



National Sheep Association

South West Region

Minutes of the NSA SOUTH WEST REGION 51st ANNUAL REGIONAL MEMBERS MEETING

Held at Exeter Livestock Market on 21st February 2023

1. **Apologies** - Apologies were received from 8 participants.
2. **Minutes of last ARMM** - The minutes of the last meeting were taken as a true and fair report
3. **Matters arising** - None
4. **Chairman's report – Richard Rossiter deputising for Olly Matthews**

Started off the year with the annual regional members meeting we had Mike Gooding from Farmers First, Rebecca Wright from AHDB and Russell Steer discussing how the trade may look over the year. In May we had a farm walk and young shepherd event hosted by Richard Webber and family at Wheddon Cross on Exmoor with a good bunch of entrants, 2 of which went forward to Malvern at the Sheep Event in July. In August Richard Moulard and family hosted a farm walk on their tenanted beef and sheep business at Cricket St Thomas. In December we hosted a Defra engagement meeting in North Molton where there was a lively discussion.

It has also been an interesting year with events around the world. The war in Ukraine forcing cereal prices to rocket, and sending fertiliser prices to crazy levels. Also, the extreme weather we had this summer with high temperatures and no rain leaving the country looking pretty brown and dusty. This certainly made it an interesting time for finishing lambs. Fortunately, the lamb price has stayed fairly strong to help compensate for the rising feed costs.

Up and coming events for this coming year we have Sheep South West on the 10th May at Peter Derryman's farm.

I'm sure there will be some more challenges through the next 12 months but nothing that can't be overcome.

5. **Treasurer's report and presentation of accounts – Read out in Sue Martyn's absence**
Firstly, apologies that I'm not with you tonight but lambing has to take precedence!

2022 being an 'even' year was always going to be the year we make a loss as all our income comes Sheep South West. The regional officers have continued to represent the region at national meetings which are held at Malvern but since Covid some are now via zoom which has reduced that expenditure.

The SW heat of the Next Generation Young Shepherd competition is usually held at the event but with no event in 2021 this was held in 2022 so some extra expenditure that would normally be accounted for within the event. As usual the region was delighted to continue their support of the NSA Next Generation project, this is such a successful programme and is bringing young enthusiastic people to regional committees - definitely money well spent!

Considering we haven't had an event for 4 years we are in a healthy position and are now looking forward to a successful event this year to swell the coffers



Chief Executive: Phil Stocker
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6. Election of Officers and Committee for 2021

Chairman: reapproval of Olly Matthews - proposed by Bryan Griffiths, seconded by Chris McWhirter.

Vice Chair: reapproval of Richard Rossiter - proposed by Ian May, seconded by Pete Delbridge.

Committee: En bloc proposed by David Rossiter, seconded by Julia Heard.

New committee members: elected Elsa Amiss – proposed by Ian May, seconded by Bryan Griffiths.

7. Election of Representatives for the Board of Trustees

Reapproved Pete Delbridge – proposed by Richard Rossiter, seconded by Robert Hopper.

8. Election of Representatives for English Committee

Elected Howard Tratt, Olly Matthews and Richard Rossiter. Proposed by Chris McWhirter, seconded by Gareth Beynon.

9. AOB - None

The evening continued with an interesting presentation from Emma Bradbury, NSA Policy Manager.

Unfortunately, Prof Andy Neal was unable to attend due to ill health.

Thank you to all those who attended.



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