



BRITISH GUILD OF
AGRICULTURAL
JOURNALISTS

**British Guild of Agricultural Journalists
76th Annual General Meeting
Minutes**

Thursday, 14th March 2019 at 12.30pm

Sophi Taylor Building, NIAB Park Farm, Villa Road, Histon, Cambs CB24 9NZ

Present: Lord Curry of Kirkharle (AGM Chairman and BGAJ President), Catherine Linch (Chairman), Clive Rainbird (Treasurer), Jane Craigie (IFAJ Rep), Ben Briggs, Johann Tasker, Geoff Dodgson (Chaplain), Mike Abram, Rebecca Beaumont, Alex Black, Rebecca Callaghan, Angela Calvert, Olivia Cooper, Rebecca Davidson, Rebecca Dawson, Lauren Dean, Sara Gregson, Janine Heath, Peter Hill, Barbara Huddart, Naomi Hurst, Louise Impey, Petra Jacob, Paul Lay, Charles McDowell, Olivia Midgley, Adrienne Mitchell, Steve Mitchell, Hannah Noble, Hannah Park, Ben Pike, Julia Roberts Caroline Stocks, Juliette Tompkins, Andrew Watts, Amy Wooliscroft.

Apologies: Julian Cooksley, Nick Bond, Mary Vere Parr, Andrew Blake, Richard Shepherd-Barron, Simon Orpwood, Sarah Palmer, Jamie Day, Liz Snaith, Sam Luckin, Gaina Morgan, Stuart Booker, Maggie Bennett, Alice Turnbull, David Evington

1) Welcome; call to elect a chairman for the meeting

Catherine called the meeting to order and invited Lord Curry (LC) to chair the meeting.

LC opened the meeting.

2) Apologies for absence and approval of AGM minutes 2018

LC said the minutes had been circulated they were proposed by LI and seconded by GD and the minutes were duly adopted. LC introduced Bill Clark (BC) and invited him to give a brief introduction to NIAB.

3) Welcome from NIAB

BC gave a brief history of NIAB and a presentation (see attached presentation)

4) Review of the work of the previous year, Chairman Statement/Director's Report

See attached Chairman's Statement. There were no questions.

LC thanked CL for all she has done during her term in office.

5) Treasurer's review of audited accounts and election of auditor

See attached Treasurer's report and draft audited accounts.

CR presented the draft accounts to the membership. There is one element he is waiting for before they can be finalised but that would only improve our position by up to £2K. Therefore, he requested that the membership adopt the accounts on this proviso. The accounts were proposed by PL and seconded by PH and were duly adopted with the caveat stated.

6) Charitable Trust update and 200 Club Draw

See attached report.

Winners of the 200 club, which was drawn with Nikki Robertson as an independent witness:

John Allen – 1st Prize, £100
Catherine Linch – 2nd Prize, £50
Adrian Bell – 3rd Prize £25

CR asked the membership to come forward and speak to him if they would like to buy a share/or shares of the 200 club.

CR proposed a 5% levy on Subscriptions to be donated to the Charitable Trust from 2018 income, this was proposed by GD and seconded by OC and was duly agreed

7) **BGAJ International Activities**

- IFAJ
See attached IFAJ report and presentation.

- Report on the Perkins Global Award
Jack Yates gave his presentation on his trip to India (see attached).

8) **Elections:**

President – Baroness Boycott has been nominated as President

LC had suggested Baroness Boycott (BB) as an incoming President, CL and LC had met with her and BB agreed, therefore BB was proposed by JAC and seconded by CS and was duly elected as the new President of the BGAJ.

Chairman – Catherine Linch will commence her second year as Chairman

IFAJ Rep – Jane Craigie will commence her second term as IFAJ representative as agreed by Council

Directors – to serve on the management Council (maximum of 11)

Auditors – Campbell Dallas were proposed as auditors by CR and seconded by JT and were duly re-appointed.

Mike Abram has decided to resign as a director due to other commitments.

Ben Briggs has come to the end of his term as director is standing down.

Nominations have been received by the deadline for:

- a) Olivia Midgeley
BB gave a brief recommendation for OM who was proposed by BB and seconded by MA and was duly elected.

- b) Ben Pike
JT gave a brief recommendation for BP who was proposed by LI and seconded by MA and was duly elected.

- c) Caroline Stocks
CS was proposed by CL and seconded by MA and was duly elected.

9) **Motions – none received**

10) **Launch of a new Guild PR Award**

Representing JD, OC gave a brief overview. She said that the membership had indicated that there was a gap in our awards and the BGAJ consulted several PR practitioners in order to better understand the award requirements. There will be no major prize, the value will be pier to pier recognition but will also include 2 free seats to the Harvest Lunch.

11) Questions / Any other Business

GD introduced himself and told all present that his door is always open and all conversations would be treated impartially and in strictest confidence.

Andrew Watts asked if there is a desire to replace Perkins as a high level sponsor. LI said we are about to embark on a more proactive programme for sponsors but we are always seeking sponsorship new and old.

CL thanked NR and presented her with a beautiful bouquet.

CL thanked LC and said it had been an honour to have him serve as our President and a gift was awarded. LC thanked all, and said it had been an honour to serve as President. LC thanked the BGAJ sponsors, he said that the BGAJ could not function without them.

CL proposed LC as an honorary member this was seconded by CR and this was duly adopted.