



### **Minutes of the 81st Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 5 May 2013, Winter Gardens, Blackpool**

**PRESENT:** Matt Baker (President), Milly Wastie (Chairman of National Council), Claire Worden (Vice-Chairman of Council), Helen Reeve (Chairman, Agriculture and Rural Affairs Steering Group), Hannah Talbot (Vice-Chairman of Council) & (Chairman, Competitions Steering Group), James Williams (Retiring National Chairman), Frank Chester (Chairman, Board of Management), Gwenno Griffiths (Chairman, Wales YFC), Hollie Harris (Chairman, Events Steering Group), Claire Raw (Chairman, Personal Development Steering Group), Diane Calvert (Chief Executive Officer). Club & County voting delegates.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Scottish Association of YFCs - Delegates Sally Wilson & Jenny Baillie, together with other Scottish members Laura Fleming, Scott Wilson, Heather Charles, & Anna Dickinson, Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster - Derek Fenton & James Gilpin, Macra Na Feirme - Derry Dillon & Michelle O'Callaghan, County and NFYFC staff.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Matt Baker and Diane Calvert confirmed the voting procedures for the meeting and Matt Baker explained the rules for the Sidney Fawcett Trophy and introduced the judges Mr Julian Sayers & Mr Derek Kerr supported by Competition Steward Mrs Sue Fellows.

#### **AGM/01/13 PRESIDENT'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Matt Baker welcomed everyone to the meeting, he said "I enjoyed going on stage on Saturday evening and seeing all the 'Where's Wallies' in red and white, a bit of a nightmare if you are a Newcastle United supporter! It is with a little heavy heart that this will be my last AGM as your President, but I am delighted to be here. Several people have been asking me why it is that I am stepping down, and it is purely because of a time issue, and I will be supporting you in exactly the same way as I have done, I still have the same passion and I will constantly be saying to Countryfile, "come on where's the Young Farmers perspective", and my connection is by no means over, I will still have contacts with the Board and you have nothing to worry about."

Matt Baker continued to especially welcome NFYFC Supporters & Sponsors from; BPI, CEJA, Defra, Grant Thornton our Auditors, HOPS Labour Solutions Limited, Massey Fergusson, Mole Valley, Nat-West, NFYFC Life Vice Presidents, Honorary Presidents and Deputy Presidents, NFU, Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institute, The Rural Youth Trust and The Young Farmers Ambassadors.

Matt introduced visiting delegates from Scottish Association of YFCs - Sally Wilson & Jenny Baillie, together with other Scottish members Laura Fleming, Scott Wilson, Heather Charles, & Anna Dickinson, Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster - Derek Fenton & James Gilpin, Macra Na Feirme - Derry Dillon & Michelle O'Callaghan.

Matt thanked members of the press from Farmers Guardian and Farmers Weekly for all their support and all the coverage you give throughout the year

Matt Baker called for a one minutes silence to remember members and friends who had sadly passed away during the year, especially those in tragic accidents and road accidents.

Matt Baker introduced the rules for the Sidney Fawcett Trophy, together with the judges and steward.

**AGM/02/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Valerie Baker-Gillam, Richard Camp, Diane Chennells, Sir John Cotterell, Sheila Dingley, Gerald Haines, Peter Jackson CBE, Douglas Murray, Anne Philips-Davies, Mark Houlton.

**AGM/03/13 INTRODUCTION OF THE TOP TABLE:** Matt Baker invited Milly Wastie to introduce the top table; Claire Worden (National Vice Chairman & Chairman 2011/13 Competitions Steering Group, Cornwall FYFC), Hollie Harris (Chairman 2011/12 Comms Events & Marketing Steering Group, East Riding of Yorkshire FYFC), Helen Reeve (Chairman 2011/12 Agriculture & Rural Affairs Steering Group, Norfolk FYFC), Hannah Talbot (National Vice Chairman 2012/13, current Chairman of Competitions, Worcestershire FYFC), Milly Wastie (National Chairman of Council 2012/13, Northamptonshire FYFC), Matt Baker (National President and Chairman of the meeting, County Durham), Diane Calvert (NFYFC Chief Executive Officer), James Williams (Retiring Chairman of Council for 2011/12, Hertfordshire YFC), Frank Chester (Chairman Board of Management, Cumbria), Claire Raw (Chairman 2011/12 Personal Development Steering Group, County Durham FYFC), Gwenno Griffiths (Wales Chairman 2011/12, Eryri YFC).

**AGM/04/13 APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICERS AND TELLERS**  
Matt Baker introduced Mr John Hardman (Returning Officer), Mrs Anne Sarsfield & Mr David Fellows (Scrutineers), Mr Jon Sarsfield, Mr David Heminsley (tellers), Mr Chris Lloyd (Chief Steward).

**AGM/05/13 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 80th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 29 April 2012, TORQUAY**  
By the show of voting cards the minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 29 April 2012, held in Torquay, were agreed as a true record and signed by Mr Matthew James Baker.

**AGM/06/13 PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT**  
James Williams addressed the meeting: "Ladies & Gentlemen it gives me pleasure to present to you the Annual Report to be adopted for 2012. There is no single part which makes up NFYFC, which makes us what we are. We have a number of steering groups and the board who will help me to present the report today, I now introduce Mr Frank Chester and the Treasurer Mr John Hardman."

**AGM/07/13 To receive the report of the Board of Management and Presentation of the Audited Accounts:**  
Mr Frank Chester addressed the meeting: "Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr President, honoured guests, fellow young farmers, Bore da. I was appointed your Board Chairman along with Dr Julia Pointon my Vice Chairman in October, we attended our first board meeting in December. As many of you will know the board had been chaired so ably by Mr Mike Stirk who had retired in June. Mr Jon Sarsfield took over as Acting Chairman and I would like to thank these two gentlemen for preceding us. It is many years since I stood at the front of an YFC AGM, the last time I did was in a theatre in Blackpool and it is still an awesome feeling. For many of you this will be your first AGM, I hope you are all enjoying it and the experience of a convention weekend.

My personal thanks go to all the YFC staff, the helpers and the supporters for making this fantastic AGM weekend possible. Thank you. Many of the things that we are able to do would not be possible without the huge financial support from all our sponsors; we are indebted to you for your generous support. Thank you.

Mr President, I would like to thank you for your support over the last two years, and having this green light in front of me has just reminded me of something. The other day I was talking to John Craven one of

your Countryfile colleagues. They had been down to Southwold with the beach huts and then Matt was driving home and they went through a set of red lights, then another set of red lights, then a third set of red lights, and John Craven said to Matt, did you realise you have gone through a red set of lights? And Matt said, am I the driver? He said I was daydreaming about going to Blackpool to see them cheerleaders and ballroom dancers!

I hope that you all take advantage of everything that NFYFC has to offer you, in the coming year I would like to see us provide more support, especially in the South East Area. Enjoy the rest of your weekend, be proud of being a YFC member, have lots of fun, Rhoi rhywfaint o Wellie, give it some wellie! Thank you.

John Hardman (Board Treasurer) addressed the meeting “Good Morning young farmers, as I have 2 minutes, and I would like to win my own prize, I’ll promptly move onto presenting the 2012 accounts as printed in the annual report. The budget team anticipated a break even position at best, but with new departmental accountability and cost savings, as well as some unanticipated income, we have achieved a surplus of £44,519.

Despite challenging stock market conditions our investments have increased in value by over £163,000. Sadly our investments are like land, and this increase in value would only turn into “real cash” if we were to sell some of our portfolio. However, this swells our “Net movement” of funds by £124,370; sadly it is only paper and not cash in the bank. So far all positive, however, we should not be complacent at our strong financial position. In the early 90’s membership levy accounted for nearly 35% of the federations income, falling to less than 15% 10 years ago, although the current percentage is above 20%, this is on a downward trend from 26% last year at £214,746 and this is very concerning.

NFYFC’s trading arm, HOP’s Labour Solutions Limited, has between 2007 and 2012 contributed over £1.5 million pounds to help run NFYFC. 2012 was an exceptional year for the business and managed to invest £319,000 to help run NFYFC - £119,000 over and above the year previously. It is highly likely that due to inward investment and tighter trading conditions HOP’s income to NFYFC may reduce and NFYFC should not be so reliant on this income in my opinion.

With this sort of investment and external support, backed by a strong balance sheet, NFYFC is in a good financial position going forward, has a full staff team, in addition to providing essential support to the counties with the NFU employment service and our own “in house” safeguarding team, as well as improvements that can be seen by our members, such as TEN26, YFC Buzz, well monitored social media, affinity deals, travel opportunities, and a new website as well as having young farmer representation in Europe through CEJA, and of course developing an excellent AGM weekend. Without continued and increasing support from external sponsors, DEFRA, HOPS and of course the levy, we would be hard pressed to continue the level of activity you are currently seeing, hence an increase in overall “Resources expanded” of £140,829 during the year.

To summarise, we have been very lucky to have had a bumper year, with support from HOPS and excellent efforts from the CEO and the NFYFC team we have made considerable operational savings that have been re-invested during the year. Our sponsorship revenue has increased, and we have been lucky enough to have some “windfalls”, with adequate reserves and investments arrangements by our Trustees. When I came to office I was very keen to ensure that our finances are seen to be transparent, because it is your money. The finance team and I are happy to field any questions after the meeting, as we are throughout the year, and a copy of the full

accounts is available at the back of the room. To conclude, 2012 was a year to be proud of financially, we should consider ourselves extremely fortunate, now is not the time for complacency, we would sell ourselves and our future members short by not continuing to re-invest in our future. If we don't reinvest in our own movement, grow our membership, and build on our own successes, why should anyone else. Thank you very much, have a great weekend."

**AGM/08/13 MOTION FROM NFYFC COUNCIL**

**"That the audited accounts for 2012 as printed be adopted" and "That a firm of auditors, Grant Thornton – Birmingham be appointed for 2013"**

Proposer: Faith Cosgrove (Cambridgeshire), Seconder: Alex Ross (Herefordshire)

Faith Cosgrove addressed the meeting: " I hope everyone is having a good weekend and there aren't too many sore heads this morning. Thank you Frank Chester and John Hardman for your reports, you have both made my job easier, although slightly harder to hit the 4 minute mark.

I am glad to propose the motion from NFYFC Council that the audited accounts for 2012 be adopted as printed. The 80<sup>th</sup> year has been a fruitful and profitable year, with many wonderful events occurring around the country in celebration. The accounts reflect the stellar year, that as a Federation we have had. However, we must continue to be aware that the costs of running the federation are as ever continuing to increase which is reflected within the accounts before you.

At the NFYFC Council meeting in February 2013, we had an extensive discussion around the accounts, with Frank Chester and Di Calvert coping well with the rigorous questioning, apologies I think that was me. After anxious scrutiny, from the Council and a detailed review by the Board of Management on the Friday previous, the accounts were passed with a resounding vote. I am therefore glad to propose the motion from NFYFC Council that the audited accounts for 2012 be adopted as printed.

In addition, I am pleased to propose the motion from NFYFC Council that a firm of auditors Grant Thornton LLP from Birmingham be appointed as auditors for 2013. Grant Thornton LLP is a world leading firm with clients across all sectors. They have a dedicated 'Not for Profit' team that specialise in the niche area of charitable organisations, like NFYFC. They have won industry awards for the standard and quality of their work and for client satisfaction.

2012 was Grant Thornton's second year as auditors for NFYFC, and they have again done a sterling job, exceeding all expectations. Grant Thornton is the Federation's external auditors, but they have continued to go above and beyond what is expected. The audit costs to the Federation compared with previous years have vastly reduced whilst continuing to pro actively look to how the Federation can save money. They have managed to negotiate NFYFC a substantial VAT refund which has helped to release previously lost funds back in the coffers. They have also looked at what would be the most beneficial legal status for us as a Federation going forward. The relationship between NFYFC and Grant Thornton has continued to improve with an excellent reporting process developing to Board of Management, and a good working relationship has developed between the CEO, Diane Calvert, Kathryn Godfrey of Grant Thornton who is here today, and Treasurer John Hardman. This can only continue to help the Federation going forward, and keep John smiling. Thank you."

Alex Ross addressed the meeting: "Mr President, Madam Chairman, honoured guests and fellow members, I am pleased to second the motions from NFYFC Council that the audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2012 be adopted as printed and that Grant Thornton LLP of Birmingham be

appointed as auditors for 2013. Mr President, it is fair to say that even on my best day I am not a numbers man and so I am glad that Faith has explained everything to you so well and I must second everything that she said. I can check my financial position at any time, just by looking at the contents of my wallet and I can report that after two days in Blackpool, I am suffering very difficult economic conditions and that the chances of recovery in the next twenty four hours are very remote.

The financial position of the Federation, as you can see from the accounts are much more complicated and so it is important that they are properly looked after on behalf of the membership and that proper financial statements are prepared, checked and audited. I would like to thank everyone involved in this during 2012. Mr President, I second the motions from NFYFC Council that the audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2012 be adopted as printed and that Grant Thornton LLP of Birmingham be appointed as auditors for 2013. Thank you very much."

The members voted on both Motions and these were carried unanimously, both Motions were passed.

#### **AGM/09/13 MOTION FROM NFYFC COUNCIL**

**"That the gross National Subscription (National Levy) for the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014 be increased by 5%)**

Proposer: Claire Worden (Cornwall), Seconder: Gareth Laking (Lincolnshire)

Claire Worden addressed the meeting: "Mr President, Madame Chairman, Distinguished Guests and Fellow Members. I am here today in front of you the members to propose an increase in the National Base Levy of 5% for the Period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 - 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014. I hope that you have all seen the little paper we have circulated giving you an explanation of how the levy is used and gives you a little bit more information than you have had in the past. Now I am going to do a very brief overview.

Now I'm sure there are a few of you members here today wondering why we need an increase. Or indeed what an increase actually means to you as members? Well I want you to ask yourself a couple of questions.....What have you gained from your membership, have you been travelling, have you taken part in competitions, have you gained qualifications that you wouldn't have gained without your membership? Now looking at the slides this is the current situation that we have, so as a membership we actually contribute about 44% of our income as shown on the slide, and by that we have our membership levy, we have convention that we all attend and obviously pay our money towards and we also have events that we put on ourselves. The other 56% you see is a mixture of investment incomes, HOPS incomes, donations and sponsorships, but actually as a membership we only contribute 44%, and our levy section of that 44% is 21%.

On the expenditure side as members we actually use about 50% of the expenditure so in that there is 28% which is admin which is the general staffing costs, 17% on convention, 3% on information technology our IT and database and 2% on club supplies. Within that 50% expenditure it doesn't even take into consideration the money that we actually spend on competitions and events as well. So as you can see as a membership we always talk about being members led by members, but what we actually currently contribute is a worryingly small figure. The reason why it is worrying is we rely very heavily on grants, donations and sponsorships and our arm of HOPS.

The 5% we are asking for today is actually only in line with inflation, we didn't have an increase last year, and if we weren't to get the increase this year, we would be staying at a flat rate. 5% what does that mean in money terms? At the moment our levy sits in a pot of £249,297, if we increase that by 5% it is actually going to give the Federation £12,464.00. With that £12,000 what we will do for you as members is we will keep the Federation running as it is now. We will still be able to offer the variety that we have, we will be able to build, we are looking at different activities with Discovery, you may have seen 'Outgoing' on your way in, they are exploring different avenues, so that we can try and build a more varied programme that you keep asking for as members, but unfortunately without a little thing like a levy increase sometimes some of this will just have to be put on hold.

I would like to propose that the motion for an increase in National Base Levy of 5% for the period 1st September 2013 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014, I will now hand over to Gareth who will explain more."

Gareth Laking addressed the meeting: "Good Morning Mr President, Madame Chairman, honoured guests, fellow young farmers and MBE's.

I would like to second Miss Claire Worden's proposal that the gross National Levy for the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014 be increased by 5% or approximately 56p. In the Financial year gone the national levy or in other words the amount of your membership that made up NFYFC's income was 21% but this figure keeps reducing. Don't you find it worrying that our membership accounts for just over 1/5<sup>th</sup> of NFYFC's income? I certainly do. It can't be sustainable for us to be contributing less and less each year. As John rightly pointed out in the early 90's membership levy accounted for nearly 35% of the federation's income and 26% last year and 21% for the year just gone. How can the Federation expect to survive another 80 years if this trend continues?

The money raised from the National levy helps towards staging big events such as competitions, training, discovery, marketing and publications such as Ten 26 and YFC Buzz. It also funds things which you might not see but are critical to running a successful organisation such as safeguarding plans, employment and IT support for counties, and a voice on many agricultural committees and organisations. This time last year I was fortunate enough to have been the County Chairman for the Lincolnshire Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs. The day after I got back from the annual convention our County Organiser handed in her notice. This was obviously a very difficult time for the federation and one I am not sure how we would have got through without the help and support from the NFU Employment Service. Just one of the many things the national levy contributes to. Also I am not sure if you are all aware or not but last year the gross National Level didn't increase so another way to look at this increase is 2.5% each year over the last 2 years.

Claire, Council and I are not asking for a lot here, were asking for a 5% increase approximately 56p or in layman's terms about 1/6<sup>th</sup> of a pint of beer to help secure the future of NFYFC for the next 80 years. Thank you."

Matt Baker drew the meeting to the detail that Yorkshire FYFC had put in an amendment to the Motion, for 2.5% increase but this was subsequently 'withdrawn'. Matt Baker asked if anyone wished to speak in response to the Motion tabled;

Adele Middlebrook – County Vice Chairman Yorkshire spoke on the Motion: "I urge you to vote against this Motion. Agriculture has just battled through the longest, hardest winter for generations. Just look at

the headlines, the Daily Telegraph “Farmers will go to the wall without your help”, Prince warns Britain. RABI Addlington Fund and other farming charities having to battle and support our farming families like never before. Our farming friends in the Isle of Man have lost millions, likewise our friends in Wales and of course the hills of England. It is not just livestock farmers, flooding and weather has meant that arable farmers are facing the prospect of the worst harvest in their life. All this on the back of rising world commodity prices because of reducing world supplies. Is it really the right message for the young persons farming organisation to increase its fees, when everyone else is assisting farming businesses throughout these tough times? It simply strikes me as greed, and looks like NFYFC is out of touch with its roots. Especially when we are a ‘not for profit’ organisation are making profits year on year. Thank you.”

Claire Worden replied to Adele’s proposal; “ One thing that I would like to pick up on is that we are asking for an increase of 5% in line with inflation, if we increase our membership numbers, your membership would not increase as an actual monetary figure. The way that it works, is that it is a levy pot and the reason why it is a percentage increase, is because it is a pot of money and it is that which increases. That pot then gets divided by however many members we have on the 31<sup>st</sup> August that year and that then gets divided with the money we have, so last year the figure was £11.05, if we keep our membership exactly the same number it will increase by 56p.

If we increase our membership base, we want to actively recruit new people; your money which we actually physically pay will still be reduced. We are a membership organisation that needs to be recruiting members and that is going to help for the future of us as an organisation and it will help your pockets as well. Thank you.”

Matt Baker called on the members to vote, the votes were counted and the results were announced during the meeting: For the Motion increase **77 members, Against 115**. The Motion was defeated.

At the point when the Motion was defeated John Hardman (Treasurer) addressed the meeting and gave his response: “As Treasurer I am really disappointed because I don’t think it is in the best interests of the Federation not to increase the levy as some point. So we have had two years on the bounce with no increase in the levy, however, I respect our Constitution and our right to vote here, but there is something you really need to consider, and we as a Board need to consider listening more as I believe there are other reasons why this did not go through.

The levy proposal didn’t come from Milly; it didn’t come from our Chief Executive, from Frank or from me. It came from Council, your representatives, so I have ‘one of these’ and I have ‘two of these’ (*JH points to mouth and holds up hands*), so please talk to me and tell me why you didn’t push this through. I am at your service and I still will be a very proud young farmer.”

#### **AGM/10/13 MOTION FROM NFYFC COUNCIL**

**“That the National Levy for Associate Members be increased from £5.00 to £10.00 for the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014**

Proposer: Lynsey Martin (Kent), Seconder: Lizzy Hunt (Bedfordshire)

Lynsey Martin addressed the meeting: “I am here today to propose the associate levy rise from £5 to £10 from the year starting September 2013. I want to start with an analogy. If the competing members are the heart of the organisation, then the associate members are the blood without which the heart could not survive because without the associates’ knowledge, support and guidance competing age members would not be able to get as much out of young farmers as we do, I certainly would not be here today

without the help and support from some fantastic associates. However to go back to the analogy what is the blood without the heart? If the heart were to have to support the blood the both would wither and eventually die. This some of you may believe to be more than an overstatement but how else would you put it when essentially we are partly subsidising our associates?

Unfortunately the £5 associate levy that was bought in back in 2009 is no longer adequate to cover the benefits that they receive from their membership. The perks that come with our membership have grown and changed since this levy was first introduced, such as the changes to Ten26 and the introduction of the affinity deals. As we have already heard from John Hardman during the presentation of the accountants if it weren't for the unexpected windfall the accounts would not look so rosy.

As always with young farmers a lot of the funding that we receive is restricted as to what it is spent on, as to be the funding generated from the associate levy. According to part 6(c) of the constitution that states

“...funding generated by this subscription is restricted for use by the Federations' Personal Development and or Training programmes of work”

As we all know both of these programmes of work are at the very core of young farmers creating learning and achievement opportunities that the members so desire. These programmes of work are open to all members of the organisation, not limited to competing members so associate members would to be benefiting from the further investment.

With these two programmes of work it is also important that they have the opportunity to develop and grow as our industry and membership changes and develops to accommodate new aspects of career and personal development. How would this be possible without increasing investment to provide new, fresh and vibrant training as well as the old favourites to keep giving our members the opportunity to grow throughout their time with us? This surely is the very essence of personal development and it is this that we all go far to promote as one of the key aspects of young farmers.

You have heard me speak about providing opportunities a lot today and it happens to be an unfortunate fact that in this day and age that providing opportunities requires money and investment. It is also an unfortunate fact that in this day and age even given how trendy it is currently to be a young farmer that economic climate makes it hard to secure grants or investment.”

Lizzy Hunt addressed the meeting: “I will keep this short and sweet. I am not standing here to win a prize just to second Lindsey and simply back the reasons that have been given for the need of an increase in levy for associate members.

I have always felt as a member of young farmers you only get out what you put in. This is also something which I believe is true for associate members. At present associate members are getting back far more than they are financially contributing, which as an associate member myself I do not like the thought of when I still get so much from being a part of the organisation. The rise would still only mean a contribution of less than 85p a month for access to so many resources, opportunities and benefits.

I would therefore like to second the proposal that the associate levy rise from £5 to £10 from the year starting September 2013. I strongly urge you to back this motion so that associate members pay their way in the organisation. “



Edward Humber (Cornwall) responded to the Motion: “ Good morning Mr President, Madam Chairman, distinguished guests, fellow young farmers, I wish to oppose the Motion that the National Levy for Associate Members be increased from £5 to £10. In Cornwall we have over 60 Associate members and each and every one of these subsidises the junior membership in our clubs. It is an overwhelming view that if their membership costs rise, they will not continue to sign up and this will have a huge detrimental effect on our County and our young members of YFC. In general Associates are the ‘wise owls’ who have been there and got the T-shirt, without them our clubs won’t have their knowledge to fall back on. Associates have already paid their dues in their active years, why penalise them now, when they are securing our junior memberships, if it is a cost thing that is the big issue, then remove their TEN26, as they would happily go on-line and read it, rather than receive it through their door. Please think about the wider impact of this Motion, and I urge you to join me and oppose the Motion that the National Levy for Associate Members be increased from £5 to £10 for the period 1 September 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014. Thank you.”

Lynsey replied: “ We all know within counties how the associate levy is charged and this varies greatly from county to county. You look at Cornwall who as Ed has says they subsidise their member’s events, but look at Norfolk who appreciate that associates get as much out of young farmers still, as the rest of the senior membership, yet they are charged as the same price levy as a senior member at a county level. This rise is not about marginalising associates, and I wouldn’t want anybody to think that. It is just asking that instead of partially subsidising them, that they are just paying their fair share.”

Matt Baker called on the members to vote, the votes were counted and the results were announced during the meeting: **For the Motion increase 84 members, Against 101.** The Motion was defeated.

**AGM/11/13**

#### **MOTION FROM NFYFC COUNCIL**

**“That Matthew James Baker is thanked for his services to the federation over the past year, and Poul Christensen be elected from May 2013 – May 2014.”**

Proposer: Caroline Baker (County Durham), Seconder: Keith Foster (Cumbria)

Caroline Baker addressed the meeting:” Good Morning Mr President, Madame Chair, Ladies, Gentlemen, fellow Young Farmers and Guests. It gives me great pleasure to be standing here today, at my first National AGM to propose the Motion that Mr Matthew James Baker is thanked for his services to the Federation over the past year, and Mr Poul Christensen CBE be elected from May 2013-May 2014.

I find it remarkable what you can be talked into after a long day of debating and some socialising at my first ever council weekend.

I would like to start this morning by thanking Mr Matthew Baker for his contribution to NFYFC over the past year. There have been many occasions to mention and memories that members will cherish for years to come. Cast your minds back to summer 2012 and rain, rain and more rain, but aside from the weather the 2012 Olympics played a huge part for many of us all over the country. It was an honour for County Durham to be given the opportunity to welcome Matt back to his home County as part of the Great British Food for Great British Athletes project which took place during the torch relay prior to the Olympic Games.

I think you’ll all agree that it has been exciting having such a well known celebrity as National President and up in Durham there has been a huge amount of pride thrown in the mix with Janice, Matt’s Mother being our County Organiser. I will never forget our End of Harvest Ball where guests crowded round one rather small T.V screen to watch Matt Dance on Strictly!

For me one of the best sights of the past year was at the National 80<sup>th</sup> Gala Ball, during which a dance with Matt was auctioned. It created such a feel good factor within the room and brought a lot of smiles to everyone's faces! So there you have a whirlwind tour of Matt's 2<sup>nd</sup> year as National President and I am sure you will all agree that this has merely touched the sides of the support and enthusiasm for YFC that Matt has shown us over the past 2 years, so I would like you all to join with me and thank Matt for all of his hard work in true Young Farmers style.

Up until 2 weeks ago I hadn't had the pleasure of meeting or even indeed speaking to Mr Poul Christensen. After a brief email conversation I picked up the phone and rang Poul with the intention of discovering a little more about our incoming president. Feeling a little nervous I managed to tell Poul, within the first few moments of our conversation that I had already goggled him. Slightly taken aback we continued chatting and the first thing to strike me was that Poul was totally calm amidst my flapping and babbling on about Young Farmers.

Digging deeper into Poul's back ground I discovered that he became a Young Farmers Club Chairman at aged just 12 and that he has four children all of whom have taken full advantage of Young Farmers and 2 of whom have been married off to fellow Young Farmers, another prime example of the dating service YFC also provides. During our conversation it became clear to me that Poul is extremely enthusiastic about Young Farmers and in particular how to reach out to every single member ensuring that every single one of us has a voice and knows how to use it. This is an area that Poul feels very passionate about and he most certainly wants to continue to drive the Federation forward to help individual members realise their potential. Poul is extremely keen to promote the Federation and get us firmly stuck on the map, to become a force to be reckoned with amongst youth organisations and to continue the fabulous work of Young Farmers Clubs up and down the country to equip members with vital life skills and experience in the topsy turvy industry that is farming and beyond!

Currently outside of Young Farmers Poul is a member of the BBC Rural Affairs Advisory Committee for Countryfile another very important link that can be continued on from Matt's connection. Other links include being a current Board Member of Agricultural Central Trading and Chairman of Natural England. And the list doesn't stop there; Poul is a Senior Partner of a successful family dairy farming business in Oxford and is the joint founder of the Tenant Farmers' Association. His past roles have included Chair of the Milk Marquee, Chair of the Rural Development Service, and a member of the DEFRA Management Board until 2009 and received the Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1991 for his services to Agriculture. I am sure by now you are starting to build a picture, as I was whilst on the phone to Poul, of a very well informed Gentleman who is knowledgeable, passionate, approachable, and experienced in our field with a spectacular CV so without further ado I would like you all to join with me to add another string to his bow and support the motion to Elect Mr Poul Christensen as President of NFYFC. "

Keith Foster addressed the meeting: " I would like to thank Matt Baker for all the time and effort he has put into our federation over the past two years, I believe having such a high profile President who members can see nearly every day on the television, has really helped to raise our profile in the public and media as our organisation goes from strength to strength. It has been a pleasure to have him as our President, as I am sure you will all agree he has been an excellent role model for all our younger members.

Poul Christensen who I have just met this morning, and who I have just only goggled this morning which says a lot about my organisation, I couldn't help but be impressed. A Director of a successful dairy business in Oxfordshire, Poul's roots are firmly in agriculture, he has done so much to progress in our sector over the years and in 1981 he was a joint founder member of the Tenant Farmers Association, to enable tenant farmers to have a voice within the industry on key issues. He was Chairman of the Milk Marketing Board and Rural Development Agency until 2006 where he oversaw the modern environment obstutory schemes now the backbone of balancing food production and looking after the environment

and so many farms across the UK today. Poul has also held roles within Defra's management board, and is the current Chairman of Natural England. I am sure a man with Poul's track record and as our President we will continue to go from strength to strength, and I am sure we are all looking forward to get to know Poul a lot better over the next year. So young farmers I would like to ask you to join myself and Caroline and support the Motion to elect Poul Christensen NFYFC President from May 2013 – May 2014.

Matt Baker responded: "I can tell you without the use of Google, he is a thoroughly lovely bloke, and I am very happy to be handing over the reign to Poul.

Matt Baker called for the members to vote, the vote was unanimous and Mr Poul Christensen was duly elected National President from May 2013 – May 2014. Matt Baker presented Poul with his President's badge and James Williams presented flowers to Mrs Margaret Christensen.

Poul Christensen addressed the meeting: "Thank you young farmers very much indeed and thank you Matt for holding the seat and handing over to me, which gives me enormous pride, but before I go on to that, the fact that Margaret was stood beside me a second ago, indicates that we will do this job as a team and we are both looking forward to that very much indeed. I am absolutely conscious of the very very big boots to which I am stepping into, Matt you are going to be a hard act to follow, I watched you yesterday being mopped by your adoring fans, I am looking forward to the same treatment, but my 'running mate' has already told me not to expect too much!

The federation of which I have just been elected your President is second to none in my view, in terms of youth organisations in this country, the life skills that you as individual members gain from being members of this organisation will stand you in good stead for the rest of your lives, and you are learning so much subconsciously as you go through your time with YFC you don't realise it is happening. Caroline when she spoke to me on the telephone said that she had never done anything like this before, she had never been to a convention of this size and she has stood up here and leave aside what she said about me, the way she did it, Caroline I thought was outstandingly good, and that is the sort of skill that you learn. The leaders of our industry if you look around them now, they have mostly been through young farmers, and this organisation has set them on the road to success.

I stood last night, and the night before looking down on the dance floor, and I mean last night was just something else, and I reckon if you could have harnessed that (I couldn't find my wife I don't know why), and I was looking for Matt all night and I never found him. With the energy that came out of that room last night you could have driven the national grid for a week, and that is something else that we should all be proud of.

I will do my very best to represent you all in the time I have to do this job, we both will, you are such a worthy cause, but you contribute so much, not just to the farming industry, but much wider than that indeed to society, you have been involved in the most important agenda in the world and that is producing food, looking after our environment and I will do everything I can to help you to continue to do that. Thank you."

#### **AGM/12/13 MOTION FROM NFYFC COUNCIL**

**"That the 2012 deputy presidents be thanked for their services to the federation over the past year and that the following be elected from May 2013 – May 2014."**

Eastern Area – Christopher Hunt, East Midlands Area – David Herbert, Northern Area – Diane Coles, South East Area – Alethea Snelling, South West Area – Richard Camp, Wales – Gwynne Davies

Proposer: Matt Tomkins (Worcestershire), Seconder: Chris Manley (Devon)

Matt Tomkins addressed the meeting: "Mr President, Ladies, Gentlemen and Fellow Young Farmers'. Good Morning, It is with great pleasure that I have the opportunity to thank the 2012 deputy presidents

for their services to the federation over the past year and I would like to propose that Diane Coles, Linda Savage, Christopher Hunt, David Herbert, Alethea Snelling, Richard Camp and Gwynne Davies be elected as Deputy Presidents from May 2013 – May 2014.

Diane Coles now holds the role of Northern Area President and is also a trustee of the area. Her career within the Young Farmers' movement however started as a young girl when she joined Durham City Young Farmers with her two sisters. She held the posts of club secretary and treasurer before heading to college to train as a teacher. Diane returned to Durham to teach where she immediately resumed her involvement within county young farmers holding several posts before becoming County Chairman.

Always a farmers' daughter at heart, following a brief retirement from the Durham County Executive, she was asked to return and stand as the County Treasurer – a role she still holds today. It is fair to say Diane's involvement and enthusiasm for young farmers throughout her career makes her an inspiring character to have as a deputy president.

Linda Savage from the age of 16 has dedicated her life to Young Farmers, so much so it is very difficult to draw a line between her efforts as a member and later as an associate. Despite climbing through the ranks of the Shropshire Federation and sitting as County Vice-President for several years before serving a 3 year term as County President, Linda never lost sight of her grass roots and still acts as Vice-President for her home club of Nesscliffe. Linda has forever shown a passion for public speaking and entertainment competitions and gains huge satisfaction from helping the present day members to develop their skill and self confidence. I am sure it is fair to say Linda's enthusiasm for the arts has worn off on her own club of Nesscliffe seeing them perform here in the National Final this weekend.

Alongside becoming a farmer's wife and mother to 3 sons her commitment to Young Farmers and the rural community is beyond outstanding and I am very much looking forward to working alongside her in the West Midland Area. In her own words Young Farmers is the key to keeping young at heart and Linda certainly has explored every opportunity that the organisation has to offer and will make a fantastic deputy president.

Gwynne Davies has gained a vast wealth of experience as a past Ceredigion, Wales and National Chairman back in 1987. Gwynne sits on an endless array of young farmers' committees providing invaluable advice and guidance to present members alongside being very active within the wider agricultural community. Gwynne is an irreplaceable asset to the members and the Welsh Federation putting him in a superb position to stand as a deputy president.

Alethea Snelling – her dedication to the Young Farmers movement in the South East is unmatched, joining Newbury YFC as a junior she held almost every club position alongside taking her competitive streak to many a National Final. Her commitment in the South East Area culminated in Alethea standing as South East Area Chairman for two consecutive years before taking her efforts to National. Slightly beyond competing age now she gains much enjoyment, aiding and watching the efforts of present day members, which makes her a most suitable candidate for a deputy president.

I am sure you all agree that the wealth of experience and enthusiasm that these candidates have displayed can only be beneficial to the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs and so it is without hesitation that I would like to propose the motion that Diane Coles, Linda Savage, Christopher Hunt,

David Herbert, Alethea Snelling, Richard Camp and Gwynne Davies be elected as Deputy Presidents from May 2013 – May 2014.”

Chris Manley addressed the meeting: “Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished guests and fellow Young Farmers it is a great honour to second the motion from Council for the Election of Deputy Presidents, Christopher Hunt, David Herbert, Diane Coles, Alethea Snelling, Richard Camp, Gwynne Davies, Linda Savage. I would also like to reiterate our Proposers vote of thanks to last year’s Deputy Presidents for their hard work and dedication in supporting NFYFC and warmly welcome the proposed election of new Deputy Presidents Diane Coles and Linda Savage to add to our star studded team. I am now going to take this opportunity to tell you a little more about our remaining three Deputy Presidents that have not been covered by our Proposer.

Eastern Area – CHRISTOPHER HUNT - Chris is an active farmer with arable, sheep and turkeys near Woburn in Bedfordshire. Both his parents were members of the local YFC club and Chris and his wife Mary were active members, both being club and county chairmen in the 80’s. Their three children are all keen members with the eldest two already being club chairmen and taking part in international exchanges through the Discovery programme to Australia and Kenya. I think it is fair to comment that Young Farmers runs in his blood. In 1974 Chris travelled with Young Farmers to the USA and through his trip went to the White House and heard Jimmy Carter, the then President, address the Future Farmers of America. He then served on the International team at national level for many years. He was President of Bedfordshire FYFC for 5 years, and elected to be Eastern Area President, a long journey since those modest days as a member of Dunstable YFC.

Outside of Young Farmers he is a church warden of his local church. With the responsibility of taking an office, the many competitions on offer and the leadership and training courses, Chris firmly believes that there is no other youth organisation in the country that better prepares you for life than Young Farmers.

South West Area – RICHARD CAMP- Richard was brought up on a mixed South Devon farm and soon after leaving school joined the local Totnes YFC. With Totnes being a rather small club he was soon taking part in competitions and holding office. Richard met his wife Ann through YFC and together they held the offices of Chairman and Secretary for the then South Devon Group.

Ann has kept him organised ever since! Travel scholarships to Yugoslavia and the European Rally in the Netherlands provided a meeting place for life- long friendships as indeed do all YFC activities. He particularly enjoys training and judging the speaking competitions and watching young people’s confidence grow as a result. Being President of Totnes YFC of which his son Christopher and daughter Danielle are members fills him with pride. He regards the Presidency of South West Area as a great honour. At home he breeds pedigree South Devon cattle and has been local NFU branch Chairman.

East Midlands Area – DAVID HERBERT - Growing up on a small holding, David joined Kelmarsh YFC as soon as he could drive, and progressed to become County Competitions Coordinator, and then County Chairman. This led to membership of the East Midlands Area Committee and later becoming their representative to National Council. Since retiring as a competing member, David has become a Vice-President of Northamptonshire County Federation, and had the pleasure of becoming East Midlands Area President last year. He regularly judges and stewards at County and Area events. David believes in the importance of each member knowing what is expected of them, and also what they can expect from the organisation – successful communication being the key within both YFC and general life. He is keen to educate ordinary, non-politically minded club members, of the benefits of the YFC hierarchy and how their voices may be heard in the shaping of change. Although his jobs have not been related to rural life, (currently designing Aerospace electronics and software) he has found many of the YFC courses beneficial to modern commerce, especially Leadership Training and Train the Trainer.

Without the experience of these and the YFC debating and public speaking competitions, he feels that he could not have led successful local campaigns to Public Enquiries, and wants others to have the same opportunities. When not renovating his house, or involved in YFC activities, David trains cavers, and is a Cave Rescue volunteer. All of our scintillating seven hold Young Farmers dearly in their hearts and are true advocates for the number one organisation that gives young people the tools to make a difference!

It gives me great pleasure to formally second the motion for Christopher Hunt, David Herbert, Diane Coles, Alethea Snelling, Richard Camp, Gwynne Davies, Linda Savage to be elected as Deputy Presidents for the forthcoming year."

Matt Baker called for the members to vote on this Motion, the members voted and were unanimous in electing the NFYFC Deputy President as listed from May 2013 – May 2014.

**AGM/13/13 Continuation of the Presentation of the Annual Report – Presentation & report of the Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee (ARAC). Helen Reeve**

Matt Baker called upon James Williams to continue with his presentation of the Annual Report. James Williams introduced Helen Reeve to present the report of the Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee (ARAC). Helen Reeve addressed the meeting: "It is safe to say that 2012 was an action-packed and busy year for the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee. When I first took on the role as Chairman of ARAC, I knew that I had the support of a fantastic bunch of Young Farmers from around the country that form the committee and I am extremely grateful for their ideas, input, suggestions and enthusiasm for taking ARAC forward. I have always been really keen to encourage Young Farmers to take part in training opportunities so in the last 12 months, I wanted as many members as possible to get involved with training to help with their careers and personal skills. Tenancy training days, thanks to sponsorship from Savills, have been a great way to promote and nurture the business skills required for tendering for a tenancy, whilst many members were able to take advantage of the Meat The Market events thanks to EBLEX and Defra. We also launched a stock judging DVD which has been sent to every county so there really are no excuses for not knowing how to give reasons!

Investigating CAP reform and how the European Union affects UK agriculture played an important part of the committee. Thanks to Richard Ashworth MEP for South East who sponsored a trip for young farmers to experience at first hand the hub of the European Union. With the wrangling of CAP reform being a particular area of concern for young farmers, it was encouraging for members to get the chance to speak to MEP's and lobbyists to share their concerns and worries over the proposals. Further to this after a year of 'observer' status of CEJA (European Young Farmers), thanks to Mole Valley Farmers, NFYFC have now been given full-membership status of this extremely worthwhile group. Representatives are able to attend a series of seminars and discussion groups across Europe which is encouraging to our own debates held here in the UK.

With my own livestock background (primarily dairy and beef), I was keen to encourage discussions on the future of dairy farming and was really excited that at the ARAC Forum at the AGM Convention weekend in Torquay that we were not only joined by the then Agriculture Minister, Rt Hon Jim Paice, we were also joined by Graham Keating – the Marketing Executive for Yeo Valley. Graham's vision for promoting Yeo Valley acted as a catalyst for members in the audience to attend a 'walk the future dairy chain' day at Yeo Valley HQ later on in the year. A fantastic trip that proved to be a real eye-opener to all who attended. Further to this, to show our own support for the #SOSdairy campaign which gripped the industry in light

of the drop of milk prices, we launched our very own petition which has been signed by thousands of people. People power really does help!

With the Olympics being a major part of the last year, it was brilliant that NFYFC were able to get involved with promoting British food and farming. The project of Great British Food for Great British Athletes was held in conjunction with NFYFC and Natural England and saw members promoting our Great British fare along the route of the torch relay.

Over the year I was really honored to be able to attend a number of high-profile events such as the Oxford Farming Conference and NFU Conference, but it was near the end of my term as chairman that I was invited to three really exciting occasions. Sarah Palmer (NFYFC ARAC staff) and I attended the FreshStart Seminar held at Highgrove – the home of HRH Prince of Wales. Prince Charles attended this meeting where we had the chance to highlight the issues affecting young entrants and to raise awareness of the feasibility study NFYFC have completed on a possible matching service for landowners and potential tenants. I also had the chance to visit the House of Lords for the launch of the Lord Plumb Foundation to encourage and assist new and young people into agriculture.

As one of only three young people to act as ambassadors for the launch, it was great to see so many people enthused by agriculture and the younger generation carving a path in the industry. Following on from those events, I was invited alongside more YFC representatives to meet the new Farming Minister, David Heath and many MPs to discuss farming, young entrants and the Campaign to Protect Rural England. Three fantastic days that I was proud to represent ARAC and NFYFC at.

YFC offers so much for Young Farmers from learning new skills, training to meeting new people and gaining essential information to take the industry forward. The voice of Young Farmers is stronger than ever which is encouraging at a time when we almost certainly deserve to have a say. We are now able to have a platform at a number of events to have our say and it is important that Young Farmer members across the country remember that our views are important for the rest of the industry to act upon. I would like to wish Chris Bateman and the new committee the best of luck for the forthcoming year, and remember – agriculture needs young people’s enthusiasm and ideas to succeed.”

**AGM/14/13** **‘Drive It Home’ Rural Road Safety Campaign** - James Williams introduced Milly Wastie to give an update on the ‘Drive It Home’ Rural Road Safety Campaign – Milly addressed the meeting: “Since I launched the NFYFC Drive it Home campaign in November you, the members, have really got on board in working together to improve road safety on rural roads. Thanks to support from NFU Mutual, Rural Youth Trust, Farmers Weekly, Drive Doctors, Harper Adams, Brake, Road Safety Analysis, the campaign got off to a great start at the Prodrive race circuit.

Many members attended and had the opportunity to take their own vehicle on track to understand how to tackle different driving conditions such as snow, ice and flooding. With national media coverage on Radio 1, ITV regional news and of course our dedicated farming media we were able to get our message out there on what Young Farmers wanted to achieve over the coming year. Check out our YouTube clip Drive it Home YFC to find out more or tweet using hash tag #driveithomeyfc. The campaign’s objectives are to educate and inform, change attitudes and save lives. Last month the first Brake course was launched at Cotswold Farm Park with the help of Adam Henson and there are 6 more dates to follow – flyers are on your seats – did I mention it was free to attend?

A member who went on the first Brake course got a lot from the training and said: "Everyone in Young Farmers knows someone who has been involved in a collision or been hurt through driving. I think by coming on the course it gives me the opportunity to educate other road users the same age as myself. I can go back to my county now and give a presentation to each club. Even if it only gets through to two people it will be worth it." Looking forward we are working with the Association of British Insurers on communicating the positive effects of integrating graduated driving licenses. Looking at other countries that operate the scheme, the positive impact has lowered serious injuries and road deaths dramatically as well as a reduction of up to 20% on insurance premiums. Please also take time to complete the online survey we have with Road Safety Analysis looking at attitudes towards driving on rural roads. More information is available on the NFYFC website and Facebook page."

#### **AGM/15/13**

**Presentation & report of the Competitions Steering Group - Claire Worden** Claire addressed the meeting: " Mr President, Madam Chairman, fellow Young Farmers and guests, firstly I want to thank everybody in this room for the contribution they give to the competitions programme and the steering group every year, there are many of you in here who are part of the steering group, many of you judge and steward and give your time and it is really valuable time and it is very much appreciated. Competitions has a massive reach within our membership, I would just like to see a brief show of hands, how many of you have ever taken part in a competition whether at a local rally, county, area or national final? As you can see competitions has a massive impact, I think that is pretty much everyone in this room.

I was a very active competing member and it was a massive honour for me to be elected as comps chairman last year so that I could give back to the membership, because for me I got so much out of it for myself. Part of my aims for last year, I wanted to ensure that the variety of competitions continues. We have such a massive reach within our organisation, we have a massive skill base, we have so many different abilities within our membership and I think it is really important that we have a competitions programme which is varied and has a good choice, helps to improve skill sets and abilities as a membership. Through being involved in competitions, one of the best things about it for me was the fact that I got to meet members. Every single competition you meet the members, talk to them, you get to watch them develop from a county round, to area and onto national finals. As I said earlier the skills and abilities, we have an incredibly talented membership and I think it is testament to the steering group programme which is really varied and get everyone involved to show what they are made of.

Also watching members achieve their goals is very rewarding as part of the steering group and I think everybody who ever judges or stewards the reason why they do it is, they enjoy seeing you competing and being successful, just showing your abilities and letting it shine through.

I am now going to talk about some of the highlights of the year and there were many. Our theme had a big event last year 'the Olympics' this was our theme. Starting at the AGM at Torquay, we had pantomime finals, Senior Member of the Year, and still to this day the atmosphere and buzz we had at the street dance and jump rope finals. It was a fantastic event, made more so not just by the amount of competing members but more so by the families and friends who came out to support and cheer on their teams, and I hope you are all going to be there this afternoon for the ballroom and the cheerleading finals.

We also have the sports held at Warwick School and the public speaking at Staffordshire County Showground. We have also had stockman and stock-judging. Stockman of the Year held for the first time



at Hartpury College. We are beginning to struggle to find venues so we appreciate the fact that you are bearing with us as a committee. Stockjudging was affected by the weather we moved from the Great Yorkshire Show. Malvern Autumn Show was a massive showcase for us in front of the public with our cookery and floral art competitions and this year we had our Tug of War. It always gets a good crowd, and the public image is really important and I hope that this continues.

I would just like everyone to show their appreciation for all the staff team involved, to the steering group from last year, to the judges and stewards, to any associated supporters and thank you to all of the venues that we use every year. (The members applauded). Finally I would just like to say a massive thank you to one of our staff members Gemma Bryan who is leaving, we are going to miss her in the comps department but we have a new members of staff coming in and I am sure with Hannah and David going forward I wish them all the best for the future and for this year”

**AGM/16/13** **Announcement of ‘The Member of The Year’ Competition finalists & Winner** – Claire Worden and Hannah Talbot announced the 7 finalists and invited them to the front of the meeting, Lynsey Martin (Kent), Craig Brough (Cumbria), Paul Glanvill (Devon), Alice Cook (Bedfordshire), Kate Wainwright (Derbyshire), Gwennan Davies (Ceredigion), Toby Lawton (Staffordshire). In Joint 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Alice Cook and Kate Wainwright, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Gwennan Davies, 1<sup>st</sup> place awarded to Paul Glanvill (Devon), the Trophy was awarded by Matt Baker.

**AGM/17/13** **Presentation & report of the Events Steering Group - Hollie Harris** – Hollie addressed the meeting: “Good Morning Mr President, honoured guests, fellow Young Farmers it gives me great pleasure to report back on the Events Steering Group Committee for the year 2011 – 2012. In November 2011 – 430 Young Farmers attended Cheltenham Races the weather was extremely hot and it was noted that members ventured away from the marquee to the rails to cheer on their bets leaving the marquee rather empty. For the 2012 event we made improvements to the day by working with *Outside Chance* to ensure all YFC members enjoyed all that was on offer at the racecourse.

Members had a fantastic time at the Outside Chance. I am thrilled that the Events Committee continues to work with Cheltenham racecourse and was able to offer discounted tickets to other Race Days at the course at the end of the year. Having been the Events Chairman for the second year, by the time we reached Torquay 2012 I felt pretty confident in what to expect when it came to the Annual Convention – and how wrong could I be. We had 4254 members joining us for what will be my most memorable convention to date. Again it was great to see the County Federations arriving by various modes of transport raising hundreds of thousands of pounds for charity and it has to be mentioned the team of mobility scooters that travelled all the way down from Yorkshire ended their mammoth journey by doing a drive by registration cheered on by the hundreds queuing outside. I must ask you all, if you haven’t already, to register your money under the Prince of Wales and Lionel Hill Trophies which record the monies raised for charity and helps the NFYFC to promote the work of the YFC members. And you never know you might win your county some silverware. The town steward teams again were invaluable in Torquay and by promoting a calming atmosphere and offering advice and guidance to YFC members prevented a number from spoiling their weekend. On the evenings the venues were packed due to the presence of the Radio One DJ’S requested by members, the casino tables, the extremely enthusiastic bands and not to forget The Silent Disco that still managed to leave James Eckley with a headache. Saturday nights fancy dress theme was WHEN I WAS THREE I WANTED TO BE – this brought yet again some challenges to the door staff in relation to what is a dangerous accessory and the desk office looking

more like the Army's armoury, a doctors stethoscope shop, a builders collection of hard hats and tools, Police Officers handcuffs and truncheons and not to mention there's a clown out there missing his squirry flower. The committee understand the amount of effort that goes into these costumes and made sure that this year's theme was one without dangerous props even though I'm sure a Wally rocked up with a walking stick last night. I'd again like to officially thank all those that volunteered and gave up their time to make Torquay Convention a success, if you've ever fancied helping with the running of the Convention weekend even just by helping in registration I'm sure that Emily Johnson would love to hear from you. The feedback received following this year's convention will help the committee make the Blackpool 2014 Convention bigger and better and I urge members to take time to complete the quick survey which will go live online in the next few days.

The 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner was held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2012 with 300 guests attending. The Auction raised £4280, with the first dance with Matt Baker and Mini John Craven selling for a cheap £310. The Events committee has evolved and has been renamed the Communications, Events and Marketing committee and if you haven't already done so make sure you check out the amazing affinity deals open to members of YFC whether you're looking for a cheap BBQ, a new Joules summer wardrobe or a trip to a theme park there's something for everyone. Finally I would just like to wish you all an enjoyable Sunday at Convention and we look forward to your feedback."

#### **AGM/17/13**

**Presentation & report of the Personal Development Steering Group - Claire Raw** – Claire addressed the meeting: "Good morning Ladies, Gentlemen, Guests and Fellow Young Farmers, this is the Personal Development Steering Group Annual Report for 2011-2012. As with all areas of Young Farmers, Personal Development has had a busy year so the following points are just to reflect some of the work. The Steering Group considers three very separate areas that impact on Young Farmers in different ways; these are Discovery, our international travel programme, training and youth work.

(Discovery) The year started with the Discovery selection day in December for the 2013 trips. All the trips were filled and members have been and will be travelling to a variety of different countries. July saw the start of members hosting ten international exchangees totalling 60 weeks of hosting across England & Wales.

Younger members got to take part in an adventure week at River Dart in Devon.

The Steering Group worked with NFYFC staff and Outgoing, a travel company, to create some new opportunities for the Discovery programme for 2013. These trips were to be available to all those with a membership card and not require an application process. The first of these took place in January and was a ski trip to Val Thorens. We hope such trips will continue in the future. The steering group has been instrumental in creating a working party with members of the Young Farmers Ambassadors to look at the future of Discovery and how it can progress and remain current with the ever changing membership demographic.

(Youth Work) The PD Steering group continue to promote the importance of safeguarding within YFC and how we can all contribute to keeping each other safe. From this one of the tasks for the steering group in the forth coming year is to look in to how we can keep our members safe when using the internet and social media as this is becoming one of the most popular ways that our membership communicate. After the initial launch of 'The Source' at this time last year the final development stages were completed and the steering group have been promoting it as a resource available though the members section of the website to support those in club officer roles within YFC.

We have been encouraging the development of SuperMoo the mascot as a marketing tool for the organisation and promoting its use throughout the counties and I'm pleased to say that Supermoo is becoming a very well travelled cow.

PD have also supported the Youth forum in their projects throughout the year and we will hear some more from them soon.

(Training) Training offered by NFYFC strives to offer sessions in subject areas that may not necessarily be otherwise easily available or affordable.

This year training has been delivered to the membership on Time Management, Bar tending, Leadership and on being a trainer with positive and encouraging feedback being received from all courses. Additions have been made to the Curve library of modules and were previewed at Council Weekends to maintain and gain some new interest. Also to encourage the growing involvement in The Curve a campaign has been launched and will continue throughout the forthcoming year that will give trainers who deliver the curve modules within their clubs a chance to win prizes. Further information on this is available on the website. The steering group and myself especially would like to thank the NFYFC staff in particular Jodie, Sandra and Emily for their continued help and support. Finally I would like to wish Toby and Nicola good luck for the forthcoming year and most importantly to remember to enjoy your time in post.”

**AGM/18/13 Presentation of “The Trainer of the Year” award - Claire Raw** – Claire announced that this year all three of the top trainers were from Worcestershire FYFC, two runners up were Hannah Talbot and Demelza Jackson. In 1<sup>st</sup> place Karen Hodges (Worcestershire). The award was presented by Matt Baker.

**AGM/19/13 Presentation & report from the Youth Forum – Helen Brown** – Helen addressed the meeting: “Good morning ladies and gentlemen, fellow Young Farmers and distinguished guests, the national Youth Forum have three meetings a year in February, June and October these are set to coincide with the national steering groups and council meetings. The Youth Forum has been working with the Steering Groups to ensure that the younger members are heard and to increase the value of our under 18 year old’s membership. We have been able to promote the Youth Forum on the young farmers being part of the Olympic torch run, as well as being able to work with Jamie’s Ministry of Food, encouraging people to buy British. The National Youth Forum have put forward and had 3 Motions accepted by the British Youth Council Manifesto, these include: improved field education in schools, better access to training for young people and the importance of road safety on rural roads. Two of our members Rebecca Watkins and Izzie Newbury took part in the Young Advocates Debate in which they competed against agricultural universities across the UK on behalf of Young Farmers.

In February we embarked on a team building weekend to Herefordshire in which we welcomed the new members onto the forum and said goodbye to our departing members, we took part in team building activities and held our usual forum meeting. This year we were joined by Sinead Davis from Wales Young Farmers who gave us an insight into their youth forum, as well as National Chairman Milly Wastie, and our Personal Development Steering Group Chairman Toby France. Members of the forum were invited to join the agricultural study tour to Dublin, where members were given a chance to see different farming practices in Southern Ireland and also meet members of Macra Na Feirme. The entire forum has also been supporting the young farmers ‘Drive It Home’ campaign which many of us have been promoting to our local areas. Our future plans include the official burial of our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration time capsule in which we will leave a legacy of what it was like to be Young Farmers members in 2012 -2013. We will strengthen links with the steering groups and we will encourage more young farmers to join the forum and strengthen their areas and encourage young members to empower making Young Farmers a stronger organisation.”

**AGM/20/13 Presentation from the Young Farmers' Ambassadors** – Dai Jones Chairman of the Young Farmers' Ambassadors outlined the work of the Ambassadors who have previously been on discovery trips and exchanges. Dai made a presentation of a cheque for £3,200 to Matt Baker, for NFYFC to use on Discovery work. Matt Baker presented Ed Lovelock with The YFA Trophy for the best powerpoint competition 2012 for his trip to Uganda. Matt Baker presented YFA scholarship cheques to Elizabeth Prince (Staffordshire) for her trip to Canada 4H, and Jo Hamer (Shropshire) for his trip to Scotland.

**AGM/21/13 Presentation & Report Wales FYFC – Gwenno Griffiths Chairman** – Gwenno addressed the meeting: "Mr President, fellow members, honoured guests it is a pleasure to present to you the annual report on behalf of Wales YFC. This past year has seen many developments, changes and the launch of new initiatives. We have been focussing on safeguarding the future of our organisation whilst delivering a service that meets the needs of our members. Our work began by changing the charitable status of Wales YFC to become a Charitable Company, limited by guarantee. It sounds a simple achievement, but vital in protecting our members against any future liabilities. Credit must go to the staff team at Wales YFC for delivering this change in status. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new staff members and thank those who have moved on to pastures new. A long term discussion regarding affiliation of county federations reached a historic point in October 2012, with Eryri and Ynys Môn becoming directly affiliated to Wales YFC. By having these discussions within Wales we have ensured that all counties are comfortable with their affiliation and we continue to move forward and develop as Wales YFC, working alongside NFYFC. Another historic milestone was the publication of the first bilingual Ten26. A publication that now truly meets the needs of a large percentage of the Wales membership, thank you to the NFYFC Council for their co-operation and support on delivering this new style magazine. Launched at the Royal Welsh Winter Fair was the innovative Llyndy scholarship, a partnership project with the National Trust offering a young farmer the opportunity of a lifetime to run their own farm in the middle of Snowdonia. Our rural affairs committee established their vision for agriculture in Wales, focussing on 5 key points to deliver their 2015 vision. Last year also saw the first ever Wales YFC Food Festival showcasing the best of local Welsh produces.

A highlight of our year is the Royal Welsh Show and of course the Young People's Village. If you visited last year you will have seen several developments to the site, the village green, an improved layout arrangement, the fairground rides and new parking facilities. International travel has gained momentum, 2012 saw the first group voluntary trip to the Czech Republic. Following on with the international theme, we were honoured to be chosen as the host of the 2014 European Rally. Dates have been selected, a venue chosen and the programme developed, we're working hard to ensure it's a focus of what Wales and YFC has to offer. Training, an important area of our work, has been developed. We launched the 'Prove It' scheme of OCN certificates and were able to appoint a dedicated Training Officer to develop this stream of work.

The Wales YFC Youth Forum goes from strength to strength with dedicated and enthusiastic members. Last year they successfully delivered a road safety initiative, this year they are targeting healthy living. Support from the Welsh media has been incredible this year with dedicated TV programmes on Wales YFC competitions, such as the Eisteddfod and the Entertainment Feast. A great way to increase the profile

of our work and showcase the talents of our members. Last year our Chairman, Dylan 'Beefy' Jones, embarked on a challenge to cycle around Wales for his charity of the year, the Wales Air Ambulance. Together with Aled Jones, Senior Member of the Year and members from all across Wales they raised a staggering £37,756 – an amazing achievement. This year we will support the British Heart Foundation and their campaign to locate defibrillators in remote rural areas.

My challenge is to walk to the highest peak in every county. With 3 of the 12 peaks complete we've received great support so far. Going forward our focus turns to developing our refreshed strategic plan for Wales YFC, a plan that will secure the future of the organisation. It'll be launched at the National Assembly in Cardiff in October. During the past 12 months there have been many highlights, far too many to mention today, may I take this opportunity to thank everyone who've been a part of Wales YFC, especially the officer team, staff and most importantly the members for their ever active participation. Diolch yn fawr iawn i chi gyd. From me and everyone else here from Wales YFC we wish you all the best for a successful Convention weekend."

**AGM/22/13** James Williams addressed council and gave a lively presentation of his year as National Chairman he demonstrated the mileage he had clocked up by attending each event and highlighted the Olympics and Jubilee events, together with the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events of NFYFC. James Williams made a presentation of a miniature hunting horn to Mr Jon Sarsfield for all his work and dedication to the board of management. James Williams proposed the adoption of the Annual Report for 2012, this was then seconded by Milly Wastie, Milly thanked James for his presentation and for all his work during his year as National Chairman.

**AGM/23/13** **MOTION FROM NORFOLK FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS – "That Mr Rod Tuck be elected a Life Vice President in recognition of his services to the National Federation and Norfolk YFC Federation"**  
Proposer: Helen Reeve, Seconder: Annelise Ford (Norfolk FYFC)

Matt Baker announced to the meeting that following receipt of this Motion, an amendment Motion had been received from Wales YFC – The following Motion would therefore stand and Norfolk YFC had given their agreement to this Amendment:

**AMENDMENT FROM WALES YFC "That Mr Rod Tuck be elected a Life Vice President in recognition of his services to the National Federation and Norfolk YFC Federation and that Mr Delme Harries be elected a Life Vice President in acknowledgement of his contribution to YFC at Lllysyfran Club, Pembrokeshire County, Wales YFC, NFYFC, and at a European Level".**

Proposer: Kate Miles (Glamorgan), Seconder: Aled Jones (Carmarthenshire)

Proposer Helen Reeve addressed the meeting in support of Mr Rod Tuck: "President, fellow Young Farmers and honoured guests, it gives me great pleasure to propose the motion that Mr Rod Tuck be elected a Life Vice President in recognition of his services to the National Federation and Norfolk YFC Federation. Looking around the room today, I bet that there are only a handful of people here who can say that they have had almost 50 years worth of knowledge, experience and dedication to the YFC movement but in Norfolk YFC we are very lucky to have someone to fit this bill.

Rod Tuck started his Young Farmers career back in 1964 when he joined the Old Buckenham Club. It was here that Rod really caught the bug for the organisation which I'm sure he will agree has changed his life. In his early days of Young Farmers as a young trainee in his family's animal feed mill, it was considered that YFC was an excellent way to learn the essential agricultural and business skills that has stood with him to the present day and something that Rod is keen to promote to members to this day.

It's an old cliché that YFC is a marriage bureau and this is certainly the case for Rod who met his wife Margaret, who was a member of the nearby Watton Club, at a quiz evening. Obviously Rod must have correctly answered all of the questions that night and as we say...the rest is history! Due to work commitments and their blossoming relationship, Rod and Margaret moved to Diss YFC where they both really got stuck into the day to day running of a successful Club. It was here that Rod as social secretary organised the Club's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary ball which was held in Norwich although due to building up the family business Rod missed the event because he was working at the Paris Agricultural Show. I think this just proves that Rod's organisation skills are second to none – how many of us here could organise a ball that runs smoothly and not even be in the same country. In fact Rod's skills have been put to the test on many occasions in Norfolk YFC – no more so than for our 60<sup>th</sup> and 65<sup>th</sup> Balls the latter event which saw over 1700 in attendance at the Royal Norfolk Showground. Over the years as a thriving businessman and Young Farmer, Rod has built up a vast array of contacts for virtually anything you could possibly want. I often think that Rod is a bit like a walking Yellow Pages because he really seems to know hundreds of people. In the last couple of years, Rod has been kind enough to be my business mentor and I have always been heartened by his ability to listen, share ideas and encouragement.

When finding out about Rod's YFC history for proposing this motion today I found it amazing that someone as modest as Rod has been involved in so many levels of our organisation. From grassroots level at Diss, later becoming Club President and Life Vice President, he was honoured to be voted as Norfolk YFC President in 1996. This was during a time which challenged the Norfolk Federation with both funding streams and membership falling. Rod credits the hard work of County organiser, Ches Broom and four excellent County Chairmen who steered the county in the right direction once again. On recounting one of his proudest moments of Norfolk YFC, Rod told me that he was encouraged by members getting together to raise money in aid of a Motor Neurone Disease charity for ex-county chairman, John Chubbuck, who was wheeled around the Lotus test track by Young Farmers and raised in excess of £20,000.

Rod's involvement in YFC continued to the next level by becoming Eastern Area President in 2006 a role which he really got his teeth into. During his five years as President, Rod also became heavily involved in the National Federation where he sat on the Board of Management committee. During this time there was a considerable amount of change within the Board and Rod gave his all, ensuring that Eastern Area had a voice at National to which we were all extremely glad of. Whilst the NFYFC commitment may have increased during this time, Rod attended as many meetings as he could and he would report back to all Counties in the area to guarantee that everyone knew what was happening. With Rod's counselling and advice on National issues, all counties in Eastern Area felt safe that we were being represented excellently. Even today, Rod likes to keep up to date with the news and matters facing members which only go to prove how much YFC still plays a part of Rod's life.

In Norfolk we have known for years that Rod's involvement in YFC has been invaluable, so proposing Rod to be a life vice president is a real honour. There could be no more of a fitting award for someone who is very much an enthusiastic team player, dedicated, motivated and who continues to be interested in our

fantastic movement. Rod is held in high regard by everyone and I am extremely proud to call Rod my friend. Therefore, Mr President, members and honoured guests, I urge you to vote in favour of the motion I have proposed this morning.”

Annelise Ford addressed the meeting: “ Mr President, fellow young farmers and honoured guests, it gives me great pleasure to second the Motion that Mr Rod Tuck be elected as a Life Vice President in recognition of his service given to the National Federation and Norfolk YFC Federation. Rod has had a lifetime involvement with Diss YFC as well as National; he is as enthusiastic now as he has ever been. Being a member of Diss Young Farmers we are very aware and extremely grateful for all his work for the club. Rod has been extremely helpful to me in different situations. One of his main contributions is our club house. At a county level Rod is always keen to encourage and promote our Countrysiders, something as a County we can all be very proud of. Rod believes they are the future of federation and therefore we need to give them all the encouragement we can. Therefore Mr President and honoured guests I hope you agree with me in the Motion that I have seconded today.”

Kate Miles Proposer addressed the meeting in support of Mr Delme Harries: “ Mr President, fellow members, ladies and gentlemen, it gives me immense pleasure to propose the amendment to this Motion so that Delme Harries is also elected as a Life Vice President of NFYFC, alongside Mr Rod Tuck.

Daniel Delme Vivien Harries was born in the small village of Puncteston in Pembrokeshire, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August. The year in question is a closely guarded secret (although Delme would have us believe it was roughly 25 years ago – which simply doesn’t add up). We do know that in 1981 a young Delme pulled on his metaphorical green wellies and attended his first meeting of Llisyfran YFC. It was a significant moment in YFC history and the start of a long and dedicated involvement with the movement. In his day job, Delme works as an Agency Manager and Process Consultant for NFU Mutual, splitting his time between Pembrokeshire and Stratford-upon-Avon. As a member of Llisyfran YFC, Delme held virtually every post from Treasurer to Chairman and is currently a Club Leader of the 70 strong club. Despite being based for part of the week in Stratford, Delme thinks nothing of travelling the almost 400 mile round trip to attend a drama practice or to assist with training. This is Delme to a tee – he is 100% committed to YFC.

Delme went on to become Chairman of Pembrokeshire YFC, a role that brought with it some difficult times. Delme oversaw the departure of one county organiser and the appointment of another having to roll his sleeves up in the interim to ensure that it was “business as usual” for the members.

He became Chairman of Wales YFC’s Activities and International Committee, and then Wales YFC Chairman, a role that Delme attacked with his characteristic vigour. Also known as “Delboy” (quite possibly because of the shared dress sense with his “Fools & Horses” counterpart), Delme is renowned for his ready wit and willing smile. I first got to know Delme when I took part in the Wales YFC 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gala at Cardiff’s Millennium Centre. Delme was the architect behind the event which saw 450 young farmers, 5 tractors, and a sheep take to the stage – giving our members an opportunity like no other, all thanks to Delme’s ambition, and willingness to push the boundaries. Delme rarely misses a competitions final which can be handy in the occasionally fraught situations as he always maintains his calm, even with the most trying of prima donnas. Occasionally, I do think that Delme is wasted in his profession, though I understand that he is still awaiting his call-back for a part in his favourite TV show, “The Valleys”.

Delme is also known to young farmers and 4H members across Europe as “the King of Wales”. A fitting title perhaps for the man elected to lead half a million young farmers in 2006 as Rural Youth Europe Chairman. As Chairman, Delme thought nothing of frequently jetting between Helsinki and Wales, which makes his current commute seem quite tame. Delme is currently our Board of Management Chairman, a role that he has filled with his usual enthusiasm, drive and dedication. As with all good things, his term must end and sadly it does this Autumn. The new Board of Management Chairman will have exceedingly big boots to fill, although I am certain Delme will be ready to help as ever. Delme is dedicated, enthusiastic, light-hearted, motivational, energetic and YFC through and through. For these reasons, I urge you to support the amended motion as shown, and in closing I also wish to thank Norfolk Federation for supporting us in this amendment. Diolch yn fawr, thank you.”

Aled Jones addressed the meeting “Mr President, fellow members, ladies and gentleman. When asked would I second the motion to make Mr Delme Harries a Life Vice-President, my immediate reaction was yes! Nothing would give me greater pleasure in my final hours as senior member of the year to pay tribute to such an extraordinary individual. And to do the man justice, I decided to brush-up on the formalities of seconding a motion. So I consulted the universal guide to everything - Google - and when I typed in "seconding a motion", the top search result came up as "Newton's second law of motion", which states: *“Acceleration is produced when a force acts on a mass. The greater the mass of the object, the greater the amount of force needed to accelerate it.”* In a complete accident I stumbled across one of the basic principles of physics which, after a second glance, suddenly made perfect sense. In a bizarre coincidence, Newton's second law has striking parallels with Delme Harries and his YFC involvement. Imagine the YFC is the "object". An object of significant mass, representing over 25,000 members. To accelerate this object, you need force. Force is defined as a strength or energy, two characteristic traits you will find in abundance with Delme Harries.

Delme has the strength to lead and energy to enthuse. It is no surprise therefore that he's held several official positions within the movement including county chair of Pembrokeshire, chairman of Wales YFC and the first ever Welshman to be elected chairman of Rural Youth Europe. In taking on his European role, Delme was a part of a team representing over half a million rural young people. Again, I refer you to Newton; *“the greater the mass, the greater the force required to accelerate it”*. Delme possessed the force required to move the organisation forward and led them through a landmark period, their 50th anniversary. His ability to lead has been instrumental to the success of the YFC where often the benefit of members is placed over his own. Most recently, we have harnessed some of his passion and vision for the YFC in his role as chairman of Wales YFC's Board of Management.

After three highly successful years at the helm, his tenure is sadly drawing to a close and I impel you, ladies and gentleman, not to let this man slip through our fingers. He has far more to offer the movement and the role of Life Vice-President will not only recognise his dedication so far, but also ensure that his involvement will remain at the highest level. After all, if Newton is correct, the organisation will need people like Delme to accelerate it forward. Therefore, ladies and gentleman, I urge you to join Kate and me in supporting this motion and vote in favour of the man known by his peers as the King of Wales for Life Vice-President. Thank you.”

Matt Baker called for the members to vote on the amendment to the Motion. The members voted and were unanimous in electing Mr Rod Tuck & Mr Delme Harries.

Rod Tuck addressed the meeting: “Mr President, to all you members a very big and sincere thank you. I am still in shock at being awarded such a prestigious honor, and it is just amazing. This award has only been made possible because of the years of support I have received from the many members, officials, county organisers, who are probably the unsung heroes of the whole organization. Without county organisers very little would happen. My wife Margaret and not least Helen who made this day possible in



more ways than one, so thank you all. Your YFC members are in charge of a great organisation with a great future, with food production rising up the political agenda, with a rising population that needs feeding, demand for your skills will be greater, personally I can foresee your YFC model becoming global, more and more countries will have to look to rural communities and their youth to feed their growing population, so stay young, keep your minds open, keep working hard, and above all continue to enjoy yourselves, actually I met Wallies younger brother Willy, he had a hell of a night last night, he is looking forward to tonight, many thanks to you all I still cannot believe you have awarded me such a great honor thank you.”

Delme Harries addressed the meeting: “ Mr President, fellow Young Farmers, I still am I did go to my first AGM when I was 1. I am actually very humbled to have been awarded this honored as a Life Vice President and it is something that surprised me and took me back when I was asked if Wales YFC would let my name go forward, and I would like to thank Kate and Aled for your proposal and nice words. I am actually a bit lost for words, I wish I had been lost for words on Friday night when I was thrown out that taxi, and it wasn’t my fault. YFC is a great organisation and you should all be very proud to be part of it, and it’s all about you members and it is why people like myself have had the honors and have supported you the members and that’s the most important thing, the support that members give back to the membership when you finish your committee time. I have been to 25 conventions; I don’t say I have been to 25 AGM’s. I have been very proud to be a member of my local club and that is where my heart will always is at grassroots and I just want to thank everybody again for the nomination and wish you all an enjoyable rest of the convention.”

Matt Baker presented Mr Rod Tuck and Mr Delme Harries with their Life Vice President’s official badges.

**AGM/24/13 Presentation of Awards** Matt Baker presented the following awards, supported by Claire Worden and Hannah Talbot:

**The NFU Trophy** – Champion County Federation in National Competitions Final 2011/2012 awarded to Cumbria FYFC – received by Jan Mason.

**The Tug Wilson Trophy** – Reserve Champion County Federation in National Competitions Final 2011/2012 – awarded to Derbyshire FYFC – received by Jo Stubbs.

**The Worshipful Company of Farmers Trophy** – Champion Small County Federation whose membership figures are amongst the lowest 50% of counties), NFYFC Competitions finals 2011/2012 – awarded to Bedfordshire and received by Lizzy Hunt.

**The Merrick Burrell Tankard** – The County Federation with the largest percentage increase in membership over the past three years – awarded to Hertfordshire FYFC – received by Sam Buckton.

**The Prince of Wales Trophy** – Claire Worden explained “that the trophy has been kindly donated by HRH Prince of Wales. The aim of the competition is to highlight the work carried out throughout the organisation in raising funds for charities and other worthy causes. The Trophy is awarded to the county federation that has raised the most funds per member in the year. This year’s total amount raised from 14 County entries is £335,223.27. 3<sup>rd</sup> place goes to Suffolk FYFC, 2<sup>nd</sup> place to Essex FYFC and in 1<sup>st</sup> place Oxfordshire FYFC raising a total of £88.56 per member totalling £23,998.81.”

Grace Bennett Oxfordshire County Chairman gave a short presentation “It is a great pleasure to be receiving this award on behalf of Oxfordshire Young Farmers. And it’s also a great privilege for me to be chairman of such an extremely enthusiastic and committed bunch of members. Collectively as a county we have managed to raise a fantastic £23,999 for various different charities. With a membership of

approx. 300 members this is a great achievement and proves that size isn't everything.

Each club within the County picks 2 charities to raise funds for throughout the year. This year they included: Farm Crisis Network, Cancer Research UK, Maggie's Cancer Centre, Oxford Community First Responders and the Thames Valley Air Ambulance to name but a few.

Throughout the year the County has staged bingo evenings, tractor pulls, quiz nights, carol singing oh! and to complete the fixture list the odd party. All have been great fun and enjoyed enormously by those involved. However, although it may seem like it sometimes, these events are not spontaneous. They require an immense amount of hard work, effort, and organisation from the members to make it all possible. A special congratulations and thank you needs to be made to Faringdon YFC who were responsible for raising a large proportion of the overall County total. They raised a staggering £18,500 for the new bespoke "Maggies Cancer Care Centre" being built in Oxford.

To achieve this the club organised a Ridgeway Relay Challenge where past and present members of the club joined forces and walked the length of the Ridgeway trail, which to those unfamiliar with the local geography, may not seem like a challenge until you consider that it is 87 miles of seriously undulating countryside and took 48 hours to complete. Media pundits claim that modern society is decaying rapidly and apathy runs rife through the land. Any news is of doom gloom and our country is in a state of chaos. But, I have to tell you that the future looks bright and the pundits are wrong. I know this is true because there is a large group of young people who are highly motivated, generous with their time and generous with their money. You know who they are; they are "The Young Farmers".

Matt Baker presented the trophy to Grace Bennett.

**The Lionel J Hill MBE NFYFC Club Charity Cup** – For the Club which has raised the most funds per member in 2012. Lionel Hill awarded this trophy to: Faringdon YFC in Oxfordshire County for raising £18,712.00, received by Sam Allen.

**The RABI Cup** – Awarded by The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI) to a YFC club which has given the most support to RABI – presented by Julian Sayers & Milly Wastie (RABI) jointly to Acle & North Walsham YFC for tackling the 3 peaks and raising over £5,000. The two clubs will share the trophy 6 months each – received by James Youngman, Harry Jones and Robert Hirst.

**The Sidney Fawcett Trophy** – awarded for the best AGM Contribution and judged by Mr Julian Sayers and Mr Derek Kerr. Awarded to Caroline Baker - County Durham FYFC. Julian Sayers gave his feedback on the speeches and a few tips for those speaking in public.

**The Speakers Trophy** – Donated by John Hardman (Treasurer), awarded to those members who have spoken during the meeting and kept to the nearest allocated time. Presented to Keith Forster Cumbria FYFC.

**AGM/25/13**

**Vote of Thanks and Chairman's Closing Remarks** – Hannah Talbot addressed the meeting to give the vote of thanks " Mr President, honoured guests, fellow Young Farmers, having just heard Julian's tips on how to deliver a good speech, I feel like I am going to be highly judged on what I deliver to you now so thanks for that pressure Julian. I would just like to start the conclusions of this meeting by thanking all of those that make the AGM meeting and the Annual Convention as a whole run so smoothly. This event is a showcase for Young Farmers and I think we showcase what we do at the Annual Convention absolutely

fantastically. We showcase competitions, our passion for agriculture and rural affairs, our democracy, and our partying skills and we do all those brilliantly so well done to everyone who has taken part. I would like to thank the staff at the Winter Gardens who have worked really hard to help put this on, and I would also like to thank our volunteer events team who work together with the national staff team in order to make this event happen. I popped into the national office last week and could barely move for boxes, banners and preparation going on there.

Please do not underestimate the hard work and commitment that it takes to deliver this weekend, and without our staff it simply wouldn't be possible, they have given up their bank holiday weekend as well with probably much less fun than we have all had, and so I would like to sincerely thank them for all that they do.

I would also like to thank our outgoing officers who we have heard from today to James, Hollie, Helen and the two Claires, thank you very much for your drive and enthusiasm, commitment and passion to the movement over the last 12 months.

I would like to reiterate the thanks that have been said to Matt for leading the organisation over the last two years, the members have loved you, and we have gained a lot from having you as our President, so thank you. I would also like to wish Poul all the best of luck we are really looking forward to working with you as an officer team to move the organisation forward over the next few years. Finally, I would like to thank the membership and reiterate my thanks for everything you have done this weekend, for the enthusiasm that you have shown in everything that you do and if you would like to continue we have the ballroom dancing and cheerleading competitions shortly. Thank you.”

Matt Baker addressed the meeting finally; “ I would just like to thank all the members for electing me as your President over the last two years. I wish all the very best to Poul I am sure you are going to have a wonderful time. I would just like to say that my connection is by no means over with Young Farmers, and it almost makes it easier for me if I am not the President to be able to be shouting YFC from the roof tops even more because I will be looking at it from an unbiased prospective. So from an impartial point of view I will be able to say a little bit more on things that I have done in the past. There is of course going to be a lot of challenges in the future for all of you, but I been speaking to a lot of you over the last couple of days, and I know from the bottom of my heart you are the best set of people to face those challenges, and when I hear all the bad news, when you look at the ranks, and you see those people who are coming up from within, I feel incredibly proud to have you guys as our future farmers, and I wish you all the very best in making all the very best of the opportunities that Young Farmers can and will offer you. Thank you.”

Milly Wastie and James Williams presented Matt Baker with engraved crystal glasses and champagne on the occasion of his retirement as President, and flowers for Mrs Nicola Baker.

With no further business the Chairman Mr Matt Baker declared the meeting closed at 1.30 pm.

Signed:

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr Poul Christensen (National President 2013)