



National Sheep Association
South East Region

Minutes of the NSA South East Region Annual Regional Members' Meeting 2023

Held at The Angel Hotel, Privett, Hants. GU34 3NN

Tuesday 7th February at 6.30pm

1. Apologies for absence. Yann Le Du, NSA South East Region Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting and accepted apologies from Matt Blyth, Tony Cave-Penny, Nigel Durnford, George Horne, Ian Lockwood and Anita Tackley

2. Minutes of the 2022 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 Marie Prebble and seconded by Bob Blanden with no objections.

3. Matters arising, not otherwise on the agenda

There were no matters arising.

4. Reports from regional officers

Chairman's report:

This year has seen Regional activity return to something resembling normal after the extended hiatus necessitated by the Covid pandemic. However, we have stuck with "virtual" committee meetings, until today when we held our first "face to face" for more than two years. Zoom does definitely have its advantages in terms of both cost and travel time saving and we have generally had very good attendance for our evening sessions as those from further afield don't have to give up a whole day to attend. It was however nice to see everyone in person today!!

As for events, we have had a pretty busy year. We held two farm walks, one in Kent/East Sussex and the other in Berkshire, this latter attended by 50 or so people...many thanks to our excellent hosts for their hospitality at these.

In June we held our Young Shepherds competition in conjunction with Southern Shears...congratulations to the winner Clover Crosse who went on to secure second place at the National Final at the Sheep Event in July. Incidentally Clover and Sophie Wernham secured places on the NSA Next Generation Programme this year and both now sit on our Regional Committee...I look forward to the contribution I'm sure they will make to both this and the sheep industry in general over the coming years!!

The committee of Southern Shears have asked us to make the Young Shepherds an annual competition rather than a biennial feeder for the National Event. This year it will be on 14th May and we're (Clover/Matt) working on a format for it aiming to make it a bit different to attract wider participation.

Our major Event of 2022 was the much-delayed Field Days, on 14, 15 & 16th June. Whilst these were very well received by both the sponsors, particularly those doing the interactive demonstrations, and the attendees I felt that the numbers attending were a little disappointing. The concept of the Days was definitely proved and all the feedback was very positive BUT the next iteration will need some tweaking to encourage better attendance. We hope to run a single Day later this year, with a larger offering in 2024....all comments and suggestions will be gratefully received.

Once again, many thanks to our hosts, Robert Hobill in Oxfordshire, Andrew Snow in Hampshire and Ian Lockwood in Kent...and their families...for the work they put in to make the Days a success.

A first for the SE Region was the Ram Sale on 2nd September in conjunction with Thame Farmers Auction Market...some 80 rams were entered with a good trade and clearance rate giving

encouragement to James Goffin, our Ram Sale Chairman and his willing team of helpers. Many thanks to them, and to Simon Draper and his staff at Thame, for their sterling efforts to get this new sale off the ground. We look forward to growing the offering this year!

Just a quick taster of what is coming up this year!!

We aim to again have 2/3 farm walks across the region, the Young Shepherds competition as I mentioned, and a Field Day. We have been asked to provide a sheep themed demonstration at the South of England Show on 9,10 & 11th June...plans are afoot for this. The 2023 Ram sale in conjunction with Thame Farmers Auction Market will be on Fri 1st September. Our major Event for this year will be the biennial SHWAP, SHEEP HEALTH WELFARE & PRODUCTION Conference in late October.

In conclusion I would like to again thank all the hosts of our various activities through the past year, the committee members and NSA staff at Malvern and all the others who have helped organise and promote our events throughout the year. Finally, a special thanks to Sarah for her help and support both to me and the Region during a very busy and sometimes difficult year...THANK YOU ALL.

5. Treasurer's report: John Britton, NSA South East Region Honorary Treasurer, gave a report for his fifth year in the role, referring those present to copies of a profit-and-loss sheet and a balance sheet to 31st December 2022 previously circulated and available on screen.

Treasurer's Report

- John was pleased to report that the Region's finances were in a good position. The last 5 years have seen a change from a deficit of £890 at the end of 2019 to a surplus of £2,798 at the end of 2022
- John noted that whilst this is good news it will not be sufficient to fund the coming year as approximately £6K is needed in general admin costs to service the region.
- John outlined the income and expenditure for each of the events held in 2022 as well as the overall expenditure including admin and travel costs etc.
- He noted that the inaugural Field Days were particularly successful, making a profit of £8,074.07, and thanked Yann for his hard work in securing hosts, sponsors and speakers. The region's first Ram Sale was also a great success making a profit of £545. James Goffin, Ram Sale Chair, was thanked for his hard work in setting up the sale.
- The region has budgeted for a slight deficit in 2023 but an overall balanced budget by the end of 2024.

John asked that his thanks to Karen Sumner and Alexandra Abbott at NSA be recorded, for their support and patience this year and Yann Le Du and Sarah Bake for drawing up the budget.

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 third year of first three-year term.	Proposed by Marie Prebble, seconded by Phil Hart, approved en-bloc by all.
Chairman	Yann Le Du beginning second year of a second two-year term	
Vice Chairman	Susie Parish standing for second year of second two-year term	
Treasurer	John Britton starting sixth year	
English Committee reps	Yann Le Du, re-elected for first year of a second three-year term Andrew Barr starting third year of three-year term Matt Blyth starting third year of three-year term	
Committee	All existing members eligible to continue.	Committee approved en-bloc by all.

6. Election of any new committee members: There were no new committee members

7. Any other business:

Susie Parish gave a vote of thanks to Yann Le Du for his hard work throughout the year, always going above and beyond. Especial thanks for his work in establishing the Field Days in 2022. All present agreed and showed their appreciation in the usual way.

8. Date of the next meeting: This was set for 6th February 2024.

As there was no further business, Yann closed the meeting at 6.55pm and introduced two guest speakers – Rebecca Moore, Nutritionist at Mole Valley Farmers, who gave a presentation entitled “Avoiding unintended consequences when planning ewe feeding, both before and after lambing” and Katie James, Communications Manager NSA, who gave an update on new staff members and all things NSA.