



National Sheep Association

Northern Region

Annual General Meeting

WEDNESDAY 13th FEBRUARY 2013

**At The Hired Lad, Penrith Mart,
Penrith, Cumbria**

NSA Members AGM - 7.30pm start

Speakers

Matt Colston, Frame, Swift & Partners, Carleton, Penrith will talk about the challenges facing sheep producers in 2013.

Phil Stocker, NSA CEO will give an update on the current political situation within the sheep industry.

Annabel Mason and Ian Close will give a short report on their NSA northern region sponsored trip to the Oxford Farming Conference in January.

All Members and friends welcome – Refreshments available

You are invited to attend the

NSA northern region ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday 13th February 2013 at the Hired Lad, Penrth Mart,
Penrith, Cumbria at 7.30pm.**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM on 8th February 2012
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Financial Statement
6. Election of Officers
 - a) Chairman
 - b) Vice-Chairman
 - c) Treasurer
 - d) Representative to NSA English committee (1)
7. Presentation of the T I Allinson Memorial Award for outstanding contribution to the Sheep Industry in the North
8. Any Other Business

Copies of the 2012 Accounts can be forwarded on written application to the regional manager, at the contact details below.

Copies of the accounts will be available at the AGM.

Northern Region Manager: Mrs Julie Sedgewick, Ricknall Grange, Ricknall Lane, Aycliffe, Co Durham DL5 6JQ. Tel: 01325 314650 Email: jas@nationalsheep.org.uk

MINUTES OF THE NSA NORTHERN REGION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2012 at THE GEORGE HOTEL PIERCEBRIDGE, NORTH YORKSHIRE at 7.30 pm.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

D Brotherton, P Roger, J Jackson, J Naylor, D Jewitt, T Dunn, C Brown, M Edwards, Mrs Morris-Eyton, Linda Barnard and S Fraser.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 9th FEBRUARY 2011

The minutes of the last AGM held on 9th February 2011 had been circulated to all NSA northern region members by post. Proposed as a true and correct record by John Bell (N), seconded by John Geldard. Signed by Chairman, Geoff Lawn.

3. MATTERS ARISING

None

4. CHAIRMANS REPORT

Since the last AGM, we were just starting to have better weather, and I am glad to say it went on right through spring and summer, I know in some areas it got dry and in some places it got too wet, but in Craven it was just about right! Autumn and the start of winter have been very wet, but this could be the small penance we have to pay for what has been a great year weather wise. In June we held NSA North Sheep at West Nubbock, Hexham, and speaking from a non-biased position I thought this was a really great event. This was due in no small way to Lewis and Helen Forster and family. Their friends, neighbours and all the other people who were cajoled or conned to help out at the event and serving on the organising committee.

So what about the sheep industry, yes the values of sheep have risen and rightly but I do worry when I see and hear reports of sales with Auctioneers getting carried away with their superlatives, describing trade at the various markets, because make no mistake if there had not been an upturn in sheep prices, sheep numbers would have kept on declining. The one thing that has become very apparent is the effect the export

trade has on the sheep industry, if we lose this and we are at the mercy of the supermarkets, we are in trouble, this is not to say we can do without them, and as an industry we must keep the British public buying and eating British sheepmeat. No speech about sheep would be complete without a mention of EID and tags. At this present time we are all filling in AML1 forms when moving sheep and it is very debatable what is being done with those forms, the fact is if there was a health scare in the sheep industry the exports would stop and could be some while in getting going again. So it is looking like EID central recording of movements could be the answer so long as the powers that be realise that we are having to use tags and equipment that are far from being proven and fit for purpose. A farmer can do his best to follow rules and regulations, but if the technology lets you down it could mean a very severe financial penalty being put onto the business.

There have been quite a few changes within the NSA and for once the NSA is ahead of the game, there is the UK Board to represent the interest of sheep farmers in all of the UK, but we also have the English Committee, so now with all the talk of devolution, it is so important to have a strong voice on matters affecting English sheep keepers. When I took on this job, as Chairman of NSA Northern Region, I inadvertently described Julie as a Secretary, I was told in no uncertain terms that Julie was an Organiser, so I took Julie at her word and she has been organising me ever since, and I am very grateful for all the help and assistance that Julie has given me. Many thanks to Adam and Eddie and all of the committee, who have made this such a pleasurable job. Report as given by Geoff Lawn.

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Treasurer, E Eastham gave a report on the northern region's finances for 2011. He stated that the regions finances were in a healthy state, NSA North Sheep had been successful and a sensible profit had been made. The loan to NSA Malvern of £15,000 to purchase the old Suffolk Sheep Society offices at Malvern was due to be repaid to the region in May 2012.

It was agreed that sponsorship of young people should be the aim of the region for 2012. The accounts were agreed, signed by Carl Stephenson, seconded by Malcolm Corbett.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- a) Chairman** – John Geldard proposed Geoff Lawn to be re-elected for his second term of office, seconded by Philip Dawson.
- b) Vice-Chairman** – Carl Stephenson proposed Adam Watson, be re-elected Vice Chairman of the region, seconded by John Bell (n).
- c) Treasurer** – John Bell (N) proposed Eddie Eastham continue as regional Treasurer, seconded by A Watson.
- d) Election of regional representatives to NSA English Committee (3)**
– C Stephenson proposed, seconded by J Bell (N), G Lawn; J Geldard proposed, seconded by P Dawson, A Watson; C Stephenson proposed, M Corbett seconded, E Eastham; G Wilkinson proposed, seconded by J Bell (W), M Oxley. As there were four nominations for three representatives, it was agreed to hold a vote by a show of hands, all present were able to have three votes. The result was as follows: G Lawn, 22; A Watson, 24; E Eastham, 15; M Oxley, 9. After the vote, G Lawn, A Watson and E Eastham were duly elected to represent NSA Northern Region on the English Committee. Phil Stocker also stated that an additional representative was now required for the NSA Management Board, as John Geldard was the national Chairman. John Geldard proposed and Adam Watson seconded Geoff Lawn to be the regional representative on the NSA Management Board. All agreed.

7. PRESENTATION OF T I ALLINSON MEMORIAL AWARD 2011

Chairman announced that the T I Allinson memorial award, for contribution to the northern sheep industry, was to be awarded to Arthur Yeats, re his work within the Bluefaced Leicester SBA. Mr Yeats was unable to be present, so it was agreed that Carl Stephenson would present him with his award at the northern BFL AGM at Helme Park, Tow Law on 16 February 2012.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

Geoff Lawn then introduced Malcolm Corbett, Chairman of the British Wool marketing Board, who gave a presentation on the work of the BWMB, and Phil Stocker, new Chief Executive of the National Sheep Association.

Adam Watson, regional vice chairman, thanked both speakers on behalf of those present.

Meeting closed 9.30 pm.

NOTES

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