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**British Guild of Agricultural Journalists**

**79th Annual General Meeting**

**Minutes**

**Thursday, March 24, 2022 at The Conference Centre, Bragborough Business Centre, Welton Road, Braunston, NN11 7JG at 11.45am**

**Present:**

**Face to Face: Alison Barrow, Olivia Cooper, Jamie Day, Ruth Downing, Alice Dyer, Milly Fyfe, Kendra Hall,. Barbara Huddart, Louise Impey, Petra Jacob, Marion King, Alli Lea, Frances McKim, Sarah McLeod, Gaina Morgan, Sarah Palmer, Ben Pike, Harriet Pullen, Alpha Ousmane Souare, Marion King, Toby Whatley, Emma Kelly, Catherine Linch, Baroness Mallalieu, Clive Marlow, Ali Parker, Louise Parratt, Clive Rainbird, Nikki Robertson, Johann Tasker, Hannah Wilson, Tom Hunt**

**Via Zoom: Peter Hill, Wendy Short, Rhian Price, Rebecca, Tom L, Alana Black, Ruth Wills Andy Newbold**

1. **Welcome; call to elect a chairman for the meeting**

CR called the meeting to order and asked OC to chair the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence and approval of AGM minutes 2021**

Baroness Boycott, Steve and Adrienne Mitchell, Ruth Widen, Adrian Bell, Nick Bond, Laura Yates, Emily Padfield, Liz Snaith, Heather Briggs

TH proposed the minutes which were seconded by LI and were duly adopted.

1. **Review of the work of the previous year, Chairman’s Statement**

See attached.

Proposed by CR and seconded by TH, the statement was duly adopted.

1. **Treasurer’s review of audited accounts and election of auditor**

See attached.

Proposed by RD and seconded by LI and these were duly adopted.

CR proposed that Azets (formerly known as Campbell Dallas LLP) be appointed as auditors this was seconded by BP and TH and the auditors were reappointed.

1. **Report on the Guild’s Charitable Trust; proposal to donate 5% of  
   2021 subscriptions (approx. £1640) to the Charitable Trust Funds**

See attached.

Proposed by OC and seconded by TH and the donation was duly adopted.

1. Elections:

**President**– The Baroness Mallalieu QC, nominated by the directors. Ann Mallalieu is a lawyer who lives on a family farm in Somerset. She is a Labour party politician in the House of Lords, where she serves on the Land Use in England and Rural Economy committees, and lists agriculture, animals, food and rural affairs among her policy interests. Baroness Mallalieu is President of the Countryside Alliance.

Proposed by OC and seconded by TH, a show of hands was unanimous, and The Baroness Mallalieu was duly elected.

Baroness Mallalieu thanked everyone present and said a few words accepting the role.

**Honorary Membership** – The Baroness Boycott, out-going President, nominated by the directors

Proposed by OC and seconded by RD and she was duly appointed Honorary Membership.

**Chairman of Council** – Johann Tasker, nominated by the directors. Johann is an experienced agricultural journalist covering industry news and agri-politics as senior reporter on Farmers Weekly and is now Projects & Podcasts editor. He is currently deputy chairman of the Guild, produces the annual Yearbook and has previously held the role of Guild communications secretary.

Proposed by LI and seconded by CR a show of hands was unanimous and JT was duly elected. JT accepted the role and thanked OC for her hard work over the last two years, he presented her with a gift and announced the Directors would like to make her a BGAJ Fellow which will be ratified at the next council meeting. JT said a few words accepting the role he said he would like his Chairmanship to concentrate on in-person training events and social events to make up for the past two years. He said that a chairman is only as good as the support they are given, and the support the BGAJ chairman receives is excellent from the 11 BGAJ Directors and Baroness Mallalieu, and pledged to do his best for the membership.

**Directors** – maximum of 11 to serve on the management Council.  Current directors: Olivia Cooper (chairman), Jane Craigie, Hannah Crawford, Tom Hunt, Olivia Midgley, Gaina Morgan, Ben Pike, Rhian Price, Clive Rainbird (treasurer), Liz Snaith, Johann Tasker (deputy chairman).

Having served as a director for the past five years, Guild rules require Liz Snaith to stand down as a director for at least one year. Hannah Crawford has resigned now that she is living and working in Canada. And with a total of 7 years serving as a director and, for the last 2 years, Guild Chairman, Olivia Cooper has decided it’s time to step down. There are therefore three director vacancies available to fill.

The directors meet either online or in-person at The Farmers Club five times a year to plan and manage all aspects of Guild membership, events, training, awards, communications, international relations, and so on, and may take on specific responsibility for these activities with the support of fellow directors and advisory members of the management council. Travel and other reasonable out of pocket expenses are reimbursed. Read more about the role of Guild directors on the Guild website or have a conversation with an existing director about the rewards of serving on Council.

**We have received the following Director Nominations:**

**Rosie Hopkins, nominated by Catherine Linch and Hannah Lloyd –**

*Since I began my career in communications in 2014 I have always been a part of the Guild of Agricultural Journalists and have benefited from a range of opportunities the Guild has presented and feel this is now my time to give something back.*

*I am particularly passionate about ensuring the Guild remains accessible to all age groups, especially those who are just starting their careers and hope that I can bring some fresh ideas and enthusiasm to the committee to make a difference in this area.*

*Likewise, having strong relations with the national press within my current role, building bridges with these contacts with my Guild ‘hat on’ to continue showcasing the great work of the Guild, to a broader audience, is something I would happily help facilitate.*

*Having seen the Guild from a members’ perspective for the last eight years, I am excited to have the opportunity to be an active member of the Council, working with the committee to plan and execute campaigns that will help develop the Guild and ultimately support an industry that I am so passionate about.*

Proposed by TH and seconded by JT and a show of hands was unanimous and she was duly elected.

**Andrew Newbold, nominated by Olivia Cooper and Liz Snaith**

*Having been a member and supporter of the British Guild of Agricultural Journalists for over 15 years, I wish to become a director and to play a part in the good work the Guild provides to its membership.*

*I can contribute from my experience as a publisher and events manager, but also from experience of operating membership organisations at board level.*

*With fellow BGAJ member Ann Newbold I run FarmSmart Publishing and FarmSmart Events. Our own titles, which I edit,  are Tillage & Soils, Precise, Agrimachinery News, Agrimachinery.trade and Cumbria Farm Business. I also edit and contract publish, Landwards, the membership magazine on behalf of the Institution of Agricultural Engineers. Our events include ScotGrass and Tillage-Live on behalf of the Agricultural Engineers Association and we also run the National Sprayer Demonstration.*

*My experience in governance comes from serving for 18 years of the executive of the Institution of Agricultural Engineers as a director and charity trustee, including 2 years as President of the organisation which serves some 3000 members. This time has helped me to understand the importance of delivering added value to members.*

*I believe that through my experience and wide range of contacts, I can make a significant contribution to the Guild as it seeks to deliver value to its nationwide membership.*

*The son of a Cumbrian farmer, trained at Harper Adams and Aston Universities, I continue my involvement with practical farming with a pedigree flock of Herdwicks and a commercial flock of North Country Mules on our farm in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.*

Proposed by TH and seconded by JT and a show of hands was unanimous and he was duly elected.

**Caroline Stocks, nominated by Clive Rainbird and Jane Craigie**

*I'd love to put my name forward to join the Guild's council at this year's AGM. Having previously sat on the council for four years, I know the important work it does in supporting agricultural journalists across the country, and I'd like to offer my help again.*

*I've been an agricultural journalist for over 15 years, starting out at Farmers Weekly before going freelance ten years ago. Since then I've written for farming publications around the world, written about agricultural issues for the mainstream press, and provided communications support to a variety of agricultural businesses. I completed a Nuffield Scholarship in 2010 on communication with farmers.*

**Chaplain** – Geoff Dodgson, Reader, Papworth Team Ministry, nominated by Peter Hill and Clive Rainbird

Proposed by TH and seconded by JT and a show of hands was unanimous and she was duly elected.

1. Motions – None
2. Questions / Any other Business

CR explained the 200 Club and announced the draw for this Spring with the winners being

Guy Faulkner – 1st

Godfrey Brown – 2nd

Ben Pike – 3rd