



Minutes of the Competitions Steering Group Meeting

Held on Saturday, 20th October, 2018 - The Quality Hotel, Birmingham Road, Allesley, Coventry, CV5 9BA

Chairman : Fay Thomas (Herefordshire)

Vice-Chairman: Dewi Parry (Clywd)

Present: Fay Thomas (FT) (Competitions Chair, EWF Rep 2018, West Midlands Area), Dewi Parry (DP) (Competitions Vice Chair 2018, Wales), Charlotte Tomkins (CT) (Eastern Area), Ed Harris (EH) (South West Area), Matt Hosken (MH) (South West Area), Grace Millbank (GM) (East Midlands Area), Christina Coulthard (CC) (Northern Area), Natalie Moore (NM) (Northern Area), Lisa Legge (LL) (West Midlands Area), Kate Edginton (KE) (Co-option to Council), David Hamer (DH) (Tug of War Rep, Northern Area)

Part Meeting:), Lynsey Martin (LM) (Chair of Council), Matt Caldicott (MC) (NFYFC Deputy Chief Officer), James Eckley (JCE) (NFYFC Chief Officer), Josie Murray (JM) (NFYFC Youth Development Officer), Cath Sykes (CS) (NFYFC Development and Training Manager), Jess Whitwell (JW) (NFYFC Board of Management), Katie Hall (KH) (Vice – Chair of Council), Laura Elliott (LE) (Vice- Chair of Council)

Observers: Beatrice Dyer (BD) (South West Area), Elen Williams (EW) (Glamorgan)

In Attendance: Margaret Bennett (MB) (NFYFC Competitions Officer), Lauren Hancox (LH) (NFYFC Competitions and Events)

1. **Opening remarks** - Fay welcomed everyone to the meeting
2. **Apologies for Absence** - Rachel Parker (RP) (Ex – Chair of Competitions, Lancashire), Mark Harding (MH) (Co-option to council, County Durham), Katie Davies (Wales) (Eastern Area), William Hill (WH) (East Midlands), Emily Blount (EB) (South East Area), Thomas Oatey (TO) (Co-option to Council)
3. **To confirm minutes of previous meeting (23rd June, 2018)** - Lisa Legge proposed the previous meetings' minutes as a true and correct record, Christian Coulthard seconded this. FT signed the minutes of the meeting 23rd June 2018.
4. **Matters arising from steering group minutes**
 - 4.1. Report from Council – to be discussed under relevant headings where applicable
 - 4.2. Competition Budget & Fundraising to date – MB went through the competitions budget and fundraising for the past competitions year, a hand out was passed around the group. MB explained that sponsorship was received of £10,000.00 which was up by £2,000.00 more than 2017. The total cost to date was Income £17,661.67 and an expenditure of £21,550.11 which shows a deficit to date of -£3,888.44. The figure did not include the English Winter Fair and some costs for Cookery and Floral Art. The group were asked for future fundraising/sponsorship ideas, the group were asked to discuss this with their areas and bring ideas to the next meeting. Pantomime costs were lower than previous years, despite a lost deposit for the Southern Final and bad weather affecting the Regional finals.
 - 4.3. Public Speaking Video launched on the website in September – LH had been working with NFYFC's IT Officer in order to produce video guides alongside written 'How-to' guides on the NFYFC website. These were now available for members to use for training and practice prior to speaking competitions. EH expressed his gratefulness for these training aids.
 - 4.4. Update on NFYFC Competition/Event Cancellation Policy – MB shared an update with the Committee and advised that the document would be made available in The Source and sent out to all Counties. BD commented that when SWA had to cancel their event they used teleconferencing as an effective way of communicating between all Counties. DP said that Wales had a similar document and would make this

available to NFYFC. SWA also agreed to send their cancellation policy to NFYFC along with West Midlands Area.

- 4.5. National Calendar – including County, Area and NFYFC Dates – LH informed the group that not all counties replied to a request, after the June meeting, for their competitions calendar. Each of the seven areas had sent in a calendar. This data was collated and entered on to a Google calendar; this is available to view online and downloadable. LH will send an email out to the CSG with information on how to access the calendar.
- 4.6. Smart Farming Guide is available on competitions page of NFYFC Website- A link to the Smart Farming Guide can be found on the NFYFC Competitions Page alongside the Public Speaking Videos
- 4.7. At the June meeting CSG members were asked to think of ways to fundraise for the Performing Arts Competition – MB advised that NFYFC’s Fundraising Officer was looking in to charitable trusts as a way to support the Performing Arts Competition. DP advised that Wales broadcast their Performing Arts competition via a local TV channel and this is possibly something that could be looked into.
- 4.8. Competitions Facebook Group – Members of the CSG were reminded to join the Facebook group ‘NFYFC Competitions Steering Group’. The group said they thought a Facebook group would be a good way to monitor engagement within the steering group, to send out messages and for CSG members to send apologies if they were unable to attend meetings. Help with stewarding etc.

Action Points

- Send an email out to the CSG with information on how to access the calendar - LH
- SWA and Wales to send Cancellation Policy to NFYFC – Wales/SWA
- NFYFC Cancellation Policy into The Source and sent out to Counties – MB
- Members to join the Competitions Steering Group on Facebook – MB/LH/All CSG

5. **PD Matters** –

Josie Murray joined the CSG at 4.30pm to discuss the following:

- 5.1. Safeguarding - Parental Consent Forms & Adult Information Forms – Medical Information and Photographic information is to be included on YFC membership forms; this will then be held on the NFYFC database. JM explained to the CSG the need for parental consent forms prior to competitions and how it would be beneficial to receive an adult information form for those competitors aged over 18. JM explained that an adult information form would not be compulsory, it would be the over 18’s choice to disclose any information however, should there be a medical issue it would be beneficial for NFYFC to be notified of this especially for higher risk competitions such as Sport or Tug of War. Staying Overnight prior and during National/Area Competition Finals – LL asked about travelling to and from competitions. A sentence is to be added to the guidance stating that travel arrangements are at the discretion of the member and/or their parent or guardian, guidelines around travelling to and from YFC competitions can be found in The Source. LL asked about supervising and competing at the same time – this scenario will be added in to the guidance stating that the under 18 will be supervised by NFYFC when their designated supervisor is competing.
- 5.2. Transgender Guidance – JM had been in touch with the Tug of War association regarding Transgender and Transneutral competitors. Guidance has been provided from the Tug of War association and NFYFC will adopt this within the own guidance for Tug of War. NFYFC will adopt the guidance of the sporting governing body for each of the sport competitions. A paragraph would be drafted and this would be brought forward to the next meeting for adoption.

Cath Sykes joined the CSG at 5pm to discuss the following:

- 5.3. Using ‘The Source’ for Club Nights – CS reminded the CSG that the Source contains valuable information their YFC Club’s can use during club nights.
- 5.4. NFYFC is a partner organisation signed up to the Environmental Steering group of the #iwill campaign. The steering group’s aim is to develop and deliver the environmental strand of the iwill campaign with a particular focus on: increasing the amount of environmental youth social action opportunities available and the number of young people participating in them, and helping to sustainably embed related policy and practice in organisations by 2020. The group is supporting the 2019 the Year of Green Action which starts to implementing the government’s 25 year environmental plan. There are 3 key strands under this Connect, Protect and Enhance. Based on this, the steering group was asked ‘If we were to run a national campaign what could we do? Ideas for community projects were requested. EH put forward ideas such as plastic reduction, litter pick, or a beach clean in coastal

YFC areas. GM asked if it would be possible to put a recycling theme to one of the competitions, potentially the cube exhibit. DP mentioned that Wales had a community tree plant where YFC members each planted a tree representing their membership. The Committee supported the #I Will Campaign.

6. **To receive relevant correspondence**

6.1. Letters received – to be discussed under the headings of the competitions if applicable

7. **Competitions since the last meeting**

7.1. **Competitions Day – Saturday 30th June, Stafford County Showground, Staffordshire**

- 7.1.1. Reading (14 & Under) – no comments received
- 7.1.2. Public Speaking (16 & Under) – no comments received
- 7.1.3. Just a Minute (21 & Under) – no comments received
- 7.1.4. Debating (26 & Under) – no comments received
- 7.1.5. Member of the Year (17 & Under) – Feedback from the Youth Forum, members have said that they need more guidance on questions at County and Area level to what questions should be asked as it is a big step when competing at the National Final. Youth Forum also commented on the location of JMOTY in 2018 – they found it noisy and would prefer the competition to be held in its usual venue, the venue of the competition will be back to the Staffordshire YFC Centre in 2019. Competitors commented on the length of Competitions Day and asked if there could be some sort of entertainment provided. DP asked what sort of entertainment would they like. FT to take the question to the Events and Marketing steering group. MH & GM both commented on NFYFC events which are held at shows and how this showcases YFC to the public. MB explained the reasoning before Competitions Day not being held at a show – reasons include time of year and number of competitions and the overall factor being the cost.
- 7.1.6. Situations Vacant (16-21) – no comments received
- 7.1.7. Dream Machine – Letter received from Hampshire regarding a fine given for a competitor not turning up on the day, MB/LH explained the reasoning and that a response had been sent to the competitor. There was no further correspondence from the competitor. KUHN representatives were pleased with the Competition. CSG asked if it would be possible to do this type of competition in the future but without the need for the competitor to attend on the day – this will be discussed at a future date. LL asked if competitors could compete in this competition and one other on Competitions Day – MB explained that yes, they were able to.
- 7.1.8. Clay Pigeon Shooting (26 & Under), (17 & Under), (Ladies) – email comments were sent in from Shooting Ground regarding excessive use of clays, a larger number was used than in previous years. Stewards commented that many clays were broken in the traps before being released; this may have had something to do with the heat. Extra prize money was given by Shooting Ground for two highest shots. In future additional stewards are needed for this competition. 2018 – 2019 rules have been amended to remind competitors they need to bring their own gun as a number of competitors arrived on the day expecting to borrow a gun from the shooting ground.
- 7.1.9. Fence Erecting – Comments received regarding hard ground and heat. LL fed back from Herefordshire that the team felt water should have been provided. To note that water was available on site. LL mentioned the standard of wire was not high enough for a National final, DH said it was possible the company provided ‘seconds’ opposed to the wire sold in store. All wire is provided free as the competition is supported by Betafence. A stake broke during the competition; MH asked if spares could be provided in future. All wood comes from a local supplier so extra wood could be sourced. MB reminded the CSG that sponsorship was high for this competition with both Rutland Fencing and Betafence supporting.
- 7.1.10. Workshop Skills – Oxfordshire sent a letter to NFYFC querying the marks for the First Aid element – Arley stated First Aid skills were not adequate overall; Arley offered feedback on the competition and have kindly offered First Aid training courses should members wish to train in First Aid. The 2018 – 2019 rules for this competition state: ‘**Suggested equipment:** First Aid Kit’. To note, that this competition will be renamed as Farm Safety Skills in 2018 – 2019. GM stated that her County really enjoyed this as it was a practical competition broken down into the different elements, was there a possibility that each task could be run as a separate competition? MB said this would be possible at a County level but Areas would need to follow similar rules for the National Final as a practice. This year at the National Final it proved difficult when the individuals came together for the health and

safety quiz at the end as in some cases the four competitors did not know each other from the same county.

- 7.1.11. Outside Exhibitors & Sponsors including Woodstream (Rutland Fencing), HOPS, Warwick Uni, Betafence, B&B Tractors, Farm Safety Foundation and YFC Travel were present
- 7.1.12. High amount of Fines for the day – this was mainly due to no shows in the Dream Machine Mood Board competition

7.2. **Sports Day – Sunday 1st July, Stafford Grammar School, Staffordshire**

- 7.2.1. Mixed Dodgeball (10-16) – To note we are no longer working with UKDBA. NFYFC are now working with British Dodgeball. Comments received from Oxfordshire regarding the length of the competition, competitors felt it was too short and they would have liked to have played a few more games. DP had stewarded this competition and advised it was a quick game due to the scoring system and there being no set time frame for games.
- 7.2.2. Mixed Hockey (16-26 – There were issues with goals at Rugeley leisure Centre, DP and David Heminsley had to create backboards as these were not present. A letter received stated difficulty in running this competition at county/area level, Eastern Area, Northern and West Midlands Area all agreed with the comments in the letter stating that they had trouble in running this competition. Finding kit for the goalkeeper was mentioned as difficult more than once. MH advised that Cornwall have kits which clubs share when playing hockey. LL commented on the size of the pitches, it was not a true to size Hockey pitch but it was the same for everyone. FT stated this was due to the heat, length of matches and what was available.
- 7.2.3. Mixed Ultimate Frisbee (16 -26) – no comments received

7.3. **Dairy Stockjudging & Sheep Shearing – Thursday 12th July, Great Yorkshire Show, Harrogate**

- 7.3.1. Dairy Stockjudging (u16, u21 & u26) – suggestion from NA to use regional stewards. MB asked NM to provide names of potential stewards. NM mentioned there had been allegations of cheating amongst competitors – FT advised this was noticed and dealt with on the day i.e. back chatting to Stewards and use more than the card provided.
- 7.3.2. Stock from Exhibitors – Comments received that Stock Handlers felt they had not been properly thanked for their contribution. MB said they were thanked and received a meal. DP asked if could offer a quick thanks as they left the ring. MH said the commentator could maybe do this. LL suggested putting a thank you note in with the packed lunches provided. LL fed back from Herefordshire that there was annoyance that a group of competitors had arrived late and only the juniors had been able to compete, the seniors had been disqualified. FT explained that the seniors did not arrive with the juniors and turned up around 20 minutes later without explanation as to where they had been, this had led them to not being able to compete as the cows had been returned to the sheds when they had arrived. FT asked the group to remind their Counties and Clubs to speak to judges with respect when competing.
- 7.3.3. Handlers – no comments received aside from those above.
- 7.3.4. Sheep Shearing (Under 26) – This competition will run again in 2018 – 2019. CC commented on how brilliant she thought the competition was and really enjoyed Stewarding the competition.
 - 7.3.4.1. Suggestions came from Richard Schofield into future of competition including a Novice Class, the most Competent Shearer and changes to the date of the competition. CSG discussed this and agreed to keep the competition on the same day further discussion is listed under 2019 – 20 competitions and to leave the competition as the same as 2017/2018.
 - 7.3.4.2. Only 11 competitors out of possible 20 turned up on the day of the competition. This led to a number of fines.
 - 7.3.4.3. Sponsorship from British Wool totalling £200

7.4. **Tug of War Championships – Saturday 4th August, Tenbury Show, Worcestershire**

- 7.4.1. Ladies and Men's Tug of War
 - 7.4.1.1. Concerns raised by judges regarding use of belts a letter was received from Tug of War judge Peter Craft. MB read the letter to the group. Peter noted that one competitor had worn a belt that was illegal under the rules of the competition. He also mentioned that some competitors had been rude to the judges and that this was not acceptable. All CSG are to remind their members to respect judges and the competition.

- 7.4.2. GENSB Tug of War
- 7.4.3. A letter was received with regard to an over 18's Fine in Tug of War. The fine had been issued due to the member not providing a membership card on the day, the card had been forgotten due to a problem with memory loss linked to Dyslexia. The fine was cancelled as NFYFC is an inclusive organisation, this led to discussion around members over 18 providing any medical information stewards and judges should be aware of via an Adult Information Form to allow for provisions to be made if required by the member. NM was concerned that those competing in Tug of War may see this as a chance to use an excuse for preferential treatment. More discussion on this is required. It was felt that appropriate questions could be asked to ascertain if there was a genuine reason.
- 7.5. **Stockjudging Competitions – Saturday 1st and Sunday, 2nd September, 2018 (Dawtry Cottage Farm, Staffordshire)**
- 7.5.1. Stockman of the Year – Senior – Saturday
- 7.5.2. Project and Vet Tasks – Saturday – The project has been reviewed by the judge of the vet tasks, Andy Clough. Andy has made suggestions on how the project can be revamped with new topics and appropriate scenarios. The CSG were asked whether they agreed to Andy producing the project for review at the next Council weekend. CSG agreed to this.
- 7.5.3. Sponsorship ABP and Woodstream (Rutland Fencing)
- 7.5.4. Stockman of the Year – Senior – Sunday
- 7.5.5. Stockman of the Year – Junior - Sunday
- 7.5.6. Identification of Meat and VET questionnaire – A letter was received from Eastern Area suggesting the questionnaire was too hard for 10 year old. GM said that EMA also felt the project was too difficult for the younger members. It was noted that County and Areas could as a vet to produce a questionnaire with less questions if required.
- 7.5.7. Stewards noted that there was a large amount of talking whilst waiting, between Competitors. All CSG were asked to remind their members this is not acceptable. Competitors mentioned that Placing Cards did not have enough space for writing reasons for 6 animals. MB explained this is due to a surplus of stock where logos had been printed on the wrong side. CSG asked if two cards could be provided for seniors in future –agreed this would be fine. Once the surplus of stock is used placing cards will be printed blank double sided. CSG requested that 'Clipboards must be see through/transparent' be put in to the rules for this competition as there were problems with solid clipboards on the day of the event. LL asked if NFYFC could provide these clipboards. MB advised NFYFC had a number of wooden clipboards which could be used.
- 7.5.8. Comments received as to why do competitors have to join again for the New YFC Year to compete? MB advised the group that competitors are not insured unless they are current members of a YFC club; competitors that are not current members are unable to compete. LH informed that competitors may compete as Associate Yfc members but for Stockman of the Year and Malvern competitions **only**. FT asked the CSG to remind their Counties & Areas that members must put a photograph of themselves on their membership cards as without it the card is not valid.
- 7.6. **Malvern Autumn Show – Saturday,29th and Sunday, 30th September, 2018**
- 7.6.1. Cookery – Saturday 29th – split into two sessions. NA asked if there was the possibility of using different judges. MB advised that the regular judges used were professionals and thoroughly enjoyed working with NFYFC. This could be discussed again at the next Council Weekend and to ask the current Judges to see if they had a contact for another judge to work alongside them. A comment was received that it was difficult for the general public to read the labels of the teams. Therefore, next year a set of labels would be visible under each exhibit giving the team name.
- 7.6.2. Floral Art – Sunday 30th – competitors felt the day went on as the judges took a rather long time to judge all exhibits. Can this be improved upon? Possibility was to ask the Judges to move a different areas so that the floral art section could be opened up. It may be possible to put the tables in a different way next year but we do have to be careful of the drainage channels. As judges/stewards to check the buckets before competing to ensure that nothing had been pre-done i.e. twisted leaves etc.
- 7.6.3. New location on Three Counties Showground – Wye Hall – GM commented on feedback regarding the the new location and how much better EMA competitors felt the day went.

7.6.4. The NFYFC Youth Forum commented that they felt it was off putting being interviewed prior to competing at Malvern. Comments were received suggesting they felt 'ambushed'. MB & LH to feed this back to NFYFC's media team.

7.7. **Competition Monitoring for 2017/18 – Update on findings** - LH presented the findings of the 2017/18 Competitions Monitoring forms. The CSG were shown a presentation and provided with an accompanying report detailing competition participation and costings. Number of overall competitors in NFYFC Competitions Finals 1747; The cost per yfc member (23,311) = £4.67 for the whole programme; the cost per yfc member taking part with a direct benefit (the number of participants at county level 21,224 = £5.13; Most popular competitions at County level – performing arts and tug of war; Most popular NFYFC finals – tug of war, performing arts, floral art and cookery and Dairy Stockjudging. A huge thank you was given to all Judges, Stewards, Supporters, Hosts for all their help with the competitions programme.

Action Points

- Competitors commented on the length of Competitions Day and asked if there could be some sort of entertainment provided? Take the question to the Events and Marketing steering group. – FT
- Would it be possible to do a Dream Machine type of competition in the future but without the need for the competitor to attend on the day – this will be discussed at a future date. – All CSG
- Provide names of regional stewards for Dairy Stockjudging – NM
- Further discussion is required around over 18's filling out adult information forms – All CSG
- Talking between competitors is not allowed – reminder to all members – All CSG
- Two placing cards to be provided for seniors to allow space for writing 6 sets of reasons – LH/MB
- 'Clipboards to be transparent' to go in to rules – LH/MB
- Reminder to Counties that all membership cards must have a true photographic likeness of the member on them to ensure they are valid – All CSG
- Cookery Judges – can we use alternate judges in the future? Further discussion required – All CSG
- Floral Art Judging took a long time. Possibility of this improving? – All CSG
- Competitors not to be interviewed for NFYFC social media/publications prior to competing – MB/LH

Council to Note

- Stockman of the Year project is being revamped and presented for review at the February Council weekend

8. Meetings/site visits since previous meeting

- 8.1. English Winter Fair
- 8.2. Tug of War Association – DH asked the group if they were happy with the judges provided. CSG agreed that they were happy and would like the judges to stay the same. DH will review the rules and add in a note regarding the use of belts in to Tug of War competition guidelines.
- 8.3. Performing Arts Venues – This was discussed under 2019 – 2020 competitions

Action Points

- Add in a note regarding the use of belts in to Tug of War competition guidelines - DH

9. UPCOMING COMPETITIONS FOR 2018/19 (Matters Arising)

10. Suggestions for Judges for 2018/2019 – to be sent to County Offices for nominations

10.1. English Winter Fair – Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th November 2018

- 10.1.1. Beef Live and Carcase (26 & Under) and (21 & Under) (note new age range)
- 10.1.2. Pig Live and Carcase (26 & Under) and (21 & Under) (note new age range)
- 10.1.3. Sponsors SBAS, AHDB & Woodstream (Rutland Fencing)
- 10.1.4. Herdsman Supper - £10.00 – Counties reminded to book their tickets early to get in as this is a popular event.

- 10.1.5. Update on Safeguarding regarding overnight stays – this point was discussed when Josie Murray – NFYFC Youthwork – entered the meeting and would be added to the pack to send to competitors.

10.2. Regional Finals

- 10.2.1. Northern Regional Final - Public Speaking – on 23rd March 2019, Retford Oaks School
- 10.2.1.1. Northern Regional Final –Entertainments – on 24th March 2019, The Majestic Theatre, Retford – GM asked why the regional finals were held so early in the year. MB explained that this was due to the date of Annual Convention in previous years and ensuring that the programmes and information was collated in time for finals. Also Northern teams did not wish to make it later in April due to lambing.
- 10.2.1.2. NODA Judges & Comperes
- 10.2.1.3. Sponsorship, Programmes & Trophies
- 10.2.2. Southern Regional Final - Public Speaking – on 23rd March 2019, TBC – MB told the CSG this date was Hartpury College’s open day, usually Hartpury offer the college as a venue free of charge. However, this year, the open day may mean NFYFC finals are unable to be held on this date. BD asked whether the Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester would accommodate the finals? Since the meeting the venue has been confirmed as Hartpury.
- 10.2.3. Southern Regional Final – Entertainments - on 24th March 2019, The Bacon Theatre, Cheltenham
- 10.2.3.1. NODA Judges & Comperes
- 10.2.3.2. Sponsorship, Programmes & Trophies

10.3. Final of Performing Arts, Show Choir and Ballroom Dancing Finals – Date and Venues TBC, Spring 2019

- 10.3.1. Performing Arts – Entertainments four quotes had been received and it was agreed to go with The Spa Centre, Leamington Spa – Saturday, 11th May, 2019 and The Annual General Meeting would be held on Sunday, 12th May, 2019 at Stoneleigh Park.
- 10.3.2. Comperes needed for the Final of the Entertainments Competition
- 10.3.3. Comperes needed for the Final of the Dancing & Choir Competitions
- 10.3.4. NODA Judges to be used at the Final of Entertainments Competition
- 10.3.5. Sponsorship, Programmes and Trophies
- 10.3.6. Tickets/Wristbands – Ticket prices to be confirmed at February meeting.
- 10.3.7. Rules – amendments were made to the rules where a duplicate paragraph had been noticed. These rules were approved by the CSG and will be circulated to Counties. MH commented that Cornwall have changed the marks slightly to incorporate the effective use of stage.
- 10.3.8. Body of Persons Exemption to be applied for. MB to confirm when this is granted.

10.4. Member of the Year 18 & over - Committee to decide where this final will be held – Date and Venue – options: with Entertainments Final or Competitions Day – CSG confirmed they would like to hold this final with the Entertainments Final on the Saturday with the interviews and stage interviews and the results to be given during the Annual General Meeting.

10.4.1. Show Choir & Ballroom Dancing Competition Finals.

- 10.4.2. Show Choir and Ballroom Dancing – the two venues were either Competitions Day or on the Sunday afternoon of The Annual General Meeting. It was agreed to hold the finals at Competitions Day. This decision was going to be made once the AGM date had been set.
- 10.4.3. Charging entrance fee – CSG agreed in unison that they did not wish to charge for this event.
- 10.4.4. How many competitions can you enter on one day? (General Rules to reflect this) – CSG discussed this at length and it was agreed that if a member was competing in the Ballroom Dancing or Choir then they would only be able to take part in one of the competitions - they can do ballroom and one other or choir and one other. The General Rules 2018 – 19 would need amending to reflect this, specifically the amount of competitions a member could enter on the day. MB/LH to amend the General Rules accordingly once a decision had been made.

10.5. Competitions Day, County Showground, Stafford, Saturday, 6th July 2019

- 10.5.1. Reading (14 & Under)
- 10.5.2. Public Speaking (16 & Under)
- 10.5.3. Brainstrust (21 & under)

- 10.5.4. After Dinner Speaking (26 & under)
 - 10.5.5. Member of the Year (17 & under)
 - 10.5.6. Situations Vacant (16-21)
 - 10.5.7. Clay Pigeon Shooting (26 & under and 17 & under and Ladies) – rules to include clarification on why under 14's cannot compete; this has been added in to the 2018 – 19 rules.
 - 10.5.7.1. Additional stewards needed for this competition – CSG to ask Counties/Areas for potential Stewards. SWA noted that they have a judges & steward database in their area and could provide this to NFYFC.
 - 10.5.8. Cube Exhibit (26 & Under)
 - 10.5.9. Auctioneering (26 & Under)
 - 10.5.10. Fence Erecting (Corner Fence) (3x 26 & Under) to note age change as agreed at last meeting
 - 10.5.11. Farm Safety Skills – Back to team of 4 format with Foreman for 2018 – 19 – CSG had previously asked if this competition could be made easier at County Round? The group discussed this and agreed that Counties could run the four tasks as separate competitions if needed; this is only at County level. To ask Honda to look at the rules to ensure that we are complying with the rules and regulations.
 - 10.5.12. Outside Exhibitors & Sponsorship
 - 10.5.13. Input from other steering groups –Youth Forum – suggested a competition they could watch (similar to YFC Live) and something to do whilst waiting for results as for some it is a long day. FT suggested asking Events and marketing for ideas on ways to entertain competitors and visitors whilst waiting for results.
- 10.6. **Sports Day – Staffordshire, Sunday, 7th July 2019. Working with Governing Bodies – Stafford Grammar School**
- 10.6.1. Mixed Rounders (10-16) – rules comments – it does not state in the rules – if you don't hit the ball you can only go to first base – also if you do hit the ball once the bowler has the ball in his/her box then the batting member must stop running? – clarification needed. LH to call Rounders England and ask for definite wording for NFYFC rules.
 - 10.6.2. Mixed Touch Rugby (14 - 17)
 - 10.6.3. Mixed Netball (16 – 26) – rules amended after comments received from members. The rules were updated and checked by the relevant netball governing body. The rules are now ready to be circulated to Counties.
- 10.7. **Dairy Stockjudging & Sheep Shearing – Yorkshire Agricultural Society – Great Yorkshire Show – 11th July, 2019**
- 10.7.1. Dairy Stockjudging (U16, U21 & U26)
 - 10.7.2. Sheep Shearing (26 & Under)
 - 10.7.2.1. Blue Seal training – British Wool have offered subsidised training for the 2018 – 19 competitions year for the Blue Seal in Shearing and Wool Handling. These training opportunities are to be publicised in January 2019
 - 10.7.2.2. For 2018/2019 – At the National Final each competitor to shear one sheep and a special award to be given – on skill rather than speed – this was discussed by the CSG and it was decided that the format of the Shearing competition would stay the same.
 - 10.7.2.3. For 2018/2019 – to look at how to split the competition – one suggestion – Class 1 - for a member who has only just received their 'Blue Seal' – Class 2 – for a person who has at least a Bronze level. The Shearing competition is to stay the same in 2018 – 19. CSG to discuss potential changes to the format after 2019 competitions.
 - 10.7.2.4. Bath and West Agricultural Society have extended and Invitation to hold the Regional Finals of this competition to the South West Area. MB passed this message on to the SWA representatives present at the meeting.
- 10.8. **Tug of War Championships – Tenbury Show – Saturday, 3rd August, 2019**
- 10.8.1. Ladies & Men's Tug of War
 - 10.8.2. GENSB Tug of War
 - 10.8.3. Potential 5 Nations Tug of War Contest – DH to ask about the potential of running this event alongside the Rural Youth Europe Rally and feedback at the next meeting.

- 10.8.4. CSG were asked if training courses be provided by NFYFC to train new Tug of War judges. Course would cost around £35 per member, once trained members would pay an annual subscription fee of £50 to the Tug of War Association. CSG members were keen to pursue the course. DH asked if the course could be run at Stoneleigh Park.
- 10.8.5. Venue from 2019-2023 will be Tenbury Agricultural Show
- 10.8.6. A request was received from Brecknock Show Committee to hold the final of this competition at the show. This was discussed by the CSG as a potential future venue as NFYFC is holding the final at Tenbury Show until 2023.
- 10.8.7. Permits for holding Tug of War Competitions – CSG were reminded to inform their Clubs and Counties that permits must be applied for prior to commencing Tug of War training. Permits cost approximately £20.
- 10.9. **Stockjudging Competitions – Saturday 31st August and Sunday, 1st September, 2019**
- 10.9.1. Stockman of the Year – Senior
- 10.9.2. Project and Vet Tasks – Saturday – Project is to be revamped by Judge/Professional Veterinarian
- 10.9.3. Sponsorship ABP and Woodstream (Rutland Fencing)
- 10.9.4. Stockman of the Year – Junior
- 10.9.5. Identification of Meat and VET questionnaire
- 10.9.6. Ideas for a Venue – The Wright Family, Dawtry Cottage Farm, Cannock have hosted the competition for the previous two years. The Wright Family are happy to host again.
- 10.10. **Malvern Autumn Show – Saturday, 28th and Sunday, 29th September, 2019**
- 10.10.1. Cookery – Saturday 28th – split into two sessions as in previous years. Competitors required to cook for the RBST Gala Dinner using meat from the RBST Watch List – A question was raised as to how do we know what meat has been used? It was agreed that the following line was to be removed from the rules: **Teams must include at least one rare or native breed in their menu as listed in the RBST Watch list 2018-19** . The rules now read: Teams must promote a rare or native breed in their displays as listed in the RBST Watchlist 2018-19. CSG asked if the watch list be attached to the Rules and Competitor Notes.
- 10.10.2. Floral Art – Sunday 30th – The CSG discussed the rules for this competition and asked if it was possible to return to NAFAS rules and judging criteria. MH asked if NFYFC could alternate between the two judging styles for this competition. FT said NAFAS were potentially more suitable. CSG agreed that NAFAS judges are to be used for 2018 – 19 competition along with their rules. An updated set of rules would be produced and circulated to counties.
- 10.10.3. It was agreed by the CSG that for the Floral Art, Cookery and Cube Exhibits that all backboards must be neat, tidy and compliment the theme.

Action Points

- Suggestions for Judges for 2018/2019 – to be sent to County Offices for nominations – All CSG
- English Winter Fair Herdsman Supper– Counties reminded to book their tickets early as there are a limited number of 100. – All CSG
- Hartpury college are holding an open day on 23rd March 2019, this coincides with the Public Speaking Finals. Can NFYFC host the finals here on this date? – MB/LH – now confirmed
- Contact RAU, Cirencester about the potential of holding finals there – MB/LH
- Body of Persons Exemption to be applied for – MB
- Update General Rules regarding Competitions Day participation – LH/MB
- Additional stewards needed for the Clay Pigeon Shooting competition – to ask Counties/Areas for potential Stewards – All CSG
- SWA to provide judges and Steward database to NFYFC. – SWA Representatives
- Ask NFYFC Events & Marketing Steering Groups for ideas on how to entertain competitors and visitors during breaks at Competitions Day – FT
- Clarify Rounders rules wording and update NFYFC rules accordingly – LH
- Publicise British Wool subsidised training for the 2018 – 19 competitions year for the Blue Seal in Shearing and Wool Handling in January 2019 – MB/LH
- Discuss potential changes to format of Shearing Competition after 2019 Competitions – All CSG

- Potential 5 Nations Tug of War Contest – DH to ask about the potential of running this event alongside the Rural Youth Europe Rally and feedback at the next meeting. – DH
- Reminder to all Counties that tug of War permits must be purchased prior to tug of War training beginning – All CSG/MB/LH
- Attach RBST Watchlist to Cookery rules 2018 – 19 – LH
- Send Floral Art rules to NAFAS to check – MB/LH

11. **Competitions Rules 2019 – 20**

11.1. **Rule Writers & Proof Readers** – CSG asked to feedback to NFYFC any names

11.2. **Rules ready for approval – to go through in the meeting**

- 11.2.1. Theme – CSG decided there is to be no overall theme for the 2019 – 2020 competitions year
- 11.2.2. Beef Live & Carcase
- 11.2.3. Lamb Live & Carcase
- 11.2.4. Performing Arts (Drama) – Dates for this competition will be confirmed at a future CSG meeting.
- 11.2.5. Member of the Year (18 & Over)
- 11.2.6. Reading (14 & Under)
- 11.2.7. Public Speaking (16 & Under)
- 11.2.8. Just a Minute (21 & Under)
- 11.2.9. Debating (26 & Under)
- 11.2.10. Member of the Year (17 & Under)
- 11.2.11. Situations Vacant (16 to 21 years)
- 11.2.12. Clay Pigeon Shooting (26 & Under 17, Ladies)
- 11.2.13. Dairy Stockjudging - (Under 16, Under 21 and Under 26)
- 11.2.14. Tug of War – Ladies & Men’s – Discussion took place again around members providing a second form of ID when booking in to compete. It will be compulsory for all competitors to provide secondary ID when booking in for this competition.
- 11.2.15. Young Stockman of the Year (18 & Under)
- 11.2.16. Senior Stockman of the Year (26 & Under)

11.3. **Rules for further discussion – suggestions to replace the 2019 Competitions (New Ideas)**

The following competitions were chosen for 2019 – 20:

- 11.3.1. Commercial Dance (26 & Under)
- 11.3.2. Cheerleading (26 & Under)
- 11.3.3. Cube Exhibit (26 & Under)- with an environmental theme possibly ‘re-cycling’
- 11.3.4. ‘On the News’ (26 & Under) – a live news broadcast on scenarios provided by NFYFC
- 11.3.5. Fence Erecting – DH to provide a new design – this year will feature a straight fence
- 11.3.6. Farm Safety Skills – new scenarios to be prepared. NFYFC to monitor the area rounds of this competition and ask for feedback from Competitors at the February meeting. EH asked if JCB could sponsor this competition, this was a potential but needed to be discussed with NFYFC’s fundraising officer. An update on ATV certification is needed. Possible use of a PTO and ATV.
- 11.3.7. Three Sports Competitions were discussed and the group decided on the following: Kwik Cricket (10 – 16), Male football (16 – 26), Ladies Netball (16 -26)
- 11.3.8. Sheep Shearing – including BISCA rules and Blue Seal Qualification
- 11.3.9. Tug of War – GENSB only
- 11.3.10. Cookery– celebration dinner – the theme for the cookery competition in 2020 will be ‘Best of British’
- 11.3.11. Floral Art – U16, U21, and U26 – themes were discussed at length but no final decision was made. The theme of the Floral Art competition will be discussed again at the February CSG meeting. The question was raised as to whether the rules of this competition in 2019 – 20 should include a sentence stating that ‘Competitors buckets will be checked’ as stewards noticed a large amount of ready arranged foliage in competitors buckets at the 2018 event. This requires further discussion.
 - 11.3.11.1. Should Judges/Stewards be required to wear White Coats when competitors are? The CSG discussed this and decided it was at the judge or stewards own discretion.

11.4. **Suggestions for new competitions 2019 – 2020**

- 11.4.1. The potential of an Arable competition was brought up for discussion. CSG felt this was an AGRI matter and asked FT to approach AGRI steering group for their feedback. LM thought this competition would not attract many entries. CSG asked if a crop or soil related element could be added into the Farm Safety Skills competition such a crop judging using the ABXY system or crop related machinery.
- 11.4.2. Suggestions from Youth Forum for future competitions were read out during the meeting:-
 - 11.4.2.1. Sports - Bubble Football, Curling, Lacrosse, Bowls, Ten Pin Bowling, Badminton, Table tennis, Volleyball
 - 11.4.2.2. Craft – Needlework, Quilting, Knitting
 - 11.4.2.3. Dancing – Jive, Line Dancing,
 - 11.4.2.4. Potential overall themes: Tractors/Machinery, 'My home county' or 'British Farming/Food'
- 11.4.3. Call my Bluff – This competition will replace Just a Minute in 2019 – 20 and will be called 'Would I lie to You'

Action Points

- Potential Rule writers/Proof Readers names are needed – All CSG
- It will be compulsory for all competitors to provide secondary ID when booking in for Tug of War from 2019 – 2020 to be added to rules and all competitions – LH/MB
- New Fence Erecting design – DH
- Feedback required from Farm Safety Skills competition – All CSG
- Can JCB support/sponsor the Farm Safety Skills competition – MB/LH to discuss with Sophie Willingale
- Provide update on ATV certification – MB/LH
- Theme for Floral Art 2020 needs to be discussed at the February Council weekend – All CSG
- Should 2019 – 20 Floral Art rules include a sentence stating that 'Competitors buckets will be checked' as stewards noticed a large amount of ready arranged foliage in competitors buckets at the 2018 event. This requires further discussion. – All CSG
- Arable related competition – to ask ARGI for their thoughts and if they thought it viable to set up a working party – LH/MB

Council to Note

- There is to be no overall theme for the 2019 – 2020 competitions year
 - 2019 – 20 sports are as follows: Kwik Cricket (10 – 16), Male football (16 – 26), Ladies Netball (16 -26)
 - The theme for the cookery competition in 2020 will be 'Best of British'
 - Call my Bluff – This competition will replace Just a Minute in 2019 – 20 and will be called 'Would I lie to You'
12. **Area Feedback** – unless covered under agenda items above
- 12.1. Northern Area – CC asked why the 18/19 rules were released on the date they were. MB advised they were always released after Malvern competitions to avoid confusion.
 - 12.2. East Midlands – no comments
 - 12.3. West Midlands – LL can we use a powerpoint in Junior Public Speaking - MB advised that the powerpoint was only there as a 'still' of pictures as a background to enhance the speech. This is a speaking competition.
 - 12.4. Eastern Area & South East Area
 - 12.4.1. Concerns were raised by SEA & EA junior members regarding lack of competitions available in their areas as on some occasions no area eliminators are held. It is straight from county to national and this can be quite daunting. It was suggested that neighbouring Counties invite members to their competition finals to see the standard expected an Area finals. It was noted that in the rules it states that if an Area writes into the NFYFC Competitions Chairman and Committee then a decision could be made to have a composite team. However, this would only apply if there were no other entrants from a county within the Area. This would need to be done prior to the competition and not on the day.
 - 12.5. South West Area – no comments
 - 12.6. Wales – no comments

13. **Any other Business**

- 13.1. At the February Meeting – elections will take place for Chairman, Vice Chairman and Three Co-options
13.2. Can Counties provide their Judge and Steward databases to NFYFC to help with planning of future competition finals

Action Points

- Counties to provide their Judge and Steward databases to NFYFC to help with planning of future competition finals – All CSG

14. **Date of next meeting**

- 14.1. Saturday 16th February 2019

15. **Closing remarks**– the meeting closed at 6.20 pm

Summary of Action Points

- Send an email out to the CSG with information on how to access the calendar - LH
- SWA and Wales to send Cancellation Policy to NFYFC – Wales/SWA
- NFYFC Cancellation Policy in to The Source and sent out to Counties – MB
- Members to join the Competitions Steering Group on Facebook – MB/LH/All CSG
- Competitors commented on the length of Competitions Day and asked if there could be some sort of entertainment provided? Take the question to the Events and Marketing steering group. – FT
- Would it be possible to do a Dream Machine type of competition in the future but without the need for the competitor to attend on the day – this will be discussed at a future date. – All CSG
- Provide names of regional stewards for Dairy Stockjudging – NM
- Further discussion is required around over 18's filling out adult information forms – All CSG
- Talking between competitors is not allowed – reminder to all members – All CSG
- Two placing cards to be provided for seniors to allow space for writing 6 sets of reasons – LH/MB
- 'Clipboards to be transparent' to go in to rules – LH/MB
- Reminder to Counties that all membership cards must have a true photographic likeness of the member on them to ensure they are valid – All CSG
- Cookery Judges – can we use alternate judges in the future? Further discussion required – All CSG
- Floral Art Judging took a long time. Possibility of this improving? – All CSG
- Competitors not to be interviewed for NFYFC social media/publications prior to competing – MB/LH
- Add in a note regarding the use of belts in to Tug of War competition guidelines - DH
- Suggestions for Judges for 2018/2019 – to be sent to County Offices for nominations – All CSG
- English Winter Fair Herdsman Supper– Counties reminded to book their tickets early as there are a limited number of 100. – All CSG
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- Counties to provide their Judge and Steward databases to NFYFC to help with planning of future competition finals – All CSG

Summary of Council to Note

- Stockman of the Year project is being revamped and presented for review at the February Council weekend
- There is to be no overall theme for the 2019 – 2020 competitions year
- 2019 – 20 sports are as follows: Kwik Cricket (10 – 16), Male football (16 – 26), Ladies Netball (16 -26)
- The theme for the cookery competition in 2020 will be ‘Best of British’
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MB/LH
October 2018