



NSA Marches Region Annual Regional Members Meeting minutes Tuesday 17th January 2023, 7pm, NSA Head Office, Malvern, Worcs

Attendees

Richard Vines (Chairman)	Katie James (Manager)	Andrew Powers (Vice Chair)
Phil Stocker (NSA Chief Executive)	Mike Credland (Treasurer)	George Ellis
Mike Carter	Paul Herbert	John Brigg
Alice Vines	Ellie Phipps	David Harrison
Rollo Deutsch	Anthony Warmington	Penny Chantler

Minutes

Agenda Item	Minutes
001	Apologies. Kate Phillips, Tom James, Antony Spencer, Ellen Heliwell, Dan Phipps, Henry Dunn, Robin Edwards
002	Minutes of last meeting and matters arising. Minutes from last meeting - approved Matters arising – none raised
003	Election of office holders. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chairman – Richard Vines. Proposed by Andrew Powers, seconded by George EllisVice Chairman – Andrew Powers. Proposed by Richard Vines, seconded by Rollo DeutschTreasurer – Mike Credland. Proposed by Andrew Powers, seconded by Rollo DeutschRe-approval of region’s Trustee Director – Henry Dunn. Proposed by Ant Spencer, seconded by Richard VinesElection and re-approval of NSA English Committee representatives:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ant SpencerMike CredlandRichard VinesKevin Harrison (NSA Marches region member is current NSA English Committee Chairman and therefore does not require nomination from the region)All proposed by Ellie Phipps and seconded by Alice Vines



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of new committee members and endorsement of current: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George Ellis and Mike Carter were added on to the committee. • No further changes made. <p>Richard Vines explained the role of the committee and invited any further members to join or consider for future years. Mike Credland added to this saying that younger members were especially welcomed.</p>
004	<p>Chairman's report – Richard Vines</p> <p>Covid had continued to impact the start of the year in 2022 and therefore Zoom meetings had proved helpful but all were now back to getting together face to face.</p> <p>A small stand had been taken thanks to Andrew Powers at the Three Counties Show in June supporting a new more sheep farming focussed area next to the shearing sheds. Thanks to those who supported the manning of the stand and spoke to visitors.</p> <p>All attention then turned to Sheep Event 2022 with the committee offering help to the Sheep Event Organising committee, especially Ant Spencer who had been so instrumental in the shearing. It would have been good to see more of the committee offer their support – without a main event for Marches Region due to the location of Sheep Event there is an understanding that our region should be supporting as much as we can.</p> <p>Sheep Event dinner was an enjoyable evening and Richard would encourage more to attend.</p> <p>An autumn meeting had been very well attended providing advice on ewe nutrition from Bryn Hughes of Wynnstay.</p> <p>Defra has approached the region offering to host an evening meeting on support schemes. We will look at this for February.</p> <p>The NSA Next Generation Shepherd competition will take place in July.</p>
005	<p>Treasurers report – Mike Credland</p> <p>All bookkeeping continues to be completed by Karen and Alexandra at NSA Head Office.</p> <p>Most of the region's income comes from the NSA Head Office contribution with the annual contribution being between three and six thousand depending on activity. Annual expenses include the regional manager's honorarium, £1000 sponsorship of the Next Generation Ambassador programme, trustee expenses and national awards.</p> <p>Mike just reinforced the message that it is very important that as we are not able to hold our own main event that the region does support NSA Sheep Event.</p> <p>At the time of the meeting the region had £2395 in its account, but this was before the £4000 head office contribution has been made. A loss of £700 was incurred last year.</p>
006	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Mike Credland raised concerns with the pressure Red Tractor continues to put on the sector and asked what could be done about this. Mike had recently incurred significant costs to meet the requirements of farm assurance and commented that for smaller farms this would be a reasonable outgoing. He asked that if people would continue to pay assurance fees with so many other rising costs.</p>

	<p>In response, Phil Stocker said that NSA spends a lot of time in discussion with Red Tractor and assured everyone that costs would be even higher if NSA was not present in meetings to keep them at bay. Phil added that simplified standards were being looked at for the year ahead.</p> <p>Anthony Warmington suggested that we could be missing an opportunity to have our own NSA Sheep standards. Mike Credland commented that despite the many issues with Red Tractor it is still one of the few logos recognised by the public when purchasing meat.</p> <p>It was agreed a meeting to discuss farm assurance could be useful.</p>
	<p>As there was no further business, the formal meeting was closed at 8.12pm.</p>