



Competitions Steering Group Saturday 22nd October, 2016 - Quality Hotel, Coventry

Chairman: Oonagh O'Neill (Bedfordshire)

Vice-Chairman: Rachel Parker (Lancashire)

Present: Oonagh O'Neill (OO) (Chair), Rachel Parker (RP) (Vice), Christina Coulthard (CC) (Northern), Charlie Polak (CP) (South East), Laura Elliott (LE) (Wales), Fay Thomas (FT) (West Midlands), Fred Allen (FA) West Midlands replacing Sarah Hardman), David Hamer (DH) (Co-Option; Northern), Dewi Parry (DP) (Co-Option; Wales), Jodie Collin (JC) (Observer; Northern), Natalie Moore (NM) (Observer; Northern)

Part Meeting:

Chris Manley (CM) (NFYFC Chair); Claire Worden (CW) (Co-Option; South West), Caroline Baker (CB) (Events Steering Group Representative), Erica Attwood (EA) (NFYFC Events & Travel Administrator), James Hutchinson (JH) (Agri Representative and Kuhn representative), Ed Ford (EF) (Council Vice), Heather Black (HB) (Chair of BoM Elect)

In attendance:

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

1. Opening Remarks

Oonagh O'Neill (OO) welcomed members to the Committee meeting and asked them to sign the record of attendance. OO thanked all the Committee for all their help and support with events. OO apologised that she would need to leave the meeting early and that Vice Chair Rachel Parker (RP) would be concluding the meeting.

2. Apologies

Mark Curr (MC) (Ex-Officio), Andrew Smith (East Midlands), James Troop (East Midlands), Rebecca Horner (Eastern), Josh Puplett (South East), Carmel McCormick (South West), Georgina Monk (GM) (South West), Arwel Jones (Wales), Sarah Hardman (West Midlands)

3. Confirmation of minutes (25th June, 2016)

The Minutes of the previous Competitions Steering Group (CSG) meeting, held on Saturday 25th June, 2016 had been circulated; there were no matters arising these were signed by Oonagh O'Neill (OO) as a true and correct record. Proposed by Charlie Polak (CP) and seconded by Rachel Parker (CP).

4. Matters arising from those Steering Group minutes

- 4.1. Competitions Facebook Group – the Competitions Steering Group (CSG) were asked to complete relevant paperwork to enable the set up of the group in the last meeting. Margaret Bennett (MB) requested that those that have still not accepted the invitation to join the group should do so.
- 4.2. Competition budget to date has been updated. Income was down by just over £3,332.99. This is due mainly to the low income from the Drama ticket sales which are approximately £2,595.96 down on the previous year's pantomime ticket sales. There has also been an increase in expenditure due to trophy valuations and repairs and increased theatre costs at Retford. Malvern and English Winter Fair expenses are still to be added. The CURRENT deficit stands at -£5,079.32.
- 4.3. The CSG noted the difficulties in NFYFC receiving entry forms and passing national finals information to competitors. MB and Gill Harrison (GH) requested that counties ensure members have correct email addresses on Silo so information can be emailed directly to the competitors, speeding up the process.
- 4.4. County Monitoring has now been completed for 2015-16. 23 out of 48 counties returned information. Assumptions therefore had to be made with the data used. Counties not returning information were accounted for by using the same ratio of competitors as those counties returning the information. County Final feedback concluded that on average 3 out of 4 young farmers were involved in an NFYFC competition at a County level. 85% of female members got involved and 80% of male members got involved. In terms of the three age groups: 69% of those under 16 joined in. This age group needs the most encouragement to take part. 71% of under 21's got involved and the under 26's were the age group most likely to be involved with them filling 5600 competition spaces at County Level. In terms of the different competition types; there was an even split of which types of competitions members were getting involved in, with sports and tug of war being slightly higher at 30%. National Final feedback started with a Wordle demonstrating the sponsorship the NFYFC CSG receive, such as Show tickets venues and equipment, which has an estimated worth of £21,400. Next each event was considered showing the capacity the national final event was run at, the total number of participants and the percentage of entrants that actually took part. Annual Convention, Tug of War at Tenbury Show and the Southern Regional Finals were

deemed the most successful events under these terms. Finally drop-out rates were highlighted with Sports being the event with the highest dropout rate and poorest parental consent form completion. The committee noted this feedback and discussed how to encourage more counties to return information. CP suggested asking them to submit the data at points throughout the year, rather than in one lump at the end of the year. GH to encourage this over the next 12 months. They then discussed participation in the sports was due to area rounds being very close to the finals and members being unable to have consecutive weekends off work but also the spirit of fair play that was so successful in the Ultimate Frisbee could be introduced across all sports.

- 4.5. Admin Charges will now be termed “fines” as they will then not be subjected to 20% VAT.
- 4.6. The committee agreed that fines would be enforced even for those Area finals that take place within the 2 week fine period. Genuine reasons to avoid being fined include any emergency with the competitor calling the emergency phone number on the paperwork on the day of the competition, to inform the event organiser on the day of the event. If members have to be called by NFYFC on the day of the competition they will be subjected to the fine. This was proposed by Charlie Polak (CP) and seconded by Laura Elliott (LE).
- 4.7. Performing Arts Exemption for Child Licences is being sort with backing from Nottinghamshire, Cumbria, Shropshire and Herefordshire Councils. This exemption will cover English Counties only but all information will be passed to Wales for them to apply to the Welsh Assembly direct.

ACTION POINTS

- **Facebook invitation acceptance – all those who have not accepted please do so**
- **Encourage Counties to update members email addresses on the Silo database – all CSG members**
- **Encourage counties to submit their monitoring forms for 2016-17 – all CSG members to encourage counties, GH to collate**
- **Performing Arts Exemption – MB & Cath Sykes (NFYFC Development Officer)**

5. To receive relevant correspondence

- 5.1. Letters received from Northamptonshire was noted and discussed. Kelmarsh YFC had issues with the fence erecting. Due to them being late there were two posts missing but this was rectified on the day. The comment with regard to the wire saying they had not received enough. All teams had the same amount of wire and it was how teams chose to use the wire that affected them not having enough. Another comment in the letter was from a member who had taken part in the Situations Vacant Competition and felt that the event was lacking in atmosphere and there was nothing to do whilst waiting for the results. Plans are underway to improve the event with the Events Steering Group also getting involved.
- 5.2. Letter received from Devon with regard to the fence erecting judges, which were from Staffordshire, Herefordshire and Lancashire, was noted and discussed. Judges in the future will be asked to give teams useful tips/ comment cards of where they can improve. However if competitors would like this from judges they must respect their judgement and the result.
- 5.3. Email from Alex Mackellar, Chief Fence Erecting Steward was noted and discussed – again commented that teams felt they had not got enough wire and the standard of stakes.

ACTION POINTS

- **Reply to Northamptonshire Letter: OO & MB**
- **Reply to Devon Letter: OO & MB**
- **Reply to Alex Mackellar: OO & MB**
- **Notes for Fence Erecting Judges and comment cards: MB**

6. Review of Competitions Since the Last Meeting

6.1. Competitions Day – comments received

- 6.1.1. Reading. A comment was received about the book chosen. It was noted that the language was unsuitable however the book was chosen by a teacher and is on the national curriculum.
- 6.1.2. Debating. New Mace format has received very positive feedback.
- 6.1.3. Member of the Year. More time is required between competitors.
- 6.1.4. Cake Decorating. Judges letter received stating the incredible talent on display really impressed the judges. The CSG noted the prize card mix up has now been resolved.
- 6.1.5. Radio Show Live. Very enjoyable. Need to state if a “live” broadcast or in a “studio” next time. Extra time is required between competitors.
- 6.1.6. Weathervane. The rules state that the winning weathervane would be retained to be displayed on the new NFYFC building. If this is required the winner will be contacted.
- 6.1.7. Fence Erecting. Already discussed but overall view that the competition has improved on last year by being

held at Stafford rather than Harper Adams.

- 6.1.8. Efficiency with Safety. An improvement in the number of participants from 3 teams to 6 teams so it will remain on the 2016-17 programme. The time limit requires clarification with the judges of what to do if teams exceed the limit and have not finished the task.
- 6.1.9. Clay Shooting. Great turn out with 40 out of a possible 68. Good feedback regarding the shooting ground at Oakedge.
- 6.1.10. Training videos to be on YouTube and NFYFC website as a training tool as soon as possible.
- 6.1.11. Overall Competitions Day needs to have staggered starts to each competition, one presentation of awards at 4pm.
- 6.1.12. Encourage other steering committees to help with other events on the day for those waiting for the results.
- 6.2. **Sports Day**
 - 6.2.1. Mixed Volleyball. CSG noted the high number of teams dropping out, 5 out of 11 teams took part, and the poor return of parental consent forms which led to a delayed start to the day of approximately 40 minutes. The CSG were tasked with encouraging their counties to get forms signed and completed prior to the event.
 - 6.2.2. Mixed Touch Rugby. The CSG noted the lack of respect shown to referees. 8 out of 11 teams took part.
 - 6.2.3. Mixed Ultimate Frisbee. Positive feedback regarding the Spirit of Fair Play and that it added a great atmosphere to the sport. However it was also flagged that teams should be ranked 1 to 4 and then assigned who plays who as 1 vs 3 and 2 vs 4 in the semi finals. This then allows the opportunity for the best two teams to meet in the finals rather than the semis. GH to note on league tables and to chief stewards on the day. 7 out of 11 teams took part.
- 6.3. **Great Yorkshire Show**
 - 6.3.1. Dairy Stockjudging. The event received positive feedback.
- 6.4. **Tenbury Show**
 - 6.4.1. Tug of War. It was noted that Tenbury Agricultural Society would like a main ring activity from the young farmers. Brampton, Essex and Whitley Chapel pulled a steam engine this year but they were totally shattered after competing in the men's finals. DH commented that Tenbury Show receive a good demonstration from the young farmers all day in their own ring. MB to speak to the Society and return feedback in February. To note that we received £1,000.00 sponsorship.
- 6.5. **Farm Skills Weekend**
 - 6.5.1. Stockman of the year. Juniors had a full turnout but the seniors had 6 finalists drop out. Highly commended certificates were awarded for the best project and Vet questionnaire which worked well and is to be repeated next year.
- 6.6. **Malvern**
 - 6.6.1. Cookery. Judges have requested no more smoked salmon and cream cheese and this should appear in the rules.
 - 6.6.2. Floral Art. Underwater displays from the Seniors were stunning. DH, a steward on the day, asked if it was right that stewards are measuring displays and allowing competitors to make changes to avoid disqualification. The committee agreed competitors should have one opportunity to adjust their displays. Counties to be made aware of what is expected with regard to the size limitations and those out of size should not be progressing from County to National.
 - 6.6.3. A1 Boards detailing the competition were successful and to be done again next year.

ACTION POINTS

- **Speaking Videos on to the NFYFC website – GH & MB**
- **Parental Consent Form Completion Reminder to Counties – All CSG Members**
- **Sport Semi Final and Final who plays who on league tables and to Chief Steward – GH**
- **Floral Art Size dimension expectation reminder to counties – All CSG Members, GH & MB**

7. Meetings/Site visits since previous meeting

- 7.1. English Winter Fair (EWF) meeting was attended by MB. The EWF have received a declaration with regard to TB Restrictions. Low and High Risk animals will be kept separate but will be allowed to mix in the ring. NFYFC will be using stock from the lines. Competitors needing accommodation for the event should contact MB and tickets are now on sale from NFYFC for the dinner, priced at £10 each.
- 7.2. Tug of War Association meeting was attended by David Hamer (DH). GENSB finals will be taking place in Belgium, with the Tug of War Association (ToWA) putting on a bus to encourage young farmers to attend. This information will be emailed to last year's finalists. European Outdoor Championships will be held in Southport

in September. Young Farmers can compete in the open competition if they are affiliated to the ToWA. A tug of war judges course is to be held in the Northern Area.

7.3. **ACTION POINTS**

- **GENSB Finals in Belgium information to be circulated – MB**

8. **Visitors to the Meeting**

- 8.1. Heather Black was introduced to the CSG as the new NFYFC Chairman of the Board who would be voted in at the Council Meeting to take over from Frank Chester.
- 8.2. Caroline Baker and the Events Steering group introduced their new NFYFC Officer Erica Attwood and asked the CSG if they could help with anything. The CSG have requested help with making Competitions Day 2017 more of an event and could the Events Steering Group present their ideas at the February meeting. Requirements included: On the Saturday; avoid pulling audience from competitions, add value but not necessarily money making; generate income to cover costs; family audience, day time between 10am and 3pm, after the presentation of awards or in the evening. Honda or first aid training might be a possibility. GH Informed both committees that NFYFC had been approached by an external organisation, Pragmatic Event Productions, wanting to help young people in rural areas be involved in rural skills and that there may be potential for them to add value to the competitions day. GH to Liaise with Caroline Baker regarding their use.

ACTION POINTS

- **Competitions Day added value events – Caroline Baker and the Events Steering Group**
- **External events company possibility of attending Competitions Day - GH**

9. **Competition Rules for 2016/2017 (Overall Theme Around the World)**

NOTE: County Federations and YFC Area Committees please note the dates before setting Area rounds of the competitions.

- 9.1. Judges and Steward nominations were requested. Any suggestions to be made to MB and CSG to bring nominations to February's meeting especially for public speaking – Regional's and Finals.
- 9.2. English Winter – Saturday, 19th and Sunday, 20th November, 2016 – Judges and Stewards all in hand.
- 9.3. Entertainments Competition.
 - 9.3.1. NODA judges will be used for the North, South and National Final for the Entertainments Competition.
 - 9.3.2. Compere nominations for the North, South and National Final were requested and nominees will be contacted.
 - 9.3.3. Sponsorship of Trophies and programmes is to be confirmed for Regional and Finals.
 - 9.3.4. Child Licences issues are on-going and information from NFYFC will be circulated in due course.
 - 9.3.5. Northern & Southern Finals to be held on Sunday, 19th March, 2017 The Majestic Theatre, Retford and Southern Regional Final at The Bacon Theatre, Cheltenham.
- 9.4. Annual Convention
 - 9.4.1. Raffle will be run throughout registration and competitions on both Saturday and Sunday. Members of the CSG to volunteer.
 - 9.4.2. The Competitions Stand at registration requires 5 members of the steering group. DH, OO and RP have already volunteered.
 - 9.4.3. Darts sponsorship is to be confirmed.
 - 9.4.4. Cheerleading demonstration has already been organised, with Street Dance demonstration still to be confirmed.
- 9.5. Competitions Day – Saturday, 1st July, 2017 – County Showground, Stafford
 - 9.5.1. Brainstrust Guidelines have been requested from Counties. Claire Worden (CW) has volunteered to write them as soon as possible.
- 9.6. Sports Day – Sunday, 2nd July, 2017 – Staffordshire
 - 9.6.1. Comments received from Bedfordshire regarding the Netball rules were discussed. The only change to be made is with regard to the height of the net will now read upto 3.05m (10ft) rather than 2.74m (9ft). The other rule change suggestions will not be made but left to the umpire's discretion. GH to reply to Bedfordshire with CSG's comments.
- 9.7. Dairy Stockjudging – Thursday, 13th July, 2017 – Yorkshire Show – no further comments
- 9.8. Tug of War – Saturday, 5th August, 2017 – Tenbury Show – no further comments
- 9.9. Stock Judging Weekend – Saturday, 2nd and Sunday, 3rd September, 2017
 - 9.9.1. The CSG agreed to change venue and move onto one site for all stock rather than use Harper Adams and an additional farm. It was noted that the Dairy Stock would be Jersey Cattle. The new venue is at a central location in Staffordshire just off the M6 motorway.

- 9.9.2. Stockman Project – MB to ask Agri Committee to help with this section of the competition in writing new rules.
- 9.9.3. AGRI have made suggestions with regard to the project. Presentations rather than a written project. This could include open book questions. Practical demonstrations such as injecting a calf. Ask past winner/competitors for advice.
- 9.9.4. Sponsorship has been agreed for all agricultural competitions in 2016-17. Further information to follow.
- 9.10. Cookery and Floral Art – Saturday, 22nd and Sunday, 23rd September, 2017 – no further comments

ACTION POINTS

- **Judges and Stewards Nominations – all CSG members**
- **Compere nominations to be contacted – MB**
- **Sponsorship of trophies and programmes for entertainments competition – NFYFC/MB**
- **Volunteers to run the raffle at Annual Convention – all CSG members**
- **Darts Sponsorship – all CSG members**
- **Street Dance demonstration – MB**
- **Brainstrust Guidelines – CW**
- **Netball rule amendments and reply to Bedfordshire - GH**
- **Stockjudging venue confirmation – MB**
- **Stockjudging criteria for the project for Stockman of the Year – MB/Agri**
- **Agricultural Competition Sponsor Information – MB & GH**

10. COMPETITION RULES FOR 2017-18 (Theme Magic & Mystery)

- 10.1. The following 2017-18 rules were approved by the CSG to be sent to Counties for feedback:
- General Rules
 - Beef Live and Carcase
 - Lamb Live and Carcase
 - Performing Arts – Pantomime
 - Jump Rope – includes separate timing and marking scheme for the single rope freestyle and double rope freestyle sections.
 - Senior Member of the Year
 - Reading
 - Public Speaking
 - Just a Minute
 - Debating
 - Junior Member of the Year
 - Situations Vacant
 - YFC Live (craft and commentary competition)
 - Clay Pigeon Shooting – 18 & Over and 17 & Under. To include an extra award for the highest placed member of the opposite sex.
 - Fence Erecting – to be 25m long (optional shorter version for County/Area Rounds) and includes a style
 - Hockey 7 a side
 - Dairy Stock judging – U16, U21, U26
 - Tug of War – GENSB, Male and Female
 - Stockman of the Year (18 & Under)
 - Stockman of the Year (26 & Under)
 - Cookery
 - Floral Art
- 10.2. Rules requiring further work and to be approved in February
- 10.2.1. Dream Machine - Kuhn to have an input of how they can be involved. Kuhn have been asked to supply judges and prizes for the winners.
 - 10.2.2. Workshop Skills to replace Efficiency with Safety to include four tasks of ATV (Certificate Required), First Aid (Certificate Required), Welding and Angle Grinding. An additional hazard perception type task to be included just for the National Final. It is anticipated that Counties could use these tasks as stand-alone competitions at County Rallies, with winners joining together to form the team progressing to the next round.
 - 10.2.3. Sheep Shearing to be held at Great Yorkshire Show following BISCA rules, all competitors will be required to have obtained the wool board recognised qualification Blue Seal British Standard – a draft

set of rules and costings will be presented at the February meeting.

10.2.4. Line Dancing to be replaced by Disco

10.2.5. Rounders to be replaced by Mixed Tennis Doubles (1 male and 1 female) aged 16 to 26 as Rounders was due to be played 2 years running.

10.2.6. Dodgeball – age group to be confirmed

10.3. Competition Guidelines

10.1.1. Guidelines completed include: Tug of war, public speaking, hockey, Debating and Stockjudging. Just a minute and performing arts are to be completed.

10.1.2. Stewards “need to know” Guide to be updated

10.1.3. Speaking Videos to be put on NFYFC website

ACTION POINTS

- **2017-18 Approved Rules to be amended and draft copies sent to Counties requesting feedback - GH**
- **2017-18 Rules not approved to be completed ready for February meeting – GH**
- **Just a minute guidelines – CW**
- **Performing arts guidelines – GH & JCE**
- **Stewards Guidelines to be updated – GH**
- **Speaking Videos on the website – GH & MB**
- **Sheep Shearing – MB/MC/DH**

11. Area Feedback

11.1. Northern Area – Nothing further

11.2. East Midlands – No Representatives Present – No Feedback sent

11.3. West Midlands – Nothing Further

11.4. Eastern Area – No Representative Present – No Feedback sent

11.5. South West Area – No Representative Present – No Feedback sent

11.6. Wales – Nothing Further

11.7. South East Area – Nothing Further

ACTIONS POINTS

- **Encourage representatives to be present at the meeting as Areas do not get their voice heard – all CSG members**

10. Any Other Business

10.1. Competing Teams at NFYFC – 2 x Northern Area; 2 x South West Area; 2 x Wales; 1 x West Midlands; 1 x West Midlands; 1 x Eastern Area; 1 x South East Area – Total of 10 Team at National Final was noted

10.2. Honda UK has expressed an interest in running an Easi Demonstration during Competitions Day 2017.

10.3. Over 18s have the responsibility and duty of care for safeguarding those under 18's staying away when competing in a National Competition.

10.4. A Medical Emergency Contact Details Form for those over 18s competing and Stewarding is now on the NFYFC website. This is a voluntary document to help competition organisers have information in case of an emergency.

10.5. NFYFC will continue to supply Area Competitions with ABXY cards free of charge.

10.6. Yorkshire commented on EBLEX booklets with regard to being able to see the eye muscle on live lambs. Katie Bryan from AHDB has confirmed the booklet is correct and that the competitors should comment on the potential of the eye muscle with better conformation.

10.7. Election of Officers at February meeting includes Chairman, Vice and 3 Co-option Roles. CSG members reminded they must be Council Reps from their Counties.

10.8. Competitions Link Persons. County Offices have been requested to tag Competitions Link Persons on Silo so NFYFC can have direct contact to ease the passing of information to and from competitors. If counties do not allocate a person the County Chairman will be defaulted.

10.9. World Ploughing Championships hold a YFC Class. NFYFC to ask for information so this can be publicised next year.

10.10. Reminders to use the NFU Insurance booklet to ensure events/competitions are covered especially sports and use the correct criteria.

10.11. The Source has been updated for 2016-17 with debating, tug of war, clay shooting guidelines and a General Rules Checklist. Performing arts guidelines to be added next year.

10.12. The Youth Forum have requested to work with CSG to compile a guide/blog for under 16s and their parents on the path of how competitions work and what is expected at each round. RP will be working with Youth Forum Chair Amy McWhirter on this.

ACTIONS POINTS

- Competitions Link to be tagged on silo – all CSG to remind counties
- World ploughing championship information to be circulated – MB
- Youth Forum Guide to Comps - RP

13. **Date of next meeting**

Saturday 18th February, 2016 at the Quality Hotel, Coventry 1:30pm

14. **Closing remarks**

RP thanked the committee for all of their hard work and encouraged them to feedback to their areas. They were reminded to contact MB with nominations for judges and stewards.

Meeting closed at 7pm

Summary of action points

- Facebook invitation acceptance – those that haven't
- Encourage Counties to update members email addresses – all CSG members
- Encourage counties to submit their monitoring forms for 2016-17 – all CSG members
- Performing Arts Exemption – MB
- Reply to Northamptonshire Letter: OO & MB
- Reply to Devon Letter: OO & MB
- Reply to Alex Mackeller: OO& MB
- Notes for Fence Erecting Judges:MB
- Speaking Videos on to the NFYFC website – GH & MB
- Parental Consent Form Completion Reminder to Counties – All CSG Members
- Sport Semi Final and Final who plays who on league tables and to Chief Steward – GH
- Floral Art Size dimension expectation reminder to counties – All CSG Members, GH & MB
- GENSB Finals in Belgium information to be circulated – MB
- Competitions Day added value events – Caroline Baker and the Events Steering Group
- External events company possibility of attending Competitions Day – GH
- Competitions Weekend as an event – Hannah Lewis and the Events Steering Group by October!!!!!!
- Judges and Stewards Nominations – all CSG members
- Compare nominations to be contacted – MB
- Sponsorship of trophies and programmes for entertainments competition - NFYFC
- Volunteers to run the raffle at Annual Convention – all CSG members
- Darts Sponsorship – all CSG members
- Street Dance demonstration – MB
- Brainstrust Guidelines – CW
- Netball rule amendments and reply to Bedfordshire - GH
- Stockjudging venue confirmation – MB
- Agricultural Competition Sponsor Information – MB & GH
- Stockman Project research – MB
- 2017-18 Approved Rules to be amended and draft copies sent to Counties requesting feedback - GH
- 2017-18 Rules not approved to be completed ready for February meeting – GH
- Just a minute guidelines – CW
- Performing arts guidelines – GH & JCE
- Stewards Guidelines to be updated – GH
- Speaking Videos on the website – GH & MB
- Encourage representative to be present at the meeting as Areas do not get their voice heard – all CSG members
- Competitions Link to be tagged on silo – all CSG to remind counties
- World ploughing championship information to be circulated – MB
- Youth Forum Guide to Comps - RP

SIGNED.....

Oonagh O'Neill

Competitions Steering Group Chair 2016-17

DATED.....