



Minutes of the 82nd Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 11 May 2014, Winter Gardens, Blackpool

PRESENT: Poul Christensen (President), Claire Worden (Chairman of National Council), Hannah Talbot (Vice-Chairman of Council & Chairman Competitions Steering Group), Chris Manley (Vice-Chairman of Council), Russell Carrington (Vice Chairman, Agriculture and Rural Affairs Steering Group), Milly Wastie (Retiring National Chairman), Frank Chester (Chairman, Board of Management), Kate Miles (Chairman, Wales YFC), Gareth Laking (Chairman, Events Steering Group), Toby France (Chairman, Personal Development Steering Group), Sioned Davies (Chairman Youth Forum), James Eckley (Chief Officer). Club & County voting delegates.

IN ATTENDANCE: Scottish Association of YFCs - Delegates Laura Fleming & Isobel Swanson, Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster – Roger McCracken & Andrew Garrett, County and NFYFC staff.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Poul Christensen & Claire Worden confirmed the voting procedures for the meeting and Poul explained the rules for the Sidney Fawcett Trophy and introduced the judges Mrs Catherine Look and Mr John Lee OBE, supported by Competition's Steward Mrs Sue Fellows.

AGM/01/14 PRESIDENT'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Poul Christensen welcomed everyone to the 82nd AGM of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs. "I am delighted to see so many of you in the room today. Just a quick opening remark, it does not seem five minutes since we were here last year. I think you have had a really successful year and it is culminating today in this long weekend of togetherness which is a major feature of Young Farmers, and this is the most important meeting that you will attend in the year, it is the culmination of all your activities during the year. In this meeting you will thank people, you will recognise people, you will reward people. There will be some elections and there will be some very serious business to conduct, but what I want to say to you now to all who are contributing to this meeting and in the hall, let's try and do it with pace, let's be professional, but above all let's enjoy ourselves. AGM's tend to be stuffy occasions and I do not want this meeting to be like that. It is an important meeting and there is formal business to be conducted but let's have a ball and if last night is anything to go by, you are all well practised at that."

Poul then welcomed Laura Fleming and Lynsey Paterson from the Scottish Association of Young Farmers' Clubs. They thanked the members for their kind invitation and were enjoying the weekend.

Poul also welcomed Roger McCracken & Andrew Garrett representing Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster. They also thanked the members for their kind invitation to a brilliant weekend.

Poul called for a moment of reflection to remember members and friends who had sadly passed away during the year.

Poul detailed housekeeping for the meeting and Claire Worden explained briefly the voting procedures. Poul detailed the Sidney Fawcett Trophy competition rules, introduced the judges Catherine Look and John Lee OBE and the steward for the competition Sue Fellows.

AGM/02/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: The apologies were displayed on the screen to members as follows; Mr Tom Copas, Mr Peter Jackson CBE, Sir John Cotterell Bt.DL, Ms Jane King, Mr Mark Spencer, MP, Ms Catherine Tythereleigh, Mr Chris Bateman, Mrs Valerie Baker-Gillam.

AGM/03/14 INTRODUCTION OF THE TOP TABLE: Poul Christensen invited Claire Worden to introduce the top table, Hannah Talbot (Vice Chairman of Council & Chairman 2012/13 Competitions Steering Group), Gareth Laking (Chairman 2012/13 Communications Events & Marketing Steering Group), Russell Carrington (Vice Chairman 2012/13 ARAC Steering Group) standing in for Chris Bateman, Chris Manley (Vice Chairman of Council 2013/14), Poul Christensen, (President & Chairman of the meeting), James Eckley (Chief Officer), Milly Wastie (Retiring Chairman of Council 2012/13), Frank Chester (Chairman Board of Management 2013/14), Toby France (Chairman 2012/13 Personal Development Steering Group), Sioned Davies (Chairman of The Youth Forum 2014), Kate Miles (Wales Federation Chairman 2013/14)

AGM/04/14 APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICERS AND TELLERS
Poul Christensen introduced Mr Chris Lloyd (Returning Officer & Chief Steward), Mrs Anne Sarsfield & Mr David Fellows (Scrutineers), Mr Jon Sarsfield, & Mr David Heminsley (tellers).

AGM/05/14 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 81st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 11 May 2013, BLACKPOOL
By the show of voting cards the minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 11 May 2013, held in Blackpool, were agreed as a true record and signed by Mr Poul Christensen, MBE.

AGM/06/14 MOTION FROM NFYFC COUNCIL

6.1 President

“That Mr Poul Christensen be thanked for his services to the federation over the past year and that he be re-elected as President from May 2014 – May 2015”

Claire Worden called upon Proposer Sam Allen (Oxfordshire FYFC) and seconder by Rachel Milner (County Durham FYFC). Sam Allen addressed the meeting: “I am honoured to propose that Mr Poul Christensen be thanked for his services to the federation over the past year and that he be re-elected as President from May 2014 – May 2015. Poul has spent a lifetime in Young Farmers having joined his club in Oxfordshire at the tender age of 10, he quickly went on to become club chairman at just the age of 11. Like many Young Farmers here today, Young Farmers has been a very large enjoyable part of Poul’s life when growing up. One of his claims to fame was that he won a pig judging competition, and having been a dairy Farmer all his life this can be seen as an achievement. Young Farmers has been a large part of Poul’s life for over 60 years now. When he met his partner Margaret through Young Farmers and they have enjoyed all the Young Farmer events together over the years. They have gone on to have four children together, all of whom have been active Young Farmers’ members, and some have met their partners through Young Farmers as well.

“Poul has always been an advocate of Young people having been a chair of Warren Farm Teaching Academy and sat on Agriculture for Central Training, he is also certainly someone who can offer our federation a vast amount of experience looking towards our future. He is someone we can be honoured to have as our President and we can cherish for many years to come. Poul has been involved in farming for many years and as we said before he has been a dairy Farmer on a family farm for his whole life. Poul shows a true passion for YFC. He has certainly been a busy person over the years. Poul has spent time as

Chairman of NFU Milk Committee, Chairman of the Milkmark, and also Chairman of Natural England and he currently sits on the Earth Trust committee in Oxfordshire. Back in 1984 all the hard work that Poul put into organisations was rightly recognised and he was awarded an MBE for services to agriculture. I think it is safe to say that Poul's involvement in these organisation will continue for many years to come. Since taking over as President of NFYFC last year, Poul has continued to be as busy as ever travelling up and down the length of the country, attending many Young Farmer's events and judging numerous competitions, and I know that this is something that Poul enjoys doing very much and takes great pride at being asked to attend. I need say no more, Poul has the credentials, the passion and the pride to continue his eminent role as President. Poul is someone we can look towards and embrace and cherish for years to come in the organisation. Ladies and Gentlemen it gives me great pleasure to propose that Poul Christensen is re-elected as President of NFYFC for 2014-2015. Thank you."

Rachel Milner addressed the meeting to second the motion; "Good morning Mr President, Madame Chairman and fellow Young Farmers, I first met Poul actually whilst eating Sunday lunch at the October Council meeting. He might not remember this but he came and sat next to me and we just simply chatted about the day's events, it was quite ordinary but having heard Poul address Council that day and since learning of how he has travelled the country and attended events, visited Young Farmers' Clubs and just really getting in amongst the members and chatting to them and their families, I realised his ability to be able to encourage and inspire all our members to take on the opportunities that Young Farmers can offer them. His enthusiasm for Young Farmers is quite infectious I find. I am positive that Poul's approachable and friendly personality, coupled with his impressive depth of farming experience has already benefitted and can only continue. To benefit the federation as we look towards our future development. He is a true role model and an inspiration to our members. I cannot speak about Poul without mentioning his lovely wife Margaret who is always by his side. One of the brilliant things about having Poul as our National President is that we get two dedicated people for the price of one. So I would like to thank Poul & Margaret for their continued support of the national federation and I have absolutely no hesitation in seconding the Motion that that Poul Christensen be re-elected as President of NFYFC for 2014-2015. Thank you."

There was no one else to speak to the Motion, and the members voted unanimously to elect Mr Poul Christensen as President of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs from May 2014 – May 2015. Claire Worden confirmed the Motion passed and welcomed Poul. Sam Allen presented Mrs Margaret Christensen with a basket of flowers.

Poul Christensen addressed the meeting; "Thank you Sam and Rachel for your extremely generous comments and it is with great pride that I accept the nomination and take this role on for a further year. Firstly I would like to thank Milly who supported me so ably last year as Chairman and this year to Claire, and the strong supporting team they have behind them. I think you are in a really strong position set of officers coming through the organisation and that should give you great comfort. I also want to pay tribute to the tremendous support that your staff have given me over the last year, it has been quite phenomenal, I just couldn't do what I do without that support, and they work tirelessly away behind the scenes, and this convention for example doesn't just happen. James has done so much over the years to make this thing operate and the fact that it does so seamlessly is a tribute to an enormous amount of hard work, and a lot of hard work by volunteers who come in to do the wristbanding business, I have never seen anything like it and thank you for that too."

“I mentioned earlier on that I think you should be proud of yourselves as it has been a very successful year for Young Farmers, for their clubs and the organisation. Your success comes around by the competitions that you run, you’re competing with each other, the charity works that you do and some of you have cycled here from all corners of the country and raised thousands of pounds and that is unsung. For the support you give to each other, to other people and the people around your clubs, and that support I think is so important in society and it this organisation probably nearly above any other that I know. Just word about Claire’s campaign this year, concentrating on people who need a bit of support and club members, I have seen at first hand members in our local club in Abingdon, how they have rallied around to offer help to those members who needed support and needed care for a variety of reasons, and I hope you will support Claire’s campaign and look out for each other.”

“I think you have been extremely successful in demonstrating sheer energy, drive and ‘get up and go’ , and if anyone was in any doubt about that, they should have looked down on that dance floor last night, the night before and tonight and you could power the whole national grid for a fortnight with the energy coming up off that dance floor, I just wish I had a tiny fraction of that energy now.

“It does tend to fade over the years, and I have been a member now for nearly sixty years, not always a member but certainly involved with Young Farmers. In fact Cheryl tweeted a photograph of me trying to put together a churn milking machine something like decades ago, making jolly hard work of it.

“I just want to mention one specific area where I think you could consider yourselves not just successful, but actually inspirational and it has given me enormous pride in being your President. Four weeks ago today probably about this time, Margaret and I went down to Moreland which was a village most severely affected by the recent floods on the Somerset levels. It was a lovely day, the sun was shining, the water had all gone, the Press has all gone, the politicians had gone, the cameramen had all gone, all that razzmatazz was not there anymore, and what remained was the mess and Young Farmers, we met on the ground in Moreland two groups of Young Farmers, one group who were actually demolishing a farmyard that had been severely damaged. They were going to erect a new one, and that will become a case study. We met another group of Young Farmers out in the field walking round the headland picking out of the tide mark, six feet high, polythene, plastic, string, rubbish and paper you name it, so that cattle could go back in and graze, doing this in their own time, no accolades, no great razzmatazz, just getting on and helping someone. Well done on that and I think you should all give yourselves a huge round of applause for that. That was not the end of it, some people couldn’t go and they arranged for food to be sent down both for people and for animals, the convoys of straw and hay and silage that went down from Essex particularly but from everywhere else was really inspirational.

“Now looking ahead, I don’t see any reason why that success should not continue, we do have some challenges ahead and I have challenges to do with you. Let us not forget that we do have some clubs who are struggling to get members and let us not forget that the bedrock of this organisation are our local clubs, that is where everything springs from, they need support, they need to be maintained, there is an issue on membership numbers in some of them, and that is where we need to go out to encourage, and empower existing members to bring another member in so that the critical mass of those clubs that are struggling at local level is actually resurrected and is made sufficient to continue. That I think is a challenge that we all need to rise to, and that is up to you, you are the ones who can really do that.

"I just want one last thank you to a group of people who, and we will be talking about them later, but I am the National President, and I have said how proud I am, but we have a lot of other presidents, club, county and area presidents, and they often only get called upon when 'it hits the fan' or whatever to keep the clubs going and I think they are worthy of a special thanks from me.

I just give you a commitment now that in the next 12 months, we, Margaret and I will do our utmost to continue to represent you at all levels, from clubs right up to national in every way we can and let's hope that we have a really successful year, thank you."

AGM/07/14 6.2 Deputy Presidents

"That the 2013 deputy presidents be thanked for their services to the federation over the past year and that the following be elected from May 2014 – May 2015."

Eastern Area	Stuart Cooper
East Midlands Area	David Armstrong
Northern Area	Diane Coles
South East Area	Alethea Snelling
South West Area	Catherine Look
Wales	Sharon Jones
West Midlands Area	Linda Savage

Proposer: Tess Cadman, South West Area YFC, Seconder: Jolene Powell, Radnor FYFC

Tess Cadman addressed the meeting; " Mr President, fellow Young Farmers, ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege to propose the motion that the 2013 deputy presidents be thanked for their services to the federation over the past year and that the following be elected from May 2014 – May 2015; if you look at the NFYFC website you will see that Young Farmers provides membership for anyone between the ages of 10 – 26 the opportunity to take part in exciting events, competitions and new experiences. What it fails to mention however is that some of these members refuse to leave us when they are past the age limit, these people go on to become valuable to the federation, passing onto hundreds of Young impressionable members the knowledge and experience that they themselves have learnt. Young Farmers Clubs are run by the members but without these people would we get so much out of the federation, would we be pushed to realise our potential, would so many people go on to leave the federation as better individuals than when they joined, having learnt skills which will help us for the rest of our lives? I think not, therefore it is an honour to stand before you this morning and thank on your behalf the people who make this possible, as you can see from the information in the booklets, many of our proposed deputy presidents met their partners in YFC and between them they have produced a lot of new members who have joined the federation.

"Between them, our proposed deputy presidents have experience in every part of YFC from Eastern Area Stuart Cooper, Tug of war coaching and fundraising expertise. To West Midlands, Linda Savage has an interest in public speaking and the entertainments competitions, South East Area Alethea Snelling has tremendous training experience and involvements in providing grants to members. Whilst in the East Midlands Area David Armstrong has history of impressive charity fundraising projects and South West Area's Catherine Look has experience of the YFC travel programmes. These broad areas of interest will ensure that the federation will never have far to turn over the next 12 months. The dictionary definition of inspiration is 'to offer something valuable and uplifting, which motivates others to bring out the best in themselves'. By reading the information provided for you, you will quickly realise a reoccurring theme between all of them, a willingness to help and support us, and a desire for all members to take up full

advantage of the opportunities which the federation can provide, which when you think about this definition, makes them all truly inspirational people. The best thing is there are dozens more people in this room today waiting to be inspirational to others in the future. I only hope that we as members can give as much back to our members as they have given us, it is for this reason that I thank the deputy presidents over the past year and propose that the names as printed on the agenda will be elected as deputy presidents to the federation for the ensuing year”

Jolene Powell addressed the meeting; “ Mr President, Madam Chairman, fellow Young Farmers, it is with great honour that I have also been given the opportunity to thank the 2013 deputy presidents for their services to the federation over the last year and I would like to reiterate our thanks for their hard work and dedication in supporting NFYFC over the last twelve months. It is with great pleasure that I would like to second the proposal to elect the deputy presidents as printed on the agenda. The Northern Area deputy president Diane Coles first joined the movement in 1971, when she joined her local club Durham City, since then Diane has held offices as club secretary, treasurer, Finance & Operations Chairman, county chairman, and county treasurer which is a post she still holds today. It is evident that Diane has given so much of her life to YFC including meeting her husband Terry in the pub following a Young Farmers meeting. Diane is highly respected in her area for her dedication to the movement as a whole. Diane has developed a breath of knowledge in her forty three years as a member of the YFC movement.

“The Wales YFC deputy president Sharon Jones first joined her local club Llangollen at sixteen years of age, since then she has worked as county co-ordinator from 1999 to 2003, and has been their treasurer for the last 10 years. Sharon is passionate about the movement and admits it is rare that she misses a Tuesday night meeting. Sharon has demonstrated her commitment to Clwyd and Wales YFC and will demonstrate the same commitment to NFYFC by helping in any way she can.

“All of our deputy presidents, as demonstrated by Jess before, offer a breath of knowledge and experience and are always there to rely on and someone we look to when we are uncertain. It is with great honour that I second the proposal the 2013 deputy presidents be thanked for their services to the federation over the past year and be elected from May 2014 to may 2015.”

There was no one else to speak to the Motion, and the members voted unanimously to elect the deputy presidents.

AGM/08/14 6.3 MOTION from Cumbria Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs

“That in recognition of service to YFC over many years, Mr Willie Bendle be elected Life Vice President of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs”

Proposer: Murdo Laurie, Cumbria FYFC, Seconder: Robyn Bowker, Cumbria FYFC

Murdo Laurie addressed the meeting: “ Good morning ladies and gentlemen and fellow Young Farmers, it is with great pleasure that I propose the Motion that in recognition of service to YFC over many years, Mr Willie Bendle be elected Life Vice President of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs. I am a current member of Kirklington YFC in Cumbria which this year celebrates its 75th Anniversary. Willie who has been our club president for many years was not quite a founder member, but joined in 1945 when travelling to meetings on his push bike. Willie was a keen member of YFC and stock judging soon became his main interest, competing in town and across the country. In 1953 Willie competed at The Royal Show and was awarded top score out of the seven competing countries. For 32 years Willie led the training of the YFC Cumbria teams for the live and carcass judging at Smithfield's show in London. He spent many

weeks organising training events and practises which all paid off with many successful results for his teams. Willie was Master Judge at Smithfield four times and received an award from The Smithfield Society in recognition to his services to the show. Willie's enthusiasm never runs out and he continues to be a judge at the English Winter Fair. On reaching the end of membership age he stepped into the role of club leader at Kirklington and he did this for 25 years. Willie was always ready to get involved be it stock judging, tug of war, or dressing as a 70's drag queen at a YFC fancy dress disco. Willie has been Northern District President of Cumbria YFC, judged and stewarded countless times and he qualified as a tug of war referee which has led him to travel across the United Kingdom to various counties as there are not many referees around. Like many others, Willie found love in Young Farmers and he met his wife Isobel and has been married for nearly 57 years. Alongside Young Farmers duties Willie has lived and worked on the family dairy and beef farm just north of Carlisle, his daughter and two sons followed in his footsteps as Young Farmers, competing themselves at Smithfield and holding positions at club, district and at county level. Today Willie has three grandchildren who are members at Kirklington who offer great support to the club.

"As well as Young Farmers, Willie is a man of the community being a Church Warden and Organist at his local church, a past member of the local school of governors, and Parish Council Chairman. Always willing to give up his time for others. Willie played the accordion from his teens and always used to play in a band. He now still plays at Young Farmers meetings and dinner dances, along with entertaining at old peoples' homes in the area all for the love of playing and no financial reward needed. Willie enjoys attending the YFC AGM here in Blackpool as well as District and County AGM's at home in Cumbria. A great chance to meet up with YFC officials, friends both old and Young which he has met over the years. He says that there are so many opportunities available in the YFC movement and the enjoyment he has had over the last seventy years is tremendous. Willie's dedication, commitment and enthusiasm makes him a great Ambassador for the movement, and I am sure you will all agree with me that Willie is certainly a well deserved recipient of the title 'Life Vice President of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs', and I propose this Motion. Thank you."

Robyn Bowker addressed the meeting; "It is my honour and privilege to second the Motion that in recognition of service to YFC over many years, Mr Willie Bendle be elected Life Vice President of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs. I have a short poem to read for this motion:

*Willie is a great role model for the Young Farmers clubs,
He has given a lot of time and knowledge, sometimes in the pub.
From stock judging to speech making to how to pull a rope, master judge, tug o war referee,
steward he will always cope.
In the early days with a hoe on the crossbar of his bike, competing in the hoeing competition after
a long hike.
He was stockjudging for England at The Royal Show in 1953, six other countries taking part, but
Willie Champion it had to be.
Farming at The Nook he has had beef, sheep, dairy and pigs.
YFC have used the farm for stockjudging meetings and late night jigs.
Kirklington is the club all roles he has taken on, member, club leader, president, the list goes on and
on.
All Cumbria he has travelled district president and more, training members for Smithfield, he
was the team core.*

When on his last trip there he needed half the train, 162 people was the last count, but to Willie this was not a strain.

Every year he is seen at district and Cumbria's AGMs and when it is Blackpool he will be there to meet all his friends.

Now I joined YFC at the age of ten as soon as I could and now I am thirteen I'm at national which I think is really good.

Although I can't wait until I am eighteen to get into the dance, I am pleased to be here now to give this man a chance.

To second the Motion before us, Willie a Vice President to be, because he is something special to all of you and definitely to me.

In case you hadn't guessed he is my Granddad you know and he is very honoured and a smile he will show.

So I second the motion for us and I hope you will agree and finish by thanking you for listening to Murdo and me.

I second the Motion. Thank you."

There was no one else to speak to the Motion, and the members voted unanimously to elect Willie Bendle as Life Vice President of National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs.

Poul invited Willie to say a few words; Willie addressed the meeting; "Mr President, Madam Chairman, members of the top table, it is indeed a great pleasure for me to be here today to receive this award, something which I never expected, or indeed did it for any reward. Thank you Cumbria for the nomination. It is a great honour and I am pleased to accept. I would like to thank Murdo and Robyn for their kind words and all the other national officials involved in the organising of the AGM. I have spent many happy times with Young Farmer's friends, and I am sure that today members will be having a wonderful time in Blackpool, and may I wish the NFYFC a most successful future and I am sure that its members will gain knowledge, enjoyment and friendship from the organisation of which I am privileged to be a Vice President. Thank you"

AGM/09/14 6.4 MOTION from Clitheroe YFC of the Lancashire County Federation

"That in recognition of life-long service to YFC, Miss Mary Bailey be elected Life Vice President of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs"

Proposer: Jessica Townson, Chairman, Lancashire FYFC, Seconder: Richard Whitwell, Chairman, Clitheroe YFC.

The meeting was made aware that Jessica Townson had lost her voice and Philip Miller, Lancashire County Vice Chairman, would deliver her proposal to the Motion: Philip addressed the meeting; "Ladies, gentlemen, fellow Young Farmers, on behalf of the Lancashire Federation of Young Farmers it gives me great pleasure to have the opportunity to propose that in recognition of life-long service to YFC, Miss Mary Bailey be elected Life Vice President of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs. For those who have had the pleasure of meeting Mary they will appreciate the enthusiasm that Mary has for the federation. Mary has been involved with the Lancashire Federation since the age of eighteen, when she became a member of Clitheroe Young Farmers.

"Mary's passion for everything YFC soon shone through, when she began to participate in all manner of competitions including her beloved public speaking. Mary's passion for public speaking is ever prevalent

at all levels of the federation as she freely supports clubs, and regions throughout Lancashire with their public speaking entries. She also assists with judging and stewarding many other competitions.

“Mary’s expertise is not just recognised by her home county, but also by NFYFC as she has been in attendance at all weekends here in Blackpool judging the senior speaking. Some of you may recall having seen Mary on Friday afternoon at the signing in desk. Jess was speaking to Mary just a few weeks ago about when she first joined YFC and I am sure Mary won’t mind me letting you into a little secret; It was fast approaching the summer holidays when Mary was eighteen and coming to the end of her college years and was looking forward to going to University to further her studies, unfortunately Mary fell ill with appendicitis and she had an operation to have her appendix out, whilst recovering from the operation Mary developed a DVT in her leg, this unluckily stopped Mary from starting at University at Hull in September and she was still recovering. It was in this gap year that Mary took the opportunity to go to Clitheroe YFC. She went on to say that getting DVT was the best thing that has happen to her and allowed her to become part of such a fantastic organisation. It is this positive attitude which makes Mary cope with this most unfortunate incident, that enhances Mary’s support and contribution towards Young Farmers. Mary’s love for YFC has seen her in many roles within the federation Miss Bailey began as club secretary, and graduated onto regional secretary, chair and county chair of Lancashire, and later onto Northern Area chair, as well as being at the forefront of the federation, Mary has held positions at club and county and is currently an Honorary Life Vice President of the Lancashire Federation. Mary is coming to the end of her three year term as President at Clitheroe YFC and I am sure that Richard will be able to follow with an insight into running a club with Mary’s support. I am sure you will agree with the wealth of experience and enthusiasm that Miss Mary Bailey has to offer us that the proposal can only be beneficial to the NFYFC, and so it is without hesitation that I would like to propose this Motion.”

Richard Whitwell addressed the meeting; “Mr President, Madam Chairman, fellow Young Farmers, it is a great honour to second the motion from the council that Miss Mary Bailey be elected Life Vice President of the National Federation of Young Farmers’ Clubs. Mary was proposed as the President of Clitheroe YFC in 2011 when I was Vice Chairman. Mary has been at the forefront of our activities throughout her three terms as President, and takes great pride in taking part in events with the club. Mary is a great believer in leading by example, and regularly attends our club meetings to keeps us all in check. Clitheroe YFC recently celebrated their 75th anniversary and with Mary’s support on our organising committee the event ran extremely smoothly. Mary has taken advantage of all the activities that YFC has to offer, in particular in 1997 when Mary was deputy leader, she led a group to the experiment and living expedition in Russia, and by surprise to many sceptics they all came back in one piece.

“Mary has also visited Belgium where she was the national representative at the World Seminar of Youth in 1969, where she took great pride in meeting like minded individuals from across the globe. As Philip has demonstrated, Mary’s dedication should not go unnoticed when we consider this proposal today. At Clitheroe we often compare Mary to a ‘stick of rock’ if you cut her in half she has Young Farmers right the way through. Therefore, I have no deliberation in seconding the Motion that in recognition of life-long service to YFC, Miss Mary Bailey be elected Life Vice President of the National Federation of Young Farmers’ Clubs’.

There was no one else to speak to the Motion, and the members voted unanimously to elect Mary Bailey as Life Vice President of National Federation of Young Farmers’ Clubs. Poul invited Mary to say a few words. Mary addressed the meeting: “ Mr President, Madam Chairman, Vice Presidents, distinguished

guests, ladies and gentlemen, fellow Young Farmers, I have had a lot of icing on my Young Farmer cakes throughout many years, but to be asked to be a Vice President of the national federation is the best. It is the royal icing on the cake, and I feel very honoured and humbled. Thank you for bestowing this honour on me, I accept it with great gratitude and pride, but I would also like to dedicate it to my club Clitheroe YFC, and to the Lancashire Federation, because without my super membership of both of these I would not be standing here today, so thank you Clitheroe for putting up with me and Lancashire, it is wonderful. I feel very honoured and very proud, I had a suspicion that the stick of rock might come into the speech today as they are always telling me that if cut across I would have Young Farmers written across me which is appropriate being in Blackpool. Young Farmers has been such an integral and special part of my life therefore, Mr President, Madam Chairman, fellow Young Farmers I accept this and feel very privileged and honoured and I will do all in my power to be worthy of this honour you have bestowed on me today, thank you very much indeed.”

Poul invited Milly Wastie and the senior officer team to give their reports:

AGM/10/14 7. PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT 2012 - 2013

Milly Wastie addressed the meeting: “Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, honoured guests, fellow Young Farmers, Lionel; it is with my greatest pleasure that I present to you today the annual report for 2012 – 2013, in which I had the position as your national chairman of council. Before I give an overview of my year at the helm, I would like to invite the officer team to present their steering group and board reports which have supported me and the federation’s strategic operations and activities during the last twelve months. So without further a do I would like invite Mr Frank Chester, Chairman Board of Management to give his report:

AGM/11/14 7.1 To receive the report of the Board of Management and Presentation of the Audited Accounts:

7.1.2 Mr Frank Chester addressed the meeting: “Mr President, Madame Chairman, distinguished guests, fellow Young Farmers, Bora Da, good morning everyone. It is a year since I stood before you to present the last board report and quite a lot has happened in this time. As you will be aware NFYFC has for a long time benefitted from a very large donation from HOPS Labour Solutions Limited, unfortunately this has not been the case in this last year, and it has naturally made your board re-focus on all expenditure. In August we received the resignation of the CEO. We decided that this was an opportune time to look at the staffing structure to see if any changes could be made to staff costs, whilst providing you the membership, with the same level of service. The recommendations going forward were that the position of CEO would no longer exist. This would give the federation the largest cost saving. It was decided that the staff team would be led by a Chief Officer supported by a Head of Marketing & Development which would also be a deputy to the Chief Officer. I am delighted to say that Mr James Eckley, who was Operations Manager, is now our Chief Officer of the national federation. He will be supported in July by Maria Burke, who takes up the position of Head of Marketing & Development.

“It is at this point that I would like to say a huge thank you to all our staff who works tirelessly to keep our federation running so smoothly through this rather difficult period. Thank you very much. Our staff at Stoneleigh led by James are totally committed to you the membership and it is indeed a pleasure and a real privilege to have such a dedicated team to work with.

“We also thought at this time that we should review ourselves at the board. We did a skills audit review and found that we had four specialist’s roles on the board which were now actually duplicated within the staff structure. The four specialist’s roles were removed and replaced by two individual specialists to cover the area of a skill set which we would like on the board. This was to cover finance, charity and good governance. We have also increased your member representation on the board from three to four. This I now believe is working really well and we have fantastic member representatives on the board and they give us total commitment. I would at this juncture like to thank my vice chairman Julia and all the members on the board for their fantastic support. We have achieved so much and it has only been made possible through your support and thank you to you. We are going to hear in a couple of minutes from our Treasurer John, so I won’t say very much on the accounts only to say that we are scrutinising all our costs, and at the minimum I want to provide you, the membership with the same level of service that you have been used to, that is why we are suggesting the levy rise today. To propose a levy rise is not something we have taken any pleasure in doing, but one which this year is totally necessary, please give it your 100% support and pass it unanimously. It is now a real privilege to be board chairman but I am just part of a fantastic team. I would like to offer my personal thanks all the members, the clubs, counties and the areas that have invited me to some of your functions, thank you. It is brilliant to meet you all, and to enjoy time with you. I would also like to thank all the county staff and the volunteers who help this weekend. We have a totally committed staff but supported by other members and volunteers and it is very much appreciated. We now have a board which is very much in tune with the members, and I think we are achieving our goal to be a lot more open and transparent, we have a staff team at Stoneleigh which are just simply the best, and you the members are the greatest, my thanks go to you all, I hope you are having a brilliant weekend. Thank you.”

Milly invited Mr John Hardman, Hon. Treasurer for the Board of Management to present the accounts;
7.1.2 Presentation of the Audited Accounts John Hardman (Board Treasurer) addressed the meeting;
“Good morning one and all, Mr President, fellow Young Farmers, it certainly does not seem like a year, since I was stood here last. We have had a lot to do in the year, we have had a very exciting time, and once again it gives me great pleasure to present the annual audited accounts, which you will find at the back of the annual report and pages 6 & 7 of the AGM booklet.

“Whilst in the office the other week, I was in there with the HOPS team, and I was referred to as ‘Scrooge’ only because I won’t allow anyone to buy any pens, because there are plenty of free ones in banks and building societies around the countryside. I am called many things in the office, Scrooge is probably very kind. So on that basis I would come on as Scrooge and we would talk about the past. As Frank has alluded to, we have had a considerable contribution from HOPS last year of £319,000. We have had exceptional surplus with income over turnover, which we have invested to try and get the best returns on those investments for the federation. We have amalgamated departmental costs; we have alluded again to transparency, we have now broken those down and these are now clearly stated as each departmental cost, which is something that the membership really pushed for. We had some confusing fiscal reporting in format, but we now have a standardised format so that the half yearly accounts, the annual accounts, the management accounts, and the accounts which are seen by the board all follow the same format, and they are all what you now see. There are no hidden figures, there is no amalgamation, everything is made as transparent as possible.

“Previously we have been in a very strong cash position, again that cash position has been reinvested, and the Trustees have done a great job for us with that. The present – this year we show a cash loss of

(£203,000). The HOPS donation was reduced to £125,000, because of the lack of profitability going forward in the HOPS business, HOPS has had to retain some cash to ensure that it can continue trading. The balance sheet of circa £2.4M has been retained from 2012 to 2013. That balance sheet with an increasing performance in the stock market should increase and that does bolster our finances going forward and this is really positive. But we must remember the stock market is not always reliable, and must not rely on that as part of our income.

“Increasing levels of sponsorship:- I cannot thank Christina Evans and the fundraising team enough. The amount of effort and the money they have brought in, they are doing a fantastic job and I would like you to put your hands together for the fundraising team.

“The future – The HOPS donation is questionable in the short term. Many of you will know that the SAWS Scheme has come to an end, our Home Office Contract has ended, and therefore the money making machine that was HOPS is not what it was. However, HOPS have got some very exciting things coming forward and regrettably I can't tell you all about them right now due to the time constraints today, but more information will be rolled out. These are exciting times. There are things which will involve YFC much more going forward, and I am really looking forward to that happening. Support from the membership must continue through levy rises as Frank has mentioned. We have asked for a big rise this year, we have not had rises for a few years and that is hopefully going to be addressed, but going forward please please continue to support your federation through certainly at the minimum inflationary rises. We must never become reliant and complacent on one income stream and I refer back to HOPS. Our reserves are there for a reason. We must be mindful that our headquarters lease expires very soon indeed and the rent that we are on is beyond competitive. We have a fantastic deal with the RASE. Going forward we probably won't get as good a deal, so we need to be aware of this and forward plan for an increase in the rent that we have to pay.

“More long term budgeting and forecasting, is essential, next year we should have a firm strategic plan, and budgeting and financial forecasting is an intrinsic part of that. To summarise, we are in a good position. But we must not be complacent. This is my final year as your Treasurer to stand for you at an AGM. We have had some challenging, difficult times, I have had some fun times, and I have met some great people, and being the Treasurer is never going to be the easiest job within Young Farmers, but it has been a pleasure. We have come forward in leaps and bounds, and I leave having had a fantastic time, and I only have the membership my colleagues on the board of management to thank for that.

Poul called upon Caroline Trude to propose the next Motion:

AGM/12/14

MOTION FROM NFYFC COUNCIL

7.2.1 “That the audited accounts for 2013 as printed be adopted”

7.2.2 “That a firm of auditors, Grant Thornton – Birmingham be appointed for 2014”

Proposer: Caroline Trude (Devon), Seconder: Sean Gerrard (Lincolnshire)

Caroline Trude addressed the meeting: “ Mr President, Madam Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, fellow Young Farmers, it gives me great pleasure to formally propose the adoption of the 2013 audited accounts. It has been an extremely busy eventful but on the whole successful year, and this has been shown in the accounts which have been delivered to you today. Just as many county federations have had to look hard at their accounts and become more efficient, so has the national federation, and I am sure this is something which will remain in constant review. On behalf of the members I must say a massive thank you to John Hardman, the national federation's honorary treasurer, for all his hard work and

dedication that he has given to our federation, throughout this year and previous years. With that I would like to propose that the audited accounts for 2013 as printed be adopted.

“I would also like to propose that a firm of auditors, Grant Thornton from Birmingham be appointed for 2014. With an organisation as large as ours, it is imperative that we can rely on a reputable company to provide us with a professional audit, so with that I would like to propose that Grant Thornton – Birmingham be appointed for 2013. Thank you.”

Sean Gerrard addressed the meeting to second the Motion: “Mr President, honoured guests, fellow Young Farmers, I would just like to second the motion to adopt the audited accounts for 2013, and would like to reiterate what Caroline said to thank John for all his hard work over the last years and also to second that the firm of auditors Grant Thornton be appointed. Thank you “

No one wished to speak to the Motion and the members voted on both Motions and these were carried unanimously. Both Motions were passed.

AGM/13/14 7.3 MOTION FROM NFYFC COUNCIL

7.3.1 “That the gross National Subscription (National Levy) for the period 1 September 2014 to 31 August 2015 be increased by 20%

Proposer: Keith Forster (Cumbria FYFC) and Seconder: Joy Davenport (Somerset FYFC)

Keith Forster addressed the meeting: “Good morning, Mr President, honoured guests, and fellow Young Farmers, I stand in front of you this morning to propose the motion on behalf of council, that the gross National Subscription (National Levy) for the period 1 September 2014 to 31 August 2015 be increased by 20%. Now I understand that on first reflection 20% will seem like a huge rise in the levy, however, I do believe it is more that justifiable when you look into the figures. Having been a member of council for the last two years, I feel now that for the first time, we have openness and transparency when it comes to our federation’s finances.

“I have witnessed two defeated levy proposals at the last two AGM’s and I have voted against them both times, on the grounds that we have just not seen all the relevant figures to allow us to vote in favour of that particular rise. I do believe, however, that huge strides have been made in the way budgets and accounts have been presented to council. With this information it has allowed your national council to put forward today’s motion of a levy increase with confidence. As we have already heard, the biggest issue with regard to our finances at this present time is the HOPS donation. In both 2011 and 2012 this donation came in at £319,000. Last year however, we received a donation of just £125,000, and HOPS have told us that they anticipate there will be very little, if any, cash available at the end of this year. They have advised us not to expect any donation this year. For those of you who are not aware HOPS is NYFC’s commercial arm and the business was built around the seasonal farm workers scheme. HOPS was one of the few bodies in charge of licensing workers primarily from eastern European countries to work in fruit picking and other seasonal work. In early 2013 the UK government announced that this scheme was to end by December 2013. The consequence of this is that HOPS have lost its monopoly of the market place when it comes to seasonal workers from outside the UK and can no longer guarantee the donation. These exceptional circumstances obviously leave a substantial hole in NFYFC’s income, which brings us onto the levy rise.

The national levy in 2013 brought in £225,000. So just to illustrate the size of the gap, if we were to use the levy rise to show the £319,000 in one go we would be looking at a levy rise of 41%. It is hoped however as time goes forward the labour market will stabilise, HOPS will return to a point where they will start to donate to us again. I do emphasise the word 'hope' though, and this is why I believe a 20% increase is more than prudent to ensure that our federation can continue to stand on a firm financial foot moving forward. I would also like to take the opportunity to assure members that as council members we are and will continue to scrutinise all aspects of NFYFC's expenditure to ensure that the grassroots members receive the best possible value for money with the levy. Council and board members have decided that they do not wish to cut any services. However, the national office is constantly looking to cut costs where possible and to boost efficiency. A 20% levy rise based on current membership figures bring in roughly an extra £50,000 and this should start to bridge the gap. As a per member figure in pounds and pennies, this is a rise of only £2.27 each, not a vast amount of money in anybody's book. Our federation continues to offer us and the next generation of Young members a huge range of opportunities that I have been privileged to have had over my past 15 years as a member. So I ask you this morning to really get behind this motion, and I know no one likes to pay a little bit extra, but I do really believe there is real justification for this rise to cover the exceptional circumstances during this past twelve months. Thank you very much."

Joy Davenport addressed the meeting: "Good morning Mr President, Madam Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, and fellow Young Farmers, I stand here today to second the motion that the gross National Subscription (National Levy) for the period 1 September 2014 to 31 August 2015 be increased by 20%. Now I am going to look at it from a different angle from Keith today. What does this motion mean if it is defeated and the affect to YFC. The council and the board would have to look into cutting the communications side of the business which has been working really well at this present time. There would be less editions of Ten26, and NFYFC would not be able to interact with the grassroots members via social networking on a daily basis.

"We would have to have reductions in national competitions finals and agri training events. The safeguarding in YFC would suffer, and will not be able to support the members in their hour of need. There would be fewer attendance from staff and officers at our counties if we do not have the finances to support them. On a personal note, we would not be able to have Claire Worden, James Eckley, and Poul Christensen come down to Somerset a few months ago. This was an emotional time for us in Somerset, and without the support of NFYFC we couldn't have got through it, and we still need that support. If we do not have this increase, things like that will not happen. The staff at NFYFC and all the federation would have to take this out of their own pocket. If this motion is defeated, they would not be able to get mileage and other things like that, to support us grassroot members. Please remember that a high percentage of cuts would have to be applied to members' services and reductions because the running costs of the organisation are rather fixed. So ladies and gentlemen I urge you to all agree and second the motion, that the gross National Subscription (National Levy) for the period 1 September 2014 to 31 August 2015 be increased by 20%. Thank you."

Poul asked if any member wished to speak to the Motion. Rachel Goldie (Yorkshire Federation) addressed the meeting: "Good morning Mr President, honoured guests, fellow Young Farmers, I can't believe the progress that has been made over the past year. As an active member of the Yorkshire Federation I sat in this room last year, and voted against last year's request for an increase. Not just on the basis that I did not want to pay any more, but because of the failure from NFYFC to provide the information that the

members had asked for to back up the reason for an increase proposal. One year on we have been provided with a full set of accounts and details of why today's increase is being requested and how the funds will be used to benefit us, the members, who are the core of this great movement. As we can see a lot of hard work, effort and time has been put in to prepare this information from NFYFC, making the whole system a lot more transparent. In appreciation to the council, I would urge the membership here today to support this motion to allow the Federation to progress and move forward in providing the support to clubs and counties which is needed. I can assure you in Yorkshire we are not tight we just like value for money. Thank you."

Poul Christensen called on the members to vote by the show of voting cards, against six, abstentions three, and on that basis there is no card count, and Poul declared that the motion was carried by an overwhelming majority.

"Poul noted that what has just happened demonstrated that NFYFC is a strong healthy and resilient organisation. Last year a similar proposal was voted down and really good reasons were given as to why that was and your council and your staff team reacted to that in a positive way. So it is your organisation, and you run it, and the result of that has just been very clearly demonstrated. I think you should be congratulated on that, and that shows a great deal of self confidence and your job now is to take that back to your clubs and to demonstrate to them what you have heard from the proposer and the seconder as the reasons for it and take the clubs forward. Well done and I think that has been a tremendous result."

AGM/14/14 7.3.2 MOTION FROM NFYFC COUNCIL

"That the National Levy for Associate Members be increased from £5.00 to £10.00 for the period 1st September 2014 to 31 August 2015

Proposer: Paul Glanvill (Devon), Seconder: Duncan Howie (Essex)

Paul Glanvill addressed the meeting: "Mr President, ladies and gentlemen and fellow Young Farmers, I would like to propose that the National Levy for Associate Members be increased from £5.00 to £10.00 for the period 1st September 2014 to 31st August 2015. I do not wish to stand here and repeat the reasons why NFYFC needs more money as I feel that this has been done very well at counties across the country recently and it has been explained very clearly here today as well. For me this is about value for money. As an Associate myself I feel that I receive real value for the £5.00 that I pay. Besides competing associates have all the other benefits of a full membership and have access to so many opportunities and resources, and the levy rise of £1.00 in lay mans terms would equate to about a third of a pint of beer. From the way a lot of associates were looking this morning I am sure a third of a pint less would be quite useful. I have always believed that as a member of Young Farmers, you only get out what you put in. This is also true of the associate members, but at the moment they are getting back far more than they are contributing. Since the associate levy began in 2009 there have been no increases, but with inflationary cost rising we are actually paying less and currently running at a loss. I therefore urge the members to support this motion so that the associates pay their way, and so we can ensure longevity of the organisation for future generations to come. Thank you."

Duncan Howie addressed the meeting: "Mr President, Madam Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, sponsors, honoured guests, and most importantly members. I have great pleasure in seconding the motion that the National Levy for Associate Members be increased by one whole pound. I am soon to be an associate member, and therefore going to be very old, and I look forward to all the benefits that my continued membership will bring, and I see no reason why I won't pay £1.00 more my membership. Thank you."

With no members wishing to speak to the motion Poul called on the members to vote by the show of voting cards, against 2, abstentions 1, and on that basis there is no card count, and Poul declared that the motion was carried by an overwhelming majority.

Milly introduced Russell Carrington:

AGM/15/14 7.4 To receive the report of the Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee (ARAC) 2013. Russell Carrington (on behalf of Chris Bateman)

Russell Carrington addressed the meeting: “My predecessor Chris Bateman sends his apologies as he’s getting married next week and has been forced to reschedule putting up the marquee today. As ever last year was a successful year for the Agricultural & Rural Affairs Committee (now the Agriculture and Rural Issues Steering Group – AGRI), a rebranding which began in Chris’s year and was adopted this February. However, we were sad to say goodbye to Sarah Palmer the ARAC Officer who had been in post for 11 years. We are all extremely grateful for Sarah’s efforts over the year. Chris and I were involved in the handover process and were pleased to find a new officer in Jo Wyles who is now going from strength to strength in her new role.

“Being heard as Young Farmers was extremely poignant in 2013, as the latest CAP reform unravelled and we grasped the opportunity to influence how agricultural policy takes shape in the future. Through sponsorship from Mole Valley Farmers we were able to be an active member in CEJA, the council for European Young Farmers, and attend several key events throughout the year which have proved effective for getting a better deal for Young people in agriculture. Back at home committee members took several opportunities to engage with various networks and take part in VIP meetings.

“Chris and I met with the then agriculture minister, Jim Paice. We had input to the Future of Farming Review led by David Fursdon and we continued our involvement in the industry’s Green Food Project. Chris spoke at a break out session at the NFU conference which highlighted a positive future for Young Farmers, but a widening gap for new positions and a demand for higher education places for those pursuing a career in agriculture. One thing that is clear is that people really want to hear from Young Farmers, from decision makers to the general public, all appreciate and benefit from hearing our stories.

“In the past year ARAC also kept up its provision of training for key agricultural skills to 150 members up and down the country, including meat for the market training, tenancy training, and for the first time in 2013, piloting a new grassland training working closely with the British Grasslands Society – which was a huge success.

A full coach of members also travelled to Ireland to visit various farms and other related agricultural businesses. We met with some Irish Young Farmers and had the opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences with them.

“Thanks must go to Defra for their kind support in making many of these things possible. Thank you”.

“Russell Carrington introduced Jock Muirhead, of Somerset FYFC AGRI Committee who acknowledged the support to Somerset Farmers during the recent Floods on the Somerset levels. Jock addressed the meeting: “ Madam Chairman, honoured guests, fellow Young Farmers, it is my honour and my privilege to stand here and thank you, the Young Farmers, from the Farmers of Somerset for your support. We have been in the worst situation we have ever experienced. The challenges we have faced through the water

and the flooding are still with us. As Poul said the media has gone, the Prime Minister has gone, but the grass still has not come. We still have an ongoing problem and for that I thank you Young Farmers. The work you have done and for every single load of forage you have sent to Somerset is unreal, for that I thank you. Anyone who has pledged fodder we still need it, our biggest problem is haulage, a lot of you have pledged fodder in the North, it is a long way to Somerset as I discovered last night. One person who I would like to personally thank is Ed Ford from Essex YFC. I have never come across someone so determined to solve a problem that is so far away from his own home. The work Ed has done and Essex Young Farmers have done is phenomenal – thank you Ed. The last five months has really changed my life, I am just an ordinary shepherd, or I was until five months ago, for that I would like to thank Young Farmers, without being a Young Farmer I wouldn't be where I am today, I am truly indebted to the national federation of Young Farmers.”

AGM/16/14 7.5 To receive the report of the Competitions Steering Group 2013 – Hannah Talbot Hannah addressed the meeting: “ Mr President, honoured guests, fellow Young Farmers, competitions has once again demonstrated that they are at the heart of our organisation in 2012/13. The programme remains underpinned by competitions which enhance the skills of our members, from stockjudging to public speaking, and cookery to fence erecting. There is no doubt that competitions enhance YFC communities. Whilst the competitions committee generate new challenges, develop the rules and host competitions, it is grassroots clubs and members together with their trainers, supporters and families who work tirelessly to ensure that the high standards of YFC competition are consistently upheld.

“As a forward thinking youth organisation we introduced new competitions to spice up the 2012/13 programme. Knitting; although initially raising some eyebrows, members across the country soon embraced this new challenge and produced some fantastic results at the national finals. Excellent designs were also seen in the Christmas card and photography competitions, both of which are available to purchase as merchandise from the YFC shop. The theme ‘Best of British’ pervaded the majority of the competitions and left county shows around the country with patriotic cube exhibits, cookery and floral arts displays that clearly state to the wider public what a talented bunch we are.

“Junior tug of war, ultimate Frisbee and dodgeball were all more unusual sports which got our members hot under the collar, as well as causing competitive outbursts in club nights up and down the country.

“The plethora of people involved in a competition, from its conception to the national final is huge, and it is no wonder that such pride and passion emanates from our competitions programme. Thank you to each and every person that contributes to the competitions programme in whatever way, and I hope that you continue to get the very most out of these competitions for a long time to come. Thank you”.

The members watched a montage of slides demonstrating the competitions throughout the year accompanied by music.

AGM/17/14 7.5.1 Announcement of ‘The Member of The Year’ Competition finalists & Winner – Hannah Talbot and David Hamer announced the 7 finalists and invited them to the front of the meeting. David Hamer explained, “that the competition is for 18 years and over and everyone had showed a tremendous talent and enthusiasm with YFC running through their veins, and they should all be commended for their commitment. So everyone is a winner in Young Farmers.

Mark Curr, Pennine YFC, Cumbria. Holly Jones, Silsoe YFC, Bedfordshire. Katherine Bunn, Shefford YFC, Berkshire. Jessica Wright, Lugg Valley YFC Herefordshire. Victoria Hicks, Twekesbury, Gloucestershire. Lowri Davies, Neath YFC, Glamorgan. Linsey Belford—
Kelmarsh YFC, Northamptonshire, Now Linsey Burton (Married).

In joint 4th place Hollie Jones Bedfordshire, Katherine Bunn, Berkshire, Lowri Davies, Glamorgan, and Linsey Burton, Northamptonshire. 3rd place Victoria Hicks, Gloucestershire and 2nd place Mark Curr, Cumbria. 1st place awarded to Jessica Wright from Lugg Valley YFC, Herefordshire, the Trophy was awarded by Poul Christensen.

AGM/18/14

7.6 To receive the report of the Communication, Events & Marketing Steering Group 2013 -

Gareth Laking – Gareth addressed the meeting: “Good Morning Mr President, Madam Chairman, honoured guests and fellow Young Farmers. This was a special year for the steering group as it was the first year that we had taken on the role of overseeing Communications, Marketing and Fundraising as well as Events. This year saw the introduction of the YFC Buzz, the monthly e-newsletter which tells even more members about the latest YFC training opportunities and news as well as allowing members to share their own stories and pictures. I feel the impact of this newsletter is huge as it has helped to bridge the gap between NFYFC, and the grass roots club member. There are now over 19,000 subscribers to this fantastic monthly publication. Towards the end of the summer we had a successful Facebook campaign which bought in an extra 14,000 likes to the NFYFC Facebook page between September and December. Another way in which NFYFC has increased its engagement with grass route members, we currently now have over 20,000 likes on our Facebook page. The CEM Steering group have also been looking to support Clubs and Counties with their own communications, and have developed a social media guide to help YFCs recruit and engage with their members safely online.

“The NFYFC website has had a slight refurb over the last year with new content and navigation, which has increased the amount of new membership enquiries through the website. In March members of the steering group along with members of the competitions steering group attended the Scottish Association of Young Farmers western area talent spot in Glasgow. This was a great evening and an excellent opportunity to see how another one of the 5 nations organise their large scale events.

“Annual Convention - The highlight of the year for a lot of our members and 2013 was up there with the best for me. It was the first time convention has attracted over 5,000 attendees for a number of years. There were several highlights including both the drama and ballroom finals which were won by Bulith Wells YFC and Bakewell YFC respectively. The excellent evening’s entertainment from Radio 1 DJ's Aled Jones and Jamilla Jamil. But what impressed me the most was the amount of members that dressed up for the Where's Wally fancy dress. Looking down from the balcony was like looking into a sea of Red and White. Other events in 2013 included a day at Cheltenham Races in November for The Open. Hundreds of members attended the discounted event and gathered in the YFC marquee to enjoy the racing.

“As I mentioned earlier, the steering group now also oversees Fundraising. This incorporates seeking corporate sponsorship for NFYFC, to whom we are extremely grateful, supporting clubs and counties to obtain sponsorship and also agreeing affinity deals so NFYFC members can obtain various discounts. I can’t mention fundraising though without mentioning the colossal amount that YFC members raised for charity in 2013 which is estimated at over £1.2 million pounds. Finally, I would just like to end this report by wishing David Maidment and the rest of the steering group all the best for the remainder of the year. Thank You.”

The members watched a montage of slides demonstrating the events throughout the year accompanied by music.

Milly thanked Gareth for his report and introduced Toby France to give the Personal Development Steering Group Report.

AGM/19/14

7.7 To receive the report of the Personal Development Steering Group - Toby France – Toby addressed the meeting: “Good afternoon everyone, my aim for the year was to break down barriers and lift member access and exchange, with all the opportunities that YFC offers. Our training programme has seen us try new initiatives such as ‘Train The Trainer’ courses being taken on the road to Area level, thus making them more accessible to our members. A Trainers Forum has been launched providing advice to those training at club and county level, and a project has started looking at externally accredited qualifications that recognises the skills and abilities awarded to office holders. Our Youthwork team continues to ensure that YFC is a safe place for our members and volunteers. New sections have been added to ‘The Source’ with a Guide to Starting A New YFC Club, and includes information on volunteering, social media and running safe social events. One of the highlights of my year was attending a Youth Forum meeting and hearing about their plans and ideas for YFC. I was delighted to propose to Council that they should become a Steering Group in their own right and they now receive the recognition that they deserve. The opportunity to meet Young Farmers from all over the world has long been a unique selling point of YFC, and has allowed thousands of members, including myself, to discover new cultures, make friends for life, and represent their country. In 2013 the Discovery Programme was given a new name ‘YFC Travel’ and a new lease for life. By listening to our members the programme was refreshed with trips that meet the expectations of a new generation of Young Farmers. Promotion through social media raised the awareness of these opportunities and this year applications nearly doubled. As well as sending members abroad, this year we also host the Rural Youth Europe Autumn Seminar, welcoming 40 Young people from across Europe to a week long event in Worcestershire, focussing on rural innovation and entrepreneurship. I think you will agree that the Personal Development Steering Group has achieved a great deal in a short space of time and I am confident they will continue the success through 2014.

The members watched a montage of slides demonstrating the work of the PD steering group throughout the year accompanied by music.

AGM/20/14

7.7.1 Presentation of donation from Young Farmers Ambassadors and presentation of the YFA Multimedia Trophy.

Toby France introduced Dai Jones, Chairman of the YFA.

Dai Jones noted that it was honour to represent the YFA at the meeting today, he was sure that most members had heard of the YFA who are the official association for YFC members past and present who have participated on the YFC exchange programme during the last 66 years, the first trip going to Holland in 1948. The YFA was founded in 1953 to help promote, assist and advise with the exchange programme.

“We currently have around 450 members in England and Wales, so that is 450 past travellers who take an interest and are keen to see the exchange programme go from strength to strength. Now I have two questions to ask you if you don’t mind. May I have a show of hands of all past or present members who have travelled with YFC or are travelling this year? One or two not bad brilliant. Second question may I have a show of hands of all YFA members? Right not many hands. I will be honest and to the point, all of you people who put your hands up for the first question and not the second I would love it if you would join the YFA, your membership gets you a regular newsletter and an invitation to our annual reunion weekend where we meet up with Ulster YFA and Scotland YFA members. It is a fantastic weekend and we even got Claire, Hannah and James to the Saturday dinner dance this year. The other job the YFA does is sponsorship. I am here today to present a cheque to NFYFC and a smaller cheque will be presented to Wales YFC at The Royal Welsh. We sponsor two YFA scholarships for £100 each and sponsor the YFA

Multimedia Competition. Have you all seen the new banners this weekend advertising the exchange programme, well the YFA provided the funding for those. So you can see where our membership money goes. Membership is £10 a year. The majority of YFA members will agree that it is a fantastic experience, and the memories of it will stay with you forever. May it continue for many years, and if you are interested in joining come and see me at the end and I have some application forms for you. For me it has been a privilege to be part of the YFA.”

Dai Jones then presented Poul Christensen with a cheque to the value of £3,300 to contribute towards the YFC Travel expenses.

Hannah Talbot announced details of the YFC Multimedia Competition and Poul & Dai presented the trophy to: Caroline Trude following her trip to Canada 4H Ag Summit

Milly invited Sioned Davies to present her Youth Forum report.

AGM/21/14

7.8 To receive the report of the Youth Forum – Sioned Davies – Chairman of the Youth Forum – Sioned addressed the meeting: “Mr President, honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure to stand before you today on behalf of such a dynamic group of Young people who form the Youth Forum, the newest and most energetic steering group within the NFYFC structure. In the last 12 months we have launched our Supermoo brand which was established back in 2012, which certainly does add another dimension to the branding of NFYFC. We have ensured that he is featured on much of NFYFC’s merchandise. We have allowed him to get his hands dirty at county rallies, and indeed have let him loose at the Mascot Gold Cup. Where thankfully he was pictured pipping Mr Testicles the Prostate Cancer Mascot to the post. He is quite a social character and wants to be invited along to any events that you are hosting so please phone up NFYFC and ask to hire the outfit whenever possible. The main thrust of this year’s campaign however, has been through the development of the ‘Field to Fork’ campaign. We have been finding sponsorship and planning to pilot a twister style game, matching food products to their sources. If it is successful we are looking at rolling the game out to each county and starting an education programme to educate Young people about where their food comes from.

“Our residential weekend was held at Herefordshire and was incredibly successful, and we held another one in January 2013. We appointed our first set of officials, and were recognised as a steering group within the NFYFC structure. Unfortunately we spent most of the weekend covered in mud and a vice chairman with an arm in a sling from quad biking. Through the year we were busy collecting items for our time capsule project to celebrate 80 years since the first YFC club Culm Valley was established. This culminated in a Time Capsule burial in Hemyrock in Devon, our very own Chris Manley’s club. Whilst Chris’s receding hair line would suggest that he was one of the first members, rest assured this is not the case, and many of the local historians and local people reminisced about their progression from Culm Valley YFC to the very strong national structure we have today, it really was a fabulous occasion. We hope that the items which were collected will provide a glimpse into the industry, and will reflect the energy of our members today, to those opening the capsule in 2058 the 150th anniversary of the movement. So some of our more recent projects has been being recognised as a steering group within the national structure, gaining sponsorship from ADCO Parts for whom we are most grateful, and feeding the voice of our Younger members to the other sub committees. We have also pitched to the CLA in London to have a stand at the Game Fair at Blenheim Palace from 18 -20 July, so please come and visit us there and see Supermoo in all his finery, thank you for listening.”

Milly thanked Sioned for her report and introduced Kate Miles Chairman of Wales YFC to give her report:

AGM/22/14

7.9 To receive the report of the Wales Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs – Kate Miles Chairman – Kate

addressed the meeting: “ Mr President, honoured guests, fellow Young Farmers. What a twelve months it has been for Wales YFC; we have had developments in democracy, new opportunities for members and a whole lot of fun. Last year, Wales YFC Council approved a change to our committee structure to enable more focus on areas of work through dedicated sub-committees. We now have committees focusing on training, events, member’s wellbeing, finance, international, marketing, competitions, rural affairs and youth forum. Staying with the democracy theme, we launched our Strategic Plan at the Senedd (the home of the Welsh Assembly). The plan was well received and the Minister for Food & Rural Affairs noting that we are well placed to deliver strong support and rural leadership in a time when leadership is crucial. The launch was then followed by YFC Freshers Weekend, our equivalent to convention. Along with the essential fancy dress and partying, we also hosted a business breakfast and held our AGM, Sub-Committees and Council. My Vice Chair Iwan Meirion was elected in our 3rd successive contested elections, (Kate introduced Iwan to the meeting), and of course we had plenty of fun too, with a packed competitions programme introducing many members to new skills and creating opportunities for our members to shine, whether sporty, arty or agri, alone or as part of a team. We had another great party at the Royal Welsh; including another successful Young Peoples’ Village. Hopefully this will be repeated this year when we welcome Scott Mills, Sara Cox, Blazin Squad, and Gareth Gates.

“YFC opportunities stretch further when learning new skills and building confidence. We now have a joint YFC National Trust Scholar Caryl Hughes who is farming Llyndy Isaf in Snowdonia through the scheme. Her successor will be announced at the Royal Welsh, and will take over in September. Another partnership, the Dunbia/Sainsbury lamb scheme goes from strength to strength adding value for our lamb producer members.

“We are excited to be hosting the European Rally in August, and will be sending members to Patagonia in the autumn, an addition to our international programme. We hope to launch the first module of our AQA accredited training at the Royal Welsh and have just started a twitter hour #awryfc as a way of directly interacting with more members. We will be live this evening from 8pm – follow the conversation on #awryfc.

“Last year our members helped our outgoing Chairman Gwenno Griffith raise over £25,000 for British Heart Foundation by climbing the highest peak in each county. This year I have challenged our members to donate their time and to complete a community project in their county. We recently slept rough for an evening to raise awareness of rural homelessness. These are just some of our highlights at Wales YFC, and I am looking forward to working with Claire, Hannah and Chris and the NFYFC team in creating many more. Diolch yn Fawr, thank you.”

AGM/23/14

7 continued Milly addressed the meeting: “Thank you everyone for delivering some interesting reports and for providing so many wonderful benefits to YFC members. I am so thrilled that the Youth Forum are now recognised as a steering group in their own right, you have so much energy. So now it is my turn, tissues at the ready. The National Convention AGM meeting is my last commitment to NFYFC as outgoing Chairman, and I wanted to go out with a bang. It has been an enjoyable but challenging year and I can honestly say that I have put my heart and my sole into YFC. I have learnt a lot about myself and about others, about time management, my abilities and confidence, I know who I can rely on and who my friends are. I have listened and I have learnt from you the members and when problems have been identified, I have not been one to ignore them and sweep them under the carpet. I have witnessed and experienced a lot and have been let down by people who should have been making the organisation a

safer place, but thankfully I have received the support from staff, YFC members and new board members, and we have worked together to make NFYFC a better place. I wanted to give back to YFC what I have gained over the last 15 years, that is why I feel so passionately about a safer future for our organisation. I know I have left the organisation in a better place as a result of the actions I took.

“I set myself three goals at the start of my year, firstly to improve communications throughout the federation, especially to those counties at a distance to NFYFC. My highlights include visiting the Isle of Man and helping to judge their entertainments competition. I can’t thank them enough for such wonderful hospitality. Thank you to Cheshire YFC for inviting me to judge your speaking competition and to see how you operate outside of NFYFC. I loved attending Northern Area weekend in County Durham. There was so many junior members competing which filled me with such a sense of pride, that the future of YFC is in very capable hands. You will have seen the improvements of Ten26 and throughout our social media. We can now shout about all the wonderful things that you are doing at grassroot level. On an internal level I instigated the regular officer team meetings, to ensure that we were supportive of one another and we were able to spread ourselves around the country when invitations came our way.

“My second goal was to champion the theme “Best of British”. I attended the NFU and Oxford Farming Conference where the theme was firmly set around the theme of supporting British Agriculture. It was great to network and build on relationships with industry representative and members alike. We also had a memorable night in the Birmingham Walkabout bar. The locals didn’t really take to the ‘YFC ways’ which resulted in a little scuffle. I was nominated as the face of ‘Great British Beef Week’, and also had the opportunity to attend Yorkshire’s YFC Rally to judge the Cube Exhibit. I was honoured to be asked to do a reading at Westminster Abbey for the ‘Love British Food’ fortnight, in front of Royalty and farming’s great and good. I was also asked to look after Martin Clunes during the service which was very entertaining. One cold October evening Andy and I attended the Farmer’s Weekly Awards in London and I was awarded the most amazing accolade of the finalist in the Farming Champions category. If you ever get an opportunity to go, do go. It is a hoot from start to finish if somewhat boozy.

“My third and most significant goal was to highlight the importance of Rural Road Safety by launching ‘The Drive It Home’ Campaign, to educate and train you the members on how to stay safe when driving. When we launched the campaign in November 2012, I was overwhelmed with all the support I received from celebrities, politicians, road safety stakeholders, and most importantly the membership. The campaign generated a huge media interest, with Farming Today, Radios 1 & 2, The Today Programme, Farmers Weekly and Guardian, regional television, BBC Breakfast, local media covering the campaign. We also saw local county chairmen involved with interviews too. One of the most poignant moments of the campaign was when I met Lincolnshire Farmer Keith Challen, who had recently lost his seventeen year old daughter in a road traffic accident. Whilst I struggled to make eye contact with him, I didn’t want to show my emotion, I knew he had contacted me to channel his grief into something positive to raise awareness of his personal tragedy. This followed an award winning story from Tim Relf from the Farmers Weekly, linking to Drive It Home. Thanks to NFU Mutual and the Rural Youth Trust, NFYFC were able to roll out training courses with BRAKE and Drive Doctors, followed by a survey and report from Road Safety Analysis, highlighting the risks when driving in rural areas. The campaign grabbed the attention of politicians interested to hear Young people’s views and I met with Steven Hammond and Mike Penney, who were both Transport Ministers during my term. The Association of British Insurers came to Council to help shape views on Graduated Driving Licence Schemes. I then communicated your views into a Consultation with the Department For Transport. My legacy to you is that Road Safety should feature in

the club programme once a year. NFYFC have delivered a resource pack as part of The Curve training to help deliver six programme evenings. I will also continue to be lead spokesperson for NFYFC on road safety issues.

“There are simply too many people to give thank yous to personally and I have tried to do them privately as there were so many. However, thank you all for your support during the year. A special thank you to Andy who has been there for me through thick and thin, it has not been an easy year for us, and while I am a great actress, behind closed doors things have taken their toll on me and my mental wellbeing at times.

“So what’s next, tonight I am going to let my hair down. The Lord Plumb Foundation has been fantastic in supporting me with my project adding value to rare breed pig meat. I urge you to apply as it is a fantastic foundation and in the words of Henry Plumb himself, his motto is one I live by: “You make a living by what you do, you make a life by what you give”. I have been elected onto various industry committees and will continue to do my work with RABI, and most importantly I am planning a wedding and looking forward to being a Farmer’s Wife. Good luck to the forthcoming team, and please do invite me to your future YFC events. So sit tight while I take you on a whistle stop tour of my year as NYFC Chairman, I can’t tell you how proud I am, the lyrics of the music provided me with great strength during tough times, and I hope you will agree that I’m your sexy lady.”

Milly Wastie then proposed the adoption of the Annual Report 2013 as printed.

Claire Worden addressed the meeting “Thank you very much, It gives me great pleasure to stand here and second the adoption of the Annual Report 2013, as we have all seen it was another crazy, jam packed, YFC year. It always continues to amaze me how much we achieve as members year on year, and it is the team of council that enables us to achieve all of these things, and these guys have done incredible well to pack it all in to what was hopefully a fun way of displaying their achievements for the year. I would really like to congratulate Milly on a fantastic year, her “Drive It Home” Campaign was just brilliant, and the rest of the officer team as well for all of their hard work, dedication and commitment and they really have helped to drive the federation forward, so I second Milly’s proposal of the adoption of the Annual Report for 2013.” Appreciation was shown for Milly and the team.

The members voted unanimously that the Annual Report for 2013 be adopted.

Poul called Mark Curr and Mark Hurst to present the Motion from the Cumbria Federation of Young Farmers’ Clubs

AGM/24/14 8. MOTION FROM THE CUMBRIA FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS’ CLUBS – “That in recognition of 17 years dedicated service to Cumbria County Federation as Chief Officer and to YFC, Mrs Jan Davison be elected Life Member of the National Federation of Young Farmers’ Clubs”

Proposer: Mark Curr (Chairman Cumbria), Seconder: Mark Hurst (Vice Chairman Cumbria).

Mark Curr addressed the meeting: “Good afternoon Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, honoured guests and fellow Young Farmers, it is an absolute honour to stand before you today, to propose the motion ‘That in recognition of 17 years dedicated service to Cumbria County Federation as Chief Officer and to YFC, Mrs Jan Davison be elected Life Member of the National Federation of Young Farmers’ Clubs’. 17 years into the job and Jan has seen many members come and go, and to put it into perspective one third of Cumbria’s members were not even born when Jan started in the role. Jan joined the federation as

Chief Officer in 1996, following a number of years working various roles in the youth career services. Whilst working in Leeds Jan was invited to attend the Queen's garden party in recognition of outstanding youth work in very difficult circumstances. When Jan first started at YFC, Cumbria was one of Britain's best kept secrets, and she spent a lot of time in the early years trying to raise the profile of YFC and sitting on various committees obtaining grants for us, and trying to maintain funds which she has done successfully to this day. Jan is one of the founder members of the Cumbria Youth Alliance and sat on the Board for over 10 years. Jan has also seen some of the darkest days in Cumbria most notably the 'Foot & Mouth' crisis in 2001. Keeping the YFC office open and keeping members upbeat was one of the hardest tasks she had undertaken. This year she has managed to obtain a large pot of money to be given as bursaries for members to travel around the world and see farming practises. Jan also sought a large amount of funding to train Young Farmers in IT skills and for every club in the county to be equipped with a lap top, to finally bring Cumbria members into the 21st Century. Since 2001 we have had a year on year rise to 1500 members making us the second largest county in the federation, while some counties struggle to keep their membership numbers up. A lot of it has been down to Jan's hard work and determination to sort grants for various things, to run an organisation fully prepared and has a great competitions programme. Overseeing two district field days with over 70 competitions, a jam packed winter programme, with district and county competitions, takes an awful lot of time and with only two full time members of staff, shows how much effort Jan has put in when it all runs smoothly. Much of the success in competitions has been down to the hard work Jan has put in encouraging more and more people to enter and ensuring that the district and county competitions get stronger each year. This gives us the best chance at Northern Area and NFYFC Finals, culminating this year in Cumbria being awarded the NFU Trophy and the third only county to win it four years running. Jan has also offered great support to NFYFC over the years, especially the competitions department and I know that James Eckley speaks very highly of Jan due to the support she has given James over the years, with knowledge about competitions. Throughout the Northern Area she has given great support to new members of staff and always been at the end of the phone to offer support and advice to other staff as well as the organising committee of Northern Area events. It can't go without saying that she will be a great loss to the members of the Cumbria federation when she retires this September. We all know she will be only a phone call away, and will always be willing to offer advice or point us in the right direction. So I hope you will all join myself and Mark in proposing the Motion 'That in recognition of 17 years dedicated service to Cumbria County Federation as Chief Officer and to YFC, Mrs Jan Davinson be elected Life Member of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs' Thank you."

Mark Hurst addressed the meeting (wearing his stockjudging coat); "Good morning Mr President, honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen, fellow Young Farmers; Master Judge..... I have no hesitation in placing Jan Davison at the head of the class for Life Member of NFYFC. Firstly I would talk about the fine characteristics of this fine animal. She has superb longevity, although ageing slightly she has been an excellent Chief Officer for Cumbria, spending 17 years in the position and would be a great addition to any herd, especially that of National Young Farmers. She has an excellent success rate, despite being born and bred in Durham. In her 17 years as Cumbria Chief Officer she has helped us to win the Northern Area field day 8 times and the national NFU Trophy 7 times. In 2005 Adrian Willis introduced a Northern Area competition weekend trophy in the hope that Yorkshire would win some silverware, but with Jan at the head of Cumbria we have picked this up 5 of the 9 years the competition has been around. Jan has some superb traction on both legs. She manages a county which is 2,600sq miles, with 26 clubs, and over 1, 432 members. This year Jan has been to approximately 50 district and county meetings. By my maths this means that she will have attended over 850 meetings in her 17 years. Looking at Jan she has an excellent

well edged head and she is very intellectual. Apart from being Cumbria's Chief Officer, I have also been told that she has done youthwork at the cubs as well as Carlisle's finest punk rock club. Jan has some superbly strong shoulders having to deal with Cumbria's members on a day to day basis and this quality flows throughout her every characteristic. She is used to the ups and downs of Young Farmers, after all she is a Sunderland supporter. Master Judge these are my reasons for placing this finest specimen at the head of the class for a Life Member of National Young Farmers. Thank you"

Poul called for the Motion to be supported, the members agreed, and Poul asked Jan to say a few words. Jan Davison addressed the meeting; "Hello everyone and welcome the district final of very senior public speaking. Thank you Mark Curr and Mark Hurst for those very kind words, and thank you to you all for this great honour, I really do appreciate it. I said in my Biography that when I retired I am looking forward to nights in, but actually that's not true. What can be more entertaining than the county final of junior public speaking or call my bluff, and we have even had a lot of laughs in Finance & General Purposes believe it or not. It has been a great privilege over the years to see my Young Farmers grow in skills and confidence, that have equipped them to be valued members of their rural communities, well most of them. Cumbria Young Farmers you are my extended family and I am going to miss you so much. Thank you for 17 wonderful years." Poul presented Jan with her Life Member badge.

AGM/25/14 9 Presentation of Awards

Hannah Talbot introduced the awards:

9.1 The Top Trainers Award – awarded to Victoria Niccolls (Hampshire)

9.2 The NFU Trophy – Champion County Federation in National Competitions Final 2012/2013 awarded to Cumbria FYFC – received by Keith Forster.

9.3 The Tug Wilson Trophy – Reserve Champion County Federation in National Competitions Final 2012/2013 – awarded to Derbyshire FYFC – received by Ruth Battye

9.4 The Worshipful Company of Farmers Trophy – Champion Small County Federation whose membership figures are amongst the lowest 50% of counties), NFYFC Competitions finals 2012/2013 – awarded to Derbyshire and received by Ruth Battye.

9.5 The Merrik Burrell Tankard – The County Federation with the largest percentage increase in membership over the past three years – awarded to Northampton Town & County – received by Linsey Burton.

9.6 The Prince of Wales Trophy – Hannah Talbot 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 16 County entries is £430,046.85. 3rd place goes to Essex FYFC, 2nd place to Cornwall FYFC and in 1st place for Devon FYFC raising a total of £73.83 per member totalling £100,259.97." Hannah urged all counties to send in their entries to give a true total.

Poul Christensen presented the trophy to Paul Glanvill (Devon FYFC).

9.7 The Lionel J Hill MBE NFYFC Club Charity Cup – For the Club which has raised the most funds per member in 2013. Lionel Hill awarded this trophy to: Ivybridge YFC, Devon County for raising £18,000.00, £409.40 per member received by Phillip Cummings.

9.8 The Sidney Fawcett Trophy – awarded for the best AGM Contribution and judged by Mrs Catherine Look and Mr John Lee. Catherine & John addressed the meeting and thanked NFYFC for being asked to judge the competition. Discussing difficult issues, we have really had a shot of adrenalin. The shorter the better for speeches and gave some one liner speeches. Only one motion where a person got up and spoke to the Motion. Really outstanding speeches. Catherine noted a true AGM with some excellent contributions Awarded to: Rachel Goldie (Yorkshire).

Poul thanked Hannah and David and invited Chris Manley to give a vote of thanks.

AGM/26/14

Vote of Thanks and Chairman's Closing Remarks – Chris Manley addressed the meeting to give the vote of thanks; "Mr President, honoured guests, fellow Young Farmers, as the Youth Forum kindly informed me, it is a great honour as an older member in NFYFC to be proposing a vote of thanks for this year's AGM. I would just like to start the conclusions of this year's AGM by thanking all those that make the AGM 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 & rural issues, our democracy and our partying skills, and we do this so brilliantly. No one more than our Eastern Area Chairman Duncan Howie, he was quite possibly glowing by the way he applied his fake tan like Ronseal quick dry and wood stain. 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 organise this event, and I would also like to thank our volunteer events team who work together with the national staff team to make this event happen. Please do not underestimate the hard work and commitment that it takes to deliver this weekend. Without our staff team led by James, it simply would not be possible, and so I would like to sincerely thank them all for what they have done. I would also like to thank our outgoing officers who we have heard from today, Milly, Russell for Chris, Gareth, Hannah, Toby, Claire, and Sioned representing the Youth Forum, 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 Poul & Margaret for doing a fantastic job as the presidential team, the hard work that has been done by Frank & Julia and the board of management to help steer us in the right direction. 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 choir and disco dancing followed by a world performance from the Essex Young Farmers of their song for 2014 convention 'Put That Hoe Down'. Thank you very much."

Poul Christensen thanked the members for their attendance and noted that the meeting had made good time. If those members who have received trophies would stay behind for official photographs. Guests were invited to stay for lunch. Poul was looking forward to seeing the members next year and confirmed that the next Annual General Meeting will be on Sunday 26th April 2015, in Torquay.

With no further business the Chairman Mr Poul Christensen declared the meeting closed at 1.15pm.

Signed:

Date:

Mr Poul Christensen (National President 2014)