

N.I. NSA ARMM 6th February 2020

Chairman Brian Jamieson welcomed everyone present to the ARMM with a special mention for our guests Katie James, Communications Officer from NSA HQ and Rhys Edwards, a young farmer from Wales

Apologies received from Paul Crawford, Adrian Fitzsimons, Eileen McCloskey, Jonathan McKelvey, James Davidson and Aurelie Aubry.

Minutes were approved by Maurice McHenry and seconded by John Blaney

The Chairman gave a report of the previous year's activities

The treasurer reported another successful year especially as we had held a Sheep Event in 2019 which makes the profit to keep us running for two years. The RUAS Sheep Centre made a loss of £300 but does allow us to have a presence at Balmoral.

Katie James then conducted the Election of Office Bearers for the incoming year as follows

Chairman Jonny Farmer

Vice Chairman Alistair Armstrong

Treasurer Brian Jamieson

N.I. Trustee Jonny Farmer

N.I. Rep on Policy Campbell Tweed

N.I. Rep on Finance Brian Jamieson

Committee re-elected with the addition of Dale Orr Co Down, John Kennedy Co Antrim & Clement Lynch, Co Tyrone

New Chairman Jonny Farmer then introduced guest speakers Katie James & Rhys Edwards.

Rhys gave an outline of his farm and their enterprises.

Rhys Edwards manages the family farm with his parents in the South Wales valleys. Now 225 acres, Hendre Ifan Goch farm is in an SDA Region. Ranging from approx. 600-1300ft above sea level and rainfall is over 2m annually. The farm is currently running 600 ewes and 150 ewe lambs running dry. Of the 600 ewes, 400 are Texel mules/Aberfields that are used for the ram compare project, with the remaining 200 mainly welsh mules are used for breeding ewe lamb replacements. Ewes are lambed in doors from 5th of March and TMR is used to feed ewes with clamp silage pre lambing to maintain a precise diet. All the flock are EID recorded and monitored to maximise performance. Ewes & lambs are introduced to a mob grazing system from the start of April and stay on a rotation until lambs are finished solely off grass. Hendre ifan Goch farm is part of the Ram compare project, Grass check GB project and a Farming connect demo farm. The farm has also diversified by leasing out a wedding and events venue. They also have a 60-pitch caravan and camping site & have installed renewables with a hydro generator and ground source heat pump.

The new Chairman finished the meeting after a Q&A session by thanking the speakers and all those present