



National Sheep Association

South West Region

Minutes of the NSA SOUTH WEST REGION 46th ANNUAL REGIONAL MEMBERS MEETING

Held at Exeter Livestock Centre, at 7:30 on 21st February 2018

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from 4 participants

2. Minutes of last ARMM

3. The minutes of the last meeting were taken as a true and fair report

4. Matters arising

None

5. Chairman's report – Alan Derryman

The last 12 months have seen great contrast in the weather, with almost drought conditions last spring and early summer to continuous rain since the end of July. The SW sheep event at David Disney's was a good example of this, being the hottest day of the year. Unfortunately, this did affect the attendance with many staying away because of the extreme heat. Despite this it was a very good event, with all the trade people very happy. It was disappointing that we made very little money for the region. I would like to thank everyone on the event committee for all their hard work despite the heat, and a special thanks to Sue Martyn and Dave Gregory.

It has been a very trying and long winter so far, the last few days hopefully show signs of a dry spell and some sunshine. Despite this the sheep trade has generally been good over the last year, especially last month.

Brexit is always in the press, but I am not sure we have learnt a lot since last year. We hear an awful lot of pessimism from the media, but I am confident we will still have a strong sheep industry, with current markets and many new ones.

We had a farm walk at my farm, Home Farm, Sidbury with about 35 people attending, again the weather affected numbers, as it was a dry day and a lot stayed at home to catch up on work. Hopefully all those who did make it enjoyed the afternoon.

Finally, I would like to thank Kate White for all her hard work in her time as secretary, and Sue for stepping in since August. Congratulations to Ian May in his new role as regional manager, I wish all the best in his new position.

Thanks to all the committee for your support over the last 2 years as chairman.



Chief Executive: Phil Stocker
A company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England. Registration No 37818.
Registered charity in England and Wales (249255) and in Scotland (SC042853).





National Sheep Association

South West Region

6. Treasurer's report and presentation of accounts

Sue Martyn reported that the SW Sheep event unfortunately made a loss this year. This was due to a number of factors although the significantly greater cost of £21,000 spent on marquees, the need to pay for an event safety plan costing £1,300 and the expense of a new website all played a part. The main factor however was the weather which led to 800 fewer people attending than in previous years. Malvern have provided a loan to help support us through this situation and the Ram Sale committee have gifted enough to clear the debts. Sue thanked both Malvern and the Ram sale committee for their help

The Bank Account balances as at December 31st 2017 were as follows:

Regional Current Account - £747

Saver Account - £906

Sheep South West Event Account - £5,945

7. Election of Officers and Committee for 2018

Chairman: Nominated: Peter Derryman - proposed by Sue Martyn and seconded by Robert Hopper.

Vice Chairman: Howard Tratt - proposed by Peter Derryman and seconded by Jake Chisholm.

Committee: En bloc proposed by Peter Derryman and seconded by Bryan Griffiths.

New Committee Members: Peter Morris – proposed by Peter Derryman and seconded by Bryan Griffiths.

8. Election of Representatives for the Board of Trustees

Pete Delbridge – proposed by David Gregory and seconded by David Disney

9. Election of Representatives for English Committee

Peter Derryman, Howard Tratt and Alan Derryman proposed by Mark Stephens and seconded by Sue Martyn

10. AOB

Sheep South West

- Phil Stocker offered his thanks and respect to Sue Martyn for her hard work in organising the SW Sheep event and for her justification of the funding issues. He also highlighted that this was a good example of where close collaboration between the head office and regions is key to the effective working of the NSA.
- It was questioned whether the issues with the event finances suggested a case for including a nominal charge for NSA members on entrance to regional events. Phil Stocker said that this had been, and could continue to be, discussed by the finances and general purposes committee however saw several reasons for keeping it as is, including the need to build members to support organisational finances and give the NSA greater clout in policy discussions, to provide an incentive for participants to join on the day and to encourage more participants at the event, making the trade stands more successful, and therefore making them more willing to pay more for a stand.



Chief Executive: Phil Stocker
A company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England. Registration No 37818.
Registered charity in England and Wales (249255) and in Scotland (SC042853).





National Sheep Association

South West Region

AHDB

- The issue of AHDB's current structure and role was brought up and it was suggested that at least 2 ministers wouldn't mind if AHDB was closed. It was suggested that now may be a good time for the NSA and NFU to join together to remove AHDB from government and others in the industry may be willing to support this. It was suggested that this is something that it would be appropriate for the regional representatives to bring to the NSA English committee to discuss.

The Chairman then presented David Disney with a small token of our thanks for hosting the 2017 SW Sheep event and closed the ARMM.

The evening continued with interesting presentations from Emily Gascoigne on the AHDB Challenge Sheep project, Howard Tratt - NSA Young Ambassador for 2017, Bryan Griffiths on his observations from his recent visit to New Zealand and Phil Stocker on the NSA's position and the recent discussions he has been involved in on Brexit.



Chief Executive: Phil Stocker
A company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England. Registration No 37818.
Registered charity in England and Wales (249255) and in Scotland (SC042853).

