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President’s statement

Focusing on our grassroots members was Poul Christensen’s key aim in his new role as NFYFC’s President

It has been 59 years since I was a Chairman of a Young Farmers’ Club. From those halcyon days of competitions, parties and friendships I have enjoyed a successful career both as a farmer and while working for major organisations in the industry. The skills and confidence I gained back then gave me the foundations to succeed.

As I look around at the Young Farmers’ Clubs (YFC) of today, it is truly remarkable to see that they are still offering those same opportunities to our rural young people. The 624 clubs across England and Wales all develop members through key positions in their clubs such as treasurers, social secretaries, vice chairmen and chairmen. Multiply all those positions by the number of our clubs and you start to realise the sheer scale and impact of YFCs. There are very few organisations that are developing that number of people at any one time.

One of my goals this year was to meet as many grassroots members as I could. What better way to do that than watching Young Farmers at the competitions finals, chatting with proud mums and dads, visiting clubs – such as Berkshire FYFC’s fantastic Harvest Festival – and of course attending Annual Convention!

I was inspired by the positivity and enthusiasm of our members, which only bodes well not just for farming, but also for the future of our rural economy.

YFCs – with the support of dedicated parents – are helping to create the future leaders of our industry, the ones who will have to face the challenge of feeding the world without destroying it.

While I am still a director of my family farm, I have passed on the running of it to one of my sons. I firmly believe when you hand over the business, you have to trust the next generation to get on with it.

With the support of such a fantastic Federation, I think we can all rest assured our future farmers will deliver.

“I was inspired by the positivity and enthusiasm of our members, which only bodes well not just for farming, but also for the future of our rural economy”
There has never been a more exciting time to be a young farmer. Major advances in technology and the global challenge of how to feed a growing population present even more opportunities in agriculture.

While it seems there has never been a better time to work in the industry, closer to home barriers such as lack of capital, an ageing population and a decline in farm tenancies prompted an industry review.

Members of the National Federation of Young Farmers’ Clubs were invited to give their input into The Future of Farming Review at our Annual Convention and to state where they think the industry – and young farmers – need more support. It was acknowledgement of the power and influence of our active membership of around 25,000 throughout England and Wales.

NFYFC is one of the largest rural youth organisations in the UK. We are a vital social link for young people who live and work in the countryside and our 624 Young Farmers’ Clubs offer members aged 10-26 nationwide support. Collectively, we provide friendship, training, competitions and travel opportunities, as well as the platform to voice opinions on issues affecting rural young people.

In 2013, members spoke out about rural road safety through a national campaign called Drive it Home, which was sponsored by NFU Mutual and the Rural Youth Trust.

Partnerships with road safety charity Brake and a company called Drive Doctors saw the Federation roll out free or subsidised training to members to help save lives.

Media interest in the campaign was constant throughout the year, with members being interviewed on regional ITV and BBC television.

“It was the first time NFYFC had launched its own campaign and the support from the media, road safety organisations, sponsors and members was incredible”
news programmes, as well as for local and national publications.

Celebrities also backed Drive it Home, including television presenters Adam Henson and Jimmy Doherty who invited members on to their farms for Brake training sessions.

We also worked with Road Safety Analysis to research the true impact of young driver incidents on rural roads and met with Road Safety Ministers and the Department for Transport to raise our concerns.

It was the first time NFYFC had launched its own national campaign and the support from the media, sponsors, road safety organisations and, most importantly, members was incredible.

Amid the campaigning, there was still plenty of opportunity for fun! Our competitions programme involved traditional as well as new competitions – including a knitting challenge that was developed with the British Wool Marketing Board.

Our Annual Convention attracted its biggest crowd for the last five years, with more than 5,000 Young Farmers congregating in Blackpool. This event is a great way to unite as one Federation and reflect on all that we have achieved. It’s also where we can celebrate everything that is great about Young Farmers’ Clubs.

Thanks to social media, NFYFC and our clubs have been able to reach out to even more young people to show what the organisation has to offer.

And there is a lot for young people to benefit from at NFYFC. Not only unique travel opportunities and training to help careers and support personal development, but also the ability to build leadership skills and confidence by taking on a role at a club, county or national level.

Through this dedicated programme of activities, NFYFC prepares our members for the challenges ahead – equipping them with the skills to be active citizens in a democracy. Our members represent the future of the industry and are at the heart of our rural communities – and NFYFC is proud to support them.
In 2013, the Board of Management has had to respond to some major changes in the running of the Federation. Towards the start of the year, our focus had been on developing a new strategy for NFYFC, to help steer the Federation into a more secure future.

While these plans were underway, the resignation of the Chief Executive Officer in August has unfortunately stalled this process. The Board decided to review the structure of the staff team at the national office to ensure it was fit for purpose following the departure of the CEO.

The decision was made to appoint a Chief Officer, supported by a Head of Marketing and Development. The intention was to ensure we maintained the excellent level of service to members, while reducing staffing costs.

We also identified that more support was needed in the South East Area to help develop and strengthen their membership. To tackle this project we have secured funding for a Support Field Officer to help the Area for 18 months.

After a year of reorganisation inside the Federation, Frank Chester, Chairman of the NFYFC Board of Management, is optimistic for the future.

As well as reorganising other areas of the Federation, the Board also underwent a review and it was decided that there should be more member representation. There are now four YFC members on the Board who represent two Areas each and those elected into the posts are already showing great commitment.

In place of the specialist roles once present on the Board, which are now felt to be covered by staff, two new independent posts have been added, aimed at complementing the existing skills of Board representatives. With these improvements made, I now feel that we can look forward to a solid and constructive future.

Amid all these changes, there was, of course, one constant. The Annual Convention in Blackpool proved to be another successful weekend for the Federation. We had a record number join us at the Winter Gardens and it is promising that this event is growing in popularity. My personal thanks go to the staff team and volunteers who make this tremendous weekend happen – especially James Eckley and Bob Blezard.

I also want to thank all of NFYC’s sponsors and friends, without their support we would be unable to provide all the opportunities to our members such as competitions, travel, and affiliations to major organisations. We are indebted to our sponsors, so thank you.

My sincere thanks go to all the staff team for the support they have given me. And a huge thank you to the membership – they make my role as Chairman worthwhile.

“I now feel that we can look forward to a solid and constructive future”
A national road safety campaign catapulted the Federation and its Chairman of Council into the media spotlight in a year packed with achievements, explains Milly Wastie

After 13 years as a member of NFYFC, as its Chairman I wanted to give back to the Federation all that it had given to me. The Federation kept on giving even in my year at the helm – I learnt so much more about myself and others, and at times it tested my abilities and confidence.

My passion for this great organisation helped me to take on some major challenges and together with the support of a fantastic team, I succeeded in making changes.

I hit the ground running by launching a national road safety campaign in an effort to save lives on rural roads.

Partnerships with leading organisations and celebrities helped to promote the Drive it Home campaign in the media and attracted the attention of Government ministers.

My goal was to roll out training and education to the membership and it was great to see hundreds of members benefit from free training courses with Brake and discounted driver training with Drive Doctors. This training would not have been possible without the support of our funding partners NFU Mutual and the Rural Youth Trust.

I hope that road safety remains on club programmes and I will continue to campaign on these issues.

Best of British

Alongside the campaign, I also championed NFYFC’s Best of British theme and worked with the industry to promote agriculture. I attended the Oxford Farming conference, the NFU Conference and I was also the face of the national Great British Beef Week campaign (I had my leg pulled a few times there!)

I was honoured to represent NFYFC at the Love British Food Harvest Festival at Westminster Abbey, where I was invited to deliver a reflection on farming to hundreds of school children, celebrities, dignitaries and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall.

Giving back

It was also amazing to be nominated for a Farmers Weekly Farming Champion award for my commitment to R.A.B.I., NFYFC and instigating the Drive it Home campaign.

But among all these highlights, the true moments I will treasure are those that I spent with members. Visiting the Youth Forum weekend, Annual Convention, the agricultural shows and YFC rallies as well as travelling to Poland for the IFMA World Congress – these are among my most happiest times.

It has been a great pleasure to represent NFYFC and I hope I managed to give back a little of what I gained throughout my time as a proud member.

“My passion for this great organisation helped me to take on some major challenges”
Leading from the front

The skills and confidence gained through Young Farmers’ Clubs are helping to create our future farmers, rural entrepreneurs and leaders. Benefiting from NFYFC’s unique mix of training, competitions and travel opportunities, our members are shaping rural communities and the agricultural industry.

Campaigning on the issues affecting rural young people has been a major focus for Young Farmers in 2013. The Federation has worked together to feed into industry reviews, to influence Government policies and to change attitudes.

Our members have expressed opinions on agricultural policy as well as on broader issues such as rural road safety and mental health. Members have spoken out in the media and met with Government ministers and leading industry figures to get their voices heard.

These opportunities are helping to create our future leaders – and are backed up by YFC training, a varied competitions programme and worldwide travel.

It is our members who ensure the Federation meets the needs of the Young Farmers of today and tomorrow. Fresh ideas and plans are made in each of our five Steering Groups that cover Agriculture and Rural Affairs; Personal Development; Competitions; Communications, Events and Marketing and the Youth Forum. These groups ensure the Federation continues to be led by members for members.

Agriculture and Rural Affairs

It has been a crucial year for young people in British agriculture, and NFYFC have led the way in ensuring that young farmers across England and Wales receive a fair deal for the future.

As members of the European Council for Young Farmers (CEJA), NFYFC had the opportunity to attend important debates in Brussels to influence negotiations around the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) Reform. CEJA’s efforts were recognised and support for young farmers was made compulsory for European countries in the latest CAP.

The next challenge is to ensure English young farmers receive as much support as possible. NFYFC responded to the UK’s CAP consultation, calling for direct payments and access to training and mentoring for young farmers. NFYFC’s CEJA representatives also met with the newly elected Minister for Agriculture George Eustice to ask for more support for young farmers.

NFYFC continued supporting the British dairy industry in 2013 delivering a petition with more than 2,500 signatures to the Government that called for a better future for young people working in dairy farming.

Members have also represented young farmers at a number of events throughout the year, ensuring their views are heard. ARAC Chairman Chris Bateman joined other YFC members for a debate on the future of the family farm at the Oxford Farming Conference and spoke at the NFU Conference about the ‘Next Generation of Farming’. Chris raised awareness of NFYFC’s research into a farming opportunity matching service for which a working group of organisations has now been created to look into its development.

The Agriculture and Rural Affairs Forum 2013, which takes place at NFYFC’s Annual Convention, provided hundreds of YFC members with the chance to voice their views on the future of British agriculture. David Fursdon, leader of the industry-wide review into the Future of Farming was a panelist at this year’s forum and gathered
It is our members who ensure the Federation meets the needs of the Young Farmers of today and tomorrow.
feedback from YFC members. Other panellists included the then CEJA President Joris Baecke and Lantra’s National Director for England Madge Moore, who chaired discussions on the opportunities available for young farmers.

The ARAC committee continued to provide training events which help YFC members develop their agricultural knowledge and skills. Successful courses included Tenancy Training with Savills and an event with NatWest looking at business start-up and YFC finances. The popular Meat for the Market training with Eblex has also helped YFC members develop their beef and lamb stockjudging skills.

New for this year was a competition and training day with the British Grasslands Society called Grass Farming for the Future, which taught YFC members more about grassland management.

Support from Defra has been vital in helping NFYFC develop the skills and abilities of our future farmers.

Communications, Events and Marketing

Socialising and building friendships is one of the key reasons why people love being a member of Young Farmers’ Clubs. That’s why NFYFC creates events and communication channels that help to connect the membership and strengthen relationships across England and Wales.

This year the Events Steering Group also took on the challenge of guiding NFYFC’s communications and marketing, and have helped to ensure more YFC members have ever can keep up to date with events across the organisation.

A communications survey, conducted early in the year, showed members preferred to receive email communication about events and that more than two thirds read every issue of Ten26 – with family and friends enjoying a read too! The results helped to shape the new monthly email newsletter the YFC Buzz and to develop content for the printed magazine.

The YFC Buzz has proven to be popular in 2013 with more than 17,000 subscribers. The newsletter shares the latest news and activities from around the Federation – with updates on training opportunities and events as well as stories and photographs from members.

Social media activity was increased in 2013, with more coverage at events, competitions and during Council meetings. A successful Facebook campaign also grew NFYFC’s fans to more than 20,000, enabling the Federation to connect with and chat to existing and potential members through the popular social media channel.

The CEM Steering group have also offered support to clubs and counties with their own communications by developing a social media guide to help YFCs recruit and engage with their members safely online.

Our social media platforms were used to help drive publicity around The Drive it Home campaign throughout the year – and also to
build interest and engagement in NFYFC’s Annual Convention.

Ticket sales for this year’s event in Blackpool were the highest for five years. More than 5,000 YFC members attended the three-day event, which played host to national competition finals, the Annual General Meeting and the ARAC Forum. Evening entertainment was provided by live bands and celebrity DJs, and included a spectacular Where’s Wally fancy dress evening with thousands of YFC members creating a sea of red and white throughout the beach resort.

Other events in 2013 included a day at Cheltenham Races in November for The Open. Hundreds of members attended the discounted event and gathered in the YFC marquee to enjoy the racing.

Events, campaigns and competitions were also publicised through the media in 2013 – with appearances by members on national and regional television and in publications.

Competitions

Competitions are at the heart of YFC from club to national level and this year’s competitions programme celebrated the very best of British crafts and produce.

At the Malvern Autumn Show, Young Farmers cooked tasty four-course meals using locally sourced produce and crafted floral displays depicting the theme of Best of British. Members were able to showcase their talents to thousands of visitors who were at the Show over the weekend.

The Best of British competition theme was integrated into the Photography and Christmas Card competitions, where artistic YFC members were challenged to reflect British culture in their artwork. The winning card designs were reproduced in time for Christmas and are now on sale in the YFC Shop.

The NFYFC competitions programme is
constantly evolving to meet the needs of our diverse membership and this year was no exception. In sports, Ultimate Frisbee was successfully included as a new competition and the Tug-of-War competition found a new home at the Tenbury Show. For the first time, regional finals were added into the Public Speaking competition to allow more YFC members the opportunity to take part.

At this year’s Annual Convention in Blackpool spectators were treated to the Best of British entertainment with the national finals of the YFC Ballroom Dancing, Cheerleading and Drama competitions, as well as Senior Member of the Year which was won by Devon FYFC’s Paul Glanvill.

NFYFC have continued to work closely with other agricultural organisations to help develop the knowledge and skills of members who take part in our competitions. This year we teamed up with the British Wool Marketing Board (BWMB) for a knitting competition, which challenged members to create a knitted garment using 50% British Wool.

The English Beef and Lamb Executive (EBLEX) also continued to support the Stockman and Young Stockjudge of the Year competitions, helping YFC members to develop vital stockjudging and animal husbandry skills.

This competition year has been an opportunity to celebrate our British heritage and traditions, as well as the truly diverse skills and abilities of YFC members.

Personal Development

The opportunity to meet young farmers from across the globe has long been a unique selling point of YFC and has allowed thousands of members to discover new cultures, make friends for life and represent their country.

In 2013, YFC’s international travel programme got a new name, YFC Travel, and a new lease of life. By listening to feedback from YFC members, the programme was refreshed with trips that met the expectations of a new generation of Young Farmers. Promotion through social media raised awareness of these opportunities, and this year the applications nearly doubled.

In the coming year 46 members will be jetting off on eighteen different trips ranging from a three month working scholarship in New Zealand to a sailing holiday for under 18s. In January, 270 YFC members also took part in another successful YFC Ski trip to Alpe D’Huez in France.

As well as sending members abroad, NFYFC hosted the Rural Youth Europe Autumn Seminar and welcomed 40 young people from across Europe. The week-long event in Worcestershire focused on rural innovation and entrepreneurship and was so successful that plans are afoot to host a European Rally in the future.

NFYFC’s training programme has also seen some new initiatives in 2013. The Train the Trainer course has taken to the road, with courses being delivered at an Area level to make them more accessible for members. A Trainers Forum has also been launched, which provides extra support and advice for YFC members delivering training at a club and county level and allows YFC trainers to shape future NFYFC training initiatives.

The Personal Development steering group have also launched a pilot project for an externally accredited qualification that recognises the skills and abilities of YFC office holders.

Our youthwork team have continued to ensure that YFC is a safe place for our members and volunteers. This year our safeguarding and anti-bullying policies have been updated and a new safeguarding vulnerable adults statement has also been adopted. New sections have been added to The Source, a complete guide to starting and running a Young Farmers’ Club, with more information on volunteering, social media and running safe social events.

Youth Forum

The Youth Forum continues to thrive, and in 2013 it became the fifth NFYFC Steering Group, enabling them to be a voice for YFC’s youngest members on a national level.

The Forum represented NFYFC on the British Youth Council (BYC) and their call for more field-to-fork education in schools was accepted into the BYC manifesto. The group are now developing an educational resource with Farming and Countryside Education (FACE), which will be piloted in schools.

As well as looking to the future, the Youth Forum have also been celebrating NFYFC’s past by planning the burial of a YFC Time Capsule at the site of the first YFC in Devon. The capsule will be buried in 2014 and includes information and news sent in from YFCs across England and Wales.

The Forum have also worked with NFYFC’s other steering groups to ensure their projects cater for younger members. An under 18s sailing trip was included in this year’s YFC Travel programme and new YFC merchandise has been developed for our Club Shop.

With new members joining every year the Youth Forum continues to evolve and be at the forefront of innovative NFYFC initiatives that benefit the whole of YFC.
TOBY FRANCE, PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

“My aim for the year was to break down barriers for members, allowing them to access and engage with the training and travel opportunities NFYFC offers.

I spent a life-changing week in Strasbourg at the European Youth Centre, which really helped me to connect with the many YFC members who take part in our travel programme.

One of the highlights of my year was joining the Youth Forum meeting and hearing about their ideas and plans for YFC. I was delighted to propose to Council that they should become a Steering Group and they now enjoy the recognition they deserve.

We have achieved a great deal in a short space of time and I am confident that the Steering Group will continue this success in 2014.”

CHRIS BATEMAN, ARAC

“This year has passed so quickly, especially with the arrival of my son last December! It has also been another incredible year for the ARAC Steering Group. One of the highlights for me was attending the NFU conference and to sit on the panel for a session on the next generation of farming. The room was packed to the rafters and it was a fantastic opportunity to sell YFC and everything we are doing for the future of agriculture. I would like to say a huge thank you to the committee for their support and to the NFYFC ARAC both old and new. I hope to continue flying the flag for ARAC and for Young Farmers.”

GARETH LAKING, CEM

“This was a very special year for the Steering Group as we have now taken on the role of overseeing communications, marketing and fundraising as well as events. We really hit the ground running, and have made huge progress in the way NFYFC communicates with grassroots members. We’ve really been working to bridge the gap and make more members aware of the opportunities available to them. The future of the Steering Group is very bright and I think the events we put on for members will just keep getting better and better!”

HANNAH TALBOT, COMPETITIONS

“Being NFYFC Competitions Chairman is one of the best roles I have had in the organisation. It’s been wonderful to meet such a diverse range of members enjoying so many different competitions. It is a challenge meeting the needs of our varied membership, but their positivity in developing the programme makes it all worthwhile. The task now is to link our competitions with the work of other steering groups as well as making competitions easier to run at county and area level. I wish the committee the best of luck for the future and hope they can continue to develop competitions for the membership.”
National Competition and Trophy winners 2012/13

From floral arts to stockjudging, Young Farmers from across England and Wales have been showcasing their skills and earning awards for their achievements.

ENGLISH WINTER FAIR 2013

21 & Under Beef Live & Carcase
Herefordshire A – David Long
26 & Under Beef Live & Carcase
Herefordshire A – Richard Garlick
21 & Under Pig Live & Carcase
Herefordshire A – Thomas Bennett
26 & Under Pig Live & Carcase
Cumbria B – Richard Fox

ANNUAL CONVENTION – BLACKPOOL 2013

Senior Member of the Year
Devon – Paul Glanvill
Drama – Brecknock
Emma Bayona-Martinez, Lucy Cooper, Mainwen Davies, Sioned Davies, Rhys Davies, Deryn Evans, Daniel Evans, Niall Evans, Ben Gwillim, James Healey, Sian Healey, Vicki-Lynn Healey, Vicki-Marie Hope, Poppy Hughes, Tom Jones, Claudia Jones, Shain Lewis, Greta Lewis, Daisy Lynch, Amelia Morgan, Rebecca Price, Jade Price, Arwen Price, Tamara Price, Cailtin Price, Tomas Pugh, Sara Thomas, Hannah Walker, Robert Williams, Eleri Wyn Roberts
Best Actor – Cumbria
James Dean
Best Actress – Brecknock
Mainwen Davies
Ballroom Dancing – Derbyshire
Joe Birch, Alex Birch, Fiona Beck, Jake Beck, Amy-Beth Needham, Lucy Thompson, Charley Mycock, Louisa Robinson
Cheerleading – Pembrokeshire
Emily Rigby, Lisa Davies, Alistair Coated, Sioned Dugmore, Jodie Edwards, Angharad Dugmore, Laura Jones, Sophie Dyer, Nia Bevan, Scott Robinson, Rebecca Jones

COMPETITIONS DAY 2013

Handicraft – Knitted Garment – Derbyshire
Anne Wildgoose
Christmas Card – Worcestershire
Beth Dennis
Art Video Clip – Radnor
James Powell, Daniel Powell, Lauren Bradford
Cube Exhibit – Warwickshire
Jennifer Simpson, Matthew Wright
Junior Member of the Year – Devon
Hellen Bellew
16 & Under Reading – Brecknock
Lucy Thomas, Morley Jones, Geraint Workman
16 & Under Speaking – Yorkshire
Charlotte Gibbon, Alice Hyland, Kate Leeming
Best Chairman – Shropshire
Christina Evans
Best Speaker – Brecknock
Elin Harvard
Best Vote of Thanks – Yorkshire
Alice Hyland
21 & Under Braintrust – Devon
Lucy James, Sophie Grills, Bradley Howells, Helen Bellew

BEST CHAIRMAN – Devon
Sophie Grills
Best Panelist – Cornwall
Matthew Allen-Hosken
26 & Under After Dinner Speaking – Essex
Rachel Bush, Steven Myrott, Victoria Apter, Jess Middleditch, William Dutch
Best Speaker – Shropshire
Paul Williamson
Situation Vacant – Lancashire
Robert Walker
Photography
Community – Alun Roberts, Pembrokeshire; YFC – Luke Cox, Wiltshire; Charity – Hollie Harris, East Riding of Yorkshire; Rural Life – Sam Roberts, Warwickshire; Seasons – Jessica Wright, Herefordshire A; County Shows – Jessica Wright, Herefordshire A; Light side of Farming – Eve Hooper, Somerset; Landscape – Maria Muntz Torres, Worcestershire; Machinery – Jessica Wright, Herefordshire A; Weather – Maddy Sharp, Gloucestershire; Tradition – Jessica Wright, Herefordshire A; Livestock – Owen Hearn, Bedfordshire

SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP 2013

Mixed Dodgeball – Yorkshire
Ladies Rounders – Yorkshire
Annabelle Sowray, Olivia Warters, Sally Turnbull, Lottie Farrow, Harriet Beecroft, Emma Burnby, Louise Knight,
Rachel Adams, Lauren Dobson, Alice Turnbull
Mens 5-a-side Football – Carmarthenshire
Gareth Griffiths, James Dickson, Aled Walters, Seimon Walters, Merily Hughes, Robert Jones
Mixed Ultimate Frisbee – Derbyshire
Charley Mycock, Joanne Gregory, James Hodgkinson, Nathan Townsend, Suzanne Cooper, Emily Hulme, Fiona Beck

DAIRY EVENT – GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW 2013
16 & Under Dairy Stockjudging – Yorkshire A
Megan Beecroft
21 & Under Dairy Stockjudging – Cumbria A
Robert Lawrence
26 & Under Dairy Stockjudging Linear – Yorkshire C
Jennifer Booth

TENBURY SHOW 2013
Ladies Tug of War – Worcestershire
Megan Powell, Amy Stinton, Katie McKay, Nicola Yarnold, Bethan Dennis, Aimee Dennis, Harriet Beaumont, Demelza Hall
Men’s Tug of War – Staffordshire
Joe Bailey, George Goodwin, James Keny, Hugo Parrott, Ian Robinson, Lee Robinson, Tom Taberner and Aiden Wheeler

Mixed Gensb Tug of War – Lancashire
Alex Garner, Janie Hodge, Mark Watkinson, Sam Reeves, James Henshaw, James Garner, James Eckersley, Sarah Baker, Andre Wilkinson

FARM SKILLS WEEKEND – HARPER ADAMS 2013
Young Stockjudge of the Year – Glamorgan
Rhian Lewis
Senior Stockjudge of the Year – Gloucestershire
Rhys Beynon-Thomas
Fence Erecting – Shropshire
Jack Morris, Huw Thomas, Daniel Powell
Efficiency with Safety – Pembrokeshire
Caryl Bevan, Rhysdar Bevan, Alistair Lawrence, Berwyn Warlow

MALVERN AUTUMN SHOW 2013
Cookery – Herefordshire B
Zoe Scott, George Goring, Megan Watkins
16 & Under Floral Art – Herefordshire B
Anna Hunt
21 & Under Floral Art – Herefordshire B
Fay Thomas
26 & Under Floral Art – Devon B
Jacalyn Dobson

NATIONAL TROPHY WINNERS
NFU Trophy – Cumbria
(Championship County Federation, NFYFC – Competition Finals 2012/13)
Tug Wilson Trophy – Derbyshire
(Reserve Champion County Federation YFC Competitions Finals 2012/13)
The Worshipful Company of Farmers – Derbyshire
(Champion small County Federation whose membership is among the toasts 50 per cent of Counties, NFYFC Competitions Final 2012/13)
Merrick Burrell Trophy – Northampton Town & County
(County Federation with the largest percentage increase in membership over the past three years ending the 31st August, 2013)
Sidney Fawcett Trophy – Caroline Baker, County Durham
(Member making the greatest contributions to the democratic proceedings at the AGM)
The Prince of Wales – Devon
(County Federation raising the most money per member for a charitable cause)
The Lionel Hill Trophy – Ivybridge YFC
(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 – Caroline Trude – Devon (Canada Ag Summit)
(The best PowerPoint Presentation produced by a participant of the Discovery Programme 2013)
NFYFC’s Top Trainers Award for 2013 – Victoria Niccolls, Hampshire FYFC
(To recognise excellence in delivery and continued hard work of YFC trainers who deliver the Curve modules).
Grassroots greatness

Chairmen from each of the six areas of England and from Wales that make up our national Federation reveal their 2013 highlights

West Midlands Area

One of the highlights from my year as Chairman has to be the West Midlands Area round of the national Drama competition. There was so much time and effort put in to some really successful productions, and Shropshire FYFC ended up coming second in the national finals, which was a fantastic achievement. As well as a number of competition successes, we’ve also hosted some great training events and our counties have continued to help each other and work as a team. It has been an excellent year and I’ve really enjoyed visiting and supporting the counties. Hannah Talbot.

South West Area

This year every one of the six counties in the South West Area represented the region in national competition finals, which made me so proud to be part of YFC. A special mention must go to Devon FYFC members Paul Glanvill and Helen Bellew who were crowned national Senior and Junior Member’s of the Year respectively. The South West Area Activities Weekend in Weymouth was a highlight of 2013 with two days of socials, competitions and sports. Taking on the role of Chairman and helping plan this weekend was one of the best decisions I have made. Not only did we have a great weekend with nearly 2,000 members, but I also made a lot of friends and learnt more about how YFC works at a regional and national level. Joy Davenport

Wales YFC

Wales YFC have enjoyed another successful and exciting year. We raised £25,498.22 for the British Heart Foundation Cymru, Wales YFC’s charity of the year. Greg James, Jameela Jamil and S Club entertained 14,000 party-goers at the Young Peoples Village. The Wales YFC Council approved a new committee structure to give members more of an input into their organisation and a Strategic Plan was launched at the Senedd during the Wales YFC Fresher’s Weekend. We also launched a Llyndy Isaf Scholarship in partnership with the National Trust. Members have also taken advantage of our International Programme to visit various countries. The Eisteddfod saw 124,000 people tune into the live broadcast by S4/C. We are extremely grateful to our members, supporters and sponsors for all their support over the past year. Gwennno Griffith

Wales YFC

Chairmen from each of the six areas of England and from Wales that make up our national Federation reveal their 2013 highlights
The highlights for me this year have to be the three competition days that Northern Area hosted. They were so well organised and the county committees and staff were really helpful. Competitions are always keenly contested, from the Greasy Pole competition at field day to Member of the Year – the standard is high. It was especially good to see such a great turn out at the stockjudging finals and our team from Cumbria was crowned national Dairy Stock judging champions. This year we redrafted the constitution in Northern Area to ensure we continue to provide relevant support to our members. We also held a successful training day, demonstrating that there is an appetite for accessible training in the Northern Area.

Sam Buckton

We started the year with 20 members braving the snow to attend a training weekend focused on managing YFC events. This was put into practice during our competitions weekend in Skegness, which saw a great turnout from across the Area and a very high standard of competition. Derbyshire FYFC members were particularly successful and went on to win the national Ballroom Dancing competition. The Ashby Show was another highlight of the year, and a great opportunity to showcase our members’ talents. Being East Midlands Area Chairman has been a great way to meet new people from across the Area and learn more about how YFC is run at a county level.

Rob Goodwin

2013 was a great year of competitions for the Eastern Area with a national win for Essex FYFC in Public Speaking and Bedfordshire FYFC reached the Ballroom Dancing finals. One of the highlights for me was the Area Summer Competitions Day, which was a great opportunity for all counties to come together and for members to get to know each other. In a smaller region it is sometimes hard to generate attendance, but last year was great and a brilliant team ably assisted me. Young Farmers is all about making friends and learning skills and I hope that the Eastern Area Committee of 2014 can help put on great events and competitions to make this happen.

Duncan Howie

This year has been a challenging one for South East Area, but our members have really pulled together to support each other. We are now more united, with a committee that works well together and a plan for the future, including recruiting a member of staff to support the Area. It has been a real privilege to be Chairman this year and to be surrounded by a committee of passionate YFC members and supporters all keen to move forward. A particular highlight was seeing members fly the flag for YFC during competition days; the standard and dedication was so impressive. I hope we can build on the momentum we have gained this last year and have an even better 2014.

Stuart Jakeman
AUSTRALIA: (above) Howard Kennerly from Ashford YFC spent seven weeks on a family farm in Tasmania: “If I’d visited Australia as a tourist I don’t think I would have enjoyed it half as much or seen as many things as I did by going with YFC. The whole process is designed for young farmers and I can’t describe how good it was.”

NEW ZEALAND: (right) Helen Walker from Halesworth YFC spent four months working at Limestone Downs farm thanks to sponsorship from C Alma Baker: “I was in the most amazing place in the whole wide world. If you want to go travelling but prefer a more structured visit, then this is definitely the best way to do it.”

Global adventures

Our unique travel programme gives Young Farmers the opportunity to experience rural communities and farming life in a different part of the world, thanks to support from the NFU Charitable Trust. We also welcome international young farmers to visit our clubs in England and Wales

AUSTRALIA HOMESTAY
(Australian Rural Youth)
Outbound: Howard Kennerley (Staffordshire)
Inbound: Heidi Broun

AUSTRIA HOMESTAY
(International Farm Youth Exchange)
Outbound: Scarlett Allen (Derbyshire) and Katy Kirkham (Leicestershire)
Inbound: Sara Zwart and Julia Potzlberger

CANADA HOMESTAY
(Junior Farmers Association of Ontario)
Outbound: Tristan Thomas (Cornwall)
Inbound: Amanda Henderson

CANADA U21S HOMESTAY
(Canada 4H)
Outbound: Alice Bird (County Durham) and Kirsten Hoggard (Nottinghamshire)
Inbound: Hannah Dixon and Chantal Davidson

GLOBAL YOUTH AG SUMMIT
(Canada)
Outbound: Donna Tavernor (Staffordshire), Caroline Trude (Devon) and Rebecca Watkins (Herefordshire)

GERMANY HOMESTAY
(International Farm Youth Exchange)
Outbound: Tom Worthington (Worcestershire) and Caroline Barlow (Staffordshire)
Inbound: Ramona Landsmann and Tanita Drenikow

NORTHERN IRELAND
(Young Farmers’ Clubs of Ulster)
Outbound: Amanda Jackson (Cumbria) and Emma Stubbs (Staffordshire)
Inbound: N/A

NORWAY HOMESTAY
(International Farm Youth Exchange)
Outbound: Sian Pritchard (Clwyd)

SCOTLAND HOMESTAY
(Scottish Association of Young Farmers’ Clubs)
Outbound: Joe Hamer (Shropshire) and Tom Wilkes (Staffordshire)
Inbound: N/A

SWEDEN HOMESTAY
(International Farm Youth Exchange)
Outbound: N/A

RURAL YOUTH EUROPE
(Spring Seminar)
Outbound: Toby France (Warwickshire) and Nicola Chegwidden (Cornwall)
Inbound: Linnea Wallin

SWITZERLAND HOMESTAY
(International Farm Youth Exchange)
Outbound: Kate Lobb (Cornwall)
Inbound: Esther Hani

RURAL YOUTH EUROPE
(Autumn Seminar)
Outbound: Karl Hockenhull (Staffordshire) and Robert Dronfield (Derbyshire)

RURAL YOUTH EUROPE
(Rally)
Outbound: Kerry Procter (Cumbria) (leader), Greig Farmer (Leicestershire), Matthew Timmis (Staffordshire), Laura Bond (Devon), Josiah Jones (Kent)

NEW ZEALAND WORKING EXCHANGE
(C Alma Baker Trust)
Outbound: Simon Walgate (East Riding of Yorkshire), Annabelle Heath (Shropshire), Adam Wilson (Leicestershire), Alice Morley (Derbyshire)

FRANCE: (top) Gareth Laking from Alford YFC visited Strasbourg for the Rural Youth Europe Seminar: “The seminar was a great opportunity to be part of the team and I learnt so much from talking to and working with all of these different organisations.”

CANADA: (left) Caroline Trude visited Canada for the 2013 Youth Ag Summit: “We were taken on several visits throughout the Summit to make us think about food production and relationships between producers, processors and consumers and it was the trip of a lifetime.”
A new NFYFC President took the helm at the 81st Annual General Meeting, where members packed out the Winter Gardens in Blackpool to vote.

After a successful two years, television presenter Matt Baker stepped down from his role as NFYFC President at the 2013 AGM, and handed over the position to Poul Christensen.

Matt chaired the AGM for the last time and told members that it had been “an honour and a joy to be part of such an exciting organisation.”

Despite Matt’s departure, members welcomed the news that former Young Farmer Poul Christensen was willing to be the new figurehead for the Federation. A director of a successful family dairy farming business and with experience in roles with leading organisations such as Natural England, members were delighted to vote in Poul as their new President.

Hundreds of members packed out the Winter Gardens to attend the AGM, which was held during three days of competitions and entertainment at NFYFC’s Annual Convention.

Agenda items included a proposed five per cent increase in the National Levy, the amount that each member pays in membership fees to NFYFC. After some passionate speeches by members both for and against the increase, the motion was eventually defeated.

There was also a proposal that the membership fees for Associate Members should be increased from £5 to £10, but once again members used their voting power to defeat the motion.

During the proceedings, honours were awarded to a number of dedicated NFYFC supporters, with the election of two new Deputy NFYFC Presidents, Diane Coles and Linda Savage, and the re-election of Christopher Hunt, David Herbert, Alethea Snelling, Richard Camp and Gwynne Davies.

Rod Tuck from Norfolk and Delme Harries from Pembrokeshire were also elected as NFYFC Life Vice Presidents.

Delme is a driving force in Wales YFC, and has held several positions including County Chairman of Pembrokeshire, Chairman of Wales YFC and was the first ever Welshman to be elected Chairman of Rural Youth Europe.

Rod Tuck has been involved with YFC for 50 years, from his days in Old Buckingham and then Diss YFC. He has been Eastern Area President since 1976 and sat on the NFYFC Board of Management for five years, where he was the voice of the Eastern Area.

The 81st NFYFC Annual General Meeting finished with the presentation of various trophies for fundraising, competitions and travel, as well as the Sidney Fawcett trophy, which was awarded to Caroline Baker for making the greatest contribution to this year’s AGM. Oxfordshire FYFC collected the Prince of Wales Trophy, for raising £24,000, which is the most money raised per member for charity in the Federation.
# Membership returns

**AS AT 31ST AUGUST 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGLAND</th>
<th>TOTAL OPEN CLUBS</th>
<th>TOTAL SCHOOL CLUBS</th>
<th>TOTAL 10-26</th>
<th>TOTAL CLUBS</th>
<th>TOTAL LEADERS</th>
<th>TOTAL ASSOC.</th>
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## THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS’ CLUBS
### SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013

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<tr>
<td>Unrealised gain on revaluation of investments 146,838</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer between funds 5,553</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS</strong> (52,079)</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fund balances at 1 January 2013 1,381,773 181,544 778,395 2,341,712 2,117,930

**FUND BALANCES AT 31 DECEMBER 2013** 1,329,694 196,544 854,404 2,380,642 2,341,712
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS EMPLOYED</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangible fixed assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>16,942</td>
<td>15,931</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Listed</td>
<td>2,065,384</td>
<td>1,781,292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Unlisted</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stock - Club supplies</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debtors &amp; prepayments</td>
<td>165,944</td>
<td>374,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank &amp; in hand</td>
<td>389,451</td>
<td>435,756</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NET CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>298,313</td>
<td>544,486</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>2,380,642</td>
<td>2,341,712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FUNDED BY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted funds</td>
<td>854,404</td>
<td>778,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted funds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- designated</td>
<td>196,544</td>
<td>181,544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- general</td>
<td>1,329,694</td>
<td>1,381,773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2,380,642</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The information in these pages is a summary of the Federation’s Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2013.

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:

- defra
- HOPS
- NFU Mutual
- NatWest
- Moto Valley Farmers
- SiLOTITE
- RURAL YOUTH TRUST
- Young Farmers Ambassadors
- Australia Bicentennial Committee
- NRM Mutual Charitable Trust
- MAREY FERGUSON
- Tama

Meet our supporters

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