



**National Sheep Association
South East Region**

**Minutes of the NSA South East Region Annual Members' Meeting 2021
Held Virtually
Wednesday 3rd February at 7.00pm**

1. Apologies for absence. Yann Le Du, NSA South East Region Vice-Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting and accepted apologies from David Blake, Martyn Fletcher and Laura Goldsmith.

2. Minutes of the 2020 ARMM. With the minutes having been made available before the meeting, Yann asked if they could be accepted as a true and correct record. This was proposed by Matt Blyth and seconded by Bob Blanden with no objections.

3. Matters arising, not otherwise on the agenda. None.

4. Reports from regional officers

- **Chairman's report:**

When I took up the post of regional chairman a year ago I could not have imagined what the following 12 months would bring.

We had decided to drop Sheep South East in favour of a series of Field Days to be held in June and September and were pressing forward with getting sponsorship for these. This was going well and the concept received enthusiastic support from major sponsors. All this of course was scuppered by Covid.

Along with many other organisations our Committee meetings have been held on Zoom, more or less successfully (!) with some absentees because of poor connectivity, but on the other hand some additions from distant corners of the region who find travelling burdensome, so some winners, some losers!!

In addition to the Field Days we intended to have a couple of farm walks and to extend our association with the I o W Sea Eagle project. The aim being to hold information spreading meetings further to the east, to add to those that were held on the Island and by the Hants Sheep Group. This we hope to do later this year.

In 2021 we are scheduled to hold our biennial SHWAP Conference in the autumn. Work has started on the programme with the intention to hold it virtually if it proves impossible to hold "physically", indeed it may well give scope for a mixture of the two. This opens up possibilities for drawing in both contributors and attendees from further afield.

One positive from all this disruption is that whilst we haven't raised any funds our outgoings have been minimal, with all meetings on line and no travel expenses to pay.

On a more sombre note, sadly Tim Armour passed away last year. He was involved with NSA in this region for over three decades holding the post of Vice-Chairman supporting several Chairmen, but on the understanding that he had no wish to be chairman himself. Tim was always a willing volunteer to help with events, which came about as the result of a close friendship with the late Harry Ridley. In more recent times Tim will be remembered for his double act with George Horne manning the trade gate at South Sheep. He will be missed



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NSA is funded by its membership of sheep farmers and its activities involve it in every aspect of the sheep industry.

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enormously. Covid restrictions meant no one from NSA could attend his funeral but condolences were sent to his wife Nina and to the family.

It feels very much that as a Region we haven't done much for our farmer members during this past year. However, on a national basis NSA has, as ever, been making its presence felt with major inputs into many agricultural policies - the Ag Bill, ELMS consultations, Brexit talks, LIP (L/S information prog), Red Tractor to mention but a few and your regional reps have been involved with many of these.

Many of these policies are literally once-in-a-lifetime decisions for our industry so our input couldn't be more important!

Finally, I would like to thank all my fellow office holders and committee members for their support through the year.

Last, and absolutely by no means least, many, many thanks to our Regional Secretary, Sarah, for her support in keeping the information circulating under often very trying and difficult circumstances.

- **Treasurer's report:** John Britton, NSA South East Region Treasurer, gave a report for his third year in the role, referring those present to copies of a profit-and-loss sheet and a balance sheet to 31st December 2020 previously circulated and available on screen.

Treasurer's Report

- John Britton reported that there was £4,791.00 in the bank at the end of December 2020.
- The region's finances are stable due to:-
 - a £1,000 donation from Jonathan Cocks
 - £3,000 sponsorship for the Field Days due to be held in 2020 (£2,000 from MSD and £1,000 from the Wool Board). The sponsors have agreed to leave the money with the region on the understanding that the money is ring-fenced for that purpose.
- The region was offered a £10,000 grant but only drew down £5,000.
- Expenditure was less than in previous years. Travel costs for the secretary, Trustee and English Committee reps are much reduced as nearly all meetings have been held virtually.
- NSA have notified regions that the £1,800 usually charged for travel and Next Generation expenses will not be invoiced in 2021 as the money drawn down in 2020 will cover expenditure in 2020 and 2021.

John gave notice that he will bring the following motion to the next ARMM:

"The South East Region requests that £10 of each of the region's members subscription be paid to the region to meet core regional expenditure."

John asked if his report was to be adopted. This was proposed by Bob Blanden and seconded by Andrew Barr with no objections.

5. Election and/or confirmation of regional officers:-

Position	Current holder	Action taken
Trustee	Yann Le Du, beginning first year of three-year term.	Proposed by Marie Prebble, seconded by David Barber, approved en-bloc by all.
Chairman	Yann Le Du beginning second year of two-year term.	
Vice Chairman	Susie Parish beginning second year of two-year term.	
Treasurer	John Britton, served three years.	
English Committee reps	Matt Blyth starting first year, Yann Le Du, starting second year and Andrew Barr starting second year of three-year terms.	
Committee	All existing members eligible to continue.	Committee approved en-bloc by all.

6. Election of any new committee members: Yann Le Du proposed Andy Goffe from Oxfordshire, seconded by Susie Parish and approved by all.

7. Any other business:

Presentation to Andrew Barr.

After 6 years as a Trustee on the Board of NSA Yann made a presentation of an engraved handcrafted shepherd’s crook to Andrew in recognition of and with grateful thanks for his service. Andrew first became involved with the Region when he volunteered to help steward the Young Shepherds Competition at South Sheep, Chilbolton, in 2010. Andrew was keen to become involved with NSA and joined the Committee where he quickly rose through the ranks to become Chairman in 2012, a position he held for 6 years. In 2014 he was elected as regional Trustee on the Board taking over from Bob Blanden. Also in 2014 he chaired the South Sheep Committee having persuaded his neighbouring farmer to provide the venue. The event’s success was due in no small part to Andrew’s hard work and enthusiasm.

As Regional Board Member Andrew has only missed one meeting in 6 years - a commendable record. He has willingly given, and continues to give, a huge amount of his time to NSA nationally and in the Region, for which we are all very grateful.

8. Date of the next meeting: This was set for February 2022.

As there was no further business, Yann closed the meeting at 7.47pm. Yann then introduced two guest speakers – Matt Smith, well known sheep/deer farmer and world record holding sheep shearer and Nicola Noble Policy & Technical Officer NSA.