



**MINUTES OF NSA CYMRU WALES REGION ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING HELD AT HAFOD Y HENDRE, ROYAL WELSH
SHOWGROUND ON FRIDAY
17th FEBRUARY 2012.**

Chairman John Lloyd

Present

Margaret Dalton	Hugh James	E A Price
David Jones	Gareth Vaughan	David Pittendreigh
E Llew Thomas	Tim Ward	P Wozencraft
Mary Gittins	P M Thornely	Linda Western
Jane Smith	Margaret Griffiths	Marc Jones
Alun Davies	Tim Tyne	Anne Lomax
Stephen Lomax	David Jones	A J Morris
C R Davies	Brian Kempton	Gwynne Davies
Pat Tantrum	Gwen Pugh	

In Attendance: Mrs Helen Davies, Mr Phil Stocker, Mr John Geldard

1. Apologies Dafydd Jones, Sion Aron Jones (HCC), Gareth Jones (BWMB) David Thorpe, Moss Jones, Cyril Lewis, Andrew Jones, Brian Eagles, Anthony Mears, Arwel Pugh, R A George, Catherine Nakielny, Martin Sivell

2. To Confirm the Minutes of last AGM held 24th February 2011.

The minutes were confirmed by all those present.

3. To consider matters arising from the above.

Jane Smith wished to comment on the discussion which had taken place after the 2011 AGM. Jane gave a brief account of the Ram Sale history in that before the Region became NSA Cymru/Wales the Chairman of the Region was invited to sit on the Ram Sale committee. If the ram sale had stuck to that policy it would have had to invite both the Wales Chairman and the Marches Chairman so it had decided to elect members when needed.

Jane explained that the finances were sent to Head Office and open to everyone in the main NSA Accounts. The reserves in the Ram sale were there to maintain investment and to retain staff. The chair replied that, at the time of the 2011 AGM, NSA Cymru was receiving concerns about the ram sale- for instance entry prices- but there was no way of passing these concerns on. However, with Gwynne Davies now elected Chairman of the Ram Sale, lines of communication are now good. It was suggested that the minutes of the ram sale meetings be forwarded to the Region for information, the Region already supplies its minutes to the Ram Sale.

Jane Smith explained that there was not a differentiation in entry prices due to the fact Gift Aid was now obtained from members if they signed up to do so with head office. Over the years the Ram sale committee had looked at numerous ways to address the costs for all breeds and would continue to do so. Mr P Stocker will be invited to attend the next Ram Sale meeting on 16th April. A nomination from the Ram Sale was needed for the Technical & Policy Committee.

Margaret Dalton highlighted the Malvern site and that it should be used more for meetings and cannot see that meetings in London work out cheaper. It will cost the NSA Cymru/Region £200 per delegate to send them to London. Alun Davies suggested that Head Office should work out costs for the meetings in London and in Malvern taking into account all of the Regions costs. John Geldard and Phil Stocker would look into this been done and discussed at future Board Meetings.

4. Chairman's Report

John Lloyd reported that prices were still ok however the potential instability of the Euro might be a problem and would need to be watched carefully. EID regulations were unsustainable and there was the threat of the Schmallenberg virus. On a more positive note the Region had held a very successful event at Machynlleth and credit has to go to the Jones' family and Helen Davies for all their efforts. John also reported on some of the functions he had attended and the judging of the John Gittins award was a real highlight. He thanked the Gittins family for giving this award and all those who allowed their names to go forward. The judging process had left him with the certainty that, with so many hard-working individuals in our industry, the future was secure. The Region had held a series of road shows with the Wool Board some were attended better than others. John thanked everyone for their support and wished the new chairman well.

5. To review the accounts for 2011.

The secretary/treasurer presented the accounts and reported that the accounts showed a healthy balance of £63,490 plus the £10,000 loan to Head Office which is due to be paid back in April 2012. The event had generated the increase in income. Sponsorship of the Royal Welsh and Winter Fair had taken place as in the previous year.

6. To appoint Officers for the coming year.

- a) Chairman – David Pittendreigh was proposed for by John Lloyd and seconded by Margaret Dalton. Agreed by those present. David thanked those present for the nomination and he would do his best for the Region
- b) Vice Chairman – David Pittendreigh proposed Paul Wozencraft and Pat Tantrum seconded this. Agreed by those present
- c) Treasurer Helen Davies was proposed by those present with Llew Thomas proposed as Vice Treasurer as he is the Finance and General Purposes representative
- d) Secretary Helen Davies.
- e) Committee The Secretary had written to all breed societies to request a nomination and update the committee where necessary. One replied was received from the Welsh Half-breeds and Emyr Jones was put onto the committee. We currently have 47 members on the committee and it was felt this needed to be reviewed. The secretary would write to those who had not attended meetings recently to see if they still wanted to be on the committee. Tim Tyne suggested that NSA Cymru/Wales should go out into different parts of Wales to attract new members, he would ask the local YFC to contact the Secretary to organise a farm walk in the Pwllheli area. Pembrokeshire was also mentioned as another area of under-representation.

f) To confirm nominations to NSA Board. Nominations for Board were Margaret Dalton, Tim Ward and David Pittendreigh. Technical committee Catherine Nakielny, F&GP committee Llew Thomas. These nominations were accepted by those present.

Main actions of the first meeting have been circulated and posted on the NSA website.

h) Auditors it was agreed to continue with DRE & Co, 7 Lower Brook Street, Oswestry although it was noted that we did not need to prepare audited accounts for head office.

7. Secretary's Remuneration. The Secretary was happy with current rate of remuneration but asked that her motor expenses be reviewed from 40ppm to 45ppm, in line with other parts of the NSA. Llew Thomas said this should be an automatic increase and was approved by those present.

8. To consider any other business.

It was agreed to provide Harper Cymru with £200 sponsorship and to sponsor the Royal Welsh a further £500. The Secretary also requested if a replacement photocopier could be purchased and the cost shared between her and one of the other organisations she works for. This was agreed.

David Pittendreigh thanked John Lloyd as Chairman

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 3.30pm.

The meeting had been preceded by a talk given by the Deputy Minister Alun Davies. The press release issued is printed below.

Minister defends EID decision at NSA Cymru AGM

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Alun Davies, delivered a robust defence of his decision not to exercise the EU's limited level of tolerance on EID in his keynote speech to the NSA Cymru/Wales AGM.

Mr Davies told a lively meeting at the Royal Welsh Showground that, as negotiations with the Commission hadn't succeeded in providing the required tolerances, the more powerful argument would be to show the Commission in two years time that the greatest possible effort had been made. He too had been profoundly disappointed that the desired objectives couldn't be achieved but, of 757 farms inspected, not a single one would have benefited from the tolerance proposals coming from the EU.

Mr Davies added: "That is a very hard reality so I took the decision that we wouldn't exercise the tolerance available from the European Commission in Wales, because that I felt it was the right thing to do. Nobody out there would have benefited from it and it would have created uncertainty, it would have created a false sense of security within the industry and it would have left the taxpayer with the potential disallowance of up to £3.4 million."

The Minister took numerous questions from the floor, including from national chairman John Geldard who said the real frustration was that the tags and EID had been imposed on the industry long before the equipment was up to the job. This had created serious pain across the board and Mr Geldard urged him to look at the problem from every angle.

Mr Davies said he intended to establish a Sheep EID database for Wales. He would decide whether to collaborate with England or to develop a Wales only database by the end of the month.

Criticisms of Glastir prompted an unequivocal restatement of the political reality in the current harsh economic landscape. EU decisions meant there would and could be no return to Tir Mynydd, or to previous environmental schemes.

Mr Davies elaborated; "We are saying we will deliver Glastir, we will deliver environmental enhancement, we will maintain the budgets for it and that is the position from which I am approaching this. But if we do get to 2015 and people say we are not interested in this, we're not interested in the cash, then it will go.

"Clearly it will go. I can't go to Cabinet and argue for nearly £100 million to be ring fenced if it's not being used. I can't do that.

"The situation is very, very, clear. There is probably the biggest carrot that's ever been constructed there for people to join Glastir and that £90 million carrot is on offer.

"We cannot compel and we will not compel people to enter Glastir, but those who don't will still need to conform to the law when that law is implemented in this country. And you will not be compensated for doing it, but you will find yourself on the wrong side of it if you don't. That is a statement of fact."

Mr Davies added that when it came to CAP reform, no Welsh farmer would be disadvantaged by joining Glastir. He was pressing for membership of Glastir to automatically qualify for greening.

He said strong market prices and excellent export figures meant that sheep farmers in Wales had a great deal to be optimistic about. Recent export figures showed Wales is the biggest exporter of lamb in the EU, coupled with strong market prices that boded well for the future of sheep farming in Wales.