

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

Held on **Thursday 15th May 2025** at 7.00 pm,
in the West Hall at the Royal Jersey Showground

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

The President welcomed members to the AGM noting that a full set of agenda papers had been circulated by email and posted on the Society web site. The annual journal will be sent to members in the coming weeks.

Present: Paul Houzé (President & Hon. Life Member), Richard Leith (Vice President, Agricultural Dept), Martin Preisig, (Vice President, Horticultural Dept), Steve Le Feuvre (Treasurer, Agricultural Dept), Jeremy Neil (Treasurer, Horticultural Dept), James W Godfrey (Chief Executive & Secretary of the Society, who took the minutes), David Hambrook (Manager, Jersey Island Genetics), Rachelle Robinson (Secretary, Horticultural Dept), Dave Cottrell, Jane Harvey, Louise Agnès, Mariano Ascensao, Sam Thomson, Andrew Le Gallais, Annette Houzé, Ann MacMichael, Becky Barnes-Barrington, Bella Harvey, Bev Le Marquand, Christine Gill, Colin & Paulette De La Haye, Derrick Frigot MBE (Past President & Hon. Life Member), Laurence Agnès, John Le Feuvre (Past President & Hon. Life Member), Sarah Le Feuvre, John McMullon, Jennifer McMullon, Ian Mitchell (Past President), Rob Perchard (Past President) & Jo-Ann Perchard, Kevin Roberts, Tom Robinson, Ian Le Marquand, Vincent Obbard, Jim Carter, Eleni Middleton, Nick Middleton, Fredrick Le Sueur, Jo Hambrook, Harry, George & Henry Hambrook, Jean-Marie Gavey, Jenny Frigot, Judy Eden, John & Shannon Le Seilleur, Phil Le Maistre, Roger Tadier, Santa Le Sueur, Steve Falle, Steve Gavey, Vicky Huelin, Viv Neil, Also present was Don Connolly of Messrs Alex Picot (the Society auditors).

Apologies: The Lieutenant Governor of Jersey, the Bailiff of Jersey, the Dean of Jersey, Max de la Haye (Hon. Life Member), Collette Bisson (Hon. Life Member), Graham Querée (Hon. Life Member), Martin & Marguerite Rouault, Neil Fauvel, Eamon Fenlon, Jennifer Rendell, Jill Amy, Pat Jackson, Jeff Hathaway, Caroline Hathaway, Douglas Melville, Donald Reid, Stephanie Holloway, Clive Holloway, William Bailhache, Yvonne Aston, Chris Taylor, Lady Brownlow, Jill Keogh, Ivy Le Troquer, Tom & Claire Perchard, Alasdair Crosby, Lewis Rondel (Past President & Hon Life Member), John James Le Feuvre.

Item 2) Minutes of the AGM of the Society held on 16th May 2024:

Approved on the proposition of Derrick Frigot, seconded by Ian Mitchell, with all in favour and were duly signed.

Item 3) Matters arising from the minutes:

There were no matters arising.

Item 4) Annual President's, Treasurer's and Departmental Reports for 2024:

The President noted that this was his first year in office and he had taken much pleasure in getting to know, in greater depth, the broad work of the Society and how it was moving forward on all fronts. A highlight had been visiting the work of the Dairy for Development section in Rwanda which he had found heartwarming to see how the Society was affecting the lives of so many people, in such need, and in such a positive way. He thanked the Officers, Committees, Staff and Members, who had all contributed to the success of the Society. The reports were duly adopted.

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Item 5) Consolidated accounts for the year ending 31st December 2024:

The President noted that the accounts had been posted on the Society website as advised and introduced Don Connolly, from Society auditors Messrs Alex Picot, who presented the accounts and commented on the successful audit process, a good set of results and he paid credit to the Society's management team.

In summary, and of particular note was the increase in turnover to some £3m (£1m from core activities and £2m from overseas development activities). The small deficit of £18k was largely a result of increased expenditure on the Showground real estate which, now some 25 years old, was incurring increased maintenance costs. This had been more than covered by the good performance of the investment portfolio and resulting in an overall surplus of £84k.

On the balance sheet, the net current liability figure had arisen due to timing of receipts associated with the overseas development programmes and how management had been focussed on keeping assets invested as detailed in an expanded note in the accounts. A balanced investment mandate ensured that the Society's finances remained in a sound position.

The President thanked Don for the diligent work undertaken by his team in auditing the accounts and invited the Treasurers to comment. Steve Le Feuvre noted that the results were due to a great team effort on behalf of the committees, volunteers and staff.

Ian Mitchell commented that he was pleased to see that the Council were investing the Showground, both in terms of maintenance and development, as it was of vital importance to keep the Showground, as the Society's main asset, at the highest standard.

Rob Perchard asked why staff costs were shown to have decreased despite a growth in the number employed. It was explained that this was due to the way employment costs were allocated between Society activities and overseas development. He also asked about the works being undertaken in the Members Room to accommodate the crematorium services, to which it was confirmed that these were being paid for by government to facilitate their temporary use of the facility.

The President noted that the accounts had been approved by the Council at its last meeting, and moved to agenda items 6 through to 8 to elect office holders for a term of three years for the calendar years from 2025 to 2027 inclusive.

Item 6) Elect one member to the Council:

The President noted that David Leng had completed the maximum of two terms on the Council and he thanked David for his contribution and also for his interest in the Agriculture Committee. He noted that one nomination had been received for Jim Carter, proposed by Ian Mitchell, seconded by Steve Le Feuvre. Ian explained how Jim had first come to the Island in 1986 as part of the World Jersey Cattle Bureau youth exchange programme and met his wife here. They had returned to South Africa to help manage the family farm of Jersey cattle, and subsequently returned to the Island with Jim taking over responsibility for managing the farm at Trinity Manor and that he would make an excellent member of the Council. The President declared Jim duly elected and welcomed him to the Council.

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Item 7) Elect one member to the Agricultural General Committee:

The President noted that Sarah Le Feuvre had completed two terms of office, for which he thanked her for her valuable contribution, and, as there were no other nominations, noted that she was eligible to stand again. Sarah's nomination had been received, proposed by Derrick Frigot, seconded by Richard Leith. Derrick expressed his delight in proposing Sarah, explaining that he knew of no other person more dedicated to the Jersey breed. The President declared Sarah duly elected and welcomed her back to the committee.

Item 8) Elect two members to the Horticultural General Committee:

The President noted that the term of office of both Steve Falle and Ian Le Marquand had been completed, and with no other nominations both were eligible to stand. The nomination for Ian Le Marquand had been received, proposed by Tom Robinson, seconded by Colin De La Haye. Tom, in proposing Ian, spoke of the tremendous asset that he had been to the committee during his term. The nomination for Steve Falle had been received, proposed by Paulette De La Haye, seconded by Colin De La Haye. Paulette, in proposing Steve, spoke of exceptional work that Steve put in to the Horticultural Department at the shows, and how he has a record of entering to the highest standard, including winning 'Best in Show' and reserve titles. The President thanked both nominees for their support and declared them duly elected.

Item 9) Approve the annual subscription to be effective from 1st January 2026:

The President explained that the Council were recommending that subscriptions should be increased, modestly, with an Individual subscription rising from £32 to £34, Joint subscription rising from £48 to £52 and Junior subscription rising from £10 to £12. The recommendation was agreed unanimously on the proposition of Christine Gill and seconded by Ian Le Marquand.

Item 10) Award to David Hambrook to mark 25 years of service to the Society:

The President described how David, brought up on a Jersey herd in Sussex, came to the Island in 1983 to join the team at Blanc Pignon dairy farm. His return to the UK in 1995 to work as Field Officer for the Jersey Cattle Society of the UK provided him with the opportunity to gain enormous experience of the herds, the people and the organisations that make up the dairy industry, both in the UK and internationally. In 2000 he returned to the Island to run Jersey Island Genetics and since 2016 has been responsible for the growing overseas development programmes. It is very fitting to be able to present David with an engraved silver milk churn to mark the invaluable contribution he has made to the Island over the last 25 years and also in the years to come.

David thanked the members and the many people who have helped him over the years remarking how fortunate he felt to be able to work in an area that is also his hobby. He looked forward to continuing to play a part in how the Society was developing.

Item 11) Award of Honorary Life Membership to Rob Perchard:

The President explained how the award of Honorary Life Membership, being the highest honour that the Society can bestow on an individual in recognition of outstanding service or achievement, is made at the discretion of the Council, with recipients nominated by the membership. He had been delighted that the Council had chosen Rob in recognition of his record of service to the Society stretching back over 40 years, and highlighted some of his

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achievements. These included his work to improve the Jersey breed with various initiatives, leading the Breed Improvement Committee, steering the Society's relocation from Springfield to the new Showground in Trinity, his exceptional leadership of the Society through the Covid pandemic and the associated drop in revenues, and the hugely popular open farm days held at La Ferme. Rob has always been a progressive leader and has contributed massively to the position the Society is in today.

Rob thanked the Council and the membership for the honour of joining the list of exceptional people who are Honorary Life Members. He remarked how the years of work had hardly seemed like work, as it had always been fun. He felt that the Society is a great organisation and it had brought him into contact with so many interesting people, the members, the committees and the incredible staff. He noted that the Society was doing great work; the Jersey cow is everything to the Island and this was down to the Society. The Horticultural Department was doing incredible work in the schools, the allotments and the shows. He had particularly enjoyed the closer relationships with the JMMB and the JFU. He thanked Jo-Ann and all his family for their enormous support over the years.

Item 12) To conduct any other business:

Andrew Le Gallais apologised for arriving late, explaining that he had been hosting the Minister for Economic Development at the farm to impress upon him the problems the industry was facing in navigating the agricultural loans scheme, and how this was causing unnecessary and severe difficulties. The President thanked him for his efforts in this regard and assured him of the Society's support.

Louise Agnès gave a presentation on membership activities over the year and looked forward to future projects, including the digitisation of the Society's archives and plans for celebrating the bi-centenary in 2033.

There was no other business raised and the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

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

The President / Chairman:.....

Vice President (Agriculture):.....

Vice President (Horticulture):.....