



Minutes of the 83rd Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 26th April 2015, Riviera Conference Centre, Torquay, Devon

PRESENT: Poul Christensen (President), Hannah Talbot (Chair of Council), Chris Manley (Vice-Chair of Council), Russell Carrington (Chair, Agriculture and Rural Issues Steering Group), David Hamer (Chair Competitions Steering Group), Claire Worden (Retiring Chair of Council), Frank Chester (Chair, Board of Management), Vicky Hope (Vice Chair Wales YFC) representing Iwan Meirion, David Maidment (Chair, Communication, Events & Marketing Steering Group), Nicola Chegwiddden (Chair, Personal Development Steering Group), Sioned Davies (Chair, Youth Forum), James Eckley (Chief Officer). Club & County voting delegates.

IN ATTENDANCE: Kyle McIlwaine & Rebecca Orr Delegates from the Young Farmers' Club Members' Clubs of Ulster, and Paddy Delaney & James Healy delegates from Macra Na Feirme, County and NFYFC staff.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Poul Christensen & Hannah Talbot confirmed the voting procedures for the meeting. Poul explained the rules for the Sidney Fawcett Trophy and introduced the judges Mrs Catherine Look and Mr Julian Sayers, supported by Competition's Steward Mrs Sue Fellows.

AGM/01/15 PRESIDENT'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Poul Christensen welcomed members to the meeting and was pleased to see such a good turnout, and noted that those attending today were representing the full membership. Poul highlighted the big issues to be discussed today, and noted that "the AGM is the members' meeting; NFYFC is run by you the members". He did not want "the meeting today to be a stodgy boring, classic old farmers AGM." Poul wanted some life, spirit, good debating and the meeting conducted with pace. Poul continued to give the housekeeping notes.

Poul then handed over to Hannah Talbot to explain the voting procedures. Hannah confirmed that most business would be done by the show of hands using the voting cards, but if the voting is close then the numbered system would be used.

Poul detailed the procedures for the Sidney Fawcett Trophy which would be judged during the meeting for the best speaker during the AGM, and introduced Mr Julian Sayers and Mrs Catherine Look, judges for the day, together with Mrs Sue Fellows who would be stewarding the competition and taking the names and details of those members wishing to be considered for this Trophy.

AGM/02/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: The apologies were displayed on the screen and also handed to Chris Lloyd for recording.

AGM/03/15 INTRODUCTION OF THE TOP TABLE: Poul Christensen invited Hannah Talbot to introduce the top table, Jessica Townson (Vice Chair of Council 2015/2016), David Hamer (Chair, Competitions Steering Group, 2013/14), David Maidment (Chair, Communications Events & Marketing Steering Group 2013/14), Russell Carrington (Chair, AGRI Steering Group 2013/14), Chris Manley (Vice Chair of Council 2015/16), Poul Christensen, (President & Chair of the meeting), James Eckley (Chief Officer), Claire Worden (Retiring Chair of Council 2014/15), Frank Chester (Chair Board of Management 2014/15), Nicola Chegwiddden (Chair, Personal Development Steering Group 2013/14), Sioned Davies (Chair of The Youth Forum 2015), Vicky Hope (Vice Chair Wales YFC) (covering for Iwan Meirion) (Chair, Wales YFC 2014/15).

AGM/04/15 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).

Hannah Talbot introduced the Delegates from the sister organisations and explained that we had received apologies from the Scottish Association of Young Farmers' Club Members' Clubs as it was also their AGM weekend. Hannah welcomed Kyle McIlwaine and Rebecca Orr from Ulster, and Paddy Delaney and James Healy from Macra Na Feirme in Ireland. Hannah invited Rebecca to say a few words on behalf of the delegates. Rebecca addressed the meeting; Rebecca thanked Hannah and said, "It was great to be here at the Annual Convention, on behalf of herself, Kyle, Paddy and James, they really wish to thank everyone for their kind invitation to attend your convention, it had been a great weekend, and a real privilege to meet you all and share all the ideas that we have in common, we have had a great time watching all your competitions, and I even had a go at the darts for the first time. So thank you again for the invitation and we look forward to working together in the future, and it has been great to hear about some of your projects, and all the very best to your incoming representatives, and to Hannah, Jess and Chris for your kind hospitality and for looking after us so well, and just to the past team many congratulations on the success of the Federation. Thank you very much."

AGM/05/15 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 11TH MAY 2014 IN BLACKPOOL

By the show of voting cards the minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 11 May 2014, held in Blackpool, were agreed as a true record and signed by Mr Poul Christensen, CBE.

AGM/06/15 MOTION FROM NFYFC COUNCIL

6.1 Election of President

"That Mr Poul Christensen CBE be thanked for his services and be duly re-elected President from April 2015 – May 2016"

Poul Christensen noted that at this point in the proceedings he officially stands down as President of NFYFC and handed over to Hannah Talbot called upon Danielle McNulty (Gloucestershire FYFC) and seconded by Paige Dalby (Yorkshire FYFC). Danielle McNulty addressed the meeting: " Good morning Mr President, Madam Chair, ladies and gentlemen, fellow Young Farmers' Club Members and guests; I am absolutely chuffed to be in front of you all today at my first AGM to propose the Motion that Mr Poul Christensen CBE be thanked for his services and be duly re-elected President from April 2015 – May 2016.

I would like to begin by thanking him for his remarkably contribution over the past year. There have been many moments at which his presence has been valuable. In particular for me, he attended our counties AGM and it was a privilege to have him there, enjoying a proper cup of Gloucestershire tea and some homemade cake, so thank you Poul. I realise the efforts he puts in is priceless, true dedication is what he has given Young Farmers' Club Members, and he will continue to do so. Attending our rallies, dinner and dances, and still having time to sail off to the shores of Holland with Margaret, I am sure you are all aware of Poul's passion for the organisation.

Speaking to him recently, his enthusiasm was like glue, and that is what Young Farmers' Club Members do to you. Poul joined Young Farmers' Club Members in 1954 and was chair of his club at the mere age of 12, inspirational. It dawned on me; he must have had fantastic encouragement to take on such a task. During our conversation it became clear to me that he is enthusiastic to make sure that every single

member knows that their voice is valid and they know how to use it, this is an area that Poul feels very passionate about. He most certainly wants to continue to drive the federation forward, to help individual members realise their abilities and use them. He is extremely keen to promote the federation, and help the public realise that we a proper force to be reckoned with, our ability to speak up, compete, and party as this weekend has showed.

At the moment Poul is also a member of the BBC Rural Affairs Advisories as well as an important role on the board of membership of the Agricultural Board of Central Trading, and of course he doesn't stop there. Poul is the senior partner of a successful family dairy farming business in Oxford, and is a joint founder of The Tenant Farmers Association. His past roles are just as impressive, Chair of Natural England, Chair of Milk Mark, Chair of the Rural Development, and he also received the CBE in 1991 for his services to British Agriculture. So I think we can all rest assured he is still the best man for our role as President, as his years of experience, his knowledge, his passion and most of all his approachable nature, we will continued to be the most inspirational youth organisation together.

The thought I would like to leave you with is the same thought I had after speaking to him. It is very rare to speak to someone many years older than yourself, and engage with them at a core level and, have similar values and passions. That is an amazing message, especially as he is President of such a large and innovative organisation. So I would like you all to join with me and support the Motion that Mr Poul Christensen CBE be thanked for his services and be duly re-elected President from April 2015 – May 2016.”

Hannah Talbot called upon Paige Dalby to second the motion; “Good morning Mr President, Madam Chair, fellow Young Farmers’ Club Members ’, and guests. Paige Dalby from the Yorkshire Federation of Young Farmers’ Club Members ’ Clubs. It gives me great pleasure to second the motion that Mr Poul Christensen CBE be thanked for his services and be duly re-elected President from April 2015 – May 2016. I have been fortunate enough to meet Poul several times at the NFYFC council weekend, where his eagerness and compassion for Young Farmers’ Club Members ’ has really shone through. Poul is a true gentleman who is greatly interested in the federation and its’ members. Poul’s friendly personality is very welcoming at council weekends and all other such events. He is always asking you questions about who you are and what you have done. Poul has even been generous and let me cut in front of him in the lunch queue. Poul’s passion and knowledge of Young Farmers’ Club Members and the farming community is a real asset to our federation, I believe we are very lucky to have such a strong hardworking President, who will continue to enjoy helping the development of NFYFC. They say behind every good man there an even better woman. Margaret attends many events alongside Poul, and for this the Federation is continuously grateful to the both of them. I hope you all join myself and Danielle in supporting the motion that Mr Poul Christensen CBE be thanked for his services and be duly re-elected as President.”

There was no one else to speak to the Motion, and the members voted unanimously to elect Mr Poul Christensen CBE as President of the National Federation of Young Farmers’ Club Members ’ Clubs from April 2015 – May 2016. Hannah Talbot stated that it was her pleasure to confirm that the Motion was passed and welcomed Poul.

Poul Christensen addressed the meeting and; “thanked the members for their very kind and flattering remarks. A real genuine thank you for your confidence and vote this morning. It really is a privilege to do this job. I have been very fortunate in my long career to have done quite a few high profile jobs, but this really caps all of them. To be President of an organisation with a membership of 24,000 young people

who are so energetic and so inspirational, gives me enormous pride and I thank you for the confidence that you have bestowed in me this morning. I would like to recognise all the work done by the other presidents, the club and county presidents throughout the organisation. They work tirelessly and are very often called upon when things are going pear shaped. They are there actually to hold things together, and I want to thank you for that, and also to thank volunteers. I have watched this convention over the last 48 hours, the volunteers are the glue to make it work, and in NFYFC the volunteers play an enormous important role.

I refer quickly to the highlights that I have enjoyed this year. True to say that there is not a single thing that stands out, but what I really have enjoyed is going round and meeting the members, where you work, where you have your meetings, at your county shows, annual general meetings and dances, meeting people on the ground, and talking to you about your aspirations and hopes for the future.

I have come across a lot of members who are not here today, they are not even in Torquay. They are the members who will not actually be a county chair or a club chair, or national chair, but nonetheless are the bedrock of this organisation, and I think it is important that we recognise those people for the support that they give us.

We all know that we are in tough times, and I do not just mean us, if you look around the world at our Government, and we are shortly to have a General Election. We know that there have been major cut backs, we hear the word austerity a lot, I do not know why anyone actually uses the word austerity in a situation like this, it is about reality. On top of this of course NFYFC have the issue of HOPS having to change the way it works, and the chopping off of that revenue stream, at least in the short term. My judgement for what it is worth, is that this general issue around finances is going to continue. I forecast that governments will continue to diminish in size, there is no a large appetite in government, never mind the politics of it, we cannot afford it and we cannot live beyond our means, and therefore a lot of the support that we have enjoyed from government. From county and national level, we must look upon this as being suspect for the future, and so this means that we are going to have to stand on our own two feet. All that does is naturally mirror what is happening to the farming industry. I welcome that and it puts us in a much stronger position, and it would be completely wrong for me to talk to you about the levy motion to be discussed later, but you have an important choice to make.

I will talk a little about costs, and the in particular the costs of running the organisation. I look at NFYFC, clubs and counties from a higher point of view and I have been really impressed by the way your members have recognised the situation and are looking at ways of cost cutting measures and reality checks, and for example the work that has been done by the advisory groups, the committees, trying to make themselves cost neutral is a real inspiration to the whole organisation. HOPS are re-organising themselves, they are looking at a new business model, they are looking at a new way of operating, and that will take time, but I believe them to be in as good a position as they can be at the moment.

Sponsorship and support through our events and marketing team is extremely important, and I have watched the relationships that we have with our sponsors developing and blossoming, and I am delighted to see our sponsor here and thank them very much for what they are doing. We must all remember that a sponsorship relationship is a two way deal and it is about mutual benefit, and we should do all we can to support our sponsors.

Just drawing to a close, a few words about the principles of running a business. I think we need to be absolutely clear what our purpose as an organisation is. We need clarity on what it is we are trying to achieve, and without that we will not succeed at anything. Then there is that reality check I spoke about earlier. Things cost money, we need to judge whether we need them or don't need them, and that will require some tough decisions, but then focus on what it is we are trying to achieve, really focus on it. No business succeeds without focus, and if you look around the world at businesses, big and small that have or are failing, it is nearly always because they have taken their eye off the ball, and lose focus on what they are trying to achieve. Let me encourage you to be ambitious, don't think because the costs are limited, because there are restraints that this should in anyway limit your ambition as an organisation.

I think being in agriculture, being in this big industry that we are a tiny part of has never been in a better place, I think it is really exciting what is happening in terms of the requirement for the food, and the tools that we have to apply that will make this industry a much more technical, and a much more interesting business to be in, I wish I was 21 again!

I just want to finish with two comments; I still believe that NFYFC is one of the country's best kept secrets, I don't think, we, you, really sell yourselves. I think you undersell yourselves in what you offer to membership. You take people, you take children through to adulthood, and on that journey they may make mistakes and so on, but nonetheless you do that, you nurture them, and you provide the leaders of the future. Sir Peter Kendall was sat here yesterday, he came through NFYFC. So please get out there, make sure that everybody knows what it is you do, and what you can offer, because I talk about self help, you can help yourselves more than anybody else by getting one extra member into NFYFC.

Final pledge from me, is that Margaret and myself will continue in our last year, because next year will be my last year as your President, we will continue to do everything we can to help and support you in your endeavours. Thank you."

Hannah Talbot thanked Poul for all his hard work and Chris Manley presented Mrs Margaret Christensen with a basket of flowers.

AGM/07/15

6.2 Deputy Presidents

"That the 2014 deputy presidents be thanked for their services to the federation over the past year and that the following be elected from April 2015 – May 2016."

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: Katie Davies Pembrokeshire FYFC, Seconder: Edward Potter (Shropshire FYFC)

Katie Davies addressed the meeting; " Mr President, Madam Chair, ladies and gentlemen, fellow Young Farmers' Club Members ; it gives me great pleasure to propose the Motion that the 2014 deputy presidents be thanked for their services to the federation over the past year and that the following be elected from April 2015 – May 2016. As a Federation we are incredibly grateful for all the support and

dedication you give us. We are an ever evolving Federation, modernising all the time, but it is crucial that we have those with knowledge and experience and those we can rely on, as and when needed. All of you are actively involved in your counties and areas, but you still manage to find the time to help the national organisation, for this dedication and your support we are eternally grateful.

I would also like to propose the names as printed in your agendas ladies and gentlemen, to be re-elected from April 2015 – May 2016.

From the Eastern Area; Stuart Cooper, known as an ideas man for his fundraising efforts towards their Essex County YFC building , before he went on to become Eastern Area President. He is enthusiastic and a typical grass root member, one that took part in all the opportunities available to him.

From the East Midlands Area; David Armstrong, a firm believer that the skills and benefits you gain from YFC should be used in the future. He is determined to show young people what YFC can offer them, and what we can gain from his experiences over the years. He also took part in a life changing culture exchange to Australia in 1985, whilst a YFC member.

From the Northern Area; Diane Coles, a lifelong supporter of the Durham County Federation, and a current County Treasurer. Diane has also been Northern Area President and is an Area Trustee. The very known saying “it is the taking part that counts” is important to Diane, as no matter how badly, or how well she did at a competition, it was always the experience she valued the most.

From the Wales Federation; Sharon Jones, a regular steward at YFC events, a lifelong Clwyd YFC member and Treasurer for the last ten years. It is still rare for Sharon to miss a meeting and she has passed on the ‘YFC bug’ to her son. She encourages us all to ask for help as and when needed, and will be there to support us in any way she can.

Whilst I have had the honour of proposing these four hardworking Presidents to be elected, there are another three to be elected which my seconder will mention, Alethea Snelling, Catherine Look and Linda Savage. It has been my pleasure to propose this Motion. Time is precious to us all but these seven people think of nothing but to give up their spare time to help us as an organisation, and I cannot think of anyone better to take on the role of Deputy Presidents. Thank you, Diolch yn fawr”

Edward Potter addressed the meeting; “Mr President, Madam Chair, fellow Young Farmers’ Club Members , I am here this morning to second the Motion proposed by Katie and to once again on behalf of the members, council and staff thank the commitment, enthusiasm and support provided by the 2014 Deputy Presidents. I have great pleasure in seconding the names as printed in your agenda, and will briefly introduce the three remaining Deputy Presidents;

From the South East Area; Alethea Snelling from the County of Berkshire, has had strong grounding at club level for the past 30 years. During her YFC career, she has held many club and county roles, including this year being Berkshire’s County President in their 70th anniversary year. Alethea is passionate about training, education and personal development of the members.

Representing the South West Area on home turf we have Catherine Look, again holding numerous club and county positions, as well as being a post area chair lady. Having met her husband through the rural dating agency YFC, her daughters have followed the family tradition and joined their local YFC club.

Finally, Linda Savage representing the West Midlands Area; Linda is a Shropshire born and bred lady and one which we as a county are extremely proud, her support and involvement with her local club Nescliffe YFC and with her county and area has been outstanding. Linda strongly believes that Young Farmers' Club Members are far more effective than any anti-ageing cream and keeping her young at heart. She is always keen to encourage the members to take full advantage of opportunities to them.

One thing that is apparent from Katie and I speaking to the members from all areas this weekend is that the Deputy Presidents are 110% committed to the YFC Federation, and I have great pleasure in seconding the Motion that the 2014 deputy presidents be thanked for their services to the federation over the past year and that the names as printed in the agenda be re-elected from April 2015 – May 2016."

There was no one else to speak to the Motion, and the members voted unanimously to elect the deputy presidents. Poul Christensen thanked the Presidents for their help and support to him during the year.

AGM/08/15 6.3 MOTION from Cumbria Federation of Young Farmers' Club Members' Clubs

"That in recognition of his service and commitment to the Young Farmer' Clubs at all levels, over many years – Mr Adrian Willis be elected Life Vice President of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Club Members' Clubs"

Proposer: Adele Hamer, Yorkshire FYFC, Seconder: Rachel Milner, County Durham & Northern Area Committee.

Adele Hamer addressed the meeting: "Mr President, Madam Chair, honoured guests, ladies, gentlemen and fellow Young Farmers' Club Members, it gives me great pleasure to stand before you today to propose a motion on behalf of the Yorkshire Federation that in recognition of his service and commitment to the Young Farmers' Club Members' Clubs at all levels, over many years – Mr Adrian Willis be elected Life Vice President of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Club Members' Clubs. Forty three years ago Adrian became a member of Worsborough YFC, which at that time was part of West Riding, later to become part of Yorkshire FYFC. Adrian was a keen member before the word go, he held officer roles at every level, club, district, county, area and national. Club Treasurer, Club Chair, District Chair, County Vice Chair and later County Chair. He also held the role of Northern Area Chair and in 1993 became Chair of NFYFC's Development Committee, and could often be found wearing a bee costume.

Adrian's knowledge of the YFC organisation is second to none. He is a vital part of the Federation across all levels, from stockjudging to tug of war, public speaking to dances, from club to national level. Outside of YFC Adrian is the owner and Managing Director of Trustsport, a firm which Adrian built up himself supplying T-shirts, polo shirts, caps and embroidery throughout the UK and Europe. He often produces and sponsors the Yorkshire Young Farmer's tops for the AGM.

Adrian has held numerous roles as well as Young Farmers' Club Members. A former Secretary and Trustee of The Princes Trust Awards of North Yorkshire, Trustee and previous Vice Chair for Rural Action Yorkshire, Company Secretary for Barnsley Football Club Supporters Trust, Vice Chair Barnsley Cricket

Club and Finance Committee Chair and if that is not already enough, Company Secretary for four additional companies.

Adrian spends a lot of his time commuting between his work in Barnsley, Yorkshire County office in Knaresborough and his home in Caterham in Lancaster. Adrian has a saint of a partner in the lovely Caroline, I really do not know how you cope, and you have even more to contend with than I do. Also Adrian and Caroline have two beautiful children Ava and Dexter who are sat in the room here today. I am sure Caroline, Ava and Dexter are very proud of their partner and Daddy.

Having recently retired as Yorkshire County Chair, I feel there can be no greater end to my year than to be stood here today, proposing the gentleman who has not only helped and guided me over the past 9 years, but has encouraged and pushed me. I on behalf of the Federation, I cannot thank you enough for your continued help, knowledge and support of Young Farmers' Club Members' Clubs, and hope that this prestigious election will go some way to recognising your achievements. I hope you will join with me in the proposal, that in recognition of his service and commitment to the Young Farmers' Club Members Federation at all levels, over many years – Mr Adrian Willis be elected Life Vice President of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Club Members' Clubs”

Rachel Milner addressed the meeting; “Well I must start by thanking Adele for that moving speech. So good morning everyone, Mr President, Madam Chair, ladies, gentlemen and fellow Young Farmers' Club Members' Clubs Members. On speaking with Adrian this weekend I discovered quite unbelievably that he was a reluctant Young Farmer Club Members when he first started and joined his club at the age of 12, but he tells me that after several social events and discovering some attractive ladies there he thought it was ok. He thought he would stick around. So 43 years later, Adrian is still involved in all aspects of YFC life. For as long as I have been a member of the County Durham Federation, I always remember him being there somewhere in the background, whether that be judging a tug of war competition, running the bar at a Yorkshire social event, on the door at the annual convention, in the wings of a pantomime or entertainments competition, or as Trustee of the Northern Area committee. He is always there offering advice and guidance. His passion and commitment for YFC is clear for everybody to see and I am sure this support will continue into the future as young Ava and Dexter start to join in with Young Farmers' Club Members clubs too. The big question is though will they become members of the Yorkshire or Lancashire Federations?

So I ask you all to join with me and support the motion that hat in recognition of his service and commitment to the Young Farmers' Club Members Federation at all levels, over many years – Mr Adrian Willis be elected Life Vice President of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Club Members' Clubs.”

There was no one else to speak to the Motion, and the members voted unanimously to elect Mr Adrian Willis as Life Vice President of National Federation of Young Farmers' Club Members' Clubs.

Poul presented Adrian with his badge and invited him to say a few words. Adrian addressed the meeting: “Mr President, fellow Young Farmers' Club Members' Club members thank you very much for this honour. This morning at 4am I had marvellous words for you, seven hours later they almost fail me but hopefully they won't. I have a lot of people to thank no least in 1933 a gentleman who none of you will have heard of called Alfred Octavia Thelmhurst who founded our club, unfortunately for me on the 13th of this month I had the dubious honour of closing it due to a lack of membership, a thing that is common in

parts of Yorkshire as we get more and more urban, more tarmac and concrete and less farms, but that is just how it I'm afraid.

Over the years I have had some fantastic experiences, I got my first job because at the age of 16 I had been Club Treasurer. Young Farmers' Club Members' Clubs have done a lot of things for you and it has done so much for me. It has given me a great amount of confidence to go forwards into many areas to represent not just myself but you and the great organisation that is YFC. I have reflected about what were perhaps the best moments; well there have been a lot. The bee costume that Adele eluded to where we were at the NCVO promoting 'Buzz Week'. I have had the honour of standing before you to propose some great people such as the great Roy Boreham and his late wife Ursula, tremendous people and to follow in their shoes I am deeply honoured. I stood here to present the Development Committee Report, one of the most nerve racking thing I have ever done in my life, because I did not want to miss anything out, and let down my committee. During this time I served alongside Alethea who is one of your Deputy Presidents. This was a great time for me and every enjoyable.

Over the years Yorkshire have honoured me with a Life Membership which ranks along probably the third best thing I have done in YFC, but over the years I have had some wonderful relationships. The second best thing I have to thank YFC for is finding my finance and partner Caroline. I have to say Young Farmers' Club Members' Club members, without this organisation, one of the two things that would not have happened is these two children (Adrian introduced his family to the meeting). The one thing I have to thank you all for is these two beautiful children whose tops are half red rose, half white for Yorkshire and Lancashire, who are 100% future Young Farmers' Club Members' Club Members.

In closing Mr President, I wish to thank the greatest youth Federation in Europe and the National Federation of Young Farmers' Club Members' Clubs from the bottom of my heart and on behalf of my partner and my family, thank you very much."

AGM/09/15

6.4 MOTION from the Gloucestershire Federation of Young Farmers' Club Members

"That in recognition of his services and commitment to the Young Farmers' Club Members' Federation, Mr Eric Freeman be elected Life Vice President of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Club Members' Clubs"

Proposer: Victoria Hicks, Gloucestershire FYFC, Seconder: Katie Hall, Gloucestershire FYFC.

Victoria Hicks addressed the meeting; "Good morning Mr President, top table, and fellow Young Farmers' Club Members, I would like to propose on behalf of the Gloucestershire Federation, that in recognition of his services and commitment to the Young Farmers' Club Members organisation, Mr Eric Freeman be elected Life Vice President of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Club Members' Clubs.

Eric is a local celebrity with his recognisable beard and trademark coloured socks, today's are yellow, he is a true farming legend. His memory can recall the family trees of almost every Gloucestershire young farmer since he joined the organisation when he was 12 ½ years old, and back in those days he had to get special permission to do so. Stepping straight into the role of Chairman for his local club Newent YFC, and thankful that his lack of experience did not trouble him too much, as he has been a huge ambassador ever since.

As our County President for 6 years, Eric's enthusiasm was infectious and constantly encouraged us to punch above our weight in the South West Area competitions. You could guarantee that if we were there competing, Eric would be there to support us and chant GLOUCESTER...! Eric has a very rare quality for a man of his years. Being able to tell a story, without it sounding too 'back in my day'. He is naturally endearing and all our members are in awe of his achievements, you could even write a book about him, and indeed someone already has. Eric does an amazing job of promoting Young Farmers' Club Members in everything he does. His connections are endless and if you need to contact someone, you can guarantee that Eric will know them. He can be heard most Sunday mornings on Radio Gloucestershire, in a slot which shows Gloucestershire's characters at their best and Eric is definitely one of them. His calendar is busier than wristband day here at Friday annual convention, but he still has time for YFC. Through his charity work with Gloucestershire Farming and Friends, Eric has emphasised the importance Young Farmers' Club Members has in supporting each other through difficult times. We have a huge amount of respect for him and we know that he will be spurred on by this honour, to continue promoting, motivating, and enthusing members to realise their potential through YFC. It for these reasons that I would like to propose the motion that in recognition of his services and commitment to the Young Farmers' Club Members organisation, Mr Eric Freeman is elected Life Vice President of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Club Members' Clubs."

Katie Hall addressed the meeting to second the motion; "Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, fellow Young Farmers' Club Members and honoured guests, it is my pleasure to second the motion that Mr Eric Freeman be elected an NFYFC Life Vice President. Eric is the busiest Grandfather in Gloucestershire, as he plays a huge part in various organisations, like the Rare Breed Survival Trust, and has been recognised for his commitment with a Long Life Achievement Award. Eric is also a former member of the Gloucestershire Cattle Society, and the Gloucestershire Old Spot Breeders Club.

With animals at the centre of Eric's life, the disastrous outbreak of Foot & Mouth Disease in 2001, saw Eric being one of the earliest members to set up the Gloucestershire Farming Friends, which to this day continues to support farmers young and old through tough times. Uncle Eric as he is known to many Gloucester members, is a tall country gent with so much passion and enthusiasm for the countryside and the young farmer's Federation. Eric's enthusiasm never waivers and he is always there to support Gloucestershire members, he can even be found sat amongst us today. Eric, to me and all the members of the Gloucestershire Federation, believe you are a 'true hero'.

Therefore, ladies and gentlemen it is my pleasure to second the motion that in recognition of his services and commitment to the Young Farmers' Club Members organisation, Mr Eric Freeman be elected Life Vice President of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Club Members' Clubs"

There was no one else to speak to the Motion, and the members voted unanimously to elect Mr Eric Freeman as Life Vice President of National Federation of Young Farmers' Club Members' Clubs.

Poul presented Eric with his badge and invited him to say a few words. Eric addressed the meeting: "Mr President and everybody, at the beginning of this meeting Poul mentioned the 'has beans' on the top table, and I am the champion 'has been'. Could I first take a couple of seconds out to congratulate our Gloucestershire member Danielle McNaulty, what an inspiration she is. I have known her from day 1 of her membership and she is now an inspiration to all others and she has years yet to come, so I would just like to say congratulations Danielle.

I have been in Young Farmers' Club Members a long time. In 1944 I joined and we had the Duke of Norfolk as our President. Now we have got the Duke of Oxford as our President and I am very pleased to see him there as well. I would like to thank Vicky and Katie for their words and I didn't realise I was such a good fellow. I want to say also that Bridgette Hall, who is our President, she followed me in and she is doing a marvellous job, and I hope she doesn't mind me supporting her. I don't want her job back, but I just think this Young Farmers' Club Members Federation is absolutely brilliant. I asked for permission to join when the age was 14 to join and now we can join at 10. 10-26 I know there have been motions to extend the age, but I think 10-26, is quite wide enough really. I would just like to round it off by thanking you all so much for your appreciation and receiving me as your National Life Vice President for Gloucestershire. I think Gloucestershire is a wonderful place, the others aren't too bad! I was born there and I will die there I hope. Thank you very much."

Poul invited Claire Worden and the senior officer team to give their reports:

AGM/10/15 7. PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Claire Worden addressed the meeting: "Mr President, fellow officers, distinguished guests, fellow Young Farmers' Club Members . We are now going to hear the reports of the retiring Steering Group Chairs. Claire introduced Frank Chester, Chair of the Board of Management to give his report from the board and also to deliver the presentation of the audited accounts.

AGM/11/15 7.1 To receive the report of the Board of Management and Presentation of the Audited Accounts:

7.1. Mr Frank Chester addressed the meeting: "Mr President, distinguished guests, fellow Young Farmers' Club Members , good morning, Bore da, Mytтин da, for those who don't know is Cornish. It is a year since I stood before you in Blackpool, where I told you about the changes to our staff structure going forward. Our staff team has been strengthened with Maria and Sam joining us and has been so ably led by James. Our staff are totally committed to you the membership, and it is a great privilege to work with such a happy gang. It is brilliant to work alongside such hardworking committed national officers. The rural+ campaign is so fitting and has made us all aware of the acute problems rural isolation can cause. Thank you Claire for bringing this to our attention.

Many of my points are covered in your annual report which you have and there are no prizes for repetition, deviation or hesitation, but I would like to highlight one or two. The huge improvement in openness we have tried to share with you. I hope you feel we have delivered what we did promise, in particular with regard to the budget and accounts. We are at present in a very tough year, due to the fact that we will not be receiving the HOPS donation for the second year in succession. HOPS in the past have been a huge help to the finances of NFYFC, and I hope that I can very soon report to you that HOPS is again in a position to support our federation.

Your board is to undertake a Governance Review to make sure that our structure is 'fit for purpose'. I would like to see a very simple structure, enabling you to better understand the lines of responsibilities. We have recently learnt about the huge loss of funding to Wales YFC. I hope that going forward we can support each other more and help foster our working relationships. I will cover many points when I present the annual accounts, but can I thank everyone and all organisations that have been a support to our Federation , either through your sponsorship, your time and also most importantly your enthusiasm. We rely so much on your commitment, and I and all the Board are very appreciative of your support.

I would like to digress to say a very personal and sincere thank you, to someone who has for many years been a brilliant supporter of NFYFC, when I joined your board along with Julia in December 2012. This person became one of my rocks, they could see that I had a vision for NFYFC. This person is a true young farmer through and through. This person has a passion and that is to give you the very best convention ever, this year 5,187 that is absolutely brilliant. If you haven't guessed already, the person I am referring to is Mr Bob Blezard. Julia Pointon presented Bob with a thank you gift for being there for it all."

7.1.2 Presentation of the Audited Accounts, Mr Frank Chester remained at the lectern and addressed the meeting;

Frank went on to point out one or two of the main points in the annual accounts. " Our income is down £49,000 to £822,000, which considering we received £125,000 from HOPS in 2013, is a fantastic result. Much of the credit must go to James, and Christina our Fundraising Officer who has increased our sponsorship and grant income by £42,500. Also last year's convention with increased numbers and sponsorship beat the budget by £6,000. But it is the reduction in expenditure which has had the biggest impact; a few of the main areas of savings are £11,000 on direct programme, £134,000 savings in central management, 50% of this was the savings in our new staffing structure, implemented in January 2014, by the reduction of the most senior role. We had budgeted for a full year of staffing costs but with the Head of Marketing & Development this role was filled half way through the year. Our overall expenditure has been reduced by £145,000. This has been achieved through many avenues, but I must thank James for holding a firm hand and managing our expenditure so well.

The investment portfolio rose in value by £48,000, which gives us a net loss for the year of £58,000. I am most grateful for your support in passing the levy increase this year, and I hope that the proposed levy increased this year will receive your full unanimous support.

As a board we are committed to supporting the staff team to deliver a full programme to you. All the steering group chairs have realistic budgets, having taken up the challenge to reduce expenditure, and have a virtual zero budget if at all possible.

I would like to say a personal thank you to Julia my Vice Chair, and all the board , we will get there! To James for being an excellent Chief Officer and friend. To the staff at YFC Towers you are the best, but it is you the members who are still the greatest, you make it all worthwhile. Thank you for allowing me the privilege to be your board chair. I hope you are all having the most amazing weekend. I have great pleasure in presenting my report and the accounts for adoption. Thank you."

AGM/12/15 MOTION FROM NFYFC COUNCIL

7.2.1 "That the audited accounts for 2014 as printed be adopted"

7.2.2 "That a firm of auditors, Grant Thornton – Birmingham be appointed for 2015"

Proposer: Katie Wainwright (Derbyshire), Seconder: Ant Boesen (Norfolk)

Poul called upon Katie Wainwright (Derbyshire FYFC) & Ant Boesen (Norfolk FYFC), to propose and second the Motion that the Accounts be adopted. Katie addressed the meeting;

“Mr President, Madam Chair, ladies and gentlemen and fellow Young Farmers’ Club Members , I would like to propose that the audited accounts for 2014 as presented by Frank be adopted. As you all aware the budgets have been heavily scrutinised and discussed at national council, by grass root members, and clubs and counties. We are all having to tighten our belts to ensure that NFYFC is running as it should so that it succeeds and is around for a very long time to come. We are dependent on this information and the great work done by the board, council and steering groups, showing us the cuts that have been made in the past year, to reduce the expected losses. This information is here for us all to see and use and details national’s financial information that can aid the decisions we make.

I would also like to propose that Grant Thornton Birmingham be appointed as Auditors for the federation. Grant Thornton have been auditors now for the past three years, and they have built up a very good relationship with the board which also aids their decisions, as I know myself as an Accountant this valuable working relationship is very useful. Thank you.”

Ant Boesen (Norfolk) addressed the meeting:- “Mr President, Madam Chair, ladies and gentlemen and fellow members. As Frank has said we have had a tough year, which means that every penny counts, so It is even more important that the accounts are audited in a professional and diligent manner. So I would like to second the Motion put forward by Kate and propose that we adopt the accounts as printed and ask that Grant Thornton be appointed as Auditors for 2015. Thank you.”

Poul called for anyone to speak to the motion, there were no responses, and the members voted unanimously to adopt the accounts as printed, and appoint the auditors Grant Thornton Birmingham for 2015.

AGM/13/15 7.3 MOTION FROM NFYFC COUNCIL

7.3.1 “That the gross National Subscription (National Levy) for the period 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2016 be increased by 20%” (Note: Based on most recent membership return, this equates to £2.66 per member)

Proposer: Caroline Trude (Devon FYFC) and Seconder: Caroline Baker (County Durham FYFC)

Caroline Trude addressed the meeting: “ Ladies, gentlemen and fellow Young Farmers’ Club Members , I would like to propose that the gross National Subscription (National Levy) for the period 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2016 be increased by 20%

The current national pot amounts to £299,157.00, however, the recommendation through the board of management is that this pot is increased by 20% to £358,998.00. A year ago in Blackpool we heard from our Honorary Treasurer about the monetary contributions from HOPS Labour Solutions Ltd had depleted to almost nothing, leaving the federation is an extremely vulnerable and difficult situation. Through the voting powers of the members we agreed a 20% increase in the national levy. At the time the board of management suggested that this increase would need to be seen again at future AGM’s to allow for the budget and services to members to remain as they currently are.

So Mr President, here I am proposing the Motion for a 20% increase which would equate to £2.66 per member if current membership numbers remain static. Through information which has been sent out to all clubs prior to today’s meeting, we can clearly see a potential shortfall in our national accounts and we know that for us to enjoy all the advantages of us being a member, we must be able to support our

national structure through our annual subscriptions. If this 20% increase was to be passed today we would see an extra £59,831.00, which would make the gross national subscription nearly 40% of the overall income of the national federation. This just shows how imperative our levies are to the running of our organisation.

It is at this point that I would like to say that my members and I in Devon are in complete favour of this 20% increase. However, I would like to remind the national board of management that the county federations around the country and the Welsh federation are also facing tough financial times and therefore reliance on future levy increases cannot be guaranteed. So Mr President, I urge my fellow members to take into account the current financial position of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs, and I propose that the gross national subscription for the period 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2016 be increased by 20%. Thank you."

Caroline Baker addressed the meeting: "Mr President, Madam Chair, ladies & gentlemen, fellow Young Farmers' Club Members, I am here not only as the second part of the Caroline double act today, but to second the motion the gross national subscription for the period 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2016 be increased by 20%. Caroline has already mentioned some of the key reasons why the national levy is important for our federation to keep moving forward, and I would like to put a slightly alternative spin on that.

Without the backing of the members in this room today, without the levy increase the question is simply what do we sacrifice. We are fortunate to receive all sorts of benefits, such as excellent communications, many opportunities to compete in a varied competitions programme, access to all sorts of training and development courses, YFC travel and agricultural courses and programmes. As well as having a superb YFC staff team to allow all of these to take place, and just a few of the many things we receive and without the ongoing support of members something would have to go. This is action that I do not wish to see and I am certainly sure that you don't either. It is vital that we all take responsibility for the situation that our federation faces and get stuck in to help in any way we can. The answer is simply recruitment, the theory is all there, the more members we have the lower the impact on the levy increase per person. So ladies and gentlemen the challenge has been set and I urge you all to whole heartedly support the motion that the gross national subscription for the period 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2016 be increased by 20%. Thank you."

Poul Christensen called for anyone to speak to the motion. Mr Eric Freeman took the stand; "Mr President I just want to remind the present audience that all the farmers in the country, the original slogan for Young Farmers' Club Members back in the 40's was 'Good Farmers, Good Countrymen, Good Citizens', and now our slogan is for 'Young Farmers' Club Members, by Young Farmers' Club Members' so now it's time to pull together and make the YFC contribution 100%."

Poul Christensen called on the members to vote by the show of voting cards for and against the motion and with no abstentions, Poul confirmed that the motion had been passed and the increase was approved.

Claire introduced Russell Carrington, Chair of the AGRI Steering group to present his report:

AGM/14/15

7.4 To receive the report of the Agriculture & Rural Issues Steering Group (AGRI) 2014

Russell Carrington addressed the meeting: "Good morning friends, it has been an honour for me to chair the AGRI Steering Group from November 2013 until February 2015, I must give a special mention to the

team which make up the steering group. They are dedicated farmers with a huge amount of passion and energy, to enable the group to achieve so much during these 16 months, and thanks also to Jo Wyles our AGRI Officer who has made a massive effort behind the scenes to make it all happen.

So we have had a great year and we kicked off by changing our name from ARAC to AGRI (Agriculture & Rural Issues), doing exactly what it is on the tin. It became clear to me as vice chair that the old name was a barrier to effective communicating of the good things that had been achieved. I wanted to address this from the off, and in doing so set a precedent for the way that we communicated agriculture and rural issues within the membership, what it means for members and how they can get involved. An AGRI monthly newsletter was produced to provide regular updates to steering group members and to county AGRI links people across the country and to help disseminate information to our members. This continues to go from strength to strength, and the feedback has been very positive. We have also developed the twitter #YFCAGRI, and a very active facebook group. Many counties have followed suit by using the name and others have county AGRI roles within their own counties. A move which further strengthens members to have their say on important issues.

The latest Common Agricultural Policy continued to unfold during 2014, and the steering group took every opportunity on key decisions both at home and in Brussels through CEJA, the Council for European Young Farmers' Club Members. Although YFC is not a political organisation, increasing our attendance at key meetings to tell the powers that be how things are on the ground for rural young people, has made a real difference to the support we will see for young people in agriculture in years to come. Already mandatory top up payments for people farming in their own rights will be approximately £4,000 extra income, every year over five years, and this is a fantastic achievement.

Last summer several members were invited to a Consultation at St. Georges House on attracting and supporting new entrants to agriculture. There were detailed discussions about the initiatives already in place and the barriers to further progress. Commitments were made to do more, particularly in promoting careers in agriculture to school children, plus the matching service previously investigated by NFYFC will now be revisited.

Members who visited the AGRI Forum yesterday will have heard about the 'More Than Tractors Campaign' that we have launched, whereby members are being encouraged to produce short videos of themselves explaining their careers and demonstrating that working in agriculture is more diverse than many would believe. As Sir Peter Kendall said yesterday, it is up to us to spread message about what we are doing, and with the help of some Defra funding we have brought in Suzie Emmett from Greenshoots to provide some training on how to make videos. During the training we actually made a video on how members could make a promotional video, and perhaps our comms team could tweet a link to that video as I speak.

The steering group was also involved in many other topical issues and took part in discussions and debates at several conferences. A conversation in our meeting in early 2014 led to a massive effort by Young Farmers' Club Members to support stricken farmers following some of the country's worst flooding. Ed Ford, Essex FYFC and Jock Muirhead Somerset FYFC were instrumental in leading the work of Forageaid offering support which was hugely appreciated by those farmers in need.

AGRI also organised and delivered 13 training workshops to 133 members who included tenancy training with Savills, Grassland management training with the British Grassland Society, Meat For The Market training with Eblex, Social media training with SocialB, and Walk The Wool Chain event with the Wool

Board. A Study Tour to Holland was also attended by 43 members, and the later part of the year a Junior Study Tour to Scotland for Under 18's members. All of this provides development for our members.

Thanks must go to our AGRI sponsors, Massey Ferguson, Mole Valley Farmers, HOPS Labour Solutions Limited, Defra and Kuhn Farm Machinery for their financial support they have provided.

Like every other steering group we have carefully had to re-evaluate our budgets, and we have had to think hard about what services we can cut. Although NFYFC membership of CEJA has clearly brought about benefits for Young Farmers' Club Members, it is difficult spending money on this, which we just do not have. However, the opportunity remains open for a sponsor to provide the necessary funds and we are looking for an alternative way to stay involved with CEJA, but sadly this may be part of the financial cuts we are facing in NFYFC. What we as members must now do is to continue making the most of every opportunity, to have our say and influence policy, communicate our message, and promote the amazing opportunities in agriculture and connected industries."

Russell then presented a music montage of the best bits of the year for the steering group.

In closing Russell invited Julian Sayers to present a cheque to Hannah Talbot for £1,000 on behalf of The Worshipful Company of Farmers towards the new AGRI Training Scholarship.

Claire Worden thanked Russell and introduced David Hamer.

AGM/15/15 7.5 To receive the report of the Competitions Steering Group 2014 – David Hamer addressed the meeting: "Mr President, honoured guests and fellow Young Farmers' Club Members. I think we have had a right good year! The steering group has worked harder than ever to not only deliver the original programme but also to add fun, self funding and profit making competitions. We have worked hard to make sure that our competitions are events to be celebrated and remembered, involving as many young farmer members as we can and that is why we organised for Essex Young Farmers' Club Members to perform on stage at our choir and dancing finals last year and that is why we have forged stronger relationships with outside bodies such as the Tug of War Association, The English Speaking Union, and the Staffordshire & Birmingham Agriculture Society to name but a few.

2014, a year which after their choir performance I tried to bribe Glamorgan to sing at my wedding instead of going to the Royal Welsh Show. I survived competitions day at which I thanked the pushy parents, I shed tears at our cookery and floral arts competitions because I just couldn't help it, and we had our junior tug of war champions Parbold from Lancashire going to compete against the best teams in Europe, truly awesome."

David then presented a musical montage of the competitions year.

"Mr President, honoured guests, fellow Young Farmers' Club Members, yet again the competitions steering group has demonstrated that they are 'fit for purpose', deliver 'value for money' and is of great benefit to every single Young Farmers' Club member. Thank you."

David called upon Mark Curr to announce the winners of the Senior Member of the Year

AGM/16/15 7.5.1 Announcement of 'The Member of The Year' 18 years and over Competition finalists & Winner – Mark Curr announced the 7 finalists and invited them to the front of the meeting.

Finalists were: Jessica Townson (Bolton by Bowland YFC, Lancashire), Lynsey Martin (Ashford YFC, Kent), Freddie Horwood (Highbridge YFC, Somerset), Edward Potter (Dorrington YFC, Shropshire), Chris Sheldon (Wainfleet, Lincolnshire), Laura Elliott, (Gower YFC, Glamorgan), Emma Kelcher, (Soham YFC, Cambridgeshire).

On behalf of the steering group, Mark thanked the three judges; Mr John Lee OBE, Mrs Elizabeth Glanvill and Mr Charlie Willet. Hannah Talbot presented the prize cards and trophy. 3rd place – Jessica Townson (Lancashire), 2nd place. – Lynsey Martin (Kent) and in 1st place awarded to Laura Elliot (Glamorgan).

Claire Worden invited David Maidment to give his report from the Events & Marketing Steering Group.

AGM/17/15 7.6 To receive the report of the Events & Marketing Steering Group 2014 -

David Maidment – David addressed the meeting: “Mr President, Madam Chair, fellow Young Farmers’ Club Members , we are now known as the Events & Marketing Steering Group. The group has many remits, this year we took on the YFC Ski trip which we had 500 members go to and it was a great success. It was down to the two representatives from Outgoing and also the YFC Reps who took the bookings and looked after everyone. Once again we have got the same for next year we are off to Les Arcs 8th – 16th January 2016 and that trip is being launched this weekend.

Twitter and facebook is the way forward for Young Farmers’ Club Members and we also have the website. With 7,500 followers on twitter and we have reached 21 million people. YFC Buzz, 18,000 subscribers which is good but my personal favourite is the TEN26. Especially if you live in a remote place and you do not get any internet signal you will still get TEN26. There is three of those a year and I think they are very important and very well produced. The website is up to date and as I said we get 876 hits per day.

The big part of our role is the AGM and we make a good profit. We went to Blackpool last year and we had 5,500 Young Farmers’ Club Members attending, and it is the highest we have had in ten years. We had Radio 1 DJ’s, Chris Stark and Scott Mills and the highlight was Essex YFC doing their ‘Put That Hoe Down’ live show.

The steering group still continues to evolve and move with the times as does the whole of YFC, and it has been an honour to chair of this group, I would like to thank all the members of the group, and also the staff team members, Emily, Christina, Maria, Sam, Cheryl and Gary.

Young Farmers’ Club Members we work hard and we play hard!.The members watched a montage of slides demonstrating the events throughout the year accompanied by music.

Claire thanked David for his report and introduced Nicola Chegwidden to give the Personal Development Steering Group Report.

AGM/18/15 7.7 To receive the report of the Personal Development Steering Group -

Nicola Chegwidden addressed the meeting; “Good morning Mr President, Madam Chair, fellow Young Farmers’ Club Members , the personal development steering group is all about training, travel and youthwork, and this year NFYFC had an exciting opportunity to work with the National County for

Voluntary Youthwork, the RSPB and the Canals River Trust in an exciting project which would encourage young people to take part in project which supported their local communities. The project gave the clubs the opportunities to access funding from the government's Youth Social Action Fund, to support them in their local projects. Lots of clubs have been recognised for their community activities including clearing up their community garden areas, re-painting community buildings, and supporting local schools.

The Source is an essential toolkit and a one stop shop for YFCs. This year funding was secured which meant that each county office could receive a printed copy of The Source, meaning that information could be easily accessed if you had not got access on line. The Source is also available on line and clubs can consult this through the member's area. It will hopefully be further developed to make it easier to view online.

There is now a strong team of trainer spread across the country, that is part of the Trainers Forum. These members continue to deliver training to grass root members, including ten curve modules. We are very grateful for what they do, so thank you to each and every one of them. New Curve courses are under development to offer the members a wider choice of opportunities, such as The Cash Management course supported by NatWest. Thank you very much for the NatWest Bus and the wristbands handed out yesterday.

Together with the AGRI Steering Group the federation has been able to offer bespoke agricultural training opportunities.

The YFC Travel programme is continuing to attract a great deal of members on homestays, scholarships and team travel opportunities. At the Selection Day in 2013 we saw a 58% increase in applicants looking for trips and in 2014 we also continued to receive a large amount of applicants. The standard of applications and people attending interviews continues to impress the interview panels. We are always listening to members and investigating new travel opportunities. In 2014 we sent members to Ghana, and in 2015 we will be sending members to the USA and India.

I continue to be grateful to the dedicated staff team that support the Personal Development steering group which includes; Cath Sykes & Jodie Green the Youth Work Development Officers, and Emily Johnson YFC Travel Officer who oversees the YFC travel programme with the support of Margaret Bennett. They all work tirelessly and continue to progress projects and putting new ideas forward to the members.

I have thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity to chair the personal development steering group over the past 16 months and I have enjoyed supporting our 'Cornish Claire Worden' through her term as national chair, of which we are very proud of her and her achievements."

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

AGM/19/15 7.7.1 Presentation of donation from Young Farmers' Club Members Ambassadors and presentation of the YFA Multimedia Trophy.

Nicola called up Aimee Mahony from the Young Farmers' Club Members Ambassadors to present a cheque. Amy addressed the meeting; "On behalf of the England & Wales YFA I would like to present a cheque for £3,200 to NFYFC", the cheque was received by Hannah Talbot. Aimee noted that; "the money is being given to NFYFC to support the YFC Travel Programme. Young Farmers' Ambassadors is a group of past and current YFC members who have travelled with the organisation. The travel programme is such an important part of what YFC offers to its members. I personally have witnessed this incredible

opportunity and would urge you all to apply. Don't miss out on what can only be described as an experience of a lifetime. Please look out for all the information you will need which will be coming out in September.

I would like to finish by presenting the YFA Trophy for the Young Farmers' Club Members Ambassadors multimedia competition, and this year this goes to Miss Laura Flower.

The members showed their appreciation to Nicola Chegwidden for her steering group report. Claire invited Sioned Davies to present her Youth Forum report for 2014.

AGM/20/15

7.8 To receive the report of the Youth Forum – Sioned Davies – Chair of the Youth Forum – Sioned addressed the meeting: “Mr President, honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen, fellow Young Farmers' Club Members , I would like to introduce you to the newest cohort of the national steering group structure, having been formally recognised this year. Yes, they are a fresh faced and dynamic bunch and they are your Youth Forum, made up of the Junior Member of the Year finalists and area representatives all of whom are aged under 20. I am hoping to give you a whistle stop tour which will take you on a journey which includes momentous occasions in the history of YFC, the current focus of the forum and our extremely exciting plans for the future.

First to Devon when last April, where the forum marked the 80th Anniversary of NFYFC by burying a time capsule in Hemyock in Devon where Culm Valley YFC were the first club was established. The Capsule will be unearthed by the officer team in 2058, the 125th Anniversary; I am hoping and praying that I will still be alive and kicking to see the opening of the capsule and to enjoy a great display of tea and scones.

This year has taken us all over the country from NYCVS meetings in London to the British Youth Council AGM in Sheffield. Thanks to Georgina Morris; of Shropshire FYFC, eloquent delivery of proposals, the BYC Manifesto now have issues relating to rural mental health and field to fork education which need addressing.

An immense amount of work has been done to produce our game 'Watch That Cowpat' which aims to educate primary school children about where their food comes from. The game has been trialled right across the country from Inner City Birmingham to the CLA Game Fair at Blenheim. The game is now readily available for use so please book up through NFYFC at Stoneleigh. Subject to funding each area should be getting a game soon to use in their own areas. It is a very exciting project which needs backing and is in an exciting development process.

To summarise, this year's action packed Youth Forum AGM was held in the Isle of Man. We have influenced the choice of the Tall Ships sailing trip and in February 2016 the Youth Forum are bringing you an under 18's Ski Trip.

The buzz about the Forum has been published through the media, Farmers Guardian and Farmers Weekly, and the NFU have all touched on our work. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our sponsors for the year AGCO Parts, and it has been an absolute pleasure working with the officer team and I look forward to seeing Danielle McNaulty and Amy Swinbank thrive in their new roles as chair and vice chair. These young people have added flavour to the discussions at national meetings and have had a really valuable input. Personally I feel that they have demonstrated a real powerful role to play in shaping the future of the Federation .”

There followed a short montage of the Youth Forum year, accompanied by music.

Claire thanked Sioned and noted that it has showed how active the Youth Forum are and how their voice is growing stronger at every meeting. They are a very influential bunch and if any of you get time to spend with them, please do because they really will spur you on to try and get the most out of your membership.

Claire introduced Vicky Hope who was delivered the Wales Federation report on behalf of Iwan Meirion who was unable to attend.

AGM/21/15 7.9 To receive the report of the Wales Federation of Young Farmers' Club Members' Clubs –Chairman –

“Mr President, ladies & gentlemen and fellow Young Farmers' Club Members , it gives me great pleasure to present the report on behalf of Wales Young Farmers' Club Members . 2014 has certainly been a very eventful year for Wales YFC, with 5,092 members, 157 clubs, 12 counties and 27 brilliant staff members across the federation giving just under half a million hours of unpaid voluntary work clocked up during the past year.

The majority of the year was chaired by Miss Kate Miles who did a fantastic job of chairing and leading our organisation. The Rural Affairs committee have had a very busy year which included hosting a farm visit which was attended by the Chair & Director for Natural Resource for Wales, submitting consultations and lobbying on behalf of our members to the Welsh Assembly. Two scholarships between NFYFC & The National Trust which gives members the opportunity to run their own farm for twelve months. The pinnacle of our year, was the first rural affairs conference which included the guest appearance from Michael Eavis from Glastonbury Fame. 4,500 people visited the Young Peoples Village at the Royal Welsh Show and we look forward to welcoming you all this year to celebrate our 25th year of the village.

The Training Committee has had a busy year launching a new bespoke package of training available to all our members and also to promoting the Duke of Edinburgh Award which has had a fantastic uptake throughout Wales.

The International Committee have also had a successful year promoting our ever growing programme of trips which included a trip to Patagonia in the Autumn of 2014. Finally the Youth Forum and probably the most passionate and enthusiastic bunch I have ever met. They have supported each every aspect of YFC and helped at the AGM and Royal Welsh Show, where Helen took over from Emily. The Youth Forum has been instrumental in shaping the future

In August we hosted the European Rally in Margan Park and we hoped that NFYFC enjoyed their week.

October was time for Kate to hand over to Iwan as Chair of Wales YFC, and he announced Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents as his chosen charity for the year. This was quickly followed by Eisteddfod where over 85,000 people tuned in to watch the live broadcast on local TV, and then as I have ready mentioned our rural affairs conference.

Unfortunately 2014 didn't end on a high, as we found out a fortnight before Christmas that we had lost a total of £140,000 of funding from the Welsh Assembly Government. A bitter blow to the organisation, but over the past few months the support we have received has been overwhelming and we have certainly turned a corner in the last couple of weeks. Can I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported and continues to support us during this difficult time.

There followed a photo montage supported by music with the highlights of the year. Claire thanked Vicky for presenting Iwan's report.

AGM/22/15 The adoption of the Annual Report

Proposer: Claire Worden – Chair, NFYFC Council 2014

Seconder: Hannah Talbot – Chair, NFYFC Council 2015

Claire Worden addressed the meeting as the retiring chair of Council: "Firstly welcome to everybody here, it is so great to see so many of you turning out to an AGM, showing the passion and enthusiasm that you as members have. Most of you know me quite well by now after spending 16 months in the chair, I am a very active member still with my local club Lostwithiel, and I still attend my county meetings, and it was through being an active member that I got called up to the NFYFC competitions committee. It was at that time that I truly did get addicted and I realised that if we are vocal, we are the members who run this organisation, and we can actively make changes. Seeing changes through got me completely addicted, that's what led me to where I am now. I never once thought that I would be standing here as the outgoing national chair speaking to you guys presenting a report.

There are a few people that I would like to specifically thank for pushing me and making me aware that probably I was able to do this role. One of them is here today Helen Williams (nee Roberts). Back when she was national chair five years ago, I didn't really know Helen when she first took on chair, but through that year I started spending quite a lot of time talking with her, babysitting Martyn for her. It was during that time that she kept on telling me "you know what you could do this", and I kept on thinking may be I can, and actually one thing led to another and few other people, Chris Lloyd, being one of them, a couple of staff members and others saying you could do this. The one piece of advice I would give to any of you sat here today, if you have members and you know them well, and they are saying to you "I think you should do that", listen to them because it is one of the best things I have ever done. So thank you very much to those people that gave me the nudge I need to step forward.

Everyone knows that the start to my chairmanship year was a little rocky, in that we had the loss of our Chief Executive Officer. I still whole heartedly thank everybody, the team for pulling together, getting a re-structure in place. A lot of time was taken up with Frank Chester, Board of Management Chair, and eventually we promoted James Eckley to Chief Officer. James I just want to say that you have done a superb job and handled everything really professionally, thank you very much.

When I was becoming national chair, I thought, "what did I want to get out of my year?" Having sat on council for about six years, there were things I wanted to do. I wanted to get members understanding the structure of our organisation; members understanding the power that they have; members understanding the communications routes and how they are so key to getting us to achieve our goals, and I also really wanted transparency, honesty, and to build the trust back. I stand here today and thank this whole team of people here today on the top table, because between all of us and the NFYFC staff I hope we have made a really big step towards achieving that goal.

I have had a few stand out moments in my year, the tractor run has been one of them which my sister who is present today, organised for my club, and we did a tractor run from John O'Groats to Lands End. I want to thank the council members that helped us on route, met us with cake, just came and cheered us on. The warm welcome we received in every county, while we were travelling around was phenomenal.

I also, with the Rural+ Campaign, was honoured to receive a 'Point of Light Award' received from David Cameron in recognition of the campaign and highlighting rural isolation as a particular issue in rural young people. I was also lucky enough with NFU's South West branch to have a tour of Parliament. We went to The House of Commons and The House Lords, and we met the NFU political team so many thanks to those. If any of you get the opportunity to go and tour the House of Parliament and The Commons, I would suggest that you do, because the understanding that you gain as to how their side of the things work and how their communication channels work with you in the local constituencies is not that different to us in the organisation.

I would like to thank Campbell Scott and Massey Ferguson for inviting me to the 'Business Farming Awards' with him in The House of Commons. That really was an eye opener, and it was a fantastic evening in spectacular surroundings.

Something that has been highlighted already, Essex YFC and Ed Ford, Forageaid, and Essex YFC with their epic tune 'Put That Hoe Down' which you will hear in a moment. I would like to congratulate you the members on getting a UK Chart number 60 single at last year's AGM weekend so a massive congratulations, and £1,000 you raised I believe went to the Farming Community Network (FCN) work, and it was all off the back of Rural+ so thank you.

I also like to thank the counties for all the events that I have been invited to over the year. I have really enjoyed it. Representing you the members has been the easiest thing I have had to do because you are all so passionate and a great bunch of people and to actually go out and promote you and publicise our organisation to the wide community and the agricultural industry was actually incredibly easy because you are all phenomenal

Claire presented a video with the highlights of her year, accompanied with the 'Put Your Hoe Down' music from Essex FYFC members.

The one thing that I really want to focus on is what we do for charity, it's the one thing that we never ever promote enough to the wider public. Essex a £1,000 for FCN just through their charity single sales. We have various trophies that you enter every year where we compile the data of how much you raise per county, and using a rough average because unfortunately out of the 48 counties we have we only received entries from 18 this year, but if we take the average and we multiple it by the amount of counties we have, we actually as an organisation have achieved more the £1.3 million for charity , so a huge well done each and every person. As we all know that money gets spread between hundreds and hundreds of local community charities as well as the national ones.

Today as proof of how members raise money for charity, we have a member who is wearing the wig that he worn last night for fancy dress and this is Jimbo from Wiltshire (*asked to stand*). James had set the challenge that if he wore a long wig to AGM, I and others would donate £100 to FCN. This is because he feels that they have supported us a lot with Rural+ as well as YoungMinds, and it is something that he is passionate about, so I accepted the challenge and well done.

I want to say a massive thank you for Rural+, it was inspired by a personal experience of mine, and I just wanted to get people talking. I am still speechless to this day as to how many members say they have been touched by Rural+ and how it has helped them. It has enabled them to open up more, and I have

been thanked so many times for just putting the topic out there. When it was launched it was going to go one way or the other and I am so glad that it was embraced by the organisation, because I think it is so important. I hope that it continues. I know Hannah is continuing the theme through with family this year and Rural+ will be part of that. So thank you to everybody who has done something towards that and I know that YoungMinds and FCN are very grateful for your support and integration. Thank you to Matt from FCN for being here all weekend.

Lastly, I cannot say how privileged I am to have worked with a phenomenal team and I hope that has come through today in the way that they have presented their presentations. They have been the best team to work with. They have been so proactive and they have always been such good fun. Today there has been a lot of laughter so thank you to you all.

My mum and dad are actually here today for the first time and I want to thank them and my sisters for putting up with me being away an awful lot especially at weekends. I think I was away more weekends than I actually was at home, so I can assure you that this will change. I will be home a little bit more and make birthdays that I had to miss last year, so thank you for your support throughout all of it. Also to friends, my club, all of the counties in particular Cornwall it's the best one. To all the Areas I managed to make every area meeting and you are all incredible with what you do at all levels, it will only get stronger and in particular South West Area, you guys gave me a lot of support, you have always been there whenever I have needed something, and finally Poul as President, Frank as Board Chair, and all of the council members, James and the NFYFC staff you have gone above and beyond our roles and I know that the steering group chairs are also grateful, and finally I just want to say Hannah thank you for all your support, because you have not only supported me through these three years, but you have supported me when we were comps as well, and I wish you and your officer team all the best in the future you will do an amazing job and your officer team are fantastic."

So with that I propose the adoption of the annual report 2014 as printed.

Hannah Talbot addressed the meeting to second the adoption of the annual report. "Mr President, fellow Young Farmers' Club Members it gives me great pleasure to second the adoption of the annual report for 2014 as presented to you today. You do not need me to emphasise the amount that has been achieved by such a committed team over past year, you have been brilliant and you have achieved so much. It would be remiss of me not to say a few words about Claire. As Claire has said we have worked together for a very long time and it will be quite strange without you. Claire is unique! There have been lots in the press this week about Tony McCoy and Paula Radcliffe, both really well known dedicated professionals who are retiring, and I think there could be parallels. Claire hasn't broken as many bones as Tony McCoy, and I can assure you she doesn't get up as early in the morning as Paula Radcliffe, but she does have a passion, a drive and the enthusiasm and that has come through, not just this year, but in the two years that she was Vice Chair, encompassing a year as Competitions Chair also. Claire has absolutely had the members at the heart of everything she has done and one of the things that YFC has done over the past 12 to 18 months is to really bring what we do back to the membership.

Claire was adamant that there was going to be greater transparency, and I have been sat with Claire on many occasions, often behind closed doors, where she has absolutely insisted on that for your benefit, and I hope you feel as an officer team and as an organisation that we give you the answers that you want,

and if you don't feel that you need to keep coming back and telling us because that is something we firmly believe in.

I know that Rural+ has been a very successful campaign and very close to Claire's heart, and I am really proud to be able to continue some of that work this year.

I think I have seen Claire more than all of her family members put together over the last three years. She has done a huge amount of mileage, she has been at everything and she does crazy things, she accepts invitations in different parts of the country, and doesn't think twice. James and I have raised eyebrows and she just ignores it.

Every Chair when they take over, hopes to leave the organisation in a better place than when they took it on. Claire, I absolutely 100% firmly believe that NFYFC is much stronger for you being Chair, well done and it gives me great pleasure to second the Annual Report."

Poul Christensen noted "What a phenomenal year and well done from everybody and Claire be proud of it.". Poul asked if anyone wished to speak to the Motion with no responses, the members voted and duly adopted the Annual Report 2014.

AGM/23/15 CLUB 8. MOTION FROM THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS' CLUB MEMBERS ' CLUB

"That member clubs of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Club Members ' Clubs be instructed to amend Clause 5.3 of their Standard Rules and Constitution of Open Clubs to read:-

Membership remains available to a person who is 30 years and under on 1st September in any year in which any office, international visit or other such activity or event is held" This is to be effective for NFYFC office, international visit or other such activity or event held from 1st September 2016.

Proposer: Nick Strelczuk (Northamptonshire) **Seconder:** Nicole Belliveau (Northamptonshire)

Nick Strelczuk addressed the meeting; "Thank you Mr President, Madam Chair, fellow Young Farmers' Club Members . On behalf of Northampton Young Farmers' Club Members I propose that we increase the upper age limit of members up to 30 years as published in the agenda. I grew up in rural Herefordshire, and became a member of Ledbury YFC at the age of 16, I have seen the greatness of Young Farmers' Club Members and the benefits that we all get, along with many people in the room today as well.

Moving around the county with my job and university before that, I have also been witness to all shapes and sizes of Young Farmers' Club Members clubs including Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Bedfordshire and currently Northamptonshire.

Hopefully you have all see the report that was circulated last week, which contains more information than what we have time to talk about today. We knew that this motion would cause quite a stir across the country and I would firstly like to thank those individuals and counties who have shown their support for the motion so far. I would also like to thank Cumbria FYFC and their Chair Mark Curr for producing the other report as well against the motion, as I firmly believe that an informed debate is actually a good debate. Thank you very much Mark.

I have personally taken so much out of Young Farmers' Club Members but would not be brave enough to stand here today and speak to you all if it wasn't for the public speaking, the stock judging and many

more competitions. In the last twelve years I have been an active member and it is quite clear to see that the Young Farmers' Club Members draw has changed. We are now attracting a different demographic to the organisation, and for my club Oundle YFC our members split is more than just farmers. We have students, graduates, land agents, we have agronomists like myself, we have mechanics, auctioneers, masons, builders and many more careers outside of agriculture and this has meant that we have had to change as a club and county ourselves, the majority of activities are still rural and farming based but we have started to make changes, we as a club used to close down for harvest we used to stay in touch and have the odd drink now and then just to make sure everyone was still together, but the large change in our demographic means we actually still open throughout harvest as well as we get a turnout of 30 members regardless of what the weather is doing.

Our members range between 25 and 30 and are vital in the encouragement for all new and current members. At no point, by increasing this age do we feel that this will affect the organisation as it is run at the moment, it can only make it better. Even at the this young age of 28, I am still learning new skills and benefitting hugely from meeting new people and developing friendships in an area that I moved to two years ago. I am sure there is a lot of you in the room today who have moved around the country as well and the first thing you do is you ring up Young Farmers' Club Members and find out where your local club is. I have done it four times and it has always worked fantastic for me. I try to give back as much as I can, and I know that other senior members try to do the same but at 26 we as a County loose on average 16% of our members just to their age, the majority of which don't stay on as Associates and Advisory. The increase would encourage these members to stay on and help run the clubs which every year seems to get harder and harder.

The new modern young farmer is living longer, studying for longer, they are travelling more, relocating and waiting longer to take over the family farm, and also the average age of married Young Farmers' Club Members in into their thirties. The skills we develop as Young Farmers' Club Members should continue well into our late twenties. There is a thirty year gap between the average Young Farmers' Club Members age and the average farmer discussion group age which if you have been to it is usually old farmers discussing tractors into a ripe old age.

The current age bands were set up on the late 1930's and there has been some slight tweaks, especially lowering the age from fourteen down to ten years. We have had four more wars, we have had no end of different governments, world disasters and devastations in agriculture, and I am pretty sure that no one in this room can say that nothing has changed. The lives we live now are so different to back then and we feel that as a national organisation we need this change to be introduced. By increasing the age to thirty you would bring us in line with other youth organisations, such as Scotland, Northern Ireland, Switzerland and Eastern Europe. Back in the 1980's NFYFC reviewed their position and the organisation's relevance and we feel that thirty years on we need to do it again to make sure that we are going in the right direction.

We as members in Northamptonshire feel that we need this change to protect the membership and our clubs, and we want to ensure that the next generation have strong Young Farmers' Club Members to be part of, and allow them to develop the same skills that we all in this room have the benefit of. We want to ensure the best for the smaller clubs and counties which are not fortunate enough to have 10+ clubs or an average of 50 members. We can easily become complacent with the way that we are, but we must do

what is right for them all and not just for larger clubs. Thank you very much for listening and I ask you to join me in voting in favour of this motion.”

Nicole Belliveau addressed the meeting: “Good afternoon Mr President, Madam Chair, ladies and gentlemen, fellow Young Farmers’ Club Members . I am here this afternoon to second the motion that member clubs of the National Federation of Young Farmers’ Club Members ’ Clubs be instructed to amend Clause 5.3 of their Standard Rules and Constitution of Open Clubs.

There are three fundamental reasons why I believe we should raise the senior age limit to 30 years. Firstly, rural communities along the wider population have seen a massive change in the last twenty years, because many more are now going off to university for both first degrees and master degrees. In turn this means that clubs such as mine, Thrapston YFC, often loose members aged 18 – 22. Not forgetting that people may wait a year or two after college or sixth form before deciding to go to university. Often by the time members return home they are nearing the current upper age limit, and so it is harder for them to gain the experience required to undertake roles for county, area, or national committees.

By increasing the age to 30 it would allow more time for members to gain the experience for progression through Young Farmers’ Club Members .

Secondly, allowing members up to the age of 30 to compete in all NFYFC competitions would give clubs a wider pool of talent to draw upon, plus giving higher levels of participation. I know that this has been a particular issue in our county clearly this would benefit the whole organisation, as participation is key to the strength of the Federation .

Thirdly, through my own experience of Young Farmers’ Club Members , I have seen that it is generally the older members who are better at integrating new members into their club because they are more socially responsible. It is important to have these people there to encourage others to participate fully. Furthermore, it benefits all young people to learn how to mix with people older than themselves, which is undeniably a skill which is important in all aspects of life. This would be better achieved if the membership age was raised to 30, as some members feel disengaged because of the 26 years and out policy. If we want to encourage wider participation we have to be more inclusive. Personally I would like to have the time to be integrated and have the time to progress through all the levels of Young Farmers’ Club Members , and I feel that this can only be achieved by raising the upper age limit to 30 years and I urge you all to vote and approve this motion. Thank you.”

Poul thanked Nick and Grace and called for any members who wished to speak to the motion.

Mark Hurst (Cumbria FYFC) addressed the meeting: “Good afternoon, Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, honoured guests and fellow Young Farmers’ Club Members . I am here today as the County Chair of Cumbria to oppose Northamptonshire’s motion. I have sent a report out to all counties of our member’s thoughts and opinions and today I want to summarise these aspects;

- 1) the clue is in the name; led by young people, for young people, YFC clubs are for those between the ages of 10 – 26. How can we justify the name Young Farmers’ Club Members if we increase the upper age limit to 30. We should be looking at the retention of membership. As an organisation we

lose 30% of in age members each year, we also gain that percentage, and want to look at more retention.

- 2) Money matters, this year government funding was available to projects that were organised by 10 – 20 year olds, if we increase the upper age limit of Young Farmers’ Club Members what is to say that these funding opportunities will be available in the future. Why should we remove these opportunities to promote YFC to the wider community, whilst also providing funding to grass root members. If the age range is increased to 30, there is a real risk that Cumbria YFC could lose core funding from Cumbria County Council. This funding is there to support young people in the county and comes from budgets which are ring fenced.
- 3) A step too far – by the age of 26 we in Cumbria really do believe it is time to take on the responsibilities of adulthood and start supporting our YFC clubs and county federations, to coin a phrase ‘give back to yfc’. The current associate membership category allows for this perfectly. The possibility of a 20 year age gap for 10 – 30 begs the questions; what message this sends out to the wider community? The associated cost of such a re-structure would also add additional financial strain at a time when national budgets are already being reduced.

We hope that you agree that this motion could change the whole structure, ethos and future of YFC and vote against this motion.”

Simon Wallgate (East Riding of Yorkshire) addressed the meeting; “Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to urge that all those people who have turned up today with their minds made up to support the motion, I would urge you to think about how it can jeopardise the Federation as it is at the moment. For me a young person turning up to a club meeting, nervous as a young teenager, to that point where you all are today, you have developed skills, you have responsibilities. The skills that you gain and everything else that goes along with it are invaluable to young people progressing through life. To extend the membership age up to 30 may detract from the ability of the young people to develop. As people have said with funding, there is limited resources and so on. For members in their late 20’s to be taking YFC travel places that could go to younger members to help them develop is unfair. Once you get to the age of 26 you have received everything from Young Farmers’ Club Members and it is your turn to put something back. Give advice, be club leaders, be on advisory, but don’t jeopardise it for those who are young and those members yet to come. I would urge you to use your blue voting cards today and vote against this motion. Thank you.”

Trevor Jones (Kent FYFC) “Good afternoon, I have been to too many meetings, from clubs that are struggling with young members because older people won’t let them get on with it. You need your young members to feel like it is their club, their decision, and they are being not necessarily put down but have their life made more difficult by more experienced people.

I could not have done a lot of the things I have done without the support of associate members in my county, but the lack of voting rights meant that the mistakes I made, and I made many of them don’t get me wrong, they were my mistakes and I have become more confident because of them, and I feel like I am a more rounded individual because of the mistakes I made when I was younger.

We are within half a percent of all the charities in England & Wales who have trustees under the age of 24, and we are part of that half a percent which I am incredible proud of. We have opportunities for our young people which are second to none. You get to actually lead your federation as an under 26 year old,

you are not told you can't do things, you can go for it, and I am absolutely proud of that. So I would like you to join with me in voting against this motion."

A County Chair addressed the meeting; "Ladies and gentlemen as a County Chair and of age member I am voting against this motion today, and I would urge all my fellow members to do so, and vote in a manner that represents the grass root members which is by no doubt the core of the federation and that is all I have to say, thank you."

Philip Miller (Lancashire Federation) addressed the meeting; "Good afternoon Mr President, Madam Chair, ladies and gentlemen, honoured guests and fellow Young Farmers' Club Members. On behalf of the Lancashire Federation I would urge you to oppose this motion on a number of issues; firstly we believe the fact that members move away to university is not going to increase the age. Myself and our previous county chair Jessica Townson have been away for several years at university. Myself, I studied at Bangor University in North Wales, making many new friends and joining many clubs doing rock climbing and joining the zoological society. Once I graduated I returned home to Lancashire and once again became heavily involved in my club Bilsborough YFC, taking on club chair, then regional treasurer, and county vice chair, and recently taken on the role of county chair.

In Lancashire we see many members travel to universities then come back and continue to play key roles in their clubs and county. We feel this gives members the chance to learn how other societies and young groups work, bringing back invaluable knowledge and expertise when organising social events and competitions for Young Farmers' Club Members.

We also feel by the age of 26 most members are financially supported and have used the resources at area and national level to start themselves on the career ladder. Many members continue in YFC after the age of 26 in order to give back their knowledge and thoughts to their County and Club.

There is nothing to stop members who are out of age to step into the officer roles should they wish to do so, but to extend the age past 26 would drain the resources and benefits of others and this would come at a disadvantage to the membership as more pressure is put on county offices and the NFYFC, and finally, I feel it is quite worrying that we received information to back up this motion only 3 days before we headed to Torquay, and this has been an impossible task to try and get information out to our members in order to have a fruitful debate on this motion and to vote fully in favour of a motion information should be received at least a month in advance to give members time to form a well balanced opinion, and therefore, I urge you to vote against this motion."

Poul called upon Nick Strelczuk to sum up on the debate; "Well you are probably wondering what I am going to say. I am guessing by the response I know which way the voting will be going, but I would just like to take this opportunity to respond and just to expand on some of the comments made earlier this morning about being self sufficient and the funding issues. We as a county do not receive any county council funding. We are completely self sufficient and that does not hinder us in any way attracting members, we try extremely hard, but we still find it very difficult to get new members.

I would also like to just pick up on the point that we also push our younger members and encourage them to do roles for their club and county. At no point do we, as associate members, feel that we are taking places away from them. If you were to come to one of our committee meetings you would see that it is

a lot of the older people at 28 and over who are trying to run the county, and we feel that we are such a small county in a big organisation. You all have very valid points, but as a small county today you can appreciate that we are struggling with members, we are struggling with committees and this will probably hinder us. That is why we are here but as an organisation I thank you for taking the time to listen to us and the issues that we have. Thank you.”

Poul called for the members to vote by show of cards. Poul confirmed that the Motion was defeated by an overwhelming majority.

Poul noted “that what the debate showed was Young Farmers’ Club Members at its best, a really thought through caring motion, well presented and some equally well thought through debates. Congratulations to you all.”

AGM/24/15

9. MOTION FROM NFYFC COUNCIL – “That there shall be no less than three and no more than six Holding Trustees of the NFYFC who shall be elected to serve a term of three years, after which they may be re-elected to serve a maximum of a further 2 terms only.”

9(1)(c) of the NFYFC Constitution be amended to: Not less than three (holding) Trustees and not more than six. And; 9(2) of the NFYFC constitution be amended to: Live Vice-President shall hold office during the pleasure of the Federation and may be removed only by resolution of an Annual or Special General Meeting. Holding Trustees shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting to serve a term of office of no more than three years; after which they may be re-elected to serve a maximum of two further terms only. Holding Trustees may be removed by resolution of an Annual or Special General Meeting.

The Chief Executive, the Secretary and Treasurer shall independently hold office during the pleasure of the council. All the other officers shall continue in office until the next Annual General Meeting, and at every such meeting the said officers shall be elected by a majority of the members present and entitled to vote, or on failure of such election those last appointed shall continue in office.

Proposer: Jessica Townson (Lancashire) **Seconder:** Sam Dilcock (Yorkshire)

Jessica addressed the meeting; “Mr President, Madam Chair, honoured guests and fellow Young Farmers’ Club Members . I would like to propose the following motion ‘That there shall be no less than three and no more than six Holding Trustees of the NFYFC who shall be elected to serve a term of three years, after which they may be re-elected to serve a maximum of a further 2 terms only.’ Finer details are also detailed in the booklet.

In plain English our proposal here today is to ensure that there are correct and adequate sensible number of individuals representing us as a federation of members as our Trustees. The motion also includes a proposal for the term of office as a Trustee. I will now take the proposal in two parts;

Firstly the number of Trustees and then their term of office. The number of Trustees at present in the Constitution states that there should be not less than 3 Trustees, part of our proposal here today is to maintain this but also expand this to include that there should be no more then 6 Trustees. According to the Charities Commission. Charity Trustees are the people who serve on the governing board of a charity, Trustees have and must accept ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of a charity, ensuring that it is solvent, well run and delivering the charitable outcomes for the benefit of the public and members. A position in office such as a Trustee comes with many responsibilities and one which requires well informed, active and motivated individuals with the required knowledge and experience to ensure that the requirements are being fulfilled.

We believe that the proposal of between 3 and 6 is an ideal number of individuals to represent us as our Trustees. The knowledge base that can be held between a group of this size shall be adequate to hold discussions to make the right decisions for our federation, and ensuring that the logistics of a large group of people coming together and holding discussions is not compromised by great numbers.

Now to look at the second point of this motion, the term of office; the proposal here states that the Trustees of NFYFC shall be elected to serve a term of office for 3 years, after which they may be re-elected for a further maximum of 2 terms only. Should this motion be supported here this afternoon we shall allow the creation of a rolling committee allowing knowledge to be passed on from old to new members on the Trustees committee. The motion comes with an aim to ensure that there is continuity with our Trustees, and continuity with appointments to ensure that the knowledge and experience that we require amongst these individuals is passed from one to the next.

The proposal shall allow Trustees to serve for a maximum of up to 9 years, as 3 terms of 3 years, should they be successfully voted in at the end of each term. We feel that the proposed maximum term of 9 years for a Trustee is a healthy length of time for an individual to maintain enthusiasm for us as a federation. I therefore urge the members to support this motion today.”

Sam addressed the meeting; “Good morning Mr President, Madam Chair, and my fellow young members. I stand here with pride to second the motion that Jess Townson has proposed to you. The Trustees should be no less than 3, no more than 6, and that they will hold no more than 3 terms of 3 years in office. The National Federation of Young Farmers’ Club Members’ Clubs has been a fantastic organisation in the past and as members we wish for this to continue. This motion allows a clear structure for Trustees in the coming decades, as Trustees will not be around forever, and it creates clear guidelines for members to nominate by adding or substituting Trustees.

Our Trustees are inspiring and accomplished Young Farmers’ Club Members and business people. However, many of our former chair people have knowledge and skills to contribute to this group, for the greater good of this federation. This motion should also reiterate to members that there is a ladder to climb, there are roles to undertake after national chair and other officer roles, and there is a good reason for everybody here to give to NFYFC everything they can to keep us moving in the best direction for the future.

If you want a grass roots federation then you must build it. No longer will we assume that management is all going to be in order. No longer will we assume that somebody will take care of everything and make everything alright. We are all responsible for the decision making process of this organisation, you all have a voice and we must use it. I ask do you understand the motion that is put before you? (*repeated louder*), good. Are you going to take responsibility for the running of this federation? Are you going to spread the word to other members and get them to take responsibility for this federation? And do you want this federation to continue developing and prosper? You don’t need eyes to see, you need vision. Thank you very much.”

Poul called for members to speak to the motion.

Caroline Trude (Devon FYFC) addressed the meeting ; “Mr President, Ladies and gentlemen, fellow Young Farmers’ Club Members , I urge you to vote against this motion. When first reading upon it looks quite

simple, but I ask you to look at county federations, look at other charities, they have lifelong Trustees, that allow knowledge and expertise to be passed through. This is extremely poignant in Devon at the moment, we have recently obtained a new Headquarters and we are selling our Leasehold in the middle of Exeter and there are details and legal terms that were created when this building was built in 1970 which still plays a big part today and we are so thankful that we have the same Trustees following this all the way through. It is their expertise and knowledge of the whole thing that makes it all work.

We have also seen recently at council meetings, by sitting on the council I have heard our accountants say that they have given the Trustees our support and allowing them to go forward to invest some of our money from which we have a substantial return. So I think we must congratulate the current Trustees for all that they have done and continue to do. Also it is a legal position, a Holding Trustee is a holding trustee of our assets and to cap a time when they will be able to hold that position really distresses me, I feel some legal terms take far longer than 3, 6 or 9 years. So to be blunt we are not in the best financial position at the moment, and if we were then to change rolling Trustees, I really do fear for the future of the federation, and I hope that you will join with me and vote against this motion. Thank you.”

Jessica Townson responded to the motion and thanked Sam and Caroline for their contributions to the debate. “Caroline mentioned that within her county they have lifelong Holding Trustees and I do appreciate that they will maintain the knowledge themselves but without sounding morbid an end is inevitable and what we want to create here, is to have a board of Trustees where there is the ability to pass on knowledge from one to another, and to maintain the motivation within this group of people.

Each county and area will have a different method of maintaining and keeping their Trustees. In Northern Area we have a specific timescale for keeping our Trustees so we can allow information to be passed from one to the next and maintain the momentum within the Trustees. I urge you please to vote in favour of this motion to ensure that information is being passed from one Trustee to the next and not being lost. Thank you.”

Poul called for a show of voting cards for and against the motion and confirmed that the motion was carried by a majority.

AGM/25/15 10 Presentation of Awards

David Hamer assisted by Mark Curr took the proceedings for these awards.

10.1 The Top Trainers Award – awarded to **Derbyshire FYFC** received by Helen Yates

10.2 The NFU Trophy – Champion County Federation in National Competitions Finals 2014/2015 awarded to **Cumbria FYFC** – received by Mike Curr.

10.3 The Tug Wilson Trophy – Reserve Champion County Federation in National Competitions Final 2014/2015 – awarded to **Devon FYFC** – received by Caroline Trude

10.4 The Worshipful Company of Farmers Trophy – Champion Small County Federation whose membership figures are amongst the lowest 50% of counties, NFYFC Competitions finals 2014/2015 – awarded to Derbyshire and received by Helen Yates.

10.5 The Merrik Burrell Tankard – The County Federation with the largest percentage increase in membership over the past three years – awarded to **Northumberland FYFC** – received by Jo Jo Chomse

10.6 The Prince of Wales Trophy – David Hamer 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 **18 County entries** is **£407,319.83**. 3rd place goes to **Devon FYFC**, 2nd place to **Essex FYFC** and in 1st place for **Cornwall FYFC** raising a total of £65.88 per member totalling **£49,803.58.**” received by Tracy Knowles.

10.7 The Lionel J Hill MBE NFYFC Club Charity Cup – For the Club which has raised the most funds per member in 2014. Lionel Hill awarded this trophy to: **Wareham & Purbeck YFC**, Dorset County for raising £8,700, £300.00 per member received by Emily Gascoigne & Joshua Fincham.

10.8 The Sidney Fawcett Trophy – awarded for the best AGM Contribution and judged by Mrs Catherine Look and Mr Julian Sayers. Catherine & Julian addressed the meeting “Catherine and I have really enjoyed being here once again at the Annual General Meeting and as chair of the Trustees I am alive and kicking at the moment, but I fully endorse the way in which you all debated that particular motion, and the decision which you have reached. I think the rotation of Trustees will be a good idea, I certainly had no intention of staying until I was 90.

What we have heard today from each and every person who has stood here at this podium was a very clear delivery. There was no one stumbling and mumbling, everybody knew exactly what they were going to say and we heard every word that you spoke. That shows so much about Young Farmers’ Club Members and your ability to public speak. We have heard passion and we have heard humour. We have also heard from speakers of all ages, some of whom are not eligible for this particular award, but Eric thank you very much indeed for your wonderful delivery, and Adrian your superb use of props. So Young Farmers’ Club Members you can learn from those who have gone before you, and you also set an example for those who follow in your footsteps, so congratulations to all of you. We have thoroughly enjoyed judging this particular competition and we announce the winner.”

Catherine Look noted that “the meeting has been a true Young Farmers’ Club Members working with democracy from the top to the bottom. You will all be familiar with democracy in your clubs and counties in action and this is where you see the final results. The debates have been good, informative and passionate and this year we present the Sidney Fawcett Trophy to **Trevor Jones (Kent FYFC).**”

Poul invited Jessica Townson to give a vote of thanks.

AGM/26/15 11. Vote of Thanks and Chairman’s Closing Remarks –

Jessica addressed the meeting; “Mr President, honoured guests, fellow Young Farmers’ Club Members , I would just like to start the conclusions of this meeting by thanking all of those that not only make this Annual General Meeting but the whole of the Convention run so smoothly.

This event is a showcase of what we as Young Farmers’ Club Members do so brilliantly; compete, support and socialize with each other. I had the pleasure of competing yesterday in the Senior Member of the Year, whilst supporting those taking part in the Pantomime. We, as a Federation have demonstrated our diverse range of competitions this weekend and over the past year, our

passion for agriculture and rural issues in yesterdays Agri Forum, our democracy, displayed here today, and our socializing skills and we do all those brilliantly, so congratulations to everyone who has taken part.

I would like to thank the staff here at the Riviera Centre and also the Princess Theatre who have worked tirelessly over the past few months and this weekend to coordinate all of our activities, as well as our volunteers event and competitions teams who have worked together with the National Staff team in order to make this event happen.

I'm sure none of us underestimate the amount of hard work, commitment and sleepless nights that it takes to deliver this weekend, and without our staff team, led by James it simply wouldn't be possible. So I would like to sincerely thank them for all that they do and also Bob Blezard for all he has done.

I would also like to thank our outgoing officers whom we have heard from today to Claire, Sioned, Nicola, David, David, and Toby; thank you very much for your drive and enthusiasm, commitment and passion to the Federation over the last 12 months.

I would like to reiterate the thanks that have been said to Poul for doing a fantastic job as President and also we must thank Mrs Christiansen for her patience and support that she also offers the Federation.

For the hard work that has been done by Frank and Julia and the Board of Management to help steer us in the right direction through these tough times.

I would like to extend my thanks to our sponsors for this weekend. To Massey Ferguson for being our headline sponsors over the weekend, to NatWest for sponsoring the AGM Booklets and to Jacolyn Dobson of Devon FYFC who has designed the floral arrangements here today.

Finally, I would like to thank the membership and retell my thanks for everything you have done this weekend, for the passion that you have shown in everything that you do.

Congratulations to all those who have competed over the weekend, and Good Luck to those involved in the Jump Rope & Commercial Dance that shall be taking place after this meeting.

We sincerely hope you have all had a lovely weekend and continue to do so. Thank you.

President's Closing Remarks

Poul Christensen drew the proceedings to a close by asking all the trophy winners to stay behind for photographs. Lunch will be served for guests in the balcony area. Today has been an outstanding Annual General Meeting, and a really good endorsement for what YFC is all about, I really congratulate you. You have all showed a determination to stand on your own two feet, you are not going to be part of any dependency culture and this is hugely encouraging. When you go out on top of all that and raise £1.3M for charities most this never gets publicised, and I congratulate you.

With no further business the Chairman Mr Poul Christensen declared the meeting closed at 1.38pm.

Signed:

Date:

Mr Poul Christensen (NFYFC President 2015)