



**MINUTES OF NSA CYMRU WALES REGION ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING HELD AT HAFOD Y HENDRE, ROYAL WELSH
SHOWGROUND ON MONDAY
18th FEBRUARY 2013.**

Chairman David Pittendreigh

Present

Tim Tyne	Marc Jones	Margaret Dalton
John Staley	Llew Thomas	John Lloyd
Edwin Harris	E A Price	Pat Tantrum
Tim Ward	Mary Gittins	Olwen E Roberts
Gaina Morgan	P Evans	Tony Morris
D J Jones	Mike Evans	Nick Davies
Gareth Jones (BWMB)	Hugh James	P Wozencraft
Claire Williams	Catherine Nakielny	

In Attendance: Mrs Helen Davies, Mr Phil Stocker, Joanne Pugh

1. Apologies Kate Hovers, Margaret Griffiths, John Geldard, Alan Davies, Gwynne Davies, Linda Western, Sion Williams, Arthur George, Jane Smith, Brian Eagles

A warm welcome was given to Prof Wynne Jones who had taken time out today to come and talk to us.

2. To Confirm the Minutes of last AGM held 17th February 2012.

The minutes were confirmed by all those present.

3. To consider matters arising from the above.

None

4. Chairman's Report

This year started off well with lamb and cast ewe prices holding up but alas they started on a downward spiral and a part from the odd rally here and there they haven't recovered with the smaller hill lambs suffering most.

The loss of the ASDA contract with Vion in Gaerwen could have very serious consequences for all concerned not least HCC (Welsh Meat Promotions) if these lambs are slaughtered in England HCC would stand to lose £1/2 million in levies, this on top of the 1 million already lost from red meat slaughtered in England at present. We must fight for a more equitable system for levy distribution in the UK based on where the livestock is born and reared rather than where slaughtered.

In 2006 the value of Wales's sheep meat exports was just under 77 million in 2012 it has risen to 133 million. The winner of the John Gittins memorial award was Rees Roberts and Catherine Nakielny scooped the NSA Cymru award congratulations to them both. Schmallenburg has affected the early lambing flocks with some very heavy losses being sustained. It is time for a concerted effort to have a vaccine ready for June at the latest. We again held Winter Road shows in conjunction with Dunbia and the Wool Board. A big thank you to all involved in making them a success.

The NSA Cymru open day will be held at Beili Ficer, Llansawel, with hosts Sion & Claire Williams on 21st May, it is a great venue, easy access, lots of buildings and Helen is in heaven.

BVA put out a statement last week that wants all anthelmintics to be classified as POM-V this will certainly draw up costs, NSA proposed to fight against this change.

Finally I would like to thank everybody involved in helping NSA Cymru throughout the year and a very special thank you to Helen

5. To review the accounts for 2011.

The secretary/treasurer presented the accounts and reported that the accounts showed a healthy balance of £57,965 although there was an overall loss for the year of £14,000 Sponsorship of the Royal Welsh and Winter Fair continued. There was no longer a requirement for the accounts to be audited.

6. To appoint Officers for the coming year.

- a) Chairman – David Pittendreigh was proposed for a second year by John Lloyd and seconded by Llew Thomas. Agreed by those present.
- b) Vice Chairman – Paul Wozencraft was proposed by Margaret Dalton seconded by Tim Ward. Agreed by those present
- c) Treasurer Helen Davies was proposed by those present with Tim Ward proposed as Vice Treasurer as he is the Finance and General Purposes representative
- d) Secretary Helen Davies.
- e) Committee Names of the committee were read out. It was agreed to keep the current members on committee and to remind Breed Societies to nominate representatives and inform the secretary of any changes.
- 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.
- g) Auditors Now not required.

7. Secretary's Remuneration. It was agreed to pay £4,000 per annum plus expenses with travel at 45ppm.

8. To consider any other business.

It was agreed to provide Harper Cymru with £200 sponsorship and to continue to sponsor the Royal Welsh. Paul Wozencraft asked for an update on the building at the Royal Welsh. The current lease was up and negotiations were under way to renew the lease. The Fleece competition would remain within the building but the Prime lamb competition had ceased.

Tony Morris asked NSA to intervene and get the Schmollenburg vaccine asap.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 3.30pm and thanked those for attending

A talk from Prof Wynne Jones followed with details below.

Professor E Wynne Jones OBE told the National Sheep Association Wales/Cymru AGM there was a lot of opportunity despite big challenges ahead. Wales had a very good sheep farming industry and while it wasn't easy it was important to be positive.

He stressed that while farmers couldn't do much about price, they could work on costs. Hybu Cig Cymru 2011 figures showed that the average sheep farmer was making about 10% on top of costs of production, while the top farmers are making 48% on top, while the bottom third were recovering only 84% of the cost of production.

He added: "There is a big difference between those that are doing very well: with a big chunk at the top, those at the middle and those at the bottom, and clearly it's those that can control their cost in relation to price who will be the ones that will be here in fifteen or twenty years."