

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
ROYAL JERSEY AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

**Held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 7.30 pm,  
in the West Hall at the Royal Jersey Showground**

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**Item 1) Welcome and to receive apologies for absence:**

The President welcomed members to the AGM noting that the full set of agenda papers had been posted on the Society web site and drew members' attention to the printed Annual Report sent previously.

Present: Mr Rob Perchard (President & Chairman), Mr Paul Houzé (Vice President, Agricultural Dept.), Mr Graham de Gruchy (Vice President, Horticultural Dept), Mr Steve Le Feuvre (Treasurer, Agricultural Dept), Mr Alan Le Troquer (Treasurer, Horticultural Dept), Mr James W Godfrey (Chief Executive & Secretary of the Society, who took the minutes), Mr David Hambrook (Manager, Jersey Island Genetics), Mrs Rachelle Robinson (Secretary, Horticultural Department), Mr Laurence Agnès, Mrs Louise Agnès, Melvin & Sheila Birch, Mr David Curry, Mr Alasdair Crosby, Mrs Rosemary Furzer, Mrs Phyllis de Gruchy, Mr Colin de la Haye, Mrs Paulette de la Haye, Mrs Jennifer Ellenger, Mr Derrick Frigot MBE (Past President & Hon. Life Member), Mr Steve Falle, Mrs Maxine Ferguson, Mrs Christine Gill, Mrs Jean Gruchy, Mr John Hidrio (Hon. Life Member), Mrs Barbara Hidrio, Mrs Pat Jackson, Mr John Le Feuvre (Past President & Hon. Life Member), Mrs Suzanne Le Feuvre, Mr Andrew Le Gallais, Mr Philip Le Maistre Jnr, Mrs Ivy Le Troquer, Miss Rebecca Houzé, Mr Richard Leith, Mrs Jennifer McMullon, Mr John McMullon, Mr Ian Mitchell (Past President), Mr Tim Pallot, Mr Vernon Pallot, Mrs Jo-Ann Perchard, Mr Tom Perchard, Dr David & Mrs Ann Pope, Mr Martin Preisig, Mr Graham & Mrs Pam Querée, Mr Kevin Roberts, Mr Tom Robinson, Mrs Jennifer Rendell, Mrs Philippa Romeril, Mr Lewis Rondel (Past President & Hon Life Member), Mr Martin Rouault, Mr Jean Pierre Vaines, Mr Peter Williams. Also present were Jess McGovern, Jane Harvey from the Society staff and Mr Don Connolly of Messrs Alex Picot (the Society auditors).

Apologies: The Lieutenant Governor of Jersey, the Bailiff of Jersey, the Dean of Jersey, Mrs Collette Bisson (Hon Life Member), Mrs Rosemary Boleat, Mrs Joanne Dauny, Mr Max de la Haye (Hon Life Member), Mrs Dot de la Haye, Mr Eamon Fenlon, Mrs Margie Holland Prior, Mrs Pam Laurens, Mrs Sarah Le Feuvre, Miss Victoria Le Feuvre, Mr David Leng, Mrs Helen McGugan, Mr Mike & Mrs Marion Munz Jones, Mr Jeremy Neil, Mr Richard & Mrs Louise Noel, Mr Derek Russell.

**Item 2) To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Society held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018:**

The minutes were approved on the proposition of Mr Derrick Frigot and seconded by Mrs Christine Gill with all in favour and were duly signed.

**Item 3) To discuss any matters arising from the minutes:**

The President drew attention to the successful publication of 'Pioneers of the Jersey Breed' and congratulated the author, Mr Derrick Frigot, and Mr James Godfrey on bringing about such a well received book.

**Item 4) To receive the Annual President's, Treasurer's and Departmental Reports for 2018:**

The President noted that these reports had been circulated in the printed magazine and drew attention to a number of items. Noting the front cover he paid respects to Mr Frank Poskitt, from Yorkshire, who was shown leading a cow in front of the Society building and had recently passed away. The Society had a great friend in Frank who would be sorely missed. He was pleased that development and repair works at the Showground had been completed and noted how well the site was looking. The publication of the report by Dr Bichard into the effects of importing semen in 2008 marked a significant achievement and the results spoke for themselves. He was pleased to see the strengthening relationship between the Society and Jersey Overseas Aid noting how important this was in raising the profile of the Society, the Jersey breed and the Island of Jersey as a whole. The launch of the Cultivate Programme marked a new phase in the development of the Society in response to the consultation exercise with members. He thanked the Committees and volunteers for all their time and efforts in support of the Society. He also thanked the staff for their hard work and diligence in running the Society.

Mr Le Gallais congratulated the President on the reports which show how much the Society does to 'fly the flag' for the Island. He commented on two additional aspects of the Society's work that he felt had been particularly noteworthy during the year. Firstly the work of Christine Gill in organising the Society's archives which represent an extraordinary resource that is important to look after. Secondly the work of David Hambrook in assisting the export of so many cattle during the year which had enabled the smooth retirement of those herds leaving the industry.

**Item 5) To receive the consolidated accounts for the Society for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018:**

The President introduced Mr Don Connolly, from Society auditors Messrs Alex Picot, who presented the accounts and commented on the audit process.

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Mr Connolly described the results of Consolidated Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet accounts. He explained that his firm audited the financial statements prepared by Mr Marc Couriard on behalf of the Society and that he was able to confirm that the financial controls and procedures in place were satisfactory in terms of managing the Society finances.

He explained that the audit consolidates three entities, the Agricultural Department, the Horticultural Department and Jersey Island Genetics Ltd (JIG). He spent some time on the main variances from last year, which were as follows:

- JIG trading was significantly up in terms of income and expenditure with the export of cattle during the year.
- The Estate income was up as the new West Hall came available for letting in the latter part of the year. That said, expenses had increased significantly with exceptional repair and maintenance work being undertaken.
- The investments had shown a valuation loss of some £79k on the year on year date of 31<sup>st</sup> December.
- Employment expenses had increased with the launch of the Cultivate Programme and addition resources had been deployed to the Overseas Aid Programmes.
- Depreciation had increased as a result of the additional capital investments made in the Showground fixtures, fittings and equipment. These investments are reflected in the Balance Sheet.
- Overall this had resulted in a deficit significantly up and largely over budget by the change in investment valuation.

By way of general comment he felt that the Society finances remained strong despite this difficult year and was pleased to note a balanced cash budget forecast for 2019.

The President thanked Mr Connolly for his presentation and asked if there were any questions. Mr Le Gallais, whilst noting the challenges that all trading organisations faced in the island, with some years inevitably better than others, felt that some discussion on the context of these results would be helpful. He posed two questions; firstly is the new West Hall available for use free of any encumbrances in terms of the development process and secondly what direction does the Council foresee for this year. In answer to the first question Mr Godfrey confirmed that the West Hall was fully operational without restriction, on the same basis as the rest of the Showground. In answer to the second question Mr Le Feuvre provided detail in two parts. Firstly he explained some of the additional investments that had taken place during the year, for example; new fire doors and fire alarms that had been necessitated by the addition of the new hall together with new equipment, such as a fork lift truck, to save annual expenditure. Secondly he explained that, together with Mr Godfrey, he had developed a 'breakeven' budget in cash terms for 2019. This included savings made as a result of the investment in equipment, sponsorship coming from the Howard Davis Farm Trust to help fund the Cultivate programme as well as the resources being deployed to the overseas projects being compensated, and increases coming both from charges and usage of the new Showground facilities. He paid tribute to the work of Mr Cottrell who was active in ensuring the bookings were full and well serviced. The office team had been actively reviewing costs of contract services, for example cleaning, re-tendering and reducing costs. A review of the Shows programme was also underway. In light of the volatility of the investment funds an early priority would be to review how these were being held. Mr Le Gallais thanked the Treasurer for his comprehensive reply and was pleased to announce that Jersey Dairy would be supporting the shows to the tune of £5k in this year and a greater sum in future years. The President thanked Mr Le Gallais for this welcome news and was confident that the Society was moving the right direction. He thanked Mr Connolly for his report.

## **Item 6) To elect an Agricultural Vice President to serve a three year term (2019 to 2021 inclusive):**

The President reported that one nomination had been received for Mr Richard Leith, proposed by Mr Derrick Frigot and seconded by Mr Paul Houzé. Mr Frigot firstly congratulated the President and his team on the achievements of the Society, he noted that Dr Bichard, in his recent presentation to members, had commented on how highly regarded the RJA&HS is by other breed societies around the world and how this is as a result of all those who work for the Society. Turning to the nomination he spoke of how Ricky displayed excellent leadership qualities that were so vital to the role and the contribution he had made to the Society over many years. Mr Houzé was delighted to second the proposition commenting on how Ricky had come to the island in the 1980s to work with him at Lodge Farm, and in the end owned his own herd at Chalet Farm running a successful farming business. The President declared that with no further nominations received Mr Leith was duly elected. Mr Leith thanked his proposers and was committed to doing his best to serve the Society as well as his predecessor had.

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The President thanked Mr Houzé, as retiring Vice President, for his exceptional record of service, having first joined the Council in 1978, his drive in breed improvement, the development of the showground as well as the importation of semen. Mr Houzé thanked the President saying it had been an honour to serve the Society, he was enthused by the progress made in recent years and wished the Society well for the future.

**Item 7) To elect a Horticultural Vice President to serve a three year term (as above):**

The President reported that one nomination had been received for Mr Martin Preisig, proposed by Mr John Hidrio and seconded by Jennifer Ellenger. Mr Hidrio felt that Mr Preisig would lead the Horticultural Department exceptionally well, having trained at Seale Hayne Agricultural College, he had pursued a successful career, currently as a Trading Standards Officer. Jennifer Ellenger concurred commenting that whenever Martin committed to a task, he did a remarkable job. The President declared that with no further nominations received Mr Preisig was duly elected, who then thanked his proposers.

The President thanked Mr de Gruchy, as retiring Vice President, paying tribute to his energy in establishing the FJ Ahier Country Gardens, always being ready to 'roll his sleeves up' to get the job done. Mr de Gruchy thanked the President, his committee and the three secretaries he had worked with; Pam Laurens, Louise Agnès and Rachelle Robinson for all their support. He especially thanked his wife Phyllis for her support.

**Item 8) To elect a Treasurer for the Horticultural Department to serve a three year term (as above):**

The President reported that one nomination had been received for Mr Jeremy Neil, proposed by Jennifer Ellenger, and seconded by Mr Martin Preisig. Jennifer Ellenger explained that unfortunately Mr Neil was unable to be at the meeting due to a prior engagement abroad. She explained that a successful career in finance made Jeremy highly suited to the role. The President declared that with no further nominations received Mr Neil was duly elected.

**Item 9) To elect one member to the Society Council to serve a three year term (as above):**

The President reported that one nomination had been received for Becky Houzé, proposed by Mr Tom Perchard, and seconded by Mr Philip Le Maistre. Mr Perchard was delighted to propose Becky as one of the younger farmers in the industry with a passion for promoting farming to the public. The President declared that with no further nominations received Becky Houzé was duly elected. Becky thanked her proposers and looked forward to learning how the Society worked and supporting the education programmes.

**Item 10) To elect two members to the Agricultural General Committee to serve a three year term (as above):**

The President reported that two nominations had been received; one for Mr John McMullon, proposed by Mr Ian Mitchell, and seconded by Paulette Lamy de la Haye, and one for Mr Tom Perchard, proposed by Mr Laurence Agnès and seconded by Mr Paul Houzé. Following speeches from the proposers the President declared the two nominees duly elected.

**Item 11) To elect two members to the Horticultural General Committee to serve a three year term (as above):**

The President reported that with five nominations being received for two positions there would be an election. The nominations were as follows: Mr Steven Falle (proposed by Alan Le Troquer, seconded by Graham Quéré), Jennifer Rendell (proposed by David Pope, seconded by Pat Jackson), Mr Tom Robinson (proposed by Graham de Gruchy, seconded by Kevin Roberts), Mr Colin de la Haye (proposed by Pam Quéré, seconded by Steven Falle), and Mr Kevin Roberts (proposed by Martin Preisig, seconded by Martin Rouault). The President noted that Mr Kevin Roberts, having served for two full terms, had withdrawn his nomination and he thanked him for his service, commitment and willingness to continue. Proposers gave short speeches introducing their nominees and, with ballot papers having been issued, instructions given to vote for a maximum of two of the four remaining nominees. Mr Ricky Leith and Mr Martin Rouault volunteered as scrutineers to be assisted by staff members Mr David Hambrook and Mrs Rachelle Robinson. After the ballot was counted the President announced a very close result with 98 votes cast and only 8 votes separating the four nominees. Mr de la Haye recorded 30 votes, Mr Robinson 24 votes and Jennifer Rendell & Mr Steve Falle both with 22 votes. The President declared Mr de la Haye and Mr Robinson duly elected. He thanked all the nominees for putting their names forward which he thought was a very healthy situation for the Horticultural Department. He also noted that with Mr Preisig being elected Vice President his now vacant position on the committee will be filled shortly.

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**Item 12) To approve the annual subscription to be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020:**

The President explained that the Council were recommending that subscriptions be increased as follows: Individual Membership from £27 to £30, Joint Membership from £40.50 to £45 and Junior Membership to stay the same at £7. The recommendation was proposed for adoption by Mr John Le Feuvre, seconded by Mr Frigot with all in favour.

**Item 13) To award Honorary Life Membership to Mrs Pam Laurens:**

The President explained that Pam Laurens was travelling back from France therefore unable to be at the meeting and that a suitable occasion to present her with the certificate would be arranged in early course. He explained that the Council had unanimously agreed to award Pam Honorary Life Membership both in recognition of her 41 years' service as a member of staff, ultimately as Horticultural Secretary, and also for her continued involvement on the Spring Show Committee and her record of exhibiting at the Horticultural shows. The meeting gave an enthusiastic round of applause at the award.

**Item 14) To conduct any other business:**

RJA&HS Cultivate Programme: During the counting of the ballot Jess McGovern gave a presentation on the Cultivate Programme and showed a video film of the Cultivate Young Minds Day held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April. The President summed up the feeling of the members, who were very interested in the work and impressed with the results achieved so soon, congratulating Jess on the successful launch of the programme.

There was no other business raised and the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

These minutes were signed subsequently, on adoption, on the ..... (date) by:

The President / Chairman: .....

Vice President (Agricultural Dept): .....

Vice President (Horticultural Dept): .....