

# National Sheep Association

## Northern Region Annual Members Meeting



### MINUTES OF THE NSA NORTHERN REGION ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2022, Tyndale Function Suite, Hexham Auction Mart, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 3SG and via Zoom

**Present:** Carl Stephenson, Ted Ogden, Adam Watson, Daniel Taylforth, Greg Dalton, David Raine, Martin Brown, Val Brown, Thomas Vickers, Graham Wilkinson, Viv Lewis, Thomas Carrick, Stuart Weatherson, Eddie Eastham, Phil Stocker, John Geldard, T Gospel, M Oxley, Alan Alderson, A Lumley, J Stephenson, Natalie Stoppard, Chris Adamson

**Zoom:** Chris Harrison, Ted Ogden, Heidi Jackson, Anne Robson, Heather Stoney-Grayshon, Catherine Sanderson, Pam Pollock, Kenneth Lumley, ELAINE NEWHAM, Clare Wise, Emily Symonds, Catherin Boyd

Chairman Thomas Carrick welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** John Reed, James Rain, Josh Badwell, Jayne Knowles, Kevin Willson
- 2. To confirm the minutes of the last ARMM on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021**  
The minutes had been available to view on the NSA website. Proposed as a true and correct record by Eddie Eastham, seconded by Greg Dalton. Signed by Chairman, Thomas Carrick.
- 3. To consider matters arising from the above minutes – None noted**
- 4. Chairman's Report - Thomas Carrick**  
Thomas reported on how we have moved through another year heavily influenced by Covid looking back how remarkable it has been. We've had historic prices for our stock and at sustained levels throughout the busy periods in the back end of the year with breeding sales setting record levels of trade followed by very strong demand for finished stock.

Clearly there is a very healthy demand for our products, and it is that that fills him with the most confidence going forward, although heavy prices for all major inputs including fuel, fertiliser and feed will take most of the joy out of the situation, we can only hope that as the world recovers and moves on from Covid then the economic uncertainty around core commodities will stabilise.

Policy is still casting a shadow over everything we do and is likely to linger for a significant time to come. Its all in the mix and even after years of discussions, frustratingly we're not able to tell our members exactly what they'll be dealing with in 5 years' time. The only thing we do know with any certainty is that the farming economy is changing. Sheep farming businesses will have to be more resilient and adaptable, willing to change and accept new practices creeping into our daily workload.

Coming to the end of my term as Chairman of the Northern Region, I reflect on what is an overwhelmingly positive situation. We have a great organisation here in the NSA which punches well above its weight in terms of engagement with government. The core team at NSA led by Phil is making a great job of driving the association toward a more professional and forward-thinking body that is engaged as an industry partner and not ignored and pushed to the side as may have been the

case in the past. The greatest asset however, to NSA and indeed the sheep farming community is the level of support and time given by all those at the coal face who give their time and effort to making this organisation sing.

Thomas thanked Adam Watson for introducing him to the organisation, Eddie Eastham for helping him along when he was Vice chair, and more importantly all of the work that he continues to do. Viv Lewis as Vice chair has been great and brings a whole different skill set to the committee. Heather Stoney – Grashon for keeping him in check and making everyone’s life easy and Chris Adamson for coming onboard and driving things forward.

**5. To view the accounts for 2020**

**NSA Northern Region Treasurers Report for Financial Year to 31st December 2020.**

A copy of the accounts was displayed on the screen. Being a North Sheep year but having been cancelled there was very little income. The year sees a deficit of -£15,845.40 with funds of £66,632.94 in the bank. Proposed as a true and correct record by Carl Stephenson, seconded by Stuart Weatherson. Signed by Treasurer, Ted Ogden.

**6. Election/Re-approval of Officers:**

- a. **Chairman** – Viv Lewis, proposed by E Eastham, seconded by C Stephenson
- b. **Vice Chairman** – Ted Ogden, proposed by G Wilkinson, seconded by T Carrick
- c. **Treasurer** – Ted Ogden, proposed by A Watson, seconded by G Dalton
- d. **Representative to NSA English Committee** –Thomas Carrick to re-approve. Proposed by A Watson, seconded by V Lewis  
Eddie Eastham elected, proposed by T Ogden, seconded by G Dalton  
Viv Lewis elected, proposed by J Geldard, seconded by A Watson  
**NSA Regional Trustee** – Alan Alderson, J Geldard proposed to re-approve, seconded by D Taylforth

**7. Geoff Lawn Memorial Award**

This new Award is in memory of Geoff Lawn who sadly died last year. The Award will be given to young people who have excelled in the sheep industry. Before presenting the Award John Geldard gave a short speech paying tribute to Geoff Lawn recounting his involvement with NSA and the sheep industry over his life. Adam Watson then followed with a tribute to Hannah Brown. Adam told the audience how he was honoured to be asked to talk about Hannah Brown. He described Hannah as an exceptional young woman, with energy and motivation to get the job done and always making sure it was done to the highest standard. Adam presented the award to Hannah’s parents Martin and Val.

**8. Any Other Business**

None noted

The meeting was followed by a presentation from Phil Stocker at NSA on the on-going work being undertaken by NSA and Catherin Boyd from Defra talking about the role out of ELMS.

Meeting closed 9.30pm

Signed: ..... (Chairman)

Print: .....

Date: .....