



National Sheep Association

South West Region

Minutes of the NSA SOUTH WEST REGION 47th ANNUAL REGIONAL MEMBERS MEETING

Held at Exeter Livestock Centre, at 7:30 on 19th February 2019

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from 10 participants

2. Minutes of last ARMM

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

3. Matters arising

The role of AHDB continues to be on the agenda following discussions at the previous ARMM and regional committee meetings. Bryan Griffiths thanked Joseph Keating for his efforts as regional knowledge exchange manager, he has been a valuable member of the regional committee and has taken the criticisms and concerns with AHDB in the way they were meant. Bryan wished him well in his future role and welcomed Leah Shanks onto the committee as Joseph's replacement. Moving forward Bryan highlighted 3 ways in which we can try and tackle the issues raised. First is through our committees, the second is to approach Peter Baber the local AHDB livestock board member and thirdly by making Leah welcome and engaging with her in the same way as we have Joseph.

4. Chairman's report – Peter Derryman

2018's weather was the talking point 12 months ago with incessant rain interspersed with freezing conditions and snow with reports of heavy losses in various areas. Eventually Spring arrived and with it record prices for hogs, lambs and cull ewes. This was followed by the driest Summer probably since 1976, this was also challenging making enough fodder and keeping stock in good condition, it proved to have an adverse effect on the breeding sheep trade later in the year, despite this demand and prices for prime lambs have been acceptable. SW NSA organised events this year included a farm walk at Rampisham Manor Farm thanks to Gareth Benyon and his team. We saw his expanding flock of Cheviot Mules and has topped over 2000 sheep including ewe lambs this year. He is also involved with AHDB challenge sheep projects. Thanks to Emily for mobilising many of her Synergy sheep clients and Duffields for sponsoring the refreshments. We had a turnout of over 60 which proved a very interesting day. Later in September in conjunction with AHDB and the Exmoor Hill Farm Network we had a farm visit to Dave Knight at Minehead looking at minimising carcass losses and sheep selection and EID equipment. Thanks to Peter Morris and the rest of the speakers for an informative evening and to Shearwell for sponsoring the BBQ. In November we held a meeting with presentations from Awal Fuseini, AHDB Halal Sector manager and Tanveer Pakur who is involved with the certification process. This was followed by a long discussion on this important and key sector of our industry which is growing, however some aspects of it obviously need addressing but I think most went home better informed. Thanks to the Waie Inn for hosting and Crediton Milling for their generous sponsorship of the refreshments and we were pleased with a very large turnout.

Congratulations are due to James Westcott and Sam Edwards for gaining 2nd and 3rd respectively at the National final of the Next Generation Shepherd competition and I can report that Richard Rossiter our SW Young Ambassador programme participant has had a very educational and enjoyable year, well done. Our committee meetings have included lively discussions on Brexit and the AHDB consultation amongst others. I think Phil and team need congratulating for positive outcomes on a lot of hard work including reverting to a date rather than checking teeth, this will be



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

in place soon. Fending off a Lynx release, gaining assurances from Government in the event of a No Deal and tariffs and how the industry will be supported and of course appearances on the radio and television to counter the climate change/vegan movement to name a few but global demand for sheep meat is growing so let's be positive. Anyone who attended Home Farm, Sidbury in August to witness Alan Derryman at 60 shearing 413 Romney ewes in nine hours can't fail to have been impressed. Gwenan, Alice and Hilary and team put on a great demonstration of wool handling. A great PR exercise when shearing needed it. A massive total of £11,621 was raised for Exeter Leukaemia Fund – very well done. Our SW sheep event planning to be held at Southcott Farm, Burrington on June 18th and hosted by Bryan and Liz Griffiths is well underway being led by Sue and Dave and the organising committee who are pleased with bookings and progress. NSA members can do their bit by encouraging attendance in their areas to what will be a very informative, interesting and social day out. A few thank yous. Joseph Keating has been AHDB SW KE manager and has been promoted to senior manager, Joseph has been a regular at our meetings with input and advice and has been a great help in all our visits and events. We wish him well. We look forward to working with Leah Shanks who has taken on his role.

Thanks to our committee for attending meetings and their support. To Sue and Bryan who are always on the end of the phone. Finally, thanks to Ian in his first year of many I hope as Regional manager, he has made my job very easy and always on the end of the phone as I am not a fan of long emails. An asset to our region and the NSA and along with Sue, Dave, Bryan and Liz will be very involved with our event, as we nervously look forward to a positive Brexit outcome and a busy year.

5. **Treasurer's report and presentation of accounts**

Sue Martyn reported that the cost of holding the various regional events and committee meetings including expenses, room hire, catering and regional manager expenses is not insubstantial. In addition, the region also contributes to the Next Generation Project annually. These costs come to approximately 8,000 per year and are largely funded through the income generated from the South West Sheep Event.

There was a total of £7,740 in the regional bank accounts at the end of the year.

6. **Election/reapproval of Officers and Committee for 2018**

Chairman: reapproved: Peter Derryman - proposed by Sue Martyn and seconded by Robert Hopper.
Vice Chair: reapproved Howard Tratt - proposed by Sue Martyn and seconded by Alan Derryman.
Committee: En bloc proposed by Robert Hopper and seconded by Henry Derryman.

7. **Election of Representatives for the Board of Trustees**

Reapproved Pete Delbridge – proposed by Bryan Griffiths and seconded by Sue Martyn.

8. **Election of Representatives for English Committee**

Reapproved Peter Derryman, Howard Tratt and Alan Derryman proposed by Emily Gascoigne and seconded by Olly Matthews

9. **AOB**

None

The evening continued with interesting presentations from Ellie Phipps, NSA Communications officer and Kevin Harrison, NSA English Chairman. Thank you to all those who attended.



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).

