



Competitions Steering Group Saturday 24th October, 2015 - Quality Hotel, Coventry

Chairman: Mark Curr (Cumbria)

Vice-chairman: Oonagh O'Neill (Bedfordshire)

Present:

Faith Cosgrove (FG) (co-option); Mark Curr (MC) (NA); Greig Farmer (GF) (EMA); Oonagh O'Neill (OO) (EA); Claire Worden (CW) (co-option); Lisa Hawkins LH (co-option); Laura Elliott (LE) (Wales); David Hamer (ex-officio); Georgina Monk (GM) (SWA); Rhys Jones (RJ) (WMA); Philip Miller (PM) (NA); Competitions Steering Group (CSG);

Part Meeting:

Hannah Talbot (HT) (NFYFC Chair); Jess Townson (JT) (NFYFC Vice Chair); James Eckley (JCE) (NFYFC Chief Officer); Christina Evans (CE) (NFYFC Fundraising Officer); Chris Lloyd (CL) (NFYFC Treasurer)

In attendance:

Margaret Bennett (MB) (NFYFC Competitions Officer) Gill Harrison (GH) (Competitions Administrator) (Part)

1. Opening Remarks

Mark Curr (MC) welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked them to sign the record of attendance. MC thanked all the Competitions Committee for all their help and support over the last few months with Stewarding at various competitions and standing in for him at the Dairy Stockjudging, Farm Skills Weekend and the Cookery Competition. He also welcomed Gill Harrison back for the day whilst she is on maternity leave. David Hamer congratulated Mark and Sonia on the birth of their son David.

2. Apologies

Andrew Smith (AS) (EMA); Phil Debenham (PD) (EA); Charlie Polak (CP) (SE); Charlotte Harris (CH) (SWA); Arwel Jones (AJ) (Wales); Matt Tomkins (MT) (WMA); Sam Allen (SA) (SEA); Natalie Moore (NM) (NA)

3. Confirmation of minutes (27th June, 2015)

The Minutes of the previous Competitions Steering Group (CSG) meeting, held on Saturday 27th June, 2015 had been circulated; these were signed by MC as a true and correct record. Proposed by Faith Cosgrove (FC) and Seconded by Laura Elliott (LE)

4. Matters arising from those Steering Group minutes

1. Working Party – since the last meeting a working party had been set up to look at the General Rules for the NFYFC Competition Steering Committee – various documents had been sent out for consultation and a final copy had been sent out for the Committee to discuss. It was to be noted that on all rules it should state that these rules are in conjunction with the General Rules.
2. **Eligibility & Representation**
 - 2.1. Check the Eligibility & Representation rules that are recorded in individual competition rules.
 - 2.2. For further information see papers on Eligibility & Representation in the Competitions resources online.
3. **Health & safety & safeguarding**
 - 3.1. All competitions carried out at every level must comply with Health and Safety and Safeguarding legislation and meet the relevant safety standards.
 - 3.2. All competitors must be a paid up member of the County they are representing, with a valid membership card for insurance purposes.
 - 3.3. All Under 18 members must complete a NFYFC Parental Consent form. The Parental Consent form must be completed and signed by a Parent/Guardian & the responsible person over the age of 18 who is present on the day of the competition. The parental consent form is required for any competition or Presentation of Awards Ceremony only.
 - 3.4. It is the responsibility of the County Federation to ensure these forms are completed and returned in to NFYFC no later than 10 working days prior to the competition.
 - 3.5. It is recommended that members under the age of 18 carry a copy of the completed Parental Consent form with them on the day of the NFYFC Final.

Please Note: NFYFC will not accept responsibility for any members under the age of 18 who have not produced their Parental Consent Form either in advance to NFYFC or on the day of the NFYFC Final. If the relevant forms are not received by the time of the NFYFC Final then, in accordance with the Federation's Safeguarding Policy, members will not be allowed to take part.

4. **Membership cards**

- 4.1. All competitors will be required to produce on the day of each round of the competition their **current, signed NFYFC membership card** that has the members' photograph properly attached. A valid card will state the number of the County for which the member is able to compete for.
- 4.2. All competitors must be registered on the NFYFC Silo Database on or before the County Round of any competition they compete in. This rule applies to any substitutes that are used at any round of a competition.
- 4.3. This rule also applies to members in their last year of competition, where the NFYFC Final falls into the following year. Associate members, although not eligible to compete in 2015-2016 competitions, they must hold a 2015-2016 membership card to compete in the NFYFC Finals held on or after 1 September 2015 for the competition they competed in the previous membership year.
- 4.4. Failure to produce a membership card on the day of a competition will require the member to pay a £20 fine and prove their ID. Members aged 18 or over will need to confirm their ID using another form of photo-ID and members under 18 will be identified via another form of photographic ID or the parental consent forms submitted prior to the competition.
- 4.5. A Member who fails to produce their card on the day of a competition must, within 7 days of the competition confirm that they are a member of a YFC Club affiliated to the NFYFC. If this is not confirmed to the NFYFC Competitions desk (post@nfyfc.org.uk), the competitor/the whole team will be automatically disqualified from the competition and marks will be re-awarded accordingly.
- 4.6. The NFYFC competitions steering group reserves the right to ask all YFC competitors to show another form of identification that clearly states the competitors date of birth.

Please Note: In the absence of a County Round, members must be signed up on the NFYFC Silo Database prior to the first round that the member/team competes in a competition.

5. **Representing one YFC Club only**

- 5.1. **Spirit of fair competition within YFC.** Members can only compete for **one** YFC Club when participating in NFYFC Competitions programme in any given year (1 September – 31st August) even if they hold more than one membership card.
- 5.2. This rule should be applied by County Federations – at the district/county rounds of the competitions throughout the year. This maintains the spirit of fair competition within YFC. To be clear each Club is affiliated to **one** County Federation and the County Federation fits within **one** of the Areas.
- 5.3. A County Federation may enter a composite team at any round of the competition, provided all competitors are signed up on the NFYFC Silo Database on or before the date of the County final or first round they compete at.

6. **Participation in NFYFC competition finals**

- 6.1. Competitors may take part in competitions as follows: -
 - 6.1.1. English Winter Fair - **one** competition per competition day
 - 6.1.2. Annual Convention – **one** competition per competition day*
 - 6.1.3. Competitions Day - **one** competition per competition day* **
 - 6.1.4. Sports Championships– **one** competition per competition day
 - 6.1.5. Great Yorkshire Show (Dairy judging)- **one** competition per competition day
 - 6.1.6. Tug of War finals - **one** competition per competition day
 - 6.1.7. Stockman Weekend - **one** competition per competition day
 - 6.1.8. Malvern Autumn Show - **one** competition per competition day

***Junior and Senior YFC Member of the Year finalists would be eligible to compete in a second NFYFC final on the same day if applicable.**

****Competitors entering the finals at the Competitions Day will be able to stage a static exhibit, but this must be done prior to all other competitions booking-in times. Efficiency and Safety & Fence Erecting competitors will be able to stage a static exhibit & be eligible to compete in both Farm Skills competitions.**

- 6.2. NFYFC is an inclusive organisation that encourages and supports the participation of all our members. If you require any additional support or resources to participate effectively in any element of this competition please contact the competitions department two weeks prior to the competition final to allow us to work with you so that

specific arrangements can be made.

7. Late Withdrawal of Entries

- 7.1. No deposits will be required from county teams prior to the NFYFC final.
- 7.2. **However**, withdrawals or cancelations made in the two (2) weeks before the day of the final will result in an administration charge of **£25** and if a team withdraws within 48 hrs of the start of the competition final it will result in an administration charge of **£40**.
- 7.3. All administration charges are invoiced to County Federations and not the team/individual.
- 7.4. This rule applies to ALL Competitions at NFYFC Semi-finals and finals.

8. Judges decisions and complaints

- 8.1. The Judges' decision is final.
- 8.2. Written notification of **intention to lodge a complaint or to dispute the result must be received by the Chief Steward on the day of the competition no later than 1 hour of the results being announced**
- 8.3. Following the above, the detail of the complaint or dispute of the results must be received in writing at the YFC Centre, Stoneleigh Park **within 3 working days of the competition final. Email post@nfyfc.org.uk**
- 8.4. Official complaints or disputes can be made by Competitors (finalists) or County Chair's only.

9. Amendments

- 9.1. The NFYFC reserve the right to amend or cancel any of the rules.

10. Expenses

- 10.1. The NFYFC is not responsible for any expenses incurred by competitors or for arrangements for accommodation or travel.

11. Behaviour and Material Content

- 11.1. Unacceptable behaviour by competitors or supporters of teams which brings YFC into disrepute; or which may be deemed to adversely affect other competitors/performances will be penalised.
- 11.2. YFC Members are reminded that material of a questionable nature should not appear in any performance or speech. Material of a questionable nature will be penalised.

NFYFC Competitions Steering Group
Amended 24 - October 2015

The above General Rules are to be adopted by Council on Saturday, 25th October, 2015.

- 4.1. Sponsorship Update – Christina Evans came into the meeting and discussed sponsorship for the (CSG) – Massey Ferguson would be sponsoring the performing arts competition printing programmes and providing trophies for the Northern, Southern and Final. Equipment would also be provided for the Efficiency with Safety Competition along with Kuhn and Honda. Tama have agreed to provide glassware for the Senior and Junior Member of the Year as a keepsake. BASC were to be contacted to support the Clay Pigeon Shooting Competition and (CE) was in the process of trying to find a sponsor to go towards the Overall Budget of the Committee and a Hog Roast for Competitions day.
- 4.2. Competitions Steering Committee Budget/Finances – MB went through the budget to date, the actual spend is £21,430.42 giving a deficit of -£12,451.58 against a Budget figure of £27,648.63 and a deficit of -£19,115.63. There are still some expenses from Malvern to go on and the cost for the English Winter Fair. MC thanked the whole committee for their efforts in reducing the deficit. Costs had been saved by printing everything on black and white and emailing information out to competitors and stewards. Counties were reminded that when renewing memberships if they could check the email addresses as this would be useful so that more information could be sent out as items are being bounced back and some members do not have an email address. MB to ask if the actual spend of the previous year could be seen on the sheets to give the Committee a guide and to ask that any fines/administration fees have a separate section to see what revenue is being collected from this.
- 4.3. Competitions Handbook for Counties – Northern Area and West Midlands have prepared a handbook as a guide as to how to run the Area Competition eliminators and lots of relevant information especially for new members of staff. JCE has recently updated these copies for South East Area to include governance and all other important information. A draft copy was shown to the committee and it was felt that other Areas should prepare one document with everything in. If NFYFC can help with a template please let MB know.
- 4.4. Tug of War 2014 – it was agreed at Council in June that the decision to ban tug of war teams should stand for

2015.

- 4.5. Competitions Appeal Panel – (MB) to be contacted just in case any Appeals were to be made in future.
- 4.6. County Monitoring forms – (GH) has been working on the County Monitoring Forms which had been sent in. It was noted that all Counties had returned their forms excluding – Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Durham, East Riding, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Meirionnydd, Montgomery, Pembrokeshire, Radnor and Sussex. East Riding has now been received but not included in the total. Counties are to be contacted to return the form asap and remind counties how important it is to complete the document as it gives an indication of those who have taken part at various levels of the Competitions and also competitions that are held at County level only. (GH) went through the findings – the items highlighted for discussion is for teams that withdrew from the Live Pig Competition amount to 38%; Painted Canvas even though it was double entry only 50% took part; This applied to the Fashion Competition also. Cube Exhibit showed 11 teams taking part which is the first time for a few years. Cross Country only 21% actually took part and the Dairy Stockjudging Junior 44%; Intermediate 47%; and Senior 42%. Efficiency with Safety showed 27% took part and only 3 teams with 12 members. (GH) went to breakdown the cost as per the event (it was not possible to breakdown the cost per competition). The main cost was for farm skills competitions – however this would be decreased for 2015-2016 as two of the competitions were being held at Competitions Day. Once we had the other County Sheets it would give a true reflection.
- 4.7. White Stockjudging coats – it was agreed at Council that White Coats bearing Club/County sponsors logos are now permitted and judges are to be advised of this change. This would also apply to floral art and cookery competitions.
- 4.8. Kuhn Machinery – Agri are working with Kuhn in a competition to design a piece of machinery. This competition would not be included in the NFU Trophy.
- 4.9. Terms of Reference – the final version was circulated of all the steering committee's in one booklet. The Competitions Steering Committee pages were agreed.
It was noted by (MC) that when a member is elected as Chairman of a Steering Committee they do not have the opportunity to re-elect another representative. It was felt that the same procedure should be followed as Council. MC to bring up at Council Meeting.

ACTION POINTS

- **General Rules to be circulated to counties MB**
- **County Monitoring – Counties who have not sent them through are to be reminded – MB**

5. To receive relevant correspondence

- 5.1. Correspondence received would be discussed under the relevant headings.

6. Review of Competitions Since the Last Meeting

6. Competitions Day - Saturday, 4th July, 2015 - County Showground, Stafford

- 6.1. Junior Reading – no comments
- 6.2. Public Speaking (16 & Under) – it was noted that on the day of the competition the person who had been awarded 'Best Speaker' had received time faults for going over timing. The marks were taken from the overall team score. The committee decided that in future the mark sheets should be amended to give an extra column so that individual marks can be taken off if necessary (Vote of Thanks, Best Speaker and Chairman) if a competitor has gone over time they should not receive the overall award. (MB/GH) to amend the mark sheets accordingly. This was proposed by (LE) and seconded by (FC) and this would apply for 2015/2016.
- 6.3. Brainstrust (21 & Under) – no comments
- 6.4. After Dinner Speaking (26 & Under) – revamp of the rules for 2017 this is in the process of being updated and will be circulated to the Committee
- 6.5. Member of the Year (17 & under) – to note that all Competitors (one from each Area) are asked to join the Youth Forum and Jodie Green had had the chance to speak to them all which was a useful exercise. The winning individual would receive a piece of glassware as a keepsake.
- 6.6. Situations Vacant Competition (16-21) – everyone liked the new version of the competition. This year you applied for a job of your choice. It was noted that there was a variety of applicants. Comments for next year – to state on the competitor notes about dress code what were are expecting. Discussion took place with regard to the age range which at present is from 16-21 to 16-26 or to have a Junior, Intermediate and Senior Competition as (GM) said even as a Senior you still apply for jobs and it is a valid experience to have the opportunity to practice your

interview skills. It was agreed after a vote that the age should stay the same and Counties should be asked to run competitions in the various age groups and to send feedback to the committee. The Judges thought it was a good competition to note that you do get a variety of jobs which are applied for.

- 6.7. Painted Canvas (16 & Under) – County and Areas need to be take more care of the rules ‘the competition clearly stated a box canvass’ and a drawing had been inserted into the rules of what was expected. On the day of the competition we had boxed and stretched canvass. The procedure for the competition was changed during the week leading up to competitions day to allow competitors to be contactable on the day as it was apparent that we would have fewer entries.
- 6.8. Fashion Make and Model (21 & Under) – the comments received that it was a good competition and the layout of the room looked really good with the catwalk etc. It was a little disappointing as only 11 competitors competed out of a possible 22.
- 6.9. Garden Sculpture (26 & Under) – again the competition was changed to allow competitors to be called on the day of the competition by the judge. (MC) also noted that negative comments should not be put on social media as the decision of the judge is final.
- 6.10. Cube Exhibit – 11 teams took part in the competition and everyone enjoyed competing. It was noted again that it is a shame that this competition is not seen by the general public. Comment from (OO) that Bedfordshire would be holding the competition in 2015/2016 even though it is not a national competition. It is proposed to hold the competition in 2016/2017 and the rules would be revamped slightly with more clarification.
- 6.11. Videos of Public Speaking – to note that Sam Conway had taken videos and clips of the public speaking competitions at Competitions Day - were shown to the committee. The next stage would be to form a group to look into the procedure of the Public Speaking, Brainstrust and After Dinner Speaking. The group would consist of Claire Worden, Laura Elliott, Faith Cosgrove, Mark Curr, Georgina Monk and Oonagh O’Neill. It was proposed that during the next Council weekend to be held in February voice over’s would take place – those to be asked were Jess Townson, Hannah Talbot and one other. Also to speak to Lizzie and Paul Glanvill to see if they would be willing to help. (GM) suggested that she could film Cornwall competing in the Debating competition which could also be used on the training video. Once all the information had been put it would be sent to County Offices to be used a training tool.
- 6.12. Contribution to the day from other Steering Committee’s – YFC Travel had presentations playing through the day. Youth Forum - the ‘Cow Pat Game’ was laid out and members did play. Agri and Events are to be asked if they can make a contribution on the day a ‘doing’ event so that those who are attending have something to do and see during the day. This to be put on the Agenda’s for the next meeting.
- 6.13. Wishing Tree – suggestions were put on the tree and these would be used as suggestions for the 2017/2018 programme.
- 6.14. DH asked if a HOPS Banner and stand could be put up future to promote the work of HOPS it was noted that the Visual board can be put up to promote NFYFC and HOPS.

7. **Sports Day – Sunday, 5th July, 2015 – Staffordshire – Weston Road & Beaconside Leisure Centre**

- 7.1. Kwik Cricket (10-16) – this had gone well on the day however, due to heavy rain the semi finals and finals had to held indoors which took longer as only one game at a time could be played. We also had 4 umpires for the day that had been booked through a third party of the England Cricket Board. Two of the umpires had to leave at lunchtime which meant that we still had games to play. Thanks to Claire Worden and Chris Penhale who helped to umpire the remaining games in one of the leagues. Also on the day the gazebos had been damaged but these had now been repaired at a small cost. To note that two individuals had amended their membership cards so that they could attend County functions. However, this had made them too old in theory for the Kwik Cricket Competition this had shown up on booking in form as their age didn’t match. They were allowed to take part in the competition after a stern conversation and the County in questions had been told and that they address. It was noted that the cards were now having the corners cut off for Under 18 members.
- 7.2. Cross Country (10-15; 16-21; 22-26) Male and Female – It was agreed by all that this was a difficult competition to run at a National level. The main reason is that everyone could enter on an individual basis. Only 8 teams actually qualified for the overall team having the right criteria. Counties were changing names up until the last minute and then still changing names on the day rather than be fined. All Counties were asked to provide a marshall but this did not happen so spectators were asked to help to ensure that the site was safe. Those who did compete enjoyed the experience and some were very fast and it gave an opportunity to those who could compete in a national final. However, the committee decided not to hold the Cross Country in the future. Thanks to Chris Lloyd and Claire Worden for putting together a database to calculate the scores.
- 7.3. Dodgeball (16-26) – the competition went well and the final was very close with Shropshire A and B coming 1st and

2nd.

- 7.4. Tuck Shop – thanks to Staffordshire for providing a Tuck Shop and bacon sandwiches.
8. **Dairy Stockjudging – Yorkshire Agricultural Society – Thursday, 16th July, 2015 – Great Yorkshire Show**
- 8.1. Dairy Stockjudging (16 & Under)
- 8.2. Dairy Stockjudging (21 & Under)
- 8.3. Dairy Stockjudging Linear (26 & Under) – a senior competitor had received a zero mark for his reasons giving as the Judge felt that he had not given a good set of reasons and his attitude was very poor. The judge did give his reasons as to why he had felt so strongly about giving a zero mark. Counties to note that when sending competitors through they do need to have experience in judging using linear assessment – competitors should not be turning up on the day and asking a steward ‘how do you do it’.
- 8.4. Comments were also received regarding the intermediate judge saying that they may have been biased to those who are members of HYB. The judge in questions is a Judge on the Holstein list – after discussion it was agreed that we should always use the correct judge for the various breeds as we have done in the past and we would all hope that as a judge at a National final they would be impartial.
9. **Tug of War Finals – Saturday, 1st August, 2015 – Tenbury Agricultural Show**
- 9.1. Ladies Tug of War – Louise Meyrick came to book-in with the Staffordshire (Waterhouses YFC) team on the day of the competition – But her name was not on the Staffordshire list as the steward on the day noticed that her card was 16 number instead of 57. Checking back on the list her name appears on the New Amended Staffordshire List - however, this was not picked up when putting her on to the silo system. As her card had a No 16 it had put Louise into the Derbyshire Ladies team. Louise was told that she would not be able to pull using a Derbyshire Card. Louise said that she had checked with the Staffordshire Office and they said it would be fine. Louise stated that she had not competed for Derbyshire in any competition. Louise had competed at the West Midlands Area Final using her Derbyshire Card even though she was competing for Staffordshire. Staffordshire then made a substitute. Later on Louise came back to try and pull for Derbyshire and it was explained that she was not able to compete as she had pulled for another county.
- 9.2. The Letter from Louise Meyrick read – dated 7th September, 2016 in summary the letter explained that Louise had been a member of Waterhouses (Staffordshire) for the past 5 years. However for the 2014-2015 she had joined Ashbourne YFC (Derbyshire) so that she could attend Skegness. She had taken part at the Staffordshire Rally, Staffordshire County Show and West Midlands Area using her Derbyshire Card and no-one had had a problem with it. She had also contacted the Staffordshire office to see if she needed to join Staffordshire and was told that it was fine as she hadn't competed for Derbyshire in any other competition. She had trained hard for 12 weeks on 2 or 3 nights a week and really enjoyed being part of the team and representing the club at all levels and was concerned that the wrong card had not been picked up at the various rounds. Louise would like answer to her questions as stated in the letter. (MC) and (DH) reiterated that you must have a card for the County you are competing for. Louise was congratulated on the letter which was sent. (MC) would reply to Louise regarding her questions and explain the decisions taken on the day. To note that as we are in the process of revamping the General Rules the comments would be incorporated in the rules. (MC) had acknowledged the letter on the 24th September, 2015.
- 9.3. Letter received from the Staffordshire Federation – comments regarding the above and items to be noted –
- 9.4. That any paid up member to NFYFC can only join ONE county and compete for that same county during any one membership year.
- 9.5. That within that County, any member may compete for more than one club, however, they cannot compete in the same competition for more than one club. This then enables counties to have more competitions and put forward composite county teams for certain competitions through to area and national finals. We recommend that Section 5 of the general competitions rule 15-16 is reworded to this effect.
- 9.6. Any entry forms which come into the NFYFC office either from Area or County rounds of competitions should be cross-checked manually as well as using the silo system. It was also noted that a member competed in the 2012 men's final using a Derbyshire Card and this was not picked up. For this competition it was noted that using the NFYFC Entry Forms a County cannot pick up members that have not paid up to their County. The form on this occasion had been filled in manually and this is where the confusion had arose as when Louise number had been typed in the system automatically it put her into the Derbyshire Ladies team.
- 9.7. Male Tug of War – the competition was well represented and went well. A competitor in the men's tug of war competition also tried to take part but he only joined in June so was therefore not eligible to compete at the county final – he was also told that he could not pull in the competition.

- 9.8. All the comments from the above would be addressed in the new General Rules.
- 9.9. GENSB Tug of War – the winning teams 1st Trecastle (Brecknock) 2nd Grayrigg (Cumbria) went onto represent NFYFC in the European Finals and have sent through a report for the next Ten26 and had enjoyed the experience.
- 9.10. 4 plus 4 Catch Weight Competition – went well with 5 teams taking part and County and Areas mixing up members taking part in the various teams.
- 9.11. Photographs were taken of all those who took part in the competition for reference purposes.
- 9.12. Tenbury Show – on the day of the competition the Show Committee would have liked the ladies final to be pulled in the main ring as the local team Tenbury ladies were in the final. However, it was agreed that this would be done but both the team coaches decided that they did not wish to go in the main ring. Therefore the final was pulled in the YFC ring. Tenbury Agricultural Society who support the competition at a cost of £1,000.00 and give all the entry tickets free of charge along with our own area, marquee and p.a. system at no charge.
- 9.13. MB had spoken to the Chairman and Secretary and they are concerned that the general public are not able to see the competition as there are too many gazebos around the ring. For 2016 the far side will be kept completely free and if necessary teams will not be able to have a gazebo on the side of the main ring but will have to go behind the others on the marquee side.
- 9.14. The Show Committee would also like the 4 plus 4 competition to be held in the main ring and this was agreed by the CSG. (MB) to organise a time but it would likely be in the region of 5.30 pm – 6.00 p.m. (MB) to ask if the bar could be open after the competition. Local counties were to be asked if they had an event on the evening in the area i.e. Shropshire/Worcester.
- 9.15. Comment was received from one of the judges with regard to members putting the rope through the belt on the side away from the judge. This was to be noted and watched for future. It was proposed by (PM) and seconded by (RJ) that it should be watched for future.
- 9.16. Trecastle YFC (Brecknock) – a letter had been received from Steffan Davies Captain of the Mixed Junior Teams – Firstly saying that they enjoyed the day. The reason for the letter was that for the YFC GENSB Competition the age range is used – Must have attained their 12th birthday on 1st September and may be 17 on the day of the competition. The GENSB rules state that may compete in the competition 12 years - he or she reaches the age of 18 years. When the competition was first introduced it was felt that age above was correct as to members were eligible to compete in the Senior Competitions when they are between the age of 15-17. After discussion it was voted to leave the age the same proposed by (DH) and seconded by (PM). The amendment was to change the rules to follow GENSB proposed by (LE) and seconded by (GF). It was agreed on the final vote that the age should stay the same. To note that the age should be reviewed on an annual basis.
10. **Farm Skills weekend – Saturday, 5th and Sunday, 6th September, 2015 – Harper Adams University**
- 10.1. Young Stockman of the Year – went very well.
- 10.2. Senior Stockman of the Year – went very well – (MC) to look at the Stockman project as some competitors felt it was too hard doing two sets of stock. (DH) said perhaps the tasks should be more open with given details of a farm scenario and let the competitor write how they would manage the farm. Another suggestion was to have a competition similar to Situations Vacant and apply for a particular job and the competitor explaining what they could bring to the job with their skills and experience. All comments to be looked into and a suggestion brought back to the February meeting.
- 10.3. To note that having the farm venue judging the beef and lambs worked well – then moving onto Harper Adams. It may be necessary to change the farm for next year as we have now been there 4 times. Harper Adams does work well having the dairy and pigs on site.
- 10.4. This year we had to change the pig judge at the last minute as the pigs were not able to go to slaughter and they were judged in the pig unit. All competitors were called prior to the event to ensure that no one had been near pigs within 48 hours of the competition.
- 10.5. Vets tasks were again carried out by Vets from Lambert Leonard and May at Whitchurch.
- 10.6. Fence Erecting Competition – Betafence had kindly supported all the Area Finals and the Final with the wire. 10 out of 11 teams took part. The competition ran well until it came to prize giving. One of the teams disagreed with the placing and was very rude and confrontational towards the judges it was so bad that one of the judges will never judge a YFC competition again. The Steward on the day also received verbal abuse and felt threatened also comments received were from parents and trainers. As with any competition the judge's decision is final. It was agreed by the committee that a stern letter should be sent to the County involved and that the other teams should also receive a letter so that they knew that this type of behaviour is not acceptable.
- 10.7. The committee also agreed that if in future if it arose with any competition that the Chairman and Staff have the right to send letters out immediately and not have to wait for a Committee meeting for this to be discussed.

Copies could be emailed to the steering committee for information. This was proposed by (CW) and seconded by (GF).

- 10.8. In the rules it states that all teams should take out all the posts and re-fill the holes. Most teams did this but when the Stewards went to clear the site at the end it was apparent that one team in particular had deliberately broken off the posts in the ground leaving less than a 1ft to get them out. Six stewards spent the next 3 ½ hours getting the stakes out of the ground using a load all, discovery with a ratchet strap and water. Once the wood had been taken the holes were filled in and the site may good. Another team had one of their post snap and had told the steward. The team that had broken off the 4 stakes would receive a letter as the site could not be left because if a cow had gone down the hole it would have broken its leg and leaving the area was not acceptable. Usually, we sell the wood on for 50% of the total cost this year as it was a tree guard the lengths of wood were too short once they have been cut down and the main poles had pieces of wire left on them or were broken. It was agreed that the team who broke their wood should be charged. The total cost of the wood was £548.88 and we would have sold it for £270.00 therefore, this amount has had to come out of the Competitions Budget.
 - 10.9. Efficiency with Safety – the total number of teams that can take part is 11 on the Monday prior to the competition we had 8 on the Thursday this number dropped down to 5 and on the day 2 teams did not turn up leaving 3 teams taking part from Pembrokeshire, County Durham and Cornwall which was very disappointing. On the Friday evening it came to light that Massey Ferguson had forgotten to order the transport for the tractors that we were to be used the next day for the competition and they were very apologetic. They did manage to get a tractor to the site for 9 am the next morning. The remainders of the tractors we used were from Harper Adams own stock. Thanks must go to David Hamer and David Heminsley who managed to sort out the tractors with the relevant hitches etc to make a competition. Kuhn supplied the hedge-cutter but there was no p.t.o to drive it so we were not able to open and close it. So we made a competition fit to what we had on the day. Honda had kindly loaned a bike and trailer for the competition. A discussion took place as to whether this competition is viable and it was decided that for 2015/2016 that the competition would be held again but be reviewed as the main reason for teams dropping out was the late harvest and the competition is getting very technical. A comment was also received that the Competitor notes were sent out later than expected due to teams dropping out and waiting for the kit list of machinery.
 - 10.10. Andrew Smith from Lincolnshire – had sent in an email regarding the Efficiency with Safety Competition – from EMA they thought it would be a good idea to film the competition to show others exactly what the competition involved. As members were either discouraged or did not fully understand the competition. The competition was quite technical and having to have certificates were discouraging people from taking part. Another suggestion was that perhaps making the tasks more suitable for 1 or 2 competitors as having to have 4 in a team proved difficult to find replacements if someone dropped out. The meeting discussed the points raised and felt that the competition should have the relevant certificates especially for first aid and ATV bikes. As part of our commitment to other organisations we need to be seen to encourage members to take part in training especially as one day it could save a life. Possibility of having a first aid questionnaire instead of a practical task. Another suggestion was that having 3 competitors and each doing a separate task and competing on an individual basis. For 2015-2016 the Competition would be left the same, but this would be reviewed for 2016-2017 depending on how many take part and feedback received. A survey would be sent out to see as to why teams did not turn up or compete in this competition. It may be as simple as changing the name to 'Machinery Competition'.
11. **Malvern Autumn Show - Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th September 2015 - Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire.**
 - 11.1. Cookery – at the last meeting it was proposed to have 3 sessions but after speaking to the judge they thought it would be easier to have 2 sessions as in previous years and this was agreed. The standard of food was excellent and this was vouched for by (MC) and (DH) who were chief tasters on the day.
 - 11.2. CLA Game Fair – the CLA had requested that an YFC teams prepare a meal at the cookery theatre during the show and Farnley YFC from Yorkshire had done this on our behalf of NFYFC. Professional chefs on the day gave them some pointers on the food and tasting and they came 2nd at the National Final with all three members being under the age of 18.
 - 11.3. Floral Art – Again the Judges commented on the high standard of the entries and said that they were higher than those being exhibited in the main hall on the day. The only comment received was that the junior comments were a little harsh.
 - 11.4. Three Counties Agricultural Society were thanked for providing an excellent venue and the space we have in Severn Hall works really well and the feedback from parents is that it is such a good show and has something for everyone.

- 11.5. Thanks were also given to Hannah Talbot and Chris Penhale for their hospitality on the Friday evening providing supper to save money for the competitions budget

ACTION POINTS

- **Mark Sheet for Junior Speaking to be updated adding the time faults column - MB**
- **Letters to be sent to the teams in the fence erecting competition – MC/JCE/MB**
- **Survey/questionnaire – to be sent through for teams who did not turn up for the Efficiency with Safety – MC/MB**
- **Survey /questionnaire – to be sent through to individuals for the last 2 years regarding the improvement of the competition MC/MB**
- **Trecastle YFC/Graygrig YFC report for Ten26 – MC/MB**
- **Working Party – to be written to prepare the How to Guides – MC/MB**
- **Letter to be sent to Louise Meyrick - MC/MB**
- **Letter to be sent to Staffordshire County Federation – MC/MB**

7. Meetings/ Site visits since previous meeting

- 7.1. Tug of War Meeting - DH had attended the meeting on the whole they were fine with YFC. YFC members are to be encouraged to take part in Training Courses for Judges/Coaches and Scorers. The next one would be held at the end of October. A new course is to be held in February/March and (MB) to publicise this to Counties. Reminder to all Counties that Permits need to be applied for sooner rather than later to ensure that dates do not clash with TOW Events.
- 7.2. English Winter Fair Meeting – to note that everything is hand for the Competitions on Saturday, 21st and Sunday, 22nd November, 2015. The next meeting to be held on Wednesday, 4th November, 2015 when details will be finalised.

ACTION POINTS

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8. Competition 2015/2016 – Venues, Dates and Final Arrangements

8. **COMPETITION VENUES & DATES 2015/16 – All rules for the 2015/2016 have been approved and been circulated to Counties. Overall Theme “Tomorrows World”.**
9. **English Winter Fair, County Showground, Stafford – Saturday, 21st and Sunday, 22nd November, 2015**
- 9.1. Beef Live and Carcase – 21st & 22nd November, 2015 - to note change of age to Under 18 and not U21
- 9.2. Lamb Live and Carcase – 21st & 22nd November, 2015 – to note change of age to Under 18 and not U21
- 9.3. Saturday Evening meal – kindly supported by Bagshaws Agriculture and the Staffordshire & Birmingham Agricultural Society - £10.00 tickets available from NFYFC and is limited to £10.00 per person.
- 9.4. Judges and Stewards had been organised
- 9.5. Prize Money available from AHDB Beef and Lamb (formerly EBLEX).
- 9.6. Judges and Stewards had been confirmed.
10. **Northern & Southern Regional Finals Public Speaking - for 2016 the North and South Regional will be split on different weekend due to venues not being available as below:**
- 10.1. Northern Public Speaking Final to be held at Retford on Saturday, 2nd April, 2016 at Retford Oaks Academy
- 10.2. Southern Public speaking Final to be held at Hartpury College, Gloucestershire on Saturday, 18th March, 2016
- 10.3. To note having the two finals on two separate days would mean writing double debating topics
- 10.4. Judges and Steward were suggested for both Finals.
11. **Northern & Southern Regional Finals Drama –**
- 11.1. Northern Performing Arts - to be held at Retford on Sunday, 3rd April, 2016 at The Majestic Theatre, Retford
- 11.2. Southern Performing Arts – to be held at The Bacon Theatre, Cheltenham Sunday, 19th March, 2016
- 11.3. GODA Judges will be used at the NFYFC Final and Semi Finals.

12. **Annual Convention Winter Gardens, Blackpool – Saturday, 7th May, 2016**
- 12.1. Member of the Year 18 & over
 - 12.2. Performing Arts Drama - **GODA Judges** to be used.
 - 12.3. Performing Arts Trophy – as agreed Whitley Chapel (Northumberland) are giving a trophy in the memory of Gillian Nixon – a trophy had now been purchased and the wording was being prepared. The trophy would be given to the winning team of the Performing Arts Competition on an annual basis.
 - 12.4. Programmes which are being produced from Massey Ferguson would be charged at £2.00 at the Northern, Southern and Final.
 - 12.5. Tickets for the Northern and Southern Semi Finals would not be produced this year to save on costs.
 - 12.6. Child Licences at booklet would be produced for those taking part under the age of 16 and circulated to Counties.
 - 12.7. Darts for Fun – this is run by the CSG but does not go towards the NFU Trophy. Again to be held on the Saturday morning in the Winter Gardens to ensure that the start time coincides with the registration desk. It was felt that this year we should only use 3 dart boards for the competition and use the other one for the 6 darts challenge as this would ensure that more people could take part and bring in more revenue. Exact arrangements to be discussed at the February meeting.
 - 12.8. Raffle – there is an opportunity to raise more money, however, it was felt that a designated team should be appointed to take on the task from Friday at Registration, The Darts, Performing Arts and the Ballroom Dancing and Choir. It was discussed about having separate raffles but it was agreed that there should be just one. If prizes are given and are large we were to ask companies who had donated to see if they would be able to courier the gift out or it could be collected from the local distributor. To ask PD members if they would be able to help run the raffle during the Annual Convention.
13. **Annual Convention Winter Gardens, Blackpool - Sunday, 8th May, 2016**
- 13.1. Choir – MB needs to discuss the acoustics with Adam Waller ESW to help with equipment to reduce the noise levels. MB to find judges with a suitable background
 - 13.2. Ballroom Dancing - MB to find suitable judges and to see if there was a suitable demonstration team available.
14. **Competitions Day, County Showground, Stafford, Saturday, 2nd July, 2016**
- 14.1. Reading (14 & Under)
 - 14.2. Public Speaking (16 & Under)
 - 14.3. Just a Minute (21 & under)
 - 14.4. Debating Competition (26 & under) – New Rules (MACE)
 - 14.5. Member of the Year 17 & under
 - 14.6. Situations Vacant Competition
 - 14.7. Cake Decorating (16 & Under) – comments had been received with regard to the rules and an amended copy would be sent out to Counties.
 - 14.8. Radio Show Live (21 & Under)
 - 14.9. Weathervane (26 & Under) – rules to be amended that the competitor does not need to be present on the day of the national final.
 - 14.10. Clay Pigeon Shooting (26 & Under) – (CE) and (MB) to work with BASC to see if they are able to support the competition.
 - 14.11. Fence Erecting – new rules have been circulated as the wood to be used had been repeated twice.
 - 14.12. Efficiency with Safety – to be reviewed as to how many teams take part and the format may need to change in future years.
15. **Sports Day – Staffordshire, Sunday, 3th July, 2016**
- 15.1. Mixed Volleyball (10 – 16) – England Volleyball – contact details of umpires have been sent out to Counties but some are struggling find suitable umpires.
 - 15.2. Mixed Touch Rugby (14-17) – 02 Touch – to see if the refs are available as 2014 as they are based in Staffordshire. FC said that they may be able to help with a venue.
 - 15.3. Mixed Ultimate Frisbee (16 – 26) – UK Ultimate have given names of contacts which have been sent to County Offices for help and information.
16. **Dairy Stockjudging – Yorkshire Agricultural Society – Great Yorkshire Show Date Thursday, 14th July, 2016**
- 16.1. Dairy Stockjudging (16 & Under)
 - 16.2. Dairy Stockjudging (21 & Under)
 - 16.3. Dairy Stockjudging Linear (26 & Under)

17. **Tug of War Championships – Tenbury Show – Saturday, 6th August, 2016**
 - 17.1. Ladies & Men’s Tug of War
 - 17.2. GENSB Tug of War (to note no age range change)
 - 17.3. To hold at Fun Catch weight competition after the finals of the Tug of War competition in the main around 5.30pm - 6.00p.m.

18. **Stock judging Weekend Venue TBC - Saturday, 3rd and Sunday, 4th September, 2016**
 - 18.1. Young Stockman of the Year – Sunday, 4th September, 2016
 - 18.2. Senior Stockman of the Year – Saturday, 3rd and Sunday, 4th September, 2016
 - 18.3. Venue to be confirmed at the February meeting.

 - 18.4. **Malvern Autumn Show, Three Counties Showground, Malvern – Saturday, 24th and Sunday, 25th September, 2016**
 - 18.5. Cookery – Saturday, 2^{4th} September, 2016
 - 18.6. Floral Art - Sunday, 25th September, 2016

ACTION POINTS

- **GODA judges to be approached for the Northern, Southern and Final of the Drama Competition – MB**
- **Wording of Trophy for Dan Nixon - MB**
- **Judges and Steward for the Northern and Southern Final of Public Speaking – MB**
- **Judges and Stewards for Choir and Dancing Competitions – MB**
- **Child Licences booklet to be prepared and sent out to Counties – MB/Cath Sykes**
- **Raffle – As PD if they are able to help – MB**
- **Rewording of the Cake Decorating Competition to be circulated to Counties – MB**

9. Competition 2016/2017 Overall Theme – Around the World

- 9.1. To approve the Draft Rules for Circulation to the CSG and County Offices – Any amendments noted
- 9.2. Calendar for 2016/2017 – Draft circulated to the Committee
- 9.3. **The following rules were agreed by the Committee for Circulation with the amendments.**
- 9.4. Beef Live and Carcase – Under 18 – Under 26
- 9.5. Pig Live and Carcase – Under 18 – Under 26
- 9.6. Performing Arts – Entertainments
- 9.7. Senior Member of the Year
- 9.8. Junior Reading
- 9.9. Junior Speaking – to add to mark sheets any time faults will be taken off the individuals score and not the overall score
- 9.10. Brainstrust U21
- 9.11. Junior Member of the Year
- 9.12. Situations Vacant – add in item regarding dress code
- 9.13. Clay Pigeon Shoot
- 9.14. Cube Exhibit – committee agreed the new clarification and marking system
- 9.15. Junior Rounder’s 10-16 – to be approved by NFU Insurance and governing body
- 9.16. Senior Ladies Netball 16 and Over - to be approved by NFU Insurance and governing body
- 9.17. Senior Men’s Football 5 a side 16 and Over – to be approved by NFU Insurance and governing body to be played on astroturf.
- 9.18. Ladies and Men’s Tug of War
- 9.19. GENSB – age to be reviewed on an annual basis
- 9.20. Young Stockman
- 9.21. Senior Stockman
- 9.22. **The following Competitions to liaise rule writers – rules to be written and then circulated to CSG members and County Staff for consultation.**
- 9.23. Annual Convention – Dancing Cheerleading

- 9.24. Annual Convention – Dancing Competition – speak to the Judges from Torquay for suggestions and ask them to judge
- 9.25. Fence Erecting – Robert Bell (Cumbria) and MC
- 9.26. Efficiency with Safety
- 9.27. Floral Art – U16, U21 and U26 (OO)
- 9.28. Cookery – (OO)
- 9.29. After Dinner Speaking – MB – to speak to Mary Bailey, James Hollingsworth and Helen Goulding once drafted send to the group for clarification

ACTION POINTS

- **First sets of rules to be sent CSG and County Staff for approval and governing bodies**
- **Second set of rules to be written and then circulated to SG and County Staff – to include Dancing, Fence Erecting, Floral Art, Cookery and After Dinner Speaking**
- **All amendments to be made in time for adoption at the February Steering Committee meeting.**

10. Competition Guidelines

- 10.1. Working Group is being set up to discuss Guidelines for public speaking competition and will prepare 'How to Guides'. The group would consist of Claire Worden, Laura Elliott, Faith Cosgrove, Mark Curr, Georgina Monk and Oonagh O'Neill.
- 10.2. Committee members were reminded that the Source is a valuable as a tool to use for club nights etc.

ACTION POINTS

- **Working Group to be set up to prepare guidelines and prepare 'How to Guides'**

11. Area Feedback

- 1.11. Northern Area
- 1.12. East Midlands
- 1.13. West Midlands – (RJ) asked about the possibility of bringing back the Farm Business Development Competition – it was noted that this was previously organised by AGRI (RJ) to speak to the committee to see if it may be re-established in future as it was felt that this was a valuable competition.
- 1.14. Eastern Area
- 1.15. South West Area – (GM) noted that the weight of the weather vane was not heavy enough as one competitor was struggling to keep to within limit. The limit in the rules was to the Health and Safety Standard.
- 1.16. Wales
- 1.17. South East Area

ACTIONS POINTS

- **Farm Business Development – RJ to speak to AGRI**

12. Any Other Business

- 12.1. Audit of Trophies – All trophies would be audited during 2015/2016 for their 5 year annual insurance review.
- 12.2. Election of Chairman, Vice Chairman and 3 x Co-options to the Steering Committee. Those present were reminded that to sit on the Committee nominees must be a Council Member and an Area Representative. An email would be sent out in the early part of the year asking for nominations. If anyone wished to stand they would need to submit details as to why they should stand on the Committee and what experience they could bring. The nominations should be sent into (MB) at NFYFC and would be circulated by (MC/MB) to the CSG prior to the February meeting.
- 12.3. Christmas Cards were on sale a £5 per pack winners being from the 2013 Competition.

ACTIONS POINTS

- **Audit of Trophies - MB**

13. Date of next meeting

Saturday 20th February, 2016 at the Quality Hotel, Coventry 1:30pm

14. Closing remarks

Mark Curr thanked all of the committee members for attending the meeting and their input and thanked them all for their support during the year.

Meeting closed at 7.30 pm

Summary of action points

- **General Rules to be circulated to counties MB**
- **County Monitoring – Counties who have not sent them through are to be reminded – MB**
- **Mark Sheet for Junior Speaking to be updated adding the time faults column - MB**
- **Letters to be sent to the teams in the fence erecting competition – MC/JCE/MB**
- **Survey/questionnaire – to be sent through for teams who did not turn up for the Efficiency with Safety – MC/MB**
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- **All amendments to be made in time for adoption at the February Steering Committee meeting.**
- **Working Group to be set up to prepare guidelines and prepare 'How to Guides'**
- **Audit of Trophies - MB**

SIGNED.....

DATED.....

Mark Curr
Competitions Steering Group Chair 20115/2016
October, 2015