



**National Sheep Association
South East Region**

Minutes of the NSA South East Region Annual Members' Meeting 2022

Held Virtually

Thursday 27th January 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 Tony Cave-Penny, Laura Goldsmith, George Horne and Dan Phipps

2. Minutes of the 2021 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 Les Morris and seconded by Bob Blanden with no objections.

3. Matters arising, not otherwise on the agenda. JB will not be putting forward the motion proposed at last year's 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."

4. Reports from regional officers

Chairman's report:

Firstly, Dan Phipps, Chairman of NSA Board of Trustees, called me earlier to apologise for not being able to attend this evening as he is busy lambing! He did however ask that I pass on to you the fact that they are seeing some cases of Schmallenberg, mercifully not huge numbers, but he just wanted to give a "heads up" to the fact that it is about.

As I said in my opening remarks 12 months ago, who could have imagined the disruption Covid has had and continues to cause. It has obviously had a curtailing effect on our Regional activities, once again leading to postponement of the Field Days. I can't believe it is 2 years since we first floated the idea! HOWEVER I have every confidence that they will go ahead this year on 7th, 8th & 9th June with one day in each of the northern, central and eastern areas respectively, of our SE Region. Watch out for more information in the April/May issue of Sheep Farmer and on all NSA social media outlets!!

We have a number of farm walks/visits either planned or in the planning stage. A new venture for our region, a ram sale, yesterday received the approval of the Regional Committee. This, the "South East Region NSA Ram Sale" in conjunction with Thame Market's second breeding sheep sale will take place on Friday 2nd September in Thame market.

As to what events we have managed to hold - in late October we did put on our biennial SHWAP Conference this time in virtual format on three consecutive evenings. Whilst it was a pity not to be



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National Sheep Association is an organisation which represents the views and interests of sheep producers throughout the UK.
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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face to face with our delegates the three topics did attract excellent, indeed, record numbers for an NSA on- line event with the advantage of being available to all across the U.K. and even beyond.

I would like to thank Matt Blyth, Susie Parish & Sarah Blake for all their hard work in helping to put the event together and also thank Becky Harrison at Malvern for unstinting, technical input and support throughout.

We managed to get in an excellent Farm Walk on the Isle of Wight in November—before Omicron closed in, and our thanks are due to Les Morris for organising this. It drew members from across the region to the Island. We saw a number of forage /cover crops established by a range of innovative methods by Les and his fellow Islanders. A most informative and enjoyable sunny day with a good lunch and excellent company!!

We will hear more of the wider contribution of NSA to our industry from Sean later in the evening.

In closing I would like to offer my thanks to all my fellow office holders and Committee members for their support throughout the year and to Sarah for her untiring secretarial support. I must single out for my, and indeed our, special thanks our Honourable Treasurer, John Britton, who is stepping down tonight but staying on as a Committee Member. Many thanks John for wrestling with the figures and Regional finances over the years.

5. Treasurer's report: John Britton, NSA South East Region Treasurer, gave a report for his fourth year in the role, referring those present to copies of a profit-and-loss sheet and a balance sheet to 31st December 2021 previously circulated and available on screen.

Treasurer's Report

- John was pleased to report that the Region's finances were stable. If the repayable grant from NSA (currently £5K) was converted into a gift the region would be reasonably solvent with assets exceeding liabilities by £1,491.45.
 - Bank balance at 26.01.22 - £6,829.92
 - Expenditure continues to be much reduced largely due to lower travel costs (most meetings continue to be held virtually)
 - SHWAP 2021 was financially extremely successful
 - £3,000 sponsorship for the Field Days due to be held in 2020 (£1,000 from MSD, £1,000 from DATAMARS and £1,000 from British Wool) has been ring fenced.
 - £500 Sponsorship (Mole Valley and SE Marts) for the Young Shepherd's competition has been ring fenced
 - A further instalment of £5K of the repayable grant from NSA Head Office remains available should it be required

John explained that he had been disappointed to note that the Strategic Review document recently circulated to regions stated that *"The relationship between NSA Head Office and NSA regions could continue to be strengthened. The model of NSA regions raising their own funds is the right one, but many regions want/need more support"*.

John strongly believes that the region should be granted 10% of the region's membership fees to meet regional core expenses enabling the committee to focus on providing informative and useful events for members and not on fund raising activities. As a result of this response John felt that it is obvious that NSA has already made a

decision and he therefore resigned from the role of Honorary Treasurer at the committee meeting held yesterday.

Nigel Durnford thanked John for everything that he has done over the last four years and asked if he would be prepared to stay on until a replacement has been found.

John agreed to attend the next committee meeting and interpret the figures.

Bob Blanden commended John for his stance and noted that resignation was the honourable thing to do in the circumstances.

John asked that his thanks to Karen Sumner at NSA be recorded, for her support and patience during his term of office.

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 second year of three-year term.	Proposed by Bob Blandon, seconded by Les Morris, approved en-bloc by all.
Chairman	Yann Le Du standing for 1 extra year beyond completion of 2 year term	
Vice Chairman	Susie Parish standing for 1 extra year beyond completion of 2 year term	
Treasurer		
English Committee reps	Matt Blyth starting second year, Yann Le Du, starting first year of a second three-year term Andrew Barr starting third 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: Bob Blanden proposed Rich Taylor, a former NSA Young Ambassador, seconded by Andrew Barr and approved by all.

7. Any other business:

Nerys Wright (AHDB) outlined AHDB's Shape the Future campaign.

In April 2022, levy payers will have the opportunity to have a say on the issues and services they would like AHDB to focus on and deliver in the future. This is an opportunity to influence how the levy is spent on the things that matter to you most.

The call for views will open in April 2022 but it won't be possible to vote unless you register first.

Registration is quick and easy and can be done by completing the form at:

<https://ahdb.org.uk/shape-the-future>

The deadline for registering is 31st March 2022.

8. Date of the next meeting: This was set for 2nd February 2023.

As there was no further business, Yann closed the meeting at 7.55pm. Yann then introduced two guest speakers – David Newton, Product Manager/Technical expert at Timac Agro who gave a presentation on Soil health and its link to animal nutrition and Sean Riches Policy & Technical Officer NSA who gave an update on NSA activities.