



## **THREE COUNTIES AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Held on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 6.00 pm at The Showground, Malvern, WR13 6NW and via Conference Call, in the presence of The President 2020, Directors of the Society and Elected Members of Council.

**Present:** Clive Roads, Chairman of Council  
The Rt. Revd. Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester, 2020 President  
Patrick Downes, Interim Chairman of the Board of Trustees, County Director for Gloucestershire  
Lindsey Craddock, County Director for Worcestershire  
Adrian Hope, County Director for Herefordshire  
Plus, those names of Elected Members of Council recorded on the Attendance Register

**In Attendance:** Ken Nottage, Chief Executive  
Stephen Rennie, Acting Chief Executive  
Hilary Collcott, E.A. to the Chief Executive, Minutes  
David Fenwick, Head of Finance, Accounts

### **1. Welcome, present and apologies**

The Chairman welcomed those present to the 98<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Three Counties Agricultural Society, being conducted in the presence of The President 2020, Directors of the Society and Elected Members of Council. Apologies were received from Emma Coates, Clive Davies and Glyn Morgan MBE.

The Chairman made a special welcome to Ken Nottage, everyone at the Society is thrilled to see him looking so well and displaying resilience, drive and true grit; and also to Stephen Rennie, Acting Chief Executive who has stepped in with great ability, picked up the ball and run with it in Ken's absence, Stephen has grasped the job and nurtured the Society through recent troubled times.

### **2. Confirm and sign minutes of the AGM held on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019 had been tabled and were confirmed as a true and accurate record. They were approved by the President, Directors and Elected Members of Council present, and duly signed by the Chairman.

### **3. To receive and adopt the accounts for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019 together with the reports of the Trustees and Auditors**

### **4. To receive matters of report from Council, Acting Chief Executive, Stephen Rennie**

Stephen Rennie said that he has had a really fantastic experience over the last few months and been glad to help out. On behalf of Ken Nottage he extended a very big thank you for all the good wishes that had been extended to Ken during his absence.

Stephen stated that 2019 had shown what the team can do in a very good year, and the Society should be proud that it can spread its risk throughout a variety of annual events.

Stephen explained that the Board of Trustees has signed off the 2019 accounts, and with the help of the HMRC Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, the Society can push forward with a positive note. Crowe UK, the Society's auditors had confirmed the Society is a going concern and that it has published the 'Strategic Pathway', approved and adopted by the Board of Trustees during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Strategic Pathway:

- 1) Stabilise the cost base going forward particularly when the HMRC JRS funding ends in October. To do this we will look at all options relating to staff, external advisors, contractor contracts and general overheads
- 2) Identify the new events that can be profitably held on site whilst still observing the COVID-19 guidelines. All the toilets on site are currently being modified to allow for greater hygiene controls and one-way systems
- 3) Start planning for next year and the costs structure that we could operate under given the expectation that visitor numbers and total income could be well down from previous years
- 4) Continue to progress the Langdale Woods project as a significant source of year-round income that is so vital to our future survival

Crowe UK have been apprised of the new events the Society have been able to stage this year, and with the support of traders, exhibitors, contractors, staff and all importantly our visitors, it is a big yes, that people do want to return to our events.

As the Society turns to planning for 2021, Ken is returning and now is the right time for Ken to pick things up. A lot of work has been done with Crowe UK to confirm the Society as a going concern. This should give Council and Trustees the confidence to go forward.

Council Member, Mark Tufnell asked whether the going concern work had been ongoing since the accounts were originally approved? Stephen Rennie advised the auditors had missed signing and filing the accounts by a few days, following which COVID-19 had become an issue, this is why the going concern work had been required and that it had subsequently taken a long time to be approved. Mark Tufnell proposed the accounts be adopted, seconded by David Owens and duly adopted.

**5. To propose the Board of Trustees should agree the appointment of the Auditors, Crowe UK for 2020 and to fix their fees, Interim Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Patrick Downes**

Patrick Downes proposed the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Crowe UK as the Society's Auditors for 2020 and for the Board of Trustees to fix their fees, seconded by Henry Robinson and duly adopted.

Mark Tufnell enquired who would be paying the costs of the additional going concern work on the 2019 accounts? David Fenwick, Head of Finance, confirmed he had spoken at length with Crowe UK about this, it has been agreed the costs will be split 50/50.

**6. To give a vote of thanks to the President and Vice-Presidents for 2019, proposed by County Director for Worcestershire, Lindsey Craddock**

Lindsey Craddock said it had been a great pleasure to have Helen Thomas DL as Society President in 2019. Helen's commitment and enthusiasm, even when things had become a little wet, had been commendable! Helen attended every event and her partnership with the Society as M.D. of Weston Cider was highly valued. Elliott Thomas's enthusiasm throughout the year had been greatly appreciated. The 2019 Vice-President's – Cate Morris, James Hawkins and Maurice Hart had been

truly delightful, and Lindsey thanked them for their time and commitment away from their busy personal schedules, which was greatly appreciated.

**7. To elect the following for 2021:**

**President for Worcestershire:**

Lindsey Craddock said it was a great pleasure to propose The Honourable Lady Rosalind Morrison as President for 2021. Lady Morrison's family home is at Madresfield Court in Worcestershire, she is well known in the county and is Chair or Patron of numerous organisations. Lady Morrison has attended events at the Showground since childhood and is delighted to accept the role.

**Vice-President for Worcestershire:**

Lindsey Craddock proposed John Harper who has been four years on Council and is a Worcestershire farmer as Vice-President for Worcestershire in 2021, both Worcestershire nominations were seconded by Ruth Goodman, and duly elected.

**Vice-President for Herefordshire:**

Adrian Hope proposed Graham Watkins as Vice-President for Herefordshire in 2021, Graham farms in Herefordshire with his family and he will be a great support to the county and to Council, seconded by Roger Phillips, and duly elected.

**Vice-President for Gloucestershire:**

Patrick Downes proposed professor Joanna Price as Vice-President for Gloucestershire, Joanna is Vice-Chancellor of the Royal Agricultural University Cirencester, seconded by Mark Tufnell, and duly elected.

**8. To give a vote of thanks to the Judges, Honorary Officials, Exhibitors, Stewards, Media, Sponsors and Staff of the Society, proposed by The President the Rt. Revd. Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester**

Bishop Rachel said it had been a privilege to be appointed President in 2020, and it was with sadness that she has not been able to enjoy the Presidency as she had hoped. It was a pleasure to propose a vote of thanks to the Judges, Honorary Officials, Stewards, Media, Sponsors and Staff for 2019, to say thank you to them all. Bishop Rachel looks forward to attending similar events in the future, and a return to the old days when we may once again shake hands and greet one another.

The Chairman thanked the President for her kind words.

**9. To consider any other business by leave of the Chairman**

Laura Hamilton explained that Emma Coates father John has recently passed away as a result of a farming accident, and Laura hoped there would be some recognition during this distressing time for Emma and her family. Adrian Hope advised that he had spoken to Emma on behalf of Herefordshire county. Clive Roads confirmed that he had written to Emma on behalf of the Society and that a tribute would be made at the forthcoming Council meeting in September.

For clarity it was confirmed that the AGM is usually held during Royal Three Counties Show in June; due to COVID-19 and the cancellation of the show this year, this had not been possible. For the avoidance of a mass gathering Members were invited to send questions they required addressing at the meeting, none were received.

Clive Roads was contacted by Council Member for Gloucestershire Richard Lutwyche, who explained that in 2021 Gloucestershire county celebrates 100 years since joining the Society, and this may want to be acknowledged next year, provided that we are able to return to some sort of normality.

Clive Roads concluded by paying tribute to Stephen Rennie and the debt of gratitude owed to him by the Society for taking up the role of Acting Chief Executive in these difficult and unusual times. It had been a moving target and his work was to be admired and revered; the Society does not know what they would have done without him in recent months.

Ken Nottage added his personal note of thanks, that we have indeed been very fortunate and thanked Stephen for stepping in at a moment's notice, explaining, they had been introduced at a lunch the previous week, and things had been put in place very quickly. Ken added that he is eager to get back to work. Stephen thanked Clive and Ken for their kind words.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending in person and on video, it was good to see everyone, and particularly to the President, Bishop Rachel. The meeting was closed at 6.30 pm.