



NSA Marches Region Annual Regional Members Meeting minutes Wednesday 19th January 2020, 7pm at The Clive Arms, Ludlow, Shropshire

Attendees

Antony Spencer (Chairman)	Katie James (Secretary)	Henry Dunn
Carol Dunn	Mike Credland	Sarah Dunn
Richard Vines	Nick Hart	Louise Hart
Phillipa Page	Nigel Barratt	Ched Barratt
Ken Kennedy	Sarah Grantham	Alister Myles
Robin Edwards	Beth Jones	Annie Carr
Ellie Phipps	Tom Chapman	

Minutes

Agenda Item	Minutes
001	<p>Apologies. Anne Beaumont Hilary Mann Mike Carter Tom James Rollo Deutsch</p>
002	<p>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising. Minutes from last meeting - approved Matters arising – none raised</p>
003	<p>Election of office holders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman – Antony Spencer. Proposed by Henry Dunn, seconded by Richard Vines • Vice Chairman – Richard Vines. Proposed by Nick Hart, seconded by Mike Credland • Treasurer – Mike Credland. Proposed by Ant Spencer, seconded by Henry Dunn
004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-approval of region’s Trustee Director – Henry Dunn. Proposed by Richard Vines, seconded by Mike Credland
005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election and re-approval of NSA English Committee representatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ant Spencer • Kevin Harrison • Mike Credland • Richard Vines
006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All proposed by Nick Hart and seconded by Henry Dunn



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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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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of new committee members and endorsement of current – No further additions or departures from the committee
007	<p>Chairman's report.</p> <p>Ant reported that it was nice to have a busy year for the region.</p> <p>The year started with an excellent young shepherd's competition, special thanks go to Dave Harrison and family who hosted. Ernie Richards and Ellen Helliwell – NSA Next Gen ambassadors were excellent in taking a role in helping to run the day. Congratulations went to Tom Garlick who came first and who now goes forward to represent the region at the national event in July.</p> <p>June saw a farm walk (wet!) at Will Halfords at Kempsey, Worcestershire. Followed by a pie and pint courtesy of Will Halford. The event attracted a good number of new faces joined that was good to see.</p> <p>Katie James joined as the new regional secretary in June.</p> <p>The late summer meeting at Cotswold seeds was postponed to spring 2020 due to a delay on completion of their research centre that we hope to be able to visit.</p> <p>A halal market discussion was held in October with Awal Fuseini from AHDB that was very interesting and well attended.</p> <p>The year ended with the region hosting one of the series of meeting titled 'Setting the sheep farming record straight' with Phil Stocker, AHDB and British Wool. Thanks go to Chris Adamson who organised the successful meeting.</p> <p>Looking forward, it is hoped we will be able to visit Cotswold seeds in May and in addition to this we are happy to accept invitation for farm walks.</p> <p>NSA Sheep Event will take place in July – As Marches region does not have an event ourselves it is Marches region members responsibility to get involved to help with the running of the event.</p> <p>Next Gen Ambassadors runs again this year with Marches Region ambassadors Annie Carr and Beth Jones recently appointed.</p> <p>Congratulations to Sarah Dunn who is going to attend the European young shepherds competition in Paris later this month.</p>
008	<p>Treasurers report</p> <p>Mike Credland gave a short report on the region's accounts. NSA HQ does the majority of accounts now.</p>

	<p>As the region has hosted a few less meetings or meetings that have incurred less costs the region is currently sitting on £10k. Of this a contribution will go towards the Next Gen ambassador programme for the year ahead – Something Mike expressed is money well spent and that over the years it has really been a success for the industry.</p> <p>Because we have a good amount of money in the bank the region did not take a contribution from head office this year.</p> <p>Therefore important that we all support the sheep event as this helps overall NSA funding.</p>
009	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Nigel Barrett raised the point he felt NSA needed to be more proactive in defence of criticisms directed at our industry and questioned if regions do have money in the bank should the association not be spending it to help promote the industry and produce more.</p> <p>Ant Spencer responded by explaining how the media companies are driven by new, shocking information. Ant said he thought that social media is the answer. Ant invited ideas of what we could perhaps do on a regional basis?</p> <p>Ellie Phipps explained that progress is being made with regional press.</p> <p>Mike Credland said that as an industry we are too passive and individually we need to be more proactive. If we all keep talking to the public (Especially to the younger generation) we will get the message across.</p> <p>It was noted what a good job Phil Stocker is doing.</p> <p>Richard Vines said we need to be more on guard to ensure we are not exposed to those looking to seek advantage.</p> <p>Ant Spencer thanked Thursfield solicitors from Worcester very kindly sponsored the refreshments provided at both recent NSA Marches Region meetings.</p>
	<p>As there was no further business, the formal meeting was closed at 7.40pm.</p>

The meeting was followed by updates from NSA Communications and Policy Officer Ellie Phipps and a talk from Phillipa Page of Flock Health Ltd.