairy for Development programmes. These were paid in large tranches for works that carried over the year end and thus any unspent monies were treated as creditors. With three programmes now in operation, each with differing start and finish dates, it means that the unspent funds as at 31<sup>st</sup> December in a given year could be very significant. As monies were spent during the following year they would appear in the P&L and not the creditors on the Balance Sheet. With no further questions on the accounts, the Members unanimously accepted their presentation on the proposition of John Le Feuvre, seconded by Paul Houzé.

**Item 6) To elect a President to serve a term of three years (2021 to 2023 inclusive):**

The President handed the Chair to the Agricultural Vice-President for this item. Mr Leith reported that one nomination had been received for Mr Robert Perchard, proposed by Mr Derrick Frigot and seconded by Rebecca Houzé. Mr Frigot spoke of Mr Perchard's considerable ability and undoubted commitment to the Society, "we have the right man for the job and let's keep him there". Becky Houzé spoke on how well Mr Perchard had led the Council and she was proud of the achievements well publicised in the journal. Mr Leith declared that, with no other nominations received, Mr Perchard was duly elected and handed the Chair back to the President. Mr Perchard thanked his proposers for their kind words. He also thanked his Officer team and Committee members for their support. He particularly thanked the Society staff whom he described as a wonderful team.

**Item 7) To elect a Treasurer for the Agricultural Department to serve a term of three years (as above):**

The President reported that one nomination had been received for Mr Steve Le Feuvre, proposed by Mr Derrick Frigot and seconded by Mr Tom Perchard. Mr Frigot described how his nominee "gave everything to the Society" and had done an excellent job in supervising the finances following on from his excellent Presidency. Mr Perchard described the nominee's exceptional track record of senior leadership roles, both within the Society and in his business affairs. The President declared that with no further nominations received Mr Le Feuvre was duly elected. Mr Le Feuvre thanked his proposers remarking on how he felt there was a need to encourage younger people to take on roles within the Society leadership structure. He also paid tribute to the diligent manner in which the CEO managed the Society finances.

**Item 8) To elect one member to the Society Council to serve a term of three years (as above):**

The President reported that one nomination had been received for Mr Kevin Roberts, proposed by Mr Martin Preisig, and seconded by Jennifer Ellenger. Mr Preisig was delighted to propose Kevin, describing him as a highly accomplished member with a long track record of excellence in horticulture; starting with his qualification from the RHS, his success at major shows in the UK and his positions with St Helier Parks. Within the Society he was a regular exhibitor and a plot holder at the FJ Ahier Country

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Gardens where he also maintained the whole site in an excellent order. Jennifer Ellenger in endorsing the nomination spoke of how willing and helpful Kevin is, as well as his contribution with well thought out suggestions. The President declared that with no further nominations received Mr Roberts was duly elected. He also thanked the retiring Council member, Mr Peter Williams, for his long service and wise counsel particularly regarding the management of the investments. Mr Roberts thanked his proposers and looked forward to serving the Society in this capacity.

**Item 9) To elect two members to the Agricultural General Committee to serve a term of three years (as above):**

The President reported that two nominations had been received; one for Mr Charlie Le Boutillier, proposed by Mr David Leng, and seconded by Mr Laurence Agnès, and one for Mr Laurence Agnès, proposed by Mr Tom Perchard and seconded by Mr Charlie Le Boutillier. Following speeches from the proposers the President declared the two nominees duly elected.

**Item 10) To elect one member to the Horticultural General Committee to serve a term of three years (as above):**

The President reported that one nomination had been received for Jennifer Rendell, proposed by Dr David Pope, and seconded by Pat Jackson. Following speeches from the proposers the President declared the nominee duly elected and he thanked the retiring committee member, Mr Martin Rouault, for his service.

**Item 11) To consider changes to the Fundamental Rules:**

The CEO read through a summary paper explaining the general nature of the proposed changes and their intended effect (copy attached to these minutes), and which had been circulated to members by email (and posted on the website) along with a full set of the Fundamental Rules which detailed the precise changes. The main change was to Rules 51 and 60, which set out how the Council will hold an AGM in future should the holding of a meeting in person not be possible. The main result will be that Council must set out to members how a meeting will be held and enable them to comment on any proposals, the AGM must be held within 12 months of the end of the Financial Year and that no changes may be made to Fundamental Rules at a meeting not held in person. The need for this had been highlighted during 2020 when such a meeting could not be held due to COVID-19 restrictions. The other proposed changes were matters of clarification or updating terminology. The changes to the Fundamental Rules as proposed were agreed unanimously on the proposition of Mr Andrew Le Gallais, seconded by Christine Gill.

**Item 12) To approve the annual subscription to be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022:**

The President explained that the Council were recommending that subscriptions should remain unchanged from the current with: Individual Membership at £30, Joint Membership at £45 and Junior Membership at £7. The recommendation was proposed for adoption by Mr Steve Le Feuvre, seconded by Mr Frigot with all in favour.

**Item 13) To award Honorary Life Membership to Mr Graham de Gruchy and Mr Steve Le Feuvre:**

The President invited Mr Martin Preisig to present the Certificate of Honorary Life Membership to Mr Graham de Gruchy. Mr Preisig explained that the award had been made by the Council in the previous year although presentation had been delayed for obvious reasons. Mr Preisig spoke of Graham's long association with, and service to, the Society, recently completing two terms as Horticultural Vice President. Along with an enviable record of success at the horticultural shows, Graham's determination, along with his brother Wilf, in establishing the FJ Ahier Country Gardens had been a major success for the Society. Mr de Gruchy thanked the Council and members for the award commenting how he thought the Society was in good hands and had an exciting future ahead.

The President then, in making the presentation of Honorary Life Membership to Mr Steve Le Feuvre, spoke of Steve's outstanding record of involvement with the Society starting in 1981 and continuing to this day with his re-election as Treasurer of the Agricultural Department. Steve's record of concurrent and long-standing involvement and success within both departments met the citation of the award for 'outstanding service and achievement' one hundred percent. Mr Le Feuvre thanked the President, Council and Members saying that he could not find the words to do justice to the honour that he felt in receiving the award. He spoke of the satisfaction that two particular projects had given him, during his time as President, which had been the successful campaign to import genetics to improve the Jersey cow in her island home and the establishment of the FJ Ahier Country Gardens bringing opportunity to grow

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to so many. He commented on how both these projects, like all the success of the Society, had been the result of great teamwork from the committees, staff and members together. The meeting gave an enthusiastic round of applause at both these well deserved awards.

**Item 14) To conduct any other business:**

The President then made a special presentation of a suitably engraved silver Jersey milk can to Mr James Godfrey in recognition of his 25 years of service as Chief Executive. Mr Perchard spoke of how, in reality, James had been ‘the captain of the ship’ diligently and successfully steering the development of the Society over the last 25 years. He remarked that when updating the history of the RJA&HS, James’ name will sit well alongside the likes of Colonel Le Couteur, Lt. Colonel Le Cornu and Harold Sheppard in being instrumental to the success of the Society. Mr Godfrey thanked the President for the gift and remarked that the achievements of the Society are a result of a combination of a highly motivated and professional staff, an enthusiastic and dedicated membership, both led by a series of inspiring Presidents and Committees. He was touched that all of the Presidents under which he had served were present and thanked them, remarking that, in his view, the Society was the epitome of all that is good about Jersey.

Mr Preisig also made a presentation to Rachelle Robinson for her tremendous work during a most difficult of years as Horticultural Department Secretary, successfully developing a series of ‘virtual’ shows for the Department.

There was no other business raised and the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

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

The President / Chairman:.....

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

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