

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

**Held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.30 pm,  
in the Members' Room 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 that a full set of agenda papers had been posted on the Society web site and the Journal sent to members that week.

Present: Rob Perchard (President & Chairman), Richard Leith (Vice President, Agricultural Dept), Martin Preisig, (Vice President, Horticultural 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 Department), Dave Cottrell, Colin de la Haye & Paulette de la Haye, Lewis Rondel (Past President & Hon. Life Member), Derrick Frigot MBE (Past President & Hon. Life Member), Christine Gill, Jennifer Rendell, Laurence and Louise Agnès, John Le Feuvre (Past President & Hon. Life Member), Sarah Le Feuvre, Paul Houzé (Hon. Life Member), John McMullon, Jennifer McMullon, Ian Mitchell (Past President), Jo-Ann Perchard, Tom Perchard, Kevin Roberts, Tom Robinson, Collette Bisson (Hon. Life Member), Andrew Le Gallais, Tom Le Gallais, Graham Querée (Hon. Life Member), Martin Rouault, Ian Le Marquand, Vincent Obbard, Neil Fauvel, Jim Carter, Alasdair Crosby, Muriel Renouf, Graham de Gruchy, David Pope, Annie Pope, Pat Jackson, Eleni Middleton, Nick Middleton, Charlie Le Boutillier. Also present was Irena Jevtic of Messrs Alex Picot (the Society auditors).

Apologies: The Lieutenant Governor of Jersey, the Bailiff of Jersey, the Dean of Jersey, Steve Le Feuvre (Treasurer, Agricultural Dept), Max de la Haye (Hon. Life Member), Richard & Louise Noel, Marion Munz-Jones, Alan & Ivy Le Troquer, Barbara Hidrio, Charles Le Cornu (Past President & Hon. Life Member), Annette & Becky Houzé, Janine Buckley, Yvonne Aston.

The President had much pleasure in advising the members that His Majesty The King had graciously granted His Patronage to the Society, continuing the unbroken record of the Monarch becoming Patron of the Society since King William IV in 1834. The membership received the news with much warm applause.

**Item 2) Minutes of the AGM of the Society held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023:**

Approved on the proposition of Jennifer Rendell, seconded by Derrick Frigot, 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 2023:**

The President noted that reports covering the year 2023 had been published in the 2024 Journal and posted on the Society web site.

He then highlighted some themes which he felt were particularly noteworthy for the Society; the successful shows, the treasure that is the Jersey cow and the continued improvement in the breed, the Dairy for Development work overseas and the Showground facilities. He thanked the Officers, Committees, Staff and Members, who had all contributed to the success of the Society, and to Jo-Ann for her support.

He made reference to the importance of the vote by the States of Jersey supporting the proposition lodged by Deputy Steve Luce to significantly increase funding to the rural and marine sectors of the economy. The reports were duly adopted.

**Item 5) Consolidated accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023:**

The President noted that the accounts had been posted on the Society website as advised and introduced Irena Jevtic, from Society auditors Messrs Alex Picot, who presented the accounts and commented on the successful audit process and a good set of results.

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In summary, and of particular note was the increase in income, especially from the Showground real estate, whilst at the same time well controlled operating costs. Overhead costs had increased as a result of reassessed rates and additional staff members. The turnaround in net operating income of £90k was commendable. The investment portfolio had also performed well leading to a net surplus of £127k over a loss of £221K last year. On the balance sheet the tangible assets were valued 'at cost', and it should be noted that the insurance valuation for the Showground of £14.2m should be taken into account in establishing the sound financial position of the Society.

The President thanked Irena for her support and asked for any questions. Andrew Le Gallais congratulated the management team, and especially Dave Cottrell, on the growth in Showground revenue and suggested that the Council may consider how to simplify the accounts in future and have the real estate value shown at market value.

The President remarked on the good decisions made in the past, and their effect on the financial position; replacing the marquee with the West Hall, the development of the new kitchen from the COVID Fiscal Stimulus grant and the growth of the Dairy for Development work.

The President noted that the accounts had been approved by the Council at its last meeting, and moved to agenda items 6 through to 10 to elect office holders for a term of three years for the calendar years from 2024 to 2026 inclusive.

**Item 6) Elect a President for the Society:**

The President reported that one nomination had been received for Paul Houzé, proposed by Andrew Le Gallais and seconded by Steve Le Feuvre. Mr Le Gallais gave an impassioned speech on Paul's career in developing the Lodge Herd into one of the Island's top herds, and his long record of service to the Jersey breed, the Society, the dairy industry and the farming community. This had been as a result of his exceptional qualities as an achiever, a mentor, an instigator, an ambassador and a leader. He was fortunate to have the support of his wife Annette and along with his daughter Becky in running the farm and would make a fine President of the Society. Mr Le Gallais also read a statement from Steve Le Feuvre, who was unavoidably out of the island, in which Steve paid tribute to Paul's role in securing the future of the Jersey breed in its island home through the long campaign to enable the use of international genetics. The President declared that, with no other nominations received, Mr Houzé was duly elected as President. Mr Houzé thanked his proposers and remarked that he was extremely proud and honoured to take on the role. He looked forward to working with both departments to build on the exceptional work of the Society, as illustrated in the Journal, and paid tribute to Mr Perchard for way he had led the Society over the past seven years.

**Item 7) Elect a Treasurer for Agriculture:**

The Chairman reported that one nomination had been received for Steve Le Feuvre, proposed by Derrick Frigot and seconded by Jeremy Neil. Following speeches from the proposers the Chairman declared that, with no other nominations received, Mr Le Feuvre was duly elected. He thanked Steve for the exceptional support he had given during his term and his dedication to the Society.

**Item 8) Elect one member to the Council:**

The Chairman asked, as no forms had been submitted in the time scale set out in the rules, if there were any nominations from the floor. Mr Houzé proposed Paulette de la Haye, seconded by Martin Preisig. Following speeches from the proposers the Chairman asked if there were any further nominations, and with no other nominations, Mrs de la Haye was declared duly elected. The Chairman thanked Kevin Roberts, who had completed his term of office, for his service in the role.

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**Item 9) Elect two members to the Agricultural General Committee:**

The Chairman asked, as no forms had been submitted in the time scale set out in the rules, if there were any nominations from the floor. Laurence Agnès proposed Charlie Le Boutillier, seconded by Paul Houzé. Tom Perchard proposed Laurence Agnès, seconded by Charlie Le Boutillier. Following speeches from the proposers the Chairman asked if there were any further nominations, and with no other nominations, declared the candidates duly elected.

**Item 10) Elect one member to the Horticultural General Committee:**

The Chairman reported that one nomination had been received for Kevin Roberts, proposed by Tom Robinson, and seconded by Ian Le Marquand. With no other nominations the Chairman declared Kevin Roberts duly elected, and thanked Jennifer Rendell for her service.

**Item 12) Approve the annual subscription to be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025:**

The Chairman explained that the Council were recommending that subscriptions should remain at the current level of £32 for Individual, £48 for Joint and £10 for Junior memberships. The recommendation was agreed unanimously of the proposition of Derrick Frigot and seconded by Vincent Obbard.

**Item 13) Award of Honorary Life Membership to Dr David Pope and Annie Pope:**

The Chairman 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. Martin Preisig, in presenting David and Annie with their awards, noted the exceptional qualities that they bring to the horticultural shows, and the enormous amount of work that they had put in over many years to ensuring the success of the events. Their selfless approach had made such a difference to the encouraging atmosphere from which members, existing and new, had benefitted so much.

David and Annie thanked the Council for the award commenting that the Society was such a welcoming and happy community that it was a pleasure to serve and they looked forward to continuing to help in any way they could.

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

Martin Preisig made a presentation of two fruit trees, a pear and a plum, to Rob and Jo-Ann Perchard thanking them for their support of the Horticultural Department.

Richard Leith made a presentation on behalf of the Society of an engraved set of a tumbler and glasses, thanking the immediate Past President for his outstanding leadership of the Society over the last seven tumultuous years. Rob Perchard thanked the membership and offered his support to the Society in future and best wishes to the new President.

There was no other business raised and the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

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

The President / Chairman:.....

Vice President (Agriculture):.....

Vice President (Horticulture):.....