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President’s statement

In his final year as NFYFC President Poul Christensen says he is proud of the Federation and its members.

Cornwall FYFC’s 2016 Carol Service at Truro Cathedral encapsulated why being your NFYFC President has been an inspiring role. The moving and uplifting service was attended by 1,000 members, their families and supporters with 300 more on a waiting list for tickets!

The event captured everything that is good about Young Farmers’ Clubs (YFC). The life skills, often learnt subconsciously, the team work, the confidence of the performers, the stockmanship (coaxing a donkey onto a podium and stopping a lamb from bleating was no mean feat), the creativity of putting on a show, the camaraderie and of course that overriding sense of pride at being a YFC member.

Young Farmers’ Clubs nurture young people through the most formative years of their lives. I know of no other organisation that has a membership that covers the ages of 10 to 26. Members face the challenges of maturing into adults but they do so in an environment where their peers will look out for them, help and encourage them.

High jinks are part of this but the overriding sentiment is one of having fun together. Since being your President, my wife Margaret and I have hugely enjoyed conventions, county rallies and shows, dances and other social events where we have been made most welcome and where Young Farmers seem to have an unending source of energy!

The bedrock of NFYFC is its local clubs. It is here that new members start their YFC journey. Not every member is going to compete at national competitions or be an office holder in their club, county or nationally but their membership is just as important as those who do.

It is 62 years since I joined Lye Green YFC, in Sussex, and I distinctly remember my first vote of thanks to a visiting speaker. Shaking at the knees and dry-mouthed I blurted out something that was probably impossible to understand but it was a start! Every member has a voice that should be heard.

This leads me on to my challenge to you all going forward and it is not a new one. YFCs are the best kept secret in rural Britain. You may think that everyone knows about the organisation but you are wrong. Please keep promoting yourselves to a wider and new audience and keep that membership increasing. Any organisation, particularly at local club level, needs a critical mass. Individual members are the best recruiters so make it your resolution to encourage at least one new member to join.

It has been an absolute privilege to have represented and supported you over the past four years. If one word was required to sum it up, it would be ‘pride’ and you should all be immensely proud of your organisation.

I wish each and every one of you success in fulfilling your individual dreams and the Federation every success in providing the framework to enable you to do so.

Thank you for the opportunity to be your President. It has been a great honour.

Poul Christensen CBE
A nationwide campaign to encourage Young Farmers to register to give blood or be an organ donor launched in 2016 to boost NHS supplies. The campaign, an idea by 2016/17 NFYFC Chairman Chris Manley, was launched to prove that Young Farmers really are the lifeblood of their local rural communities, as well as reinforcing NFYFC’s dedication to farm safety. The aim was to recruit 500 new blood and organ donors in 2016, which would go a long way to helping the thousands of patients who rely on these donations. Counties were encouraged to register to give group blood donations and members in Devon FYFC and Berkshire FYFC both organised group sessions and recorded videos to encourage other members to do the same. Chris Manley incentivised the campaign further by promising to give the county with the most registered donors an award at the national AGM in April. The campaign proved to be a major success, with national and local media coverage encouraging more members to donate and showing the general public how much Young Farmers care about people.

While the YFC Life Blood campaign was one way to demonstrate the support YFCs give to their local communities, a funded project called the Countryside Challenge also gave clubs the opportunity to give back locally. NFYFC received funding from the Cabinet Office and the Pears Foundation to progress its work in Youth Social Action. The funding meant that NFYFC could support five community projects per quarter from December 2015 until the summer of 2017.

Clubs across the country have qualified for up to £400 of funding to help them with community and environmental projects. The projects, which must be organised and completed by YFC members, have been great for team-building and improving well-being while also doing something amazing for their local communities.

Projects have ranged from cleaning local signage by Kingsbrompton YFC to building a mud kitchen for children at a local school by St Columb YFC.

Of course, Young Farmers have never shied away from doing good deeds and supporting local charities. The Annual Convention in Blackpool this year proved to be another successful fundraising event as clubs and counties got together to raise thousands of pounds for charity by doing challenges on their way to the seaside town. Traditionally called WotNots, these fun-packed fundraisers included members of Cornwall FYFC cycling 350 miles to Blackpool.

We also got to join in the celebrations for our Patron the Queen’s 90th Birthday. YFCs
helped to organise village parties and 12 representatives were invited to the Mall to be part of the Patron’s Lunch.

Young Farmers were also busy in 2016 ensuring that rural young people’s views were heard following Britain’s decision to leave the EU. The Agricultural and Rural Issues (AGRI) Steering Group was quick to act following the Brexit decision. An online survey and forum helped to shape their response to Government about what Young Farmers want to see in a future British Agricultural Policy.

NFYFC offers rural young people the opportunity to meet with Government ministers and to get their voices heard on a much wider scale. It’s an exciting and challenging time for the country and NFYFC is helping YFC members to be involved in those changes.

As well as the serious issues, Young Farmers have still found time to have fun – and none more so than when they’re showing off their amazing talent at competitions. Not only at traditional farm skills such as fence erecting and stockjudging but also in Performing Arts and Dancing.

These competitions develop confidence and teamwork in our members and provide unrivalled life skills. There really is no other organisation quite like the National Federation of Young Farmers’ Clubs. It gives young people the opportunity to be leaders, treasurers, organisers, entertainers and speakers. Despite our clubs operating on limited funds, most still manage to raise money for local charities and support their communities.

NFYFC is proud of the achievements of its clubs and members in 2016 and applauds everyone who has given something back to the Federation, to the membership, to their local community and to the country.
In my final year as Chair of the Board of Management we have faced challenges and celebrated successes.

We faced financial challenges in 2014 but thankfully hard work in the last few years has really turned this situation around.

The NFYFC Council agreed to propose a 3% increase to the national levy in 2016. Members debated this decision at the Annual General Meeting in Blackpool and the increase was voted through by a large majority.

The Annual Convention in Blackpool was one of the most successful we have held for a long time. Attendance was much higher than we expected and made more profit, which again boosted NFYFC’s finances for the year.

The AGM, ably chaired by President Poul Christensen, was a real celebration of members’ achievements throughout the year. It was also great to see the membership recognising the efforts that other people give so freely to the Federation and rewarding them with Life Vice Presidency.

More achievements were celebrated during a packed summer of competitions. Every year I am amazed by the standard of competitors! It is unfortunate that we sometimes have entrants dropping out at the last minute though, as this can add unnecessary costs.

The Steering Groups, that make up the NFYFC Council, have made a sterling effort at reducing costs and responding to the membership for transparency.

At the close of 2016 we received excellent news that a benefactor’s legacy The Jonathan Billings Trust has been released for NFYFC to invest in the future training of YFC members. The news arrived just after a very successful training weekend for our County Chairs and Vice Chairs – the perfect start for these young people to help them progress their counties during their year in office.

Sadly during the summer, there were some staffing changes at NFYFC as people moved on to pastures new and to further their careers. I personally regard NFYFC staff members as part of an extended family and dislike losing anyone, but we warmly welcome our new staff members and hope they are enjoying being a special part of this great organisation!

When I took up the position of Chair in December 2012 it was for a period of four years, which has passed very quickly. I’m delighted that Council appointed Mrs Heather Black to be my successor and I am sure the membership will support her and under her guidance will achieve your goals.

I feel very privileged to have been your Board of Management Chairman. I’ve enjoyed seeing the Federation move into a more open and trusting place. I have only been a very small part of a fantastic team, and without its support, progress could not have been made.

The Federation has benefited so much from the support of our sponsors – whose contributions are very much valued and appreciated – our county staff, who work beyond the call of duty, and our friends and supporters who make it all happen.

HOPS Labour Solutions, NFYFC’s commercial arm, has also continued to support the Federation as the business develops and changes.

The Trustees are committed to progressing the Federation and I’m very grateful for their support during my tenure. But my biggest thanks must go to Chief Officer James Eckley and all the NFYFC staff team for always being enthusiastic – without their commitment and dedication none of our hopes and dreams would ever get off the ground!

Thank you to all YFC members for allowing me to indulge myself in, without doubt, the greatest youth organisation! To my Vice Chair Julia Pointon and all the Board members, who have made my job so much easier.

Best wishes for NFYFC’s future which will be challenging but bright. Progress and prosper but most of all, enjoy being a member.
Chairman’s statement

Dream it, believe it, achieve it says Chris Manley about his year as Chairman of Council

When I took on the role of Chairman of Council, I wanted to prove that Young Farmers really are the life blood of their local rural communities. After two years serving as Vice Chairman and as a member of the organisation, I know how important Young Farmers’ Clubs are to their members and the wider community. My mission to encourage members to register to give blood was a practical way of showing just how much we give back.

It can often be forgotten that YFCs are charities too and we need donations to survive. At a time when local authority grants are being cut, YFCs are finding it harder to make ends meet and much of their fundraising has focused on their own survival. That’s why the YFC Life Blood campaign was so powerful – it didn’t cost anyone anything (other than a few pints of their own blood!) but yet they were still able to do what Young Farmers do best – help others!

It was great to see so many clubs and counties get behind the campaign, giving group and individual donations and I will be very proud to present an award at the AGM to the county with the most registered donors.

My year in office was more than this campaign though and I have enjoyed visiting lots of clubs and meeting thousands of members. Each YFC is unique and there’s such a lot to learn from all of you. I wanted other clubs to share in this experience too and championed the Club Exchange! It’s great to see clubs spending time with each other.

I have been a member of the Agricultural and Rural Issues Steering Group (AGRI) for many years so I was pleased to be NFYFC Chairman during Brexit. While there are concerns for the agricultural future, it is also a time for opportunity and it has ignited many discussions with members across the country.

As many of you will know, I am not afraid of the podium – so it has been a great pleasure to be invited to speak at various events, including the Farmers Weekly Agri-Careers Event and various county AGMs and club meetings.

One of my highlights was definitely being your chairman at the Annual Convention in the year we sold the most tickets in recent times! There was also much fun to be had during the Queen’s 90th birthday celebrations and at Wales YFC’s 80th Anniversary.

Becoming Chairman of NFYFC Council isn’t as impossible as it might seem. My advice for those who want to take on this role is throw yourself into everything that YFC has to offer and have fun. Set yourself a target and go for it, be determined, bring people with you, always listen to others and ultimately be yourself.

None of my achievements would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of club, county, area and NFYFC officers, NFYFC staff and sponsors. A special thank you to my club Culm Valley YFC and my county Devon for all their support. Well done on a cracking year!

“My advice for those who want to take on this role is throw yourself into everything that YFC has to offer and have fun”
The skills our members learn through their active involvement in our Young Farmers’ Clubs stay with them for life, supporting them in their careers and their personal development. As a membership-led organisation, it is our Young Farmers who provide the guidance on the Federation’s future direction and ensure we meet our overarching goals of fun, learning and achievement.
Young Farmers’ voices have been louder than ever in 2016, from campaigning for a better future in agriculture to supporting their rural communities through projects and teamwork.

The Federation’s theme for the year was Tomorrow’s World and YFCs showed in 2016 how important it is to support their local communities for a positive future for everyone. In 2016, YFCs also received funding opportunities to help them deliver local projects.

The skills gained through membership of the Federation are helping to create our future industry leaders and people who care about their communities and the people they live alongside. We are developing young people who will help to build a tomorrow that is better and more sustainable.

Our Federation is made up of five key steering groups that guide our direction and ensure we meet our aims of fun, learning and achievement.

Agriculture and Rural Issues (AGRI)

Britain’s decision to leave the EU meant the AGRI Steering Group needed to act fast in gathering members’ opinions on the future of the industry. A survey and a forum were launched, which helped create a clear vision of what young people wanted from a British Agricultural Policy, and provided the evidence to present to Government. Members from the AGRI Steering Group met with Defra’s Farming Minister George Eustice twice in 2016 to discuss issues both pre and post the referendum and there will be more discussions as the details, post-Brexit, progress.

The AGRI Forum at the Annual Convention in Blackpool was called ‘Living for Today, Striving for Tomorrow’ and attracted its best attendance in years. Members asked questions about developing their businesses and careers in agriculture and there was an EU referendum debate led by EurActiv.

In 2016 AGRI’s strong relationship with its sponsor Kuhn Farm Machinery enabled the launch of the Kuhn YFC Design a Dream Machine competition. All members were invited to share their innovative ideas with Kuhn’s experienced marketing, sales and design team and four winners received an exclusive tour of Kuhn’s facilities in Saverne, France.

Kuhn also hosted the Defra-funded ‘Know Your Future Market Forum’ at its Telford headquarters. This was a packed day of presentations from successful industry figures on how to agree business terms, consider consumers, products and market places for developing your business.

Kuhn’s generosity, passion and commitment for YFC is greatly appreciated by NFYFC.

In 2016, AGRI tried to facilitate more services and provide advice for those looking to enter or exit a rural business or considering a succession opportunity. Following research and recommendations from NFYFC, Fresh Start Land Enterprise Centre launched a pilot farming opportunity scheme, Land Partnerships Service, to bring together those with, and those looking for, business opportunities.

The group also launched a succession video workshop for members to help initiate, guide and inspire those looking to tackle the subject of succession. Consultant Sian Bushell, a succession expert, is featured in the videos offering advice and the workshop can now be accessed via NFYFC’s YouTube channel and is being shared over the internet.

As well as online advice, the Federation also joined forces with Innovation for Agriculture (IfA) – a consortium that delivers science and innovation to farmers – to deliver free precision farming training events for YFC members to provide knowledge on best practice, research and development.

Partnering with other organisations has been a big part of NFYFC’s work in 2016 and there is no better example than the development of its relationship with the National Farmers’ Union (NFU). A joint membership of the European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA) is currently being trialled by NFYFC and the NFU and NFYFC are also collaborating further with the NFU’s Next Generation. It is hoped that this closer relationship will help all generations of farmers to better understand each other’s opinions, collaborate and communicate ideas.

There were plenty of opportunities for members to develop agricultural skills over the year too, with invites to the NFU conference and the Oxford Farming Conference, where many members received scholarships. Study tours to the Massey Ferguson Beauvais...
plant in France and a chance to Walk the Wool Chain with the British Wool Marketing Board (BWMB) were also on offer.

Competitions
Competitions are a central part of the membership of NFYFC. They encourage members to rise to a challenge and learn new skills, as well as promote camaraderie and teamwork. Whether it’s competing at a club, county, area or national level, our competitions programme has something to offer everyone.

In 2015/16 the competitions theme was Tomorrow’s World, which featured in many of the competitions, including Floral Arts and Cake Decorating. The talent and confidence of YFC members is always impressive and in many cases the competitions involve spectators cheering them on and enjoying their skills.

The Annual Convention hosted the final of the Performing Arts competition, which was won by Brampton YFC for its play about a farming family in Cumbria struggling to cope during the foot and mouth epidemic.

Ballroom Dancing, Choir and Senior Member of the Year were also among the final competitions during the Convention weekend and all impressed packed audiences.

There was a busy summer of competitions with county rallies and national finals – with
the highlight being national Competitions Day at the Staffordshire Agricultural Society Showground in July. Members displayed skills in Public Speaking, Reading, Junior Member of the Year and Situations Vacant. Members also enjoyed competitions in Clay Pigeon Shooting, a live Radio Show, Fence Erecting and Efficiency with Safety among others.

There was plenty of action on Sports Day too with teams participating in Ultimate Frisbee, Touch Rugby and Volleyball.

The Great Yorkshire Show was the location for the Dairy Stockjudging competition in July and with glorious weather and great hospitality, everyone had an enjoyable time.

Perhaps the most sought after team trophy is for Tug of War and it was great to see so many teams this year at the Tenbury Show.

Harper Adams kindly hosted the Stockman of the Year and the Young Stockman of the Year competitions, along with local farmers who provided excellent beef and sheep for judging.

In September members descended on the Malvern Autumn show to show off their Cookery and Floral Art skills. The dishes and designs showed their imagination and talent and impressed a range of professional judges.

In December, Young Farmers proved the future of livestock farming is in safe hands after award-winning performances in the Stockjudging finals at the English Winter Fair in Staffordshire. Competitors as young as 13 years old were among the finalists judging pigs and beef, live and carcass, in the first competition of NFYFC’s programme for 2016/17.

Events and Marketing
Ensuring that events and communications are meeting the needs of members was a priority for the group in 2016. Feedback was gathered through online surveys and used to help develop future plans.

As the biggest event of the year for the Federation, the Annual Convention is a key focus for the group in terms of helping to choose entertainment and discussing ideas to enhance the enjoyment of members over the weekend. The Convention was a huge success in Blackpool, selling more than 5,500 tickets and packing out the Winter Gardens.

Greg James, from BBC Radio 1, DJ’d at the event for the first time and other nights included NFYFC Ambassadors Scott Mills and Chris Stark and Dev – all from BBC Radio 1.

The group also organised the YFC Ski trip with NUCO Travel and in 2016 more than 300 members visited Les Arcs in France for a week of fun on the slopes.

The second National Young Farmers’ Week took place from 19-25 September to raise awareness of NFYFC and to encourage more young people to join their local club. National press coverage about the week included Farmers Weekly and Farmers Guardian and local clubs held their own recruitment activities – such as featuring bale art across their county to advertise new membership nights. The hashtag #NationalYoungFarmers Week reached nearly one million people!

Social media is still one of the most successful ways the Federation communicates with its grassroots members. The NFYFC’s Facebook page has over 34,000 likes and its Twitter account has more than 11,000 followers. As well as connecting with existing and former members, it also connects with potential new members, other organisations and sponsors. NFYFC also joined Instagram this year after feedback showed members were actively communicating on the platform.

In 2016, the membership magazine Ten26 was reviewed and the group helped to shape a new design and approach to content for the publication, which launches in 2017.

Feedback in an online communications
survey was overwhelmingly positive for the magazine with around 70% of respondents saying they read every issue and 92% saying they want to receive a copy in the post to their home address.

The YFC Buzz was also reviewed as part of this survey and a revamped version is being launched in 2017 with a more user-friendly layout and improved accessibility on mobiles.

New member affinity deals are always being sourced and NFYFC is grateful to the sponsors and affiliates that offer funding and support.

Personal Development
The Personal Development Steering Group is responsible for organising youth work, training and travel opportunities for members. It’s a wide remit and one that touches on all parts of a member’s involvement with YFC.

In December 2015, NFYFC received funding from the Cabinet Office and Pears Foundation to progress its work in Youth Social Action. The Federation can now support five community projects per quarter until the summer of 2017.

It’s a great opportunity for YFCs to help their local communities and publicise their work. The funding allows NFYFC to provide support and up to £400 of funds to a qualifying club to help them complete their chosen local project. Rob Wilson MP visited members in Kent this year to find out more about the Countryside Challenge and was impressed by the work members have been doing across England and Wales.

Training has progressed in 2016 and NFYFC delivered Train the Trainer courses in Wales and in the East Midlands Area, with an Advanced Train the Trainer course planned in March 2017. Trainers have worked hard over the last year and the Federation is grateful to everyone who has delivered courses or taken part in one.

NatWest has also provided extra support to training for Treasurers across the country, which has received positive feedback.

New modules have been added to the bank of Curve modules for members in the past year, including E-Safety, Rural+ and Farm Safety. There has been lots of support in setting up the Rural+ module, which is focused on supporting our campaign on mental health issues.

Trainers delivered Curve modules to 1,200 members in 2015/16 – double the amount that received training in the previous year. The target for Curve modules to be delivered to members has been increased to 2,000 and for these to take place in at least 25 counties.

The Source – an essential guide to everything you need to know about NFYFC and running a club – has continued to be updated. This fantastic resource assists clubs in their duties throughout their year.

The YFC Travel programme grew with the addition of a new volunteering trip called Africa’s Gift, which gives YFCs the opportunity to help communities in Africa.

Exchanges were hosted over the summer to give young farmers from overseas the chance to stay with YFC members. It is a great opportunity to show how we live and farm and to promote local attractions to a young farmer from another country.

Youth Forum
The Isle of Wight was the location for the 2016 Youth Forum Residential Weekend. As well as fun team building events such as a farm trip and a hair-raising ride on a zip wire, members of the Youth Forum also made plans for the year ahead on how to get their voices heard.

Members are now working with areas of the Federation to help them set up similar Residential Weekends for the under-18s in their clubs and counties.

One of the most successful ideas from the Youth Forum is the Watch that Cowpat game. Every area of the Federation now has a large version of the game that clubs and counties can use at shows, rallies and events or to take into local schools. The game has been sponsored by NatWest and is proving a popular way to promote field-to-fork education.

The Youth Forum was sponsored by the Farm Safety Foundation in 2016 and it is one of the priorities of the group to promote farm safety.

Members have been involved with the Farm Safety Foundation’s Yellow Wellies campaign and attended roadshows with the organisation to promote better farm safety. With support from the Foundation, the Youth Forum has also developed a new Curve module on Farm Safety that is now being piloted.

Members have actively represented rural young people at the British Youth Council (BYC). They successfully put forward a motion on improving rural transport which has been included in the BYC’s manifesto for 2016/17.
“Partnering with other organisations has been a big part of NFYFC’s work in 2016”

SAM DILCOCK, AGRI
“When I took office as AGRI Chairman various political and internal considerations would have a resounding effect on our YFC members: DEFRA’s 25 Year Plan; the EU Referendum and our future relationship with the European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA). I believe as the leading rural youth organisation rural and agricultural issues all have a place in our AGRI Manifesto. I implore future members to represent their communities through AGRI, to use the traction, power and weight of the mighty NFYFC as a leading, independent and respected youth organisation. You don’t have to be a farmer to be a young farmer!”

CAROLINE BAKER, EVENTS AND MARKETING
“A highlight for me was certainly seeing the steering groups working better and more collaboratively. But the biggest achievement was Blackpool Annual Convention 2016 where a fantastic number of tickets were sold. Meeting Greg James and hearing how excited he was to be DJing for us, the reception that both Greg and our Ambassadors Scott and Chris received was amazing and the atmosphere in the Winter Gardens was bouncing. Thanks again to all the members, NFYFC staff and countless volunteers who all contribute to the Federation and to the events that we run throughout the year – without all of you guys they wouldn’t happen!”

OONAGH O’NEILL, COMPETITIONS
“I have been proud to be your Competitions Chairman – it has been rewarding for me. We have run another full and fun-packed competitions programme to challenge all members either individually or as part of a club, county or area team. It was great to see so many new and existing members joining in and having fun while competing against each other. We have had invaluable help from the NFYFC staff team and my thanks go to them for all the time they have devoted to make sure our competitions run well for everyone. Also a big thank you to all our hosts and sponsors without whom our programme would have been impossible to run.”

AMY MCWHIRTER, YOUTH FORUM
“I have been extremely proud to be NFYFC’s Youth Forum Chairman. The past 12 months have been brilliant and the Youth Forum has gone from strength to strength. I have enjoyed working alongside the other steering groups to make sure that the junior members’ views and opinions are taken into consideration at a national level. The Youth Forum members are a fantastic group of people who have great potential to progress further at a national level and I look forward to seeing the great things the Youth Forum will do over the next year.”

MARK HURST, PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT
“What an honour to be the Personal Development Chairman. I have enjoyed the whole year and am so glad to have had the opportunity to take this role. Thank you to the committee over the last year and best of luck to the next Chairman.”
Learning life skills and rewarding talent is what makes our competitions programme such an important part of YFC life. In 2015/16 there was plenty to be impressed about from our members in competitions ranging from Drama to Efficiency with Safety.

National Competition and trophy winners 2015/16

ENGLISH WINTER FAIR 2015
21 & Under Beef Live & Carcase – Yorkshire D
Thomas Bailey
26 & Under Beef Live & Carcase – Staffordshire A
Peter James
21 & Under Lambs Live & Carcase – Yorkshire A
Georgina Hobson
26 & Under Lambs Live & Carcase – Cumbria B
Mark Hurst

ANNUAL CONVENTION – BLACKPOOL 2016
Senior Member of the Year – Lincolnshire
Tom Wells
Performing Arts (Drama) – Cumbria A – Brampton
Best Male Actor – Cumbria A
Joe Bowerman
Best Female Actor – Carmarthenshire
Sara Morgan
Balloon Dancing – Shropshire A
Jessica Bright, Lucy Bright, Tom Bright, Chloe Evans, Aled Rhys Jones, Owen Morris, Chloe Saunders, Huw Williams
Choir – Devon A
Chris Allin, Jenny Ashton, Gemma Bealey, Lucy Burnett, Ryan Colwill, Hannah Faulkner, Lucy Grigg, Sophie Grills, Chris Harding, Richard Harding, Andrew Heywood, Robert Hill, Daniel Meeson, Daniel Seeviour, Jessica Squire

COMPETITIONS DAY 2016
Reading – Brecknock
Megan Havard, Lucy Thomas, Caitlin Mills
Public Speaking – Pembrokeshire
Nia Lloyd, Rhodri Vaughan, Benjamin Richards
Best Chairman – Joint Devon & Pembrokeshire
Devon – Louise Putt, Pembrokeshire – Nia Lloyd
Best Speaker – Pembrokeshire
Benjamin Richards
Best Vote of Thanks – Pembrokeshire
Rhodri Vaughan
Just a Minute – Shropshire A
Charlotte Evans, Michael Maginess, Lucy Morgan, Rebecca Latter
Best Panellist – Shropshire A
Charlotte Evans
Best Runner Up Panellist – Shropshire B
Annabelle Beaman
Debating – Shropshire A
Hannah Batty, Lucy Bright, Natalie Morris, Owen Morris, Huw Williams
Best Speaker – Shropshire
Hannah Batty
Junior Member of the Year – Carmarthenshire A
Aled Davies
Situations Vacant – Staffordshire A
Nicola Blowey
Cake Decorating – Brecknock
Nia Havard
Radio Show Live – Shropshire A
Jessica Bason, Ed Tuffin, Harriet Bason
Weathervane – Cumbria A
Jared Armstead
Clay Pigeon Shooting – Essex
Todd Bridge
Fence Erecting – Radnor
Blededyn Pugh, Alwyn Watkins, Rowan John Wilson
Efficiency with Safety – Pembrokeshire A
Caryl Bevan, Rhys Bevan, Alistair Lawrence, Berwyn Warlow
Best ATV Handler – Alistair Lawrence

SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP 2016
Mixed Volleyball (10-16 years) – Lincolnshire
Tom Fussey, Laura Fussey, Will Jackson, James King
Mixed Touch Rugby (14-17 years) – Brecknock
David Havard, Ffion Havard, Matthew Williams, Lestyn Havard, Iwan Havard, Nia Havard, Daniel Hiscocks, Nia Morgan
Mixed Ultimate Frisbee (16-26 years) – County Durham
Matthew Bradley, Sophie Wray, Elizabeth Bradley, Mark Harding, James Stanwix, Michael Moralee, Michael Boyes, Harry Fenwick, Chris Dobinson
Best Spirit of Fair Play – Brecknock
Most Valuable Player – County Durham
Sophie Wray

DAIRY EVENT – GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW 2016
16 & Under Dairy Stockjudging – Cumbria C
Eleanor Fisher
21 & Under Dairy Stockjudging – Buckinghamshire
Emily Barrett
26 & Under Dairy Stockjudging Linear – Carmarthenshire A
Aled Walters

TENBURY SHOW 2016
Ladies Tug of War – Brecknock
Rhiannon Burton, Flon Hemmings, Rhian Sian Jones, Mared Lewis, Lydia Morris, Bethan Price, Eirlys Pugh, Emma Samuel, Stephanie Sweetingham
Men’s Tug of War – Herefordshire A

STOCKJUDGING WEEKEND – HARPER ADAMS 2016
Young Stockjudge of the Year – Staffordshire A
Robert Mollatt
Senior Stockjudge of the Year – Lancashire C
Lowri Davies

MALVERN AUTUMN SHOW 2016
Cookery – Brecknock
Lewis Davies, Kieran Elliott, Dan Fergusson
16 & Under Floral Art – Wiltshire
Isabel Wilson
21 & Under Floral Art – Bedfordshire
Ellie Davis
26 & Under Floral Art – Cumbria A
Rebecca Knipe

NATIONAL TROPHY WINNERS
NFU Trophy – Cumbria
(Championship County Federation, NFYFC – Competition Finals 2015/16)
Tug Wilson Trophy – Devon A
(Reserve Champion County Federation YFC Competitions Finals 2015/16)
The Worshipful Company of Farmers – Warwickshire
(Champion small County Federation whose membership is among the top 50% of counties, NFYFC Competitions Final 2015/16)
Merrick Burrell Trophy – Hertfordshire
(County Federation with the largest percentage increase in membership over the past three years ending 31 August, 2016)
Sidney Fawcett Trophy – Freddie Horwood – Somerset
(Member making the greatest contributions to the democratic proceedings at the AGM 2016)
The Prince of Wales – Essex
(County Federation raising the most money per member for a charitable cause)
The Lionel Hill Trophy – Totnes – Devon
(Presented to the club that has raised the greatest amount of funds per member, for charitable purposes over a 12-month period)
Young Farmers Ambassadors’ Trophy – Aimee Mahony – Leicestershire
(The best multimedia Presentation produced by a participant of the YFC Travel Programme 2014/15)
TOP TRAINER AWARD – Nottinghamshire
(Awarded to the county that delivers the Curve modules to the highest percentage of their membership from September 2015 to August 2016 and to recognise excellence in delivery and continued hard work of YFC trainers).
Regional highlights

It’s what happens in our counties that matter to members and the six English areas and Wales that make up the National Federation have had an exciting year.

It was a year of celebration for Wales YFC, having reached its 80th birthday ably led by Chairman Vicky Hope. Vicky loaned a special John Deere tractor from the TAG group, re-branded purple with Wales YFC logos, to do a tractor run in each county to raise funds for their clubs and the Federation.

We held our popular CCF Rural Affairs Conference in January before getting stuck into a year of competitions. The major event was of course the Royal Welsh Show where after competing in the day, people headed to the Young Peoples’ Village to celebrate at night.

At the Royal Welsh Winter Fair the oldest Wales YFC Chairman and youngest male and female members planted an oak tree on the showground to mark our 80th anniversary.

Arwel Jones

The South West Area weekend in Weymouth is like a mini Annual Convention but with a lot more competitions and no meetings. Many thanks to everyone who helped to make this event happen!

Everyone also really enjoyed our 2016 competitions day at Kingston Maurward College, which was organised by Dorset.

My favourite event of the year was the Junior Camp as it was great to see our younger members pushing themselves to try new activities and looking out for each other. I can see among them many future chairmen for club and county roles – and even for the South West Area.

Harry Cole
My year as Chairman started just after the arrival of my daughter Poppy in October! Our Area held two training events at the start of the year – Train the Trainer and an Area training weekend focused on marketing, events and planning.

Our competitions weekend in Skegness was stressful but an incredible success, with more people competing during the weekend than in previous years. I judged at several rallies during May, where the standard was very high. I am incredibly proud to have been Chairman, and we have achieved a lot! Thanks to everyone who has taken part or helped behind the scenes. A special mention to Northants YFC Administrator Kate Everard who kept me organised!

Linsey Burton.

Co Durham members took on officer roles for the Area this year and many successful events were held by other counties. Congratulations to Cumbria for hosting the Area Weekend, East Riding for Stockman of the Year, and Lancashire for the Area Field Day. There has been some national competition success with Co Durham winning at Ultimate Frisbee and Brampton VFC from Cumbria (left) winning the Drama final! We hosted the hustings between the two candidates for NFYFC Chairman – Chris Manley and Jess Townson – which was streamed live to the whole country! Many members attended council weekends, which helped make sure our voices are heard. Keep up the good work Northern Area Rachel Milner.

We have had a successful year of competitions. Eardisley VFC from Herefordshire came second in the Drama and Choir (above) national finals. We had an excellent time at the Three Counties Show and it was great to see so many members there competing and supporting. This is the best advert for VFC to the general public. Well done to Herefordshire again who went on to compete in the Tug of War national finals with their men’s and junior teams and Staffordshire ladies’ team.

I have been overwhelmed with how much our Area has pulled together to support the committee and fill up the WMA competitions this year. We should be very proud of our fantastic Area. Tom Worthington.

It has been a tough but enjoyable year! Participation in competitions has been excellent, especially our spring competitions weekend in February, which included Public Speaking and sports competitions. We were very lucky to have this hosted by Sparsholt College in Hampshire. We also had a great time at the South of England Show, where we held our summer competitions. A number of teams entered and had a great time at the Tug of War. The Hampshire men’s team (right) went on to compete at a national level too.

We are having a big push to increase counties’ participation in competitions and social events, so I invite everyone to get involved and make 2017 a great year for SEAI Charles Polak.

Eastern Area now has a regular meeting place at the NFU Newmarket offices which works well. We intend to build on this relationship and we are very grateful for their ongoing support. We had a successful spring competitions weekend in March hosted by Bedfordshire, followed by a great ski-themed party. We also enjoyed a fun summer competitions weekend, kindly hosted by Essex FYFC again. With over 100 people competing and attending the party afterwards, the event is going from strength to strength. In October, Cambridgeshire hosted a sell-out Train the Trainer weekend. There have been too many brilliant rallies and parties to mention, hosted by all the counties, so thank you to all who have invited me. Ed Ford.

My year as Chairman started just after the arrival of my daughter Poppy in October! Our Area held two training events at the start of the year – Train the Trainer and an Area training weekend focused on marketing, events and planning. Our competitions weekend in Skegness was stressful but an incredible success, with more people competing during the weekend than in previous years. I judged at several rallies during May, where the standard was very high. I am incredibly proud to have been Chairman, and we have achieved a lot! Thanks to everyone who has taken part or helped behind the scenes. A special mention to Northants YFC Administrator Kate Everard who kept me organised!

Linsey Burton.
Global adventurers

YFC Travel offers members a unique opportunity to experience rural life in a different part of the world. Every year, members from across England and Wales enjoy these amazing opportunities thanks to support from the NFU Mutual Charitable Trust.

Elizabeth Prince from Staffordshire FYFC, travelled to the USA to stay with farming families in Montana and Colorado.

“My trip has given me so many fantastic new experiences, showing me how people live and the similarities and differences in farming. Moving to new families every three weeks also helped with my confidence a tremendous amount. I have met so many lovely people I’d like to think are new friends for life and I hope I will get to see them again in the future.”

Aimee Mahony, from Leicestershire FYFC, travelled to Switzerland and was the winner of the best YFC Travel presentation in 2016.

“I’d recommend a YFC Travel trip to everyone. There really is no better way to experience the way of life in another country. I had a great time in Switzerland and, since returning to the UK, I have attended a number of club meetings and a county travel evening to encourage other members to apply. The presentation I did is a lovely keepsake to remind me of the fantastic time I had on my trip.”

AUSTRALIA
Incoming: Babette McConnon
Outgoing: Rachael Branch (Somerset)

AUSTRIA
Incoming: Elisabeth Hintersteiner
Outgoing: Poppy Stephens (Gloucestershire) and Alison Provis (Hertfordshire)

CANADA JFAO
Incoming: Claire Johnston
Outgoing: Alistair Hughes (Leicestershire)

CANADA 4H
Incoming: Morgan McNeil and Breann Forbes
Outgoing: Catherine Ede (Cornwall) and Jennie Towler (Lancashire)

GERMANY
Incoming: Marina Raming and Christian Flebner
Outgoing: Adam Ringrose (Leicestershire) and Jonathan Hird (Cumbria)

NORWAY
Outgoing: Jennifer McGowan (Essex)

NORTHERN IRELAND
Incoming: Shannen Vance and Lauren Vance
Outgoing: Paige Neale (Worcestershire) and Emily Pearse (Devon)

SCOTLAND
Outgoing: Kelly Gibbs (Cornwall) and Freddie Wootton (Bedfordshire)

SWITZERLAND
Incoming: Bettina Born
Outgoing: Aimee Mahony (Leicestershire)

USA
Incoming: Marissa Bartman
Outgoing: Elizabeth Prince (Staffordshire) and Isabel Mogford (Oxfordshire)

AUTUMN SEMINAR, NORWAY
Outgoing: Victoria Ward (Shropshire) and Jess Bason (Shropshire)
Joanna Gillingham, from Wiltshire FYFC, travelled to New Zealand to work on Limestone Downs Farm for three months. “I have so many great memories, but the best one has to be pulling out a live calf from a heifer which was having calving difficulty – it was such a rewarding feeling. Well, it was either that experience, or getting a ride in the fertiliser plane. I grew as a person at Limestone Downs as you have a lot of time working by yourself and have to quickly make decisions and act on them. I had the best experience and am definitely missing the coastal views from my quad bike.”

EUROPEAN RALLY, NORTHERN IRELAND
Outgoing: Lynsey Martin, Leader, Hannah Talbot, Second Delegate to AGM, Jen Rowland (Devon), Gemma Hiatt (Leicestershire), Thomas Taberner (Staffordshire) and Christina Greves (Gloucstershire)

JAMAICA
Outgoing: Tom Sellers (Shropshire), Caroline Nixey (Oxfordshire), Rebecca Horner (Norfolk), Francis Griffiths (Yorkshire), Heather Alpe (Lancashire), Will Howie (Northumberland), Sarah Kidd (Cumbria), Alice Clews (Yorkshire), Rebecca Fowell (Staffordshire), Harriet Wilson (Staffordshire)

NEW ZEALAND – C ALMA BAKER
Outgoing: Dominic Bloxham (Staffordshire), Joanna Gillingham (Wiltshire), Tom Gardiner (Staffordshire), Stephen Crane (Lancashire)

SCHOLARSHIPS
YFA Scholar, America, Elizabeth Prince (Staffordshire FYFC)
YFA Scholar, Canada 4H, Jennie Towler (Lancashire FYFC)
YFA Scholar, Germany, Jonathan Hird (Cumbria FYFC)
YFA Scholar, Norway, Jennifer McGowan (Essex FYFC)
NFU Scholar, Canada 4H, Catherine Ede (Cornwall FYFC)
Diversification delivers rewards in 2016

A new focus for NFYFC’s commercial arm, HOPS Labour Solutions, resulted in a rise in profits explains HOPS’ Director John Hardman

Diversifying into skilled agricultural recruitment services boosted HOPS’ financial results in 2016. With firm connections in the industry, thanks to HOPS’ experience in temporary labour recruitment, it has meant more farming businesses are contacting the company to help them source skilled staff.

Temporary labour recruitment also improved in 2016 throughout the industry. The good weather had a positive effect with low numbers of staff leaving their temporary job mid-post.

Many farms placed their requirements early for the peak season, giving our HOPS’ offices overseas time to prepare and recruit ahead of schedule.

However, some farms that ordered late, or handled their own recruitment late in the season, needed to turn to HOPS to help ‘top up’ their staff numbers from July to September. This shortage during the peak season affected the whole industry and is an issue we anticipate will increase and happen annually.

We saw some of our former customers return to our reliable services this year after trying to recruit their own staff following changes to the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS). We also saw an increase in orders.

HOPS needs to promote its successes more and we hope to do this in 2017. We have plenty to shout about. Our temporary workers are among those that pick the strawberries for Wimbledon every year. Many of them have picked over 70% of the sprouts on every Christmas dinner plate, and much of the salad we bite into in every Big Mac!

HOPS is contributing to major Government and NFU consultations on temporary agricultural labour, and has been a regular source for press comments about the state of temporary labour, including publications such as the Financial Times, Reuters, Farmers Guardian, Farmers Weekly and even the Washington Post!

This year’s financial success meant we could make a donation to NFYFC to support the development of the Federation and its members. As we grow, we hope we will be able to budget for future donations to help secure NFYFC’s financial projections too.

Our goal is to make more members aware of HOPS’ services and the impact the business has on the financial stability of the Federation.

“This year’s financial success meant we could make a donation to NFYFC to support the development of the Federation and its members”
## Membership returns

**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2016**

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<th>TOTAL 10-26</th>
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<td>496</td>
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| **WALES**            |                  |                    |             |             |               |              |             |
| Brecknock            | 13               | 0                  | 517         | 13          | 0             | 24           | 541         |
| Carmarthenshire      | 24               | 0                  | 739         | 24          | 0             | 19           | 758         |
| Ceredigion           | 19               | 0                  | 713         | 19          | 0             | 22           | 735         |
| Clwyd                | 12               | 0                  | 479         | 12          | 0             | 8            | 487         |
| Glamorgan            | 8                | 0                  | 244         | 8           | 0             | 15           | 259         |
| Gwent                | 6                | 0                  | 296         | 6           | 0             | 5            | 301         |
| Merionnwyd           | 8                | 0                  | 270         | 8           | 0             | 2            | 272         |
| Montgomery           | 19               | 0                  | 728         | 19          | 0             | 13           | 741         |
| Pembrokeshire        | 13               | 0                  | 523         | 13          | 0             | 23           | 546         |
| Radnor               | 13               | 0                  | 505         | 13          | 0             | 11           | 516         |
| **WALES TOTALS**     | 135              | 0                  | 5014        | 135         | 0             | 142          | 5156        |
| **GRAND TOTAL**      | 616              | 15                 | 23740       | 631         | 157           | 1206         | 25102       |
# SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

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<tr>
<th>Unrestricted funds</th>
<th>Restricted funds</th>
<th>Total 2016</th>
<th>Total 2015</th>
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<td>General</td>
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<td>Donations, sponsorship and gifts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment income - other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</strong></td>
<td><strong>974,920</strong></td>
<td><strong>20,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>94,173</strong></td>
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**Resources expended**

**Direct programme expenditure**
- Membership convention: 174,253 - 32 = 174,285 (162,896)
- Club supplies: 20,438 - 21,257
- Youthwork and training: 77,474 - 7,155 = 86,100 (105,021)
- Travel: 17,352 - 2,404 = 21,212 (27,654)
- Competitions: 62,250 - 4,954 = 67,204 (60,652)
- South East Area Project: - -
- Agriculture and rural issues: 64,834 - 6,696 = 71,530 (59,657)

**Other expenditure**
- Central: 100,904 - 9,780 = 111,842 (107,571)
- Management: 64,411 - 66,209
- Governance: 69,943 - 71,838
- Fundraising and marketing: 159,595 - 181,272
- Information technology: 41,107 - 36,972

**TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED**
- 852,561 - 84,155 = 943,547 (910,986)

**NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES**
- Realised gain/(loss) on sale of investments: 122,359 - 27,975 = 145,546 (23,726)
- Unrealised gain/(loss) on revaluation of investments: 190,399 - 104,194 = 294,593 (773)

**NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS**
- 340,733 - 114,212 = 468,114 (38,801)

**Fund balances at 1 January 2016**
- 1,235,249 - 871,223 = 2,282,831 (2,321,632)

**FUND BALANCES AT 31 DECEMBER 2016**
- 1,575,982 - 985,435 = 2,282,831
# THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS’ CLUBS
## BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016
## FINAL AUDITED ACCOUNTS

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<td>- Unlisted</td>
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| **CURRENT ASSETS**   |        |        |
| Stock - Club supplies| 8,258  | 8,000  |
| Debtors & prepayments| 67,676 | 58,221 |
| Cash at bank & in hand| 438,174 | 358,945 |
|                      | 514,108 | 425,166 |

| **CURRENT LIABILITIES** |        |        |
| Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year |        |        |
| Creditors & accruals | 333,552 | 344,389 |

| **NET CURRENT ASSETS** |        |        |
|                        | 180,556 | 80,777 |

| **NET ASSETS**         |        |        |
|                        | 2,750,945 | 2,282,831 |

| **FUNDED BY**          |        |        |
| Restricted funds       | 985,435 | 871,223 |
| Unrestricted funds     |        |        |
| - designated           | 189,528 | 176,359 |
| - general              | 1,575,982 | 1,235,249 |
|                        | 2,750,945 | 2,282,831 |

The information in these pages is a summary of the Federation’s Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2016. Copies of the full Financial Statements can be obtained from the Federation’s Headquarters at the YFC Centre, 10th Street, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG.
Meet our sponsors

NFYFC is proud to have built up a range of partnerships with companies over the years that build on the strengths of both parties to develop long-term, mutually beneficial relationships. The sponsors’ ongoing support ensures that our members are able to develop new skills, travel abroad, take part in a varied competitions programme and reach their full potential. Specifically, NFYFC would like to extend our thanks to the following organisations:

Pears Foundation  Australia Bicentennial Committee  defra  Elizabeth Creek Trust  HONDA  HOPS

C. Alma Baker Trust  KUHN  LANTRA Awards  MASSEY FERGUSON  Mole Valley Farms  NatWest  NFUSmetal  Robin Rimmer  Cabinet Office

Meet our supporters

NFYFC is very grateful to the large number of companies who contribute their goods and services to the organisation.

National Federation of Young Farmers’ Clubs (England & Wales)
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National Federation of Young Farmers’ Clubs is a registered Friendly Society. Registration number 52 SA

Photographs courtesy of John Eveson, Peter Rowe. Photography and YFC members throughout England and Wales.