



**Minutes of the 87th Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 12 May 2019, Stareton Hall,
Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire**

PRESENT: Charlotte Smith (President), Katie Hall (Chair of Council 2019), Lynsey Martin (Retiring Chair of Council 2018), Dewi Parry (Vice Chair of Council 2019), Rachel Goldie (Vice Chair of Council 2019), Dafydd Jones (Chair of Wales YFC 2019), Laura Elliott (Retiring Vice Chair of Council 2018), Delme Harries (Chair Board of Management), Fay Thomas (Chair of Competitions 2018), Megan Watkins (Chair of Youth Forum 2018), George Goodwin (Chair of Personal Development 2018), Michael Wood (Chair of Events & Marketing 2018), James Hutchinson (Chair of AGRI 2018), James Eckley (NFYFC Chief Officer).

AGM/01/19 PRESIDENT'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Charlotte Smith opened the 87th Annual General Meeting and was pleased to see so many young farmers at the meeting and noted that this was her 2nd AGM, she noted that there were some difficult debates to be had about the future of NFYFC, there were staff members in the room and she asked members to not make their debates personal. Charlotte stressed the strict timing process and those members wishing to speak to motions or amendments would be 2 minutes and with a lot to get through the microphones will be cut at the end of the allocated times.

CS gave housekeeping notes and asked members to put their mobile phone on silent, if any phones go off during the meeting members would be asked to donate £10 to RABI.

CS welcomed members of the Rural Youth Europe pre-rally committee and introduced Sebastian Lassnig, Chair of RYE. Sebastian addressed the meeting; "Thank you Madam President and top table, but most importantly fellow young farmers, I am honoured to be representing the Rural Youth Europe here today. We are very thankful for the invitation and for this great corporation we are having with NFYFC on a European level. Katie told me to keep it short but I wanted to mention only two things; this year the European Rally will be here in England and that it is a great thing, and we just had the Grand Prep Meeting this weekend with the local team here and it is going to be a fabulous event, this will happen in August and we are grateful that England is hosting it. Secondly, I wanted to mention that it is great that NFYFC are also supporting us with our Manifesto which we have just released a few weeks ago to empower young farmers and rural youth in Europe to raise the voice for rural youth, because as we are the minority we have to raise the voice loud to be heard, so it is great that you support this as well. So thank you very much for the invitation to be here, I wish you all a great AGM, and I am sure you all manage fine and in the name of RYE I am looking forward to a great Rally here in Cirencester at the Agricultural University, and thank you very much."

AGM/02/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: The apologies were displayed on the screen and any additional apologies were handed to Chris Lloyd for recording.

Katie Hall addressed the meeting "Thank you Charlotte. Please use your voting cards when voting. Please ask voting delegates to show their voting cards when voting. On the general business of the meeting the members shall vote by show of hands and the Chair of the meeting shall declare the result. If the result is close, a paper vote will be cast and the Tellers shall count the votes. The President or I will instruct you how to cast a paper vote using the numbers on your cards. Speakers, proposers and seconders to come up that the same time in order to save time.

Please particularly ask speakers to observe the time limits for proposers and seconders.

The time limits are: Proposers - not to exceed 4 minutes, Seconders - not to exceed 2 minutes. Those speaking to a Motion - not to exceed 2 minutes. If you would like to speak to a motion, please make your way to the lectern in the middle of the room. Form an orderly queue. Charlotte will invite you to address the meeting and speak to the motion in-hand. Always start your address by stating your name and County Federation. A time limit of 2 minutes does apply.

May I remind you that; (EXTRACT FROM THE STANDING ORDERS OF NFYFC GENERAL MEETING); “Any member may move, without debate, that the question be now put and, if the Motion be seconded and carried by a majority, the Motion or amendment before the meeting shall, after the Proposer of the Motion has been offered the right to reply, be at once put.”

Charlotte explained to the members the Sidney Fawcett Trophy, “Sidney Fawcett Trophy – awarded to the YFC member (member defined as a member aged 10 to 26 yrs of age) making the greatest contribution to the democratic proceedings of the NFYFC Annual General Meeting”. Charlotte introduced the judges for this competition Des Carless & Caroline Westwood, together with Sue Fellows the competition steward. Speak from lectern say who you are and where you are from and give your name to Sue afterwards.

Charlotte called upon Katie Hall to introduce the top table officers for this meeting.

AGM/03/19 INTRODUCTION OF THE TOP TABLE: *Katie invited the top table officers to introduce themselves to the meeting; Fay Thomas(Herefordshire), Megan Watkins (Warwickshire), George Goodwin (Staffordshire), Michael Wood(East Riding of Yorkshire), Dewi Parry (Clwyd), Laura Elliott (Glamorgan), Katie Hall, (Gloucestershire), Charlotte Smith (President), James Eckley (Chief Officer), Lynsey Martin (Kent), Delme Harries, (Pembrokeshire), James Hutchinson (Wiltshire), Rachel Goldie (Yorkshire), Dafydd Jones (Chair Wales).*

“Returning Officer and Chief Steward - Chris Lloyd, Scrutineers David Heminsley & Ed Ford, Tellers David Fellows, David Hamer & Adrian Willis.”

AGM/04/19 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 6 MAY 2018, in Blackpool. Charlotte Smith called for a show of voting cards and the minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 6 May 2018 held in Blackpool, were agreed as a true record and signed by Mrs Charlotte Smith. Charlotte Smith invited Katie Hall to take the chair for the next item.

AGM/05/19 MOTION FROM NFYFC COUNCIL

5.1 Election of President

“That Mrs Charlotte Smith be elected President from May 2019 to the next Annual General Meeting.” Proposer; George Baxter – Cambridgeshire FYFC, and David Goodwin - Warwickshire FYFC. George Baxter addressed the meeting; “ Good morning Madam President, fellow young farmers, and honoured guests, I am glad to see everyone here today all looking fresh than we might have done last year. I would like to thank Charlotte Smith for her ongoing support to the national federation throughout the previous year, which I know has not been an easy ride at times, but without fault she continues alongside the other three brave ladies and they stayed on course. I would like to propose Mrs Charlotte Smith be elected as President from May 2019 until the next Annual General Meeting. For those of you who are unaware of Charlotte’s background, she is a freelance journalist who presents BBC Radio 4 Farming Today and is a regular presenter on BBC1 Countryfile. After working in radio, regional television and BBC news journalist on BBC TV and Radio, a conversation in a lift of all places led to her going into rural affairs, and twenty years later she considers she has the best job in the BBC which I will not dispute. Charlotte was born and raised in rural Leicestershire but now lives in London with her husband, two children and a grumpy cat. Charlotte has been delighted to work with the young farmers and is a real ambassador for young people in farming, she is often found promoting the next generation in what is a challenging time for the industry. It is people like her that encourage us to do great things in the industry, and I know that she is a huge



inspiration to lots of people in this room including myself. Not only is Charlotte an Ambassador for young people but she is always up to date with the new trends, recently seen enjoying the up and coming food trends that are a bit quirky. The national federation has been fortunate to have had Charlotte present them as their President for the last couple of years and I would be delighted to see her re-elected for the coming year and I propose that Mrs Charlotte Smith be elected President from May 2019 to the next Annual General Meeting.”

David Goodwin addressed the meeting; “Good morning Madam President, fellow young farmers I would like to second the Motion that Mrs Charlotte Smith be elected President from May 2019 to the next Annual General Meeting. Charlotte is well known for her coverage of wide ranging agricultural issues often highlighting the most important issues to young farmers and to the wider industry. She has always been working behind the scenes to raise the profile of YFC and enabling opportunities for members to partake in events and interviews around the country, she has done an excellent job over the last couple of years of chairing very difficult council meetings and carrying this out in a very professional and orderly manner, she well known for being very strict with her timings and ruling us with a rod of iron, and her segways between motions and voting are famous, it is almost like being in a radio broadcast. She can be commended for tackling the misty waters of NFYFC tradition and regulations over the last 12 months at meetings where we have had some interesting changes in the agenda as we have been going through and I hope very much that you would join me in thanking Charlotte for her work thus far and in supporting Charlotte to be President over the next 12 months.”

Katie Hall thanked George and David and called for the members to vote on the Motion. The members voted unanimously for the election of Mrs Charlotte Smith, the Motion was carried. Charlotte addressed the meeting; “Thank you very much I am proud to be association with this organisation even as we navigate some difficult times, this is an understatement but this is a time of flux and challenge in farming in or out of Europe things will change and there is a lot of attention on the next generation who will feed us and who will look after our environment and that is you, and if I am honest I am quite glad it’s not me, you are going to need to keep your voice strong locally, nationally and internationally, you also need to remember to have fun, very few people get to my age and regret the time they spent being ridiculous with their mates, when I am referring to being ridiculous I am of course referring to being ridiculous in a safe and respectful manner, it’s not all hard work is it and if it is you are doing it all wrong. This will be my last year as President so let’s make it count, let’s have some fun, do some learning and achieve, thank you.”

AGM/06/19 5.2 Motion from NFYFC Council Deputy Presidents

“That the 2018 deputy presidents be thanked for their services to the federation over the past year and that the following be elected from May 2019 – to the next Annual General Meeting.”

Eastern Area	Teresa Pemberton	South West Area	Beatrice Dyer
East Midlands Area	Clifford Bell	Northern Area	Diane Coles
South East Area	Alethea Snelling	Wales	Owen Elliott
West Midlands Area	David Fellows		

Charlotte invited Lucy Stowell – Norfolk and Matthew Tucker – Glamorgan to proposed and second this motion.

With no one wishing to speak to the motion the members moved to a vote and the motion was carried.

Lucy Stowell addressed the meeting; “Good morning Madam President, honoured guests and fellow young farmers, it gives me great pleasure to propose that the 2018 Deputy Presidents be thanked for their services to the Federation over the past year, all of these individuals have helped their areas have incredible successful years and work with their Area Chairman to ensure that the ethos of the Federation is spread wide. I would like to propose that the names as printed on your agendas to be elected as Deputy Presidents from May 2019 to the next Annual General Meeting, each of these individuals as you see from their biographies have been involved in young farmers for a number of years and still continue to support the Federation now giving back their time through not only supporting the individual areas they look after but also the wider Federation also. Without these seven people helping to steer and guide their areas voluntarily and ensure



that the aims of the organisation are met constantly, we wouldn't be able to carry out the great work throughout England and Wales that we do at present."

Matthew Tucker addressed the meeting; "Madam President, honoured guests, fellow young farmers, it is with great privilege that I am here to today to second the nominations for Deputy President as set out in the agenda, those of you who know the individuals in question are no doubt aware their drive and commitment to this organisation is unparalleled and their continued support will be a massive contribution in driving us into the future, to that end I second the names as printed on the agenda to be elected as Deputy Presidents."

Charlotte called upon the members to vote on this Motion and voting was unanimous.

AGM/07/19 PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT 2018

6.1 "That the Annual Report for 2018 be adopted" Lynsey Martin addressed the meeting and noted that the Officer team are going to take a look back at what they appreciated was interesting from the past year and the best of YFC in 2018, and invited Delme Harries to give the report on behalf of the Board of Management and presentation of Audited Accounts.

6.2 To receive the report of the Board of Management and presentation of the audited accounts:

Delme Harries addressed the meeting: "Good morning, Bore da, Madam President, Madam Chair Lady, guests and fellow young farmers, I was honoured to be elected to take over the role of Board Chairman back in February and I must firstly thank Heather Black, retiring Board Chairman for her commitment to YFC over the last two years and also the retiring board members for their dedication to the organisation, particularly in the last year. You will have read the report of the board of management written by Heather and printed in the Annual Report, however as I am new to the role I am still finding my feet but I will share some thoughts with you. I am not new to YFC, I know how YFC works and I know that we cannot carry on as we were and we need to move YFC onwards, and I look forward to hearing the views of members through the work of the Vision: 2023 group, a group made up of YFC members who are working on our strategy for the future. They are working on this with the YFC clubs and will be visiting them and running sessions to hear what YFC members feel they need. Often I hear that NFYFC are not listening to the members but I must remind you that NFYFC is the members and we on the board are listening to the members and have listened over the last few years when the members have decided to use their democratic voice to vote against the proposed levy increases. These proposals are put forward to safeguard activities that the members want. We are faced with an ever changing world we different technology and different regulations these are changing all the time at a very fast pace and we will struggle to keep up with all the changes for the future of the organisation. Had we received the support of the members over the last five years then the levy proposed by council would have looked very different, you will all have read the supporting documents and information provided which gives all the background for the proposed increase and I sincerely hope you will consider the hard facts as well as the emotions when voting. I am grateful for the support of the new board and the staff team to ensure that we can continue to provide the varied activities, training and support, whilst ensuring that we comply with new regulations and charitable objectives, as a charitable organisation we have charitable objectives to adhere to and we have to consider these objections in all the work we do, and I am proud of all the work we do at all levels of this organisation and in particular in our clubs.

We are one of the very few member organisations to still provide activities to members face to face in the safe environment of a YFC club and long may that continue. We have a role to play in ensuring that young people in rural areas of England and Wales do not feel isolated, and we continue to include them in our organisation, our clubs vary a great deal and NFYFC needs to be everything to everyone. We as a board are faced with some challenges, we are currently reviewing the budgets with the aim of providing the services to you all without having an impact, however the deficit that we have in our budget must be addressed and we will have to consider all areas of our programme and activities to try and close this deficit.



We have a tarnished reputation we need to fix, the eyes of our allied industry are really on us and we have to build back our reputation of good citizens, good countrymen and good farmers, whilst at the same time having fun, learning and achieving, we all need to do this together, you to bring forward ideas, we need you to support your elected officers and we need to be us and not them, YFC is us, the board is made up of YFC members and independents, talk to us and I beg you all to support the board as we progress over the next 12 months and aim to make YFC the great place and organisation that it can be the best.

I would now like to present the annual accounts, I won't be very long I can assure you, the summary of the account you will find in the last two pages of the annual report, if you would like a full copy they are available from the NFYFC centre, which possibly some of you may not have seen before but it is opposite this building, in my day when we had the Royal Show the YFC centre was visible to everyone, and the AGM here has made that visible to you. NFYFC continues to have a strong balance sheet with most of its assets held in an investment portfolio, the principle reason for the reduction in assets from the 31 December 2017 is a lower market value in those investments at the 31 December 2018, this has since fully recovered to exceed the December 2017 value, however with a projected annual deficit in excess of (£300,000) from 2020 if no action is taken the Federation cannot afford to be complacent. The board are currently reviewing the budgets for 2020 and beyond and we are going to have to make some changes to ensure the YFC can continue into the next generation and for many generations after. This is necessary regardless of any decisions on levy. NFYFC has had to contribute to the shortfall in the pension fund relating to past service and the defined benefit pensions, NFYFC has been contributing since 2013 with the contributions previously made and now there has been provisions made for the full liability discounted to its present value, this change has been applied retrospectively and due to a change. A few points on the income and expenditure 2018 for you to be aware of the donation from HOPS is now recognised in the current year as before it has been accrued for in the preceding year. We are indebted to the work of HOPS and to the team based here at the NFYFC office and of course recognise that our business arm of YFC may be impacted with Brexit but we are really grateful for the work they do and for the donation they give towards the running of our Federation. Running a business to provide extra income is nothing new for NFYFC and has been a very successful business over the years, and long may that continue. Both grant and sponsorship income are up from 2017 the main reason for the grant increase is monies from the Jonathan Billing Trust of £40,000, for sponsorship the amount is lower the main factor was the lack of a fundraiser from Autumn 2016 to Spring 2017. Grants and sponsorship are not easy to find and we have to consider what we want from our sponsors and what they ask from us, we cannot always accept the sponsorship because they may want us to do things we are not comfortable with, it is all too easy to think that we can go and find money but we need to consider the impact this has on counties and clubs, because we do not want to be taking money you are also asking for. I must at this point thank all our funders and sponsors for their continued support of YFC.

The annual convention you will see had an increased income in 2018 compared to 2017 mainly to an increase in sales volume; this has been the usual pattern for sales in Blackpool which are higher than Torquay. However the numbers of members attending the AGM weekend as it was who didn't pay to be part of the weekend was increasing, a lot of members come along but don't take part so if we consider the volume of ticket sales have increased we are finding a pattern of more people coming just for the weekend and not being part of the activities we have arranged. The increased expenditure is mainly due to the direct staff costs allocated to convention as well as the staff have to arrange it, but please don't think that if we held it in 2019 we would see a convention surplus matching 2018, extra costs would have been involved in policing to do with reputation and that would greatly impacted on the event as well as the projected reduction in ticket sales, so it is not all about the ticket sales it is all the extra costs that would be incurred which would have been a lot more had it been held. Increased staff costs under Youthwork & Training due to the staff team being increased in 2017 to cope with the workload, so 2018 is the first year this will be reflected in the accounts. Without the changes in value of investments NFYFC has made a moderate surplus in 2018, which is an improvement on 2017, but we all know that the budgets for 2019 and beyond is currently showing a larger deficit which is not new news to us and we



need to take action now. So can I thank the 2018 finance team Chris Lloyd, James Eckley and Jim Minshaw for all their support with the accounts. Thank you very much.”

AGM/08/19 Motion from NFYFC Council - “That the audited accounts for 2018 as printed be adopted and that a firm of auditors, Grant Thornton – Birmingham, be appointed for 2019” – Proposer Fay Thomas, Herefordshire FYFC and seconded by Marcus Bailey, Essex FYFC. Fay Thomas addressed the meeting; “Good morning Madam President and fellow young farmers it gives me great pleasure to propose that the audited accounts for 2018 as printed be adopted and that the firm of auditors Grant Thornton Birmingham be appointed for 2019.”

Marcus Bailey, Essex addressed the meeting; “Good morning Madam Chair, fellow young farmers and honoured guests, thank you Delme for the full presentation of accounts, I would like to second the motion proposed by Fay to adopt the accounts for 2018, and appoint Grant Thornton Birmingham as the auditors for 2019.”

Members voted on the Motion and it was carried and the accounts were approved.

AGM/09/19 Motion from NFYFC Council – “That the gross National Subscription for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 be increased by 50% (Note: Based on the membership numbers at August 2018, this equates to an increase of £8.96 per YFC member. Subscriptions at 01 September 2018 was £17.92 per YFC member (aged 10 to 26 yrs). Proposer: Katie Hall, Chair of NFYFC Council, Seconder: Greg Colebrook, Cambridgeshire FYFC. Katie Hall addressed the meeting; “Madame President, Ladies, Gentlemen, young farmers, guests and the future YFC. I am stood before you today not as your current national Chair Lady but as a piece of history, the technology around us, the way we are reading things and what we are using to charter our future is all faster and more rapid than 10 years ago, and what we learn tomorrow is already out of date, our generation is doing everything online and young farmers with all its history is behind these times and it’s not through lack of trying it’s through lack of cold hard cash!

Our umbrella body has 87 years of history it began at the same time that FM radio was patented, Nylon was invented and the first electric defibrillator was made, these are all things that we cannot do without, to save lives to dress ourselves and to get through those long hard days in the summer driving the harvest home to feed the population. So can we really do without this umbrella body that does so much for you and I as members of young farmers, we want to be able to flourish, we don’t want to have to spend our entire time cutting costs and ultimately shrinking because that’s what will happen.

YFC means 25,000 things to 25,000 different people and your umbrella body is currently trying to be all these things to all these members, the past 12 months have affected our place in agriculture, our place in society and even our place in peoples’ hearts but with you the future of YFC and your support I know that we can turn this around. In the world we live in today the red tape will only increase that red tape ensures we need to be experts on GDPR, safeguarding and equality within our communities.

This just shows how much our YFC has had to change and had to adapt to those changes in order to stay up to date on the red tape. Not everyone is out to help YFC, the threats and challenges for clubs and counties will only increase, now more than ever we need to ensure that our organisation is nimble yet robust enough to offer the support it’s there for. YFC means too much to too many of us to gamble on streamlining itself to nothing.

YFC needs to move forward, we need to be able to provide new activities and support to our clubs and county federations and we need to make us fit for purpose for the next 87 years.



We are proud of our achievements and we want to achieve more! We have a duty to support the members of today, tomorrow and the future. So back the £8.96 today to ensure the next generation will be able to enjoy YFC and all it has to offer and more. Thank you.”

Greg Colebrook addressed the meeting; “Good morning Greg Colebrook Eastern Area Chair, Madam President, Ladies, Gentlemen and honoured guests no one enjoys a price rise whether it is the cost of petrol to get here or the price of the beer last night we are all quick to recognise a price rise when we talk about food production, it is a quick argument to explain that costs need to increase, even though we have become more efficient with greater economies to scale and with slicker operation, these arguments are also true of our young farmers federation. The need to balance the books is important in any organisation to allow it to continue to succeed, to grow and to prosper. There will be amendments put forward today discussing why the increase didn’t start sooner, that we should make it more gradual, today is the day to safeguard the future of YFC, don’t allow us to be the same group of people that in the future didn’t act quick enough now. Vote for the increase to enable this great organisation that we all love and cherish to continue to provide the same opportunities as it does for us today for those in the future, and therefore I would like to second this Motion.”

AGM/10/19 AMENDMENT FROM YORKSHIRE FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS’ CLUBS – “That the National Subscription from 1st September 2019 to the 31st August 2020 be increased by 20%, with a further 20% increase to be applied on 1st September 2020 and another 20% to be applied on 1 September 2021, then by the Retail Price Index (RPI) for the subsequent 2 years” Proposer Stephen Jarmus, Boroughbridge YFC, Yorkshire and Seconder Rob Beale, Rillington YFC, Yorkshire. Stephen Jarmus addressed the meeting; “Good morning Madam President, honoured guests and fellow young farmers my name is Stephen Jarmus, Vice Chairman of Boroughbridge YFC, Chairman of Eborne District, and Vice Chair of Yorkshire FYFC, above all of these roles however I believe to be a true member of YFC active at events and competitions, supporting fellow young members and making friends in everything we do as young farmers. When Katie’s proposal is combined with a recent 13.5% reduction in members over the last year it equates to a true rise of around 70% in levy in just 1 year something that I believe will ruin grass root young farmers, not only is their planned a 50% or 70% rise this year but in subsequent years national are budgeting for an average 70.66% rise over the following 4 years this is nearly four times the rate of inflation and totally unacceptable. The combined effect of all of these rises will have a double levy of £17.92 in 2018. It is no secret looking at the budget released by council in 2019 that national have a massive funding deficit this fact cannot be disputed, however from looking at the budget in more detail I can’t help but feel that national is the equivalent of a sieve haemorrhaging money from all angles, this is a problem of national’s own making. I would like to draw your attention to recent posts by national last weekend on facebook where they released a statement regarding the DIY AGM which by the way was a roaring success raising in excess of £7,000 for two amazing charities and with Blackpool police publicly announcing through Farmers Guardian that attendees were polite and no arrests of young farmers were made, the post received 163 comments as a result on the 6 May and it didn’t come as a surprise to me to see that no of these comments were in support of the statement from national. I would now like to draw your attention to page 13 of your supporting notes on this meeting and the notes to support Katie’s proposal and the benefits of an umbrella organisation – Line 1 on page 13 states a feeling of togetherness cannot be underestimated a united strong voice as one of the true benefits of having an umbrella body such as national. I wonder if anyone in this room today truly believes that the current national membership feel as though we have a unified feeling of togetherness within the organisation, I for one do not, and neither do many of our counties or the members voicing their opinions on social media. I would encourage national to take their fingers out of their ears, open their eyes and listen to the membership, there will be no NFYFC in years to come if we do not wise up and smell the coffee. YFC membership is essentially a product on sale to those eligible for membership, in what universe would any other business, alienate their customers, continually degrade their own credibility to those customers and then plan to increase that product by over 100% in five years is utter madness. I would propose an amendment to Katie Hall’s proposal to the following effect; “That the National Subscription from 1st September 2019 to the 31st August 2020 be increased by 20%, with a further 20%



increase to be applied on 1st September 2020 and another 20% to be applied on 1 September 2021, then by the Retail Price Index (RPI) for the subsequent 2 years” By 2023 this will rise levy per member to £32.85 with a staged cost increase to members rather than such a huge price hike in one year. On a separate note I would like to use my time here today to encourage national to take a serious look at their expenses in particular the TEN26 Publication which is budgeted at £115,000 per year which many of our members do not read, I also think the travel programme needs revisiting to look at the financial situation national finds themselves in and to pause it until time of financial certainty. By 2023 there is nearly £60,000 in the budget for travel per year, voting members here today I must urge you to vote on behalf of your members, do not be frightened by national in supporting such a large price rise is one go, for it is national who have to give a little, reduce spending in addition to a levy fee and save our organisation, but at least with this vote if you all vote wisely and support Yorkshire young farmers with our amendment, thank you.”

Robert Beale addressed the meeting; “Thank you madam chair and fellow young farmers for listening to me today, my name is Robert Beale and I have been a member of Rillington YFC for 15 years, a programme secretary for 3 years, Rillington chairman for 1 year, I have done district chair for 1 year and doing another year, this is not my only AGM I have been to in order to vote on levy increases I have been to a few before. I done a few public speaking through from Junior to Senior and enjoyed the competitions, I have also had a go at flower arranging and gone through to northern finals, obviously not done as well on the public speaking side but still got on with it and met a lot of friends and there are few here in the room today and it is good to catch up. So this is why I am backing Stephen Jarmus’s proposed increase as 50% is too much, however no increase is just not enough we need some funding there as a few of us do not want to lose any of the competitions I have enjoyed, I have had friends enjoy the travel trips. I would like to keep this organisation going as I myself have a 3 year old Son and I would love him to join this organisation in the future so I would really like you to back our motion of 20% and get behind us so all your votes count please so please join with us.”

Members were invited to respond to the amendment from the floor;

Kate Wainwright – Derbyshire FYFC and council representative addressed the meeting; “Good morning everyone, we all know what situation we are in and how we have got here, we need to forget about the past in my opinion, what matters now is the future, who in this room is proud that they have been a member of YFC please raise your hands, everybody should be raising their hands that they have had this opportunity to be a member of this organisation, who in this room wants NFYFC to continue, everybody should be raising their hands, we want it to be here for the next generation, national are not here to make a profit they are here to support you guys, we need to work with national and we need to make sure that we back them, we need to take part and actually accept this rise, yes it may not be great but in the future it may come down, we may have more benefits than what we have had in the past, without this opportunity national may not be here, so please support national with this levy increase.”

Robert Mollat – Staffordshire FYFC addressed the meeting; “Some of these amendments at first glance may seem the best for the future or perhaps be more considerate to our junior members, however as a 19 year old member myself and coming from a club and county who are becoming more reliant on junior members, we need to consider the implications of this amendments on the future of NFYFC, as you will all have seen in the information that has been circulated after this proposal, a lot of the decisions made in previous AGM’s and council meetings are the big reason why such a big increase is being proposed today. It is poor decisions in the past that have left ourselves with this difficult decision, however if the wrong decision is made today, the discussions will only become tougher and the decisions will only be made harder for the future members of YFC, do you really think the best thing for our junior and future members is to put them in this position? As we all know costs have been cut where they can be, the only now if we continue to cut costs is to lose the services, lose the opportunities and experiences we have all had in YFC, how is it fair to take these chances away from future members and the junior members of NFYFC, many mistakes have been made in previous meetings in a similar meeting to this, although hindsight is a brilliant thing, please do not let us be regretting the decisions made here today, and I will leave you with one thought you are not paying £8.96 more for what you have done this year, you are paying £8.96 more for what you are going to do next year and it is up to all as individuals what we make of it, thank you.”



Luke Cox - Wiltshire addressed the meeting; “Our organisation is at a crisis point whether we vote for the 50% increase and members don’t like the costs, or whether we vote against the increase and young people disapprove of inevitable cuts such as competitions, a number of members will leave NFYFC after today’s vote, we need to stop moaning about what has been and gone and start looking to shape the future of NFYFC, it’s our organisation and it is up to us to safeguard how we would like it to look for future generations of young farmers, do not starve this great organisation of the money it needs to thrive doing so will remove any opportunity we have to make positive change and if that is not what you want then why are you here today. You are all voting on behalf of your members, that is the members of now and the members of the future, are you casting your vote today as a people pleaser or do you truly have the best interests at heart for the organisation that has given you so much over the years, if you care about the success of the future of NFYFC, one that has been shaped by you and I, one which has the financial support to deliver, one which inspires to be the next generation, part of our great agricultural industry, reject the five amendments and then vote to support the final motion securing the future of NFYFC, stand up for yourself back the 50% increase and then use your position one which members have entrusted upon you to make the chances that will make young farmers great again, thank you.”

Gareth Hutchings – Devon FYFC Vice Chairman addressed the meeting; “Everyone talks about the future of young farmers I am lucky enough to have children and I don’t know that I can seriously say that I definitely want my daughter to be a part of it, I know that currently I pay for other things my daughter goes swimming and in the future she will do sport, when I pay that she does it, when we pay for young farmers what do we pay for, it doesn’t stop when you pay for your levy. If the future levy will be £100 and I have got to pay a further few hundred pounds for her to do it in clothing and all the activities she will do, I don’t know that I can afford that. So I don’t know that I can stand here and say that I have done that and voted for a levy increase at the time when in the future it could be extortionate, so I don’t want my children to be part of a federation that costs an absolute fortune. Thank you.”

Matt Hosken – Cornwall YFC Chairman addressed the meeting; “Madam President, fellow young farmers, I would just like to say that what we have heard today is that NFYFC are better together, the problem is with the levy with an increase of the levy we put so many members off I know there are several hundreds of members in Cornwall that the minute the increase goes up we will lose members from our County and NFYFC, so the trouble is if we increase the membership now by a substantial amount, we lose members and we have to increase it again for every single person by way of that levy, so how are we better together and stronger when we are losing membership because of the price increase. Thank you.”

Edward Dungait – Northumberland FYFC County Chairman addressed the meeting; “I remember going to my first AGM meeting 8 years ago in the Winter Gardens surprisingly there was a big debate going on about levy and a few guys did some speeches, one was really good so I thought I would vote for that guy, I put my hand up and one of the senior members Claire Thompson shouted down the line “Ed put your hand down now!” so it was like “ok sorry!” and I voted for who she wanted. So I have been looking forward to this day when finally I am County Chairman, I am in charge and I was going to tell them who to vote for, but I couldn’t get any of them to come. So my message is don’t just vote for someone you have been told to vote for, make your own mind up today and vote for who you want to vote for, but if I was you I would vote for Yorkshire’s amendment, East Riding Amendment and Worcestershire’s amendment and hopefully one of them will go through. Thank you.”

Katie Court – Wales YFC addressed the meeting; “Good morning ladies and gentlemen, I am from a very small county in the South West of Wales where we have 7 clubs who are very forward thinking on this matter, we have never been fortunate enough to get any council funding to support us, so we use our levy at present to increase this deficit and unfortunately it really saddens me that I feel a lot of people who have been in a much more privileged position that I have



been are not valuing YFC to its true extent, so I urge you all to support an increase today as YFC means a lot more than any price we could ever put on it. Thank you.”

Charlotte Smith called for the members to vote and the Yorkshire Amendment was carried by a show of voting cards this will now stay on the table and the amendments will continue to be debated.

AGM/11/19 AMENDMENT FROM EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS’ CLUBS – “That the gross National Subscription from 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 be increased by 20% with a further 15% increase to be applied on 1 September 2020 and another 10% increase to be applied on 1 September 2021, with a maximum per member cost to be £25 from 1 September 2019, and a maximum further £5 per member per year increase for the subsequent two years.” – Proposer; Charles Knapton, East Riding of Yorkshire FYFC and Seconder; Zoe Anderson, East Riding of Yorkshire FYFC.

Charles Knapton, East Riding of Yorkshire FYFC addressed the meeting; “Good morning Madam President, honoured guests, fellow young farmers, on behalf of the East Riding of Yorkshire Federation I am proposing “That the gross National Subscription from 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 be increased by 20% with a further 15% increase to be applied on 1 September 2020 and another 10% increase to be applied on 1 September 2021, with a maximum per member cost to be £25 from 1 September 2019, and a maximum further £5 per member per year increase for the subsequent two years.” There are two problems currently facing NFYFC at this moment, a decrease in membership and an increase in costs to run the movement, YFC is a fantastic organisation and I am sure we all need to see it thrive and prosper long into the future and our proposal recognises it, but like all organisations NFYFC needs more finances to continue working in the way we know to provide the support and services that no one wishes to see lost. However, this requirement for an increased budget needs to be seriously considered alongside both the reduction in membership and the rising costs faced by all levels from national down to club level.

This is why our proposal is very similar to Yorkshire’s proposal but stages the levy increases over 3 years this is simply to allow clubs and counties time to budget and adjust to these changes, as increasing levies up by 50% may help national in the short term but it will have a hugely detrimental effect at county and club levels. The main difference to our proposal from the one tabled by Yorkshire is the addition of the price cap this is hugely important from the county perspective, as a decrease in membership impacts the levy as there are less members to share it. The cap we would introduce today aims to limit the per member increase to a realistic sensible figure which would benefit not only the members but also the federation. If membership starts to fall the levy price will significantly increase having a long term damaging effect on the YFC movement as a whole.

For example if the levy was to go up by 50% as proposed by national today and as result membership falls by 15%, the levy increase will be closer to 75% taking it from £17.92 to over £30.00. Currently our membership is predicted to be approximately 11% down from last year pretty much due to the loss of the annual convention, that coupled with the increase in the levy, 15% increase would be more like 20%. East Riding as a whole are happy for a levy increase although we feel it is not suffice for the NFYFC budget and feel that NFYFC need to streamline the spending and spend less money on resources and opportunities for the privileged minority and focus more on the wider membership platform. Has every avenue been explored at a national level to make savings and cut backs in these very economically challenging times, compounded with the cancellation of the national agm. Thank you.”

Zoe Anderson, East Riding of Yorkshire FYFC addressed the meeting: “Good morning Madam President and fellow young farmers, like many other organisations YFC gives its’ members the chance to stand up and voice their opinions which is why I am stood here today to represent East Riding of Yorkshire Federation of Young Farmers’ Clubs to second the motion



on the screen beside me. As Charles has said a reduction in membership increases the levy paid per member worst case scenario our membership continues to fall by 11% each year, with council's proposal our levy will be increased to £38.17 per member, with Yorkshire's amendment our levy could be as much as £43.90 per member, but with our amendment and the cap our levy could be £4.14 which in my opinion is a much more realistic figure. Whilst we agree with Yorkshire our problem is that over 3 years and compound interest their amendment increases the levy by 70%, we feel that this is too much for the members to carry, I certainly haven't had a 70% increase to my wages, this is why our proposal outlines a much more gradual increase in the levy. Just to reiterate our proposal was still increasing the levy by 50% over 3 years, but without having the direct impact felt by the original motion. Time and communication are key aspects in all times of life and East Riding feel that on some occasions this need to fix the deficit has been too poorly and very hastily communicated which in turn has come as a shock to the members, doing as we propose ensures that the members are aware of their maximum amount of money that needs to be raised. Please support us today with our proposal so that we can guarantee that YFC continues to be a fantastic organisation which is financially stable enough for future generations to enjoy just as much as we have. Thank you."

CS for anyone who wished to speak for or against this amendment:

Edward Bentley – Yorkshire FYFC addressed the meeting; "Good morning ladies and gentlemen, fellow young farmers I am Edward Bentley representing Yorkshire Farmers, there is so much passion in the room this morning and I can't just sit on my hands in the room today, as we can all see there is a budget deficit that we need to fulfil, we need to increase our spending so that we can grow our organisation, we are currently seeing a reduction in membership which we can't sustain, we need to get those members back and grow our organisation fantastic that it is. However NFYFC is only a small part of the YFC community so £8.92 added to the top of club and county fees is a significant increase, some members will be paying £60 to £80 a year and plus for any competitions, any flowers and any other events they are doing across the year. If we increase by 50% in one year there are already members out there particularly in our county who do not want to sign up and pay the additional fees, they are keen to be a member but we are out-pricing our membership, it is a circle if you put it up by 50% your membership will drop it is not just the £8.92 it has to be nearer £10 plus, so the more you try and put your membership fees up the more your numbers will drop. We are saying we need to budget better with East Riding's amendment capping it at a £5.00 limit or £25.00 for the forthcoming year it is going to make it very difficult for NFYFC to budget what their fees are and what their affiliation income will be for the next year. So I would like you to support the Yorkshire amendment as it currently stands. We need a long term plan to make sure this organisation can succeed. Thank you."

Daniel Edwards – Norfolk FYFC addressed the meeting; "I feel really passionate about the levy increase, there does need to be a levy increase because at the end of the day everything else goes up so membership is going to go up but I still think this amendment is too much, to be honest I don't know what it should go up by, but definitely not what is being proposed, yes we are only talking about the levy increase but you have got to remember that each county sets its own membership prices, Norfolk is quite an expensive county anyway and I am happy to say that, if Norfolk increased let's say by 50% you are talking nearly £100 per membership which no one is going to pay, end of and I will tell you I would not be a member at that price and at the end of the day you are not going to get any new members if the price keeps going up. I am going to say it about the AGM, so I am sure many of you have read about the DIY AGM and the reports and they came back glowing, I believe the behaviour of last year which many of you would have read was unacceptable however I believe that national are punishing the majority because of the minority and they need to tackle behaviour and punish those and not everyone who is in this room and had a good time and was well behaved. Obviously we need to keep getting members through because if it does not increase there won't be a national as we know it. Therefore I propose there needs to be an increase but not what is proposed."



David Goodwin – Warwickshire addressed the meeting; “Good morning ladies and gentlemen I hadn’t proposed to speak on this subject this morning so I apologise now if this is not very good but I just felt that I needed to stand up and say something. We really need to value what NFYFC do for us as members, I appreciate we have not got the AGM as it was and members are not very happy about that but we need to be ruled by our heads and not our hearts at times and we need to make some decisions made on the cold hard facts in front of us, we spoke earlier about if this and what we need to do is reform everything we are doing and look very closely at it, the fact of the matter is we won’t be here to reform and to review if we don’t safeguard our future by supporting this motion from Yorkshire here this morning.

At the end of the day yes we are talking about a large percentage increase but we are also talking about something that in monetary value I am afraid in today’s society a thousand pound goes nowhere. So the figures we are talking about today are high, yes we have got to pay them out of your pocket but it is not very much in real terms unfortunately, if you go to a shop on a Thursday evening and do your weekly shop and you buy milk and bread and whatever else you need, you spend £30 without even thinking and that is just to live, I know that everybody is under pressure but you really need to think about what this means, we talked earlier about the cost of pints of beer, the difference on here between £21.00 and £28.00 you know you are not going to buy a round for that, just think of the money you have saved by not going to Blackpool and not buying that extra beer you didn’t need which meant you would have had a hangover this morning. Let’s all pull together and let’s please support Yorkshire’s amendment. Thank you.”

The members voted with show of cards and the East Riding of Yorkshire Amendment was defeated, the Yorkshire Motion stays on the table.

AGM/12/19 AMENDMENT FROM RADNOR FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS’ CLUBS – “That there should be no increase to the National Subscription and NFYFC should instead take steps to cut its costs while also focusing on increasing income streams through fundraising and planned activities that generate income.” – Proposer; James Poulton, Radnor FYFC and Seconder; Alice Giles, Devon FYFC.

James Poulton – Radnor FYFC addressed the meeting; “Madam President, ladies and gentlemen, fellow young farmers, my name is James Poulton I am the County Chairman of Radnor YFC, and up until quite recently the Vice Chairman of the National Events & Marketing Committee, I would like to propose the amendment that there should be no increase in the national subscription and NFYFC should instead take steps to cut its costs whilst also focussing on increasing revenue through fundraising and planned activities that generate income. However, NFYFC wants to pitch the need for an increase, senior officers within the movement have to accept they have lost a huge amount of credibility in the eyes of the average club member; they are the people who count. Thousands of members feel that scrapping the convention without putting a viable alternative would make up the financial shortfall was a disastrous decision to make, made by people with whom we as members are entitled to expect better from, put simply what company voluntarily opts to do away with its major source of income in any given year then expects the shareholders to bail it out. What senior officers fail to recognise is many members ideas on the solution is simple, NFYFC officers got us into this mess now they are expecting the membership to pay to get us out. On top of this we have a whole new group of disgruntled members as NFYFC has not been promoting the money raised for charity last weekend. Just to be clear ladies and gentlemen if we were having this debate in 12 months time I am confident that Radnor would support a levy increase of some kind, costs go up fact of life we accept this but to attack the membership with a levy increase now would only serve to harm our numbers further. In order for NFYFC to prosper we must be seen to making every effort to cut our cloth accordingly and to do this in the eyes of the membership.

Now whilst doing my research for today’s meeting, I looked at examples of organisations from around the World to see if they had better solutions to our deficit problem, the example I bring you today is from the FFA–Future Farmers of



America which is basically the American us! They have a very interesting corporate funding scheme which generates millions of dollars a year to fund the training and activities. Now I am not suggesting that this scheme would work in the exact same format for us, however, I would like to see NFYFC exploring the possibility of promoting small businesses that have sprouted up on the back of our organisation. I tested this last week when I rang a clothing supplier who was a former official of Radnor YFC, I asked him; if NFYFC employed a corporate funding scheme like this would he be willing to get involved for nationwide advertisement for say £500 a year he snapped my hand off at the idea. Now I am not pitching this idea as the solution to all of our problems, I am just giving you this as a single example of how this organisation can be better utilised, if we employed a system like this each county in this room would only have to find 4 or 5 small member related businesses to input into NFYFC for nationwide promotion and we will have halved our deficit. It is not the solution to all of our problems it is just one example.

As I said in my briefing notes ladies and gentlemen we are an organisation of tens of thousands of members, hundreds of thousands of former members spanning the country in a huge variety of industries are we really going away from here today saying that the best we can do to improve our finances was to increase the strain on our own membership, we can do better, NFYFC must do better, make no mistake ladies and gentlemen any increase that we vote on today is nothing short of us failing the membership, failing to deal with our own problems, failing to cut our costs effectively, and failing to support our already strained membership, I urge you ladies and gentlemen support Radnor today and help us to defeat this increase. Thank you.”

Alice Giles, Devon FYFC addressed the meeting; “Fellow young farmers, I Alice Giles on behalf of Devon YFC would formally like to second the proposal from Radnor as stated in the agenda. We need to think about our future 50% of our membership is now made up of juniors, how do we convince their parents that they are more expensive membership is worth paying for when the programme that we offer them is already so limited. We are in danger of losing our future members because we will simply become ‘not good value for money’. We also need to remember that unlike other organisations once we have paid for our membership that is not the end of it, for us to attend club or county socials and events, travel with YFC, have young farmers clothing or merchandise it all comes to a cost for the member, aren’t we just going to put more members off if we increase the levy and still expect them to pay for everything else they do. We know we are about to face criticism for this and be accused of being short sighted in terms of NYFC’s financial situation, but by increasing the levy we are at risk of losing even more members which we simply can’t afford. A few years ago in a Member of the Year competition, I was asked; If YFC was an elitist organisation? And I said no, with this levy increase I would be inclined to say yes. There are hundreds of members who work hard to keep their club going, they may never be a county rep or winner of a competition but they are actually the core of this federation, they are the members who spend all week texting their club just to get them to come to a meeting, or struggle to put together a skittles team, doing their best to keep the club afloat and now we are going to ask them to pay more for the privilege, that would be a pretty poor business decision and it is about time this federation was run more like a business. Please do not forget about those members just because they are not sat here today, with this I formally second Radnor’s proposal. Thank you.”

CS asked if any members wished to speak for or against the amendment motion;

Rachel Goldie – NFYFC Council Vice Chair addressed the meeting; “I am not only council vice chair but I am also a member of Greysouthern young farmers in the Cleedale District of Yorkshire so I am not just a national person I am one of you, I am working with you as does everyone else. Delme discussed Vision:2023 and I am part of that, we want to see you and your members, we want to hear what you have to say, talk to us don’t hide away, we are here for you the members. Cutting costs is what we are going to have to do if we have no increase today, do we want to do that? No we don’t, we want to provide the excellent skills and opportunities that we have provided for so long and we want to continue to do that, but no increase today would mean we can’t continue all those valuable skills that everyone has gained, like I would not be standing here today without YFC public speaking. Members decrease; let’s forget about the decrease, let’s go out



and shout about what we are really good at, override all the negativity and push our membership, if every club in the federation increased their membership even by a few it would make such a massive difference. So I challenge you all to go out and push your membership. You don't know how to do it, you want help, ask, use your mouth, ask for help, and use the services that are provided that we pay our memberships for."

Amy Williams – Glamorgan FYFC addressed the meeting; "I wasn't planning on speaking today but I hear about people talking about YFC and growing the membership, the things that are important about YFC are the competitions, the skills, the travelling with friends. By cutting the services and with no increase in levy suggested by Radnor, how are you going to grow the membership to get more members, the wonderful things about YFC are the things that we risk losing if we don't have any increase at all, you say about failing members, I fear what I have to go home and say to my junior members that they can't do a competition, or public speaking because there is no money there, those are things that I could call a failing to my members. Moneywise if you want to get down to the base of it, I used to work as a swimming teacher 10 weeks would be £90 for a child to have a half hours swimming lesson once a week, I think for a year's membership that is a dam good price and I think you will be having a really good time for your membership so I fully support any increase. Thank you."

Alice Endicot – Devon FYFC addressed the meeting; " Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, I wasn't planning on getting up to speak today, but I do feel so strongly about this and I am a grass roots member in my county, I am not that member who has got to a national final or Southern Area, I am a member who won call my bluff at county which has been my proudest moment. At his moment I do not see a benefit from national raising our levy, honestly I can't tell you what I get from national personally as a member, I can see what we get as a federation, but I do not see how it benefits me and I am the person who pays my membership every year. You mention on her the lack of a fundraising officer position within NFYFC, how has that been left and why was that not taken up that there was a real need for a fundraiser. As a county we do so much fundraising to make us so much money and it doesn't come back on me to fill the gap for having pens and pencils in my county office, so why should it fall on me to do the same at the national office when we have board sat here to organise it for us. Thank you."

Charlotte Woolscroft – West Midlands Area & Warwickshire FYFC addressed the meeting; "Charlotte Woolscroft, Leamington Hastings, proud member, Warwickshire young farmers, current West Midlands Area Chairman. I would like to come back to some of those comments about what you don't see. I could not have done any of my roles over the last 5 years at county, club and area without the hard work and dedication from many of the paid and unpaid members of NFYFC. So much of the work that we do is behind the scenes done by people who are not there to gain an upwelling of support of cheers, done by people who care who will do and continue to support in their own way and quietly. I can't thank the NFYFC enough for the support with legal advice, advice on fundraising in counties where we are struggling to raise money in the old fashion ways of socialising and that is just from a Warwickshire prospective. We are having to change and adapt and there is not a price that I wouldn't pay to keep NFYFC standing here today and for the future and for my children and for the rest of anyone here, I would whole heartedly recommend the support of any increase to make sure that these services, facilities, travel, competitions, friends, future socialising continue from here and for the next 87 years, please support a levy rise of some amount. Thank you."

Matthew Hosken – Cornwall addressed the meeting; "Madam Chair, Madam President, it is not often that I stand up to agree with a member of Devon but I am going to do it today, I come from a small county with some 800 members at the moment we are on our 'Project 1000' membership drive, we have struggled since the decision about the national AGM to maintain our membership so that is where we are at the moment as a county. I love every aspect of young farmers, I love the competitions, I love the opportunities, I love the fact that I am here today with 8 other members and we have cycled 125 miles a day to get here and will be continuing on to cycle another 400 miles over the next few days, that is what YFC means to me (*the meeting applauded*). The issue I have is how we keep ourselves together as one thing, we lost our



biggest funding and resource in the national agm and at the moment we are faced with the project 2023, we have no vision, no clue, no idea of where we are going, so I think we need to stay static for a year, figure out a plan and really drive forward once we know exactly where this federation is going in the continued years. Thank you.”

Niall Evans – Brecknock addressed the meeting; “ I am Treasurer and Secretary of Bulth YFC, and chairman of fundraising event in Brecknock YFC. Speaking on behalf of my club in this moment in time, in the last 6 years we have lost 60 members to other organisations and other things, granted that the membership levy increase would not have affected that much, I couldn’t go back and tell my members that there would be an increase now and expect them to say nothing about it there would be arguments and they would not be happy. We subsidise nearly half of their membership anyway, so having an increase on that would not just affect the membership, it would affect the club as it is. I agree with Mr Poulton’s point of having corporate funding, this year we currently put on an event and we found it fairly easy to get companies to sponsor us and help us out as a county when it is needed, granted not all the time as you will start running the pot dry. Every now and again small companies will help out. There are many pots that we can source to and just going for the membership really isn’t the way forward. Thank you.”

Roo Beaty – Warwickshire addressed the meeting; “Good morning my name is Roo Beaty I am in Warwickshire young farmers, I am a massive rugby fan, I will quite happily pay £25 to go and watch my team Leicester Tigers and I go 6 or 7 times a year I get 2 hours fun for each of these times 14 hours a year for that amount of money. I will quite happily pay twice as much as I currently pay for my young farmers membership as it more than just enjoyment, it builds you as a person, it can create a career for you, the contacts are absolutely unbelievable, and you grow a great group of friends. I don’t see the reason for us not having to pay more money to national as they are having to go through more safeguarding, more data protection, and have a lot more costs due to new technology laws that we need to cover. We can’t stand here and let no funding go through when we need it to keep this federation going. Thank you.”

Mark Snell – Devon addressed the meeting; “I didn’t really plan to come up to speak, but I had a thought. We are all similar in the fact that we are running a farm as a business and personally I have some things on contracts and I have got an agreement in place with the people I deal with what they pay me. If I am struggling to make money out of it and I need more to make more money, the first thing I would do is go to the drawing board, and if I need more money out of them I would be able to put to them and prove to say look that’s my figures, we cannot do it. This is shoddy I haven’t seen nothing here today. I’ve done all the young farmers stuff, and I am not pretending to me the best public speaker either, but you can’t expect to come here, ask for all that money and not even show us anything about it. Next year you can have 50% if you can prove it, but just prove it to us; we are worth that at least. Thank you.”

Amy McWhirter – Lancashire addressed the meeting; “I was not planning on saying anything, but one thing I would like to bring to your attention this morning, whether it is good for me or not as I am a council representative as well, and I went back to my club and we have about 35 members, I am 22 and I am one of the oldest members in the club, so as discussed out there today there are a lot of junior members, so I went back after the last council meeting and said just for instance to the parents that drop off members and asked them what do you think young farmers is and what would you be prepared to pay for your three children to come to us on a Monday night? Now as a county I think is just under £70 in total with the national fees and county fees that are invoiced to clubs, just under £70. As a club we only charge £30 per person, so that is up to us as a club. We fundraise, raffles, bingos, all sorts of things, and we do that because we want to make sure that everybody can attend young farmers, however over the last couple of years we have stayed at £30, although county fees may have altered and national fees may have altered, we have still stayed on £30. So going back and speaking to our members parents and asking the question how much would you pay, we appreciate we will all have additional costs if you go on a club night bowling there is an additional cost, if you want a young farmers T-shirt that is an additional cost, we all appreciate that. Our parents said for instance if it was £5 we would charge our members more they



would be more than happy for that because we invite them to things we get involved with the parents because we understand there is a lot of junior members out there and they are the future of young farmers, so we have spoken to them and they would have no issues so let's please support some sort of increase."

John James – Radnor addressed the meeting; "Ladies and Gentlemen I am here today to support the Radnor amendment. The motion that national have put forward is an absolute disgrace, we need to look after our members, we hear our members and they keep saying it is them and us, we are us, they are them. They are not helping themselves by increasing the membership; we need to look after our younger members, like the last lady said, but by increasing the levy this will not help. To secure the future of our young farmers we need to keep the levy the same as it is. All we are going to do is drive away the young members, after the convention cancellation we are already noticing a decrease in membership from all the members, if we don't support this amendment of Radnor YFC today we will have no national federation to look forward to in the future, we need to support a no increase levy to look after the future. Thank you."

Ellie Pencomber – Devon FYFC addressed the meeting; "I have been a young farmer for two years now, since I started two years back there has been a membership decrease just in my club. I posed this levy increase to my members' just over a week ago and over half of them said they would leave because they just can't afford it. I personally can't afford it and I can almost guarantee that many other clubs are in the same position, so by increasing the membership levy by what they want will not solve the problem, because membership will go down. The competitions programme will go down because the people won't be there to compete. We already struggle to get member to take part to make the competitions fair. This federation will struggle as a whole. Thank you."

Kate Wainwright – Derbyshire FYFC addressed the meeting: "Firstly I would like to say there is no 'them and us' we as members elected these guys, we did it because we thought these were the people who were going to steer us through the hard times, we put our faith in them and we have continued to do that. Standing still is effectively going backwards, we need an increase and that is the end of it."

Edward Clark – Lancashire addressed the meeting; "Good morning ladies and gentlemen I am going to get shouted at by some Lancashire members but I will go ahead anyway, there is two things in life that give me a great deal of pride, one is being a member of this organisation, and the other was in November when I bought my first house. There are a lot of parallels to be drawn from this, my house has monthly outgoings I've got my mortgage, my council tax, my utilities bills, my food everything, like this great organisation has its outgoings, I also have my incomings a wage, if my wage doesn't match up with my outgoings there is trouble, I have to delve into my savings and I don't want to keep doing that as eventually I will run out of money I would be homeless. But the way to get round this is not to go to my boss and ask for a pay rise because he is not going to give it to me, I have to tighten my belt, knuckle down, get a weekend job, stop going out 3 times a week, just be a bit more sensible with my brass. We can't keep bleeding the members. The members are not the members of national they are the members of individual clubs, if we keep bleeding these clubs, the clubs are going to die, and I am a member of Vale Lune YFC, I am not a member of national. You who sit here are miles away, I care about our club on a Monday night and that is why I am going to support no increase. Thank you."

Dewi Parry – NFYFC Vice Chair addressed the meeting; "This amendment is a no to the previous two other amendments it is just underlined, we are already looking at cutting costs, we have had a report from Delme to states they are going to cut costs, we know that we have to make savings, we have various income streams, you want us to have corporate partnerships, we have corporate partnerships in place. You want us to have other fundraising streams, we have other fundraising streams, you want us to cut costs in terms of how we are actually source our delivery, and we have partnerships to do that. We are already doing it, we are taking a last resort in going for a membership increase, YFC is driven by tradition, we want this organisation to be as strong when we joined it as when we leave it, and if you don't



support it with any form of increase and then that is to say that you are quite happy for it to flounder and die, we don't want that, none of us want that, no members of our clubs want that, no members of our counties want that, and no members of national want that either. Deep down we are coming to you year after year for a slight increase or a big increase, it is always an increase because costs will be forever going up. We want to offer a service which is broadly the same as we were forty years ago, unfortunately in that time funding has gone down, other revenue streams have decreased, and therefore inevitably the cost to the membership is going to have to increase. What you need to ask yourselves as you sit here isn't is that too much money, is it value for money, and if you want to protect YFC for the future even for the next generation of your club who are joining this year, do you want them to be here to have the same service in ten years time, then an increase is necessary. Thank you very much."

Laura Baker – Gwent YFC - County Chair addressed the meeting; "We have had people come up today and say there has been no information put out, but the information is in the booklet that we have been provided with, it has been shared on social media, it has been shared throughout counties and the hard facts and figures are in there, we need to increase our subscriptions in order to see a future for our organisation. I have been out and I have spoken with the grassroots members within my county and I can say that the majority of our members wanted to see a future for our organisation they want to see us continue into the future and they were therefore willing to support an increase. If we don't increase there will be no future for NFYFC, we have to support this to see our organisation drive forward, all the people in here today have had the benefit from being a member of YFC, you should be here to support the future of this organisation so please support the motion to see an increase in subscriptions. Thank you."

Lucy Jeyes – Warwickshire & Youth Forum Chair addressed the meeting; "I have had a lot of opportunities with young farmers and that is because I have got stuck in. The structure of YFC is so important and that is why we need national. We have won county tug o war and we have got into the next West Midlands Area and I didn't win and we didn't get into national but someone from the Tug o war association came up to me and asked if I was interested in pulling for England, if national wasn't there I wouldn't have had these opportunities and managed to pull for England. I am one of six and my parents are very supportive of us and we all take part in young farmers and it is very important, I have had so many opportunities and learnt new skills. I don't think I would be at university without young farmers my cv is full of young farmers things and we need national to be able to have this, if we have clubs on their own in the structure we don't have the safeguarding, we don't have these things that support us and we need support. So I support the motion for increasing the levy. Thank you."

The members voted with a show of cards and then numbers vote, CS called for voting number Green 1 in favour of the Radnor Amendment, and Green 5 for the Yorkshire 20 20 20 Motion. The Radnor Amendment was defeated 114 votes to 164 votes (1 spoilt paper), for the Yorkshire Substantive Motion which remains on the table.

AGM/13/19 AMENDMENT FROM WORCESTERSHIRE FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS – "That the membership subscription paid to the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs be increased by £4 per member matched by a cut in expenditure equivalent of £4 per member for the membership year 2019/20" – Proposer; John Sansome, Cutnall Green YFC, Worcestershire and Seconder Chris Acock, Upton-on-Severn YFC, Worcestershire. John Sansome addressed the meeting; " Good afternoon Madam President, distinguished guests and fellow young farmers, my name is John Sansome and I am here to propose the amendment that the membership subscription paid to the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs be increased by £4 per member matched by a cut in expenditure equivalent of £4 per member for the membership year 2019/20. I would like to begin on a few things we can hopefully all agree on; firstly the national federation is forecasting a shortfall of approximately £300,000 for next four years, this isn't sustainable; secondly we need the national federation, I am not going to spent any time telling you about all the excellent services that national provide, you know what they do and it is greatly valued in every county office, what we disagree on is how we fill the



budget hole, the easy option is to look at the deficit divided by the predicted number of members and up the subscription by the necessary amount as members we shouldn't accept that, it is easy to sit here today listening to the figures of 18p, 52p a week and think oh well that's not much, people will no doubt say we are arguing over the cost of a few drinks, but that is not the point. When the original motion was announced at a Worcestershire executive meeting the general response was best summed up by two ff's and a s, whether you agree with them or not, young farmers everywhere are fed up with national, think of the members back at your clubs, I am sure we have all got a few who signed up for the socials, for Blackpool I was one of them until recently, all they know about national is they have cancelled their annual holiday and now they are putting up their fees by 50%, we are going to have to make a serious attempt to keep these members who so often fill that competition on rally day that no one else will do. Bad news travels fast you only need a few groups of disillusioned members to seriously hit the membership of your club, for the future of young farmers and the survival of national we cannot afford to let this happen. It may sound like I am trying to freeze the current subscription rate this is not the case, we need to strike a balance between keeping national functioning and keeping members.

This amendment provides the only opportunity to do that a £4 increase in subscription is half the additional money that national need, this amendment proposes that the other half is found by cuts in expenditure, a cut of £150,000 is about 10% of nationals annual expenditure, this sort of cut is imposed year on year on lots of government funded bodies and many farming businesses will be planning similar savings given the current economic climate. This is not an unreasonable proposal. There will be many young farmers who feel that asking national to find half the money is not going far enough if we go further we run a real risk of reducing the services which national provide for counties and damaging young farmers as a whole. This amendment is the half way house, we need national and we have to be prepared to pay for it, however we must ask the federation to look at cuts in expenditure and most importantly consulting with the members regarding what they actually want from a national federation.

Returning to my earlier comment let's measure it in terms of drinks some of us want to buy two more pints, some of us don't want to buy any pints at all, I am proposing we all put our hands in our pockets to buy one more pint knowing that national will buy us a drink as well, voting for this amendment is genuinely the best way forward for the national federation and us the grassroots members. Thank you."

Chris Acock addressed the meeting; "Good after Madam Chair, distinguished guests, and fellow young farmers, I am here to represent Worcestershire and second the amendment that John has just stated. Worcestershire have highlighted as previously mentioned the Ten26 magazine is a huge expenditure for national, the sponsorship brought in doesn't even cover half of the cost, the cost brought in is about £56,000, the additional cost of scrapping it and going completely online is £50,000 as Worcestershire we appreciate that the TEN26 is fantastic to taking to sponsors and saying this is the amazing work we do and as an organisation we do some of the best work in the country, however we can't just fund it out of our own pockets. Worcestershire's amendment demonstrates that you can go to your milk buyer and ask for some extra money, you have got less chance of getting a more money from my milk buyer, slim to none; I have to look for savings. Any business running today has to look for savings, they are not welcome savings, but they are necessary savings. To summarise this is the only way to bind national reduce their expenditure and ensure there is enough money to buy the invaluable services that they undoubtedly do and this is why I encourage you to vote for the amendment that Worcestershire are putting forward today. Thank you."

The members voted with a show of cards, CS called for voting number Green 2 in favour of the Worcestershire Amendment and Green 6 for the Yorkshire Motion. The Worcestershire Amendment was defeated 125 votes to 147 votes (1 spoilt paper) for the Yorkshire Substantive Motion which remains on the table.

AGM/14/19 AMENDMENT FROM BROWN CLEE YOUNG FARMERS' CLUB (Shropshire) – "The gross national subscription for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 be increased as follows: 10% for Members aged 10 to 16



years, 20% for Members aged 17 to 21 years and 30% for Members aged 22 to 26 years and Associate Members. All new members should be subject to a 10% discount on the increases” –

Proposer: Sam Williams, Brown Cleve YFC, Shropshire and Secunder; Alice Roberts, Whittington & Oswestry YFC, Shropshire.

Sam Williams – Brown Cleve YFC addressed the meeting: “Good afternoon ladies and Gentlemen having given serious thought to the amendments put forward here today, none of them will help with member recruitment or retention whilst sustainably bridging the deficit therefore Brown Cleve YFC propose: ‘that the gross national subscription for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 be increased as follows: 10% for Members aged 10 to 16 years, 20% for Members aged 17 to 21 years and 30% for Members aged 22 to 26 years and Associate Members. All new members should be subject to a 10% discount on the increases’; this has been carefully thought through and feel that a staggered percentage increase will protect the membership for years to come, we have come to this proposal based on our experiences of a YFC club which are replicated through Shropshire and I am sure elsewhere in the country. We are a club of roughly 70 members, with over 50% of the members being Juniors (aged 10-16). Over the past 10 years our juniors have become increasingly strong in terms of competition and holding their own views and opinions at meetings and helping develop the club. They have really become a vital part of our club. We feel that is juniors can be encouraged to join YFC and helped to remain in the organisation, it can only be beneficial for every club they become a part of. This is our first reason for reducing the levy increase for younger members.

Secondly, Juniors (more often than not) do not pay for their own YFC membership; it is usually Parents or a Family member who will pay the subscription. In many cases this can be for more than one child at a time. So it is unfair to force the youngest YFC members to be pushed out of YFC not because they do not wish to be part of it, but because their parents cannot afford to be paying significant levy increases. This is why we want to impose just a 10% rise on Juniors. Similarly, this applies to the Intermediate Members (aged 17-21), incurring a 20% rise. The intermediate members are generally either still in education, on a low wage or part time wage so therefore, earning less than a Senior member (aged 22-26). It is now their decision whether they become a member or not, but with increasing levy fees, Intermediates may start to think twice as to why they should sign up.

We feel, Senior Members and Associates, should be subject to a 30% rise as these age brackets are fully aware of the positives that are available for YFC members and the opportunities that present themselves. They are generally in full time work by this age so will be more receptive to a levy increase.

New members should be subject to a 10% discount on levy fees. Brown Cleve YFC feels this is imperative. As a National Organisation we need to be doing all we can to be encouraging new members to join up. NFYFC are projecting up to 15% membership decreases since the cancellation of the Annual Convention. If this trend were to continue our organisation will soon start to look very diminished. We need to be offering new members’ incentives to join up and we feel that a 10% discount on membership would be a good place to start. Some of you may be concerned that the staggered system seems complication and could be hard to implement, however Shropshire YFC have enforced this for many years and have no issues with the way it is structured. We believe our amendment will help with retention of members, encourage first time members to join whilst sustainably reducing the deficit. Thank you.”

Alice Roberts – Chairman Whittington & Oswestry YFC addressed the meeting: “Good afternoon fellow young farmers, I am here to second the amendment as proposed by Sam Williams. Myself my club and our county strongly believe that this amendment is the most thought out and stable option for altering the YFC levy, we understand that there is a need for an increase, however we do so under the belief that it needs to be done under the guises of membership retention and new membership recruitment. At a county level we predict that a 50% levy increase will have the same impact on our membership as that of the AGM weekend in Blackpool being cancelled, from year 2017/18 to 2018/19 Shropshire YFC is



heading towards a decrease in its membership of 15%, there is duplication in this again as in 2019/20 statistically this will see us 120 members worse off and yes we will see an increase of £1703.80 in overall income but as a county our retained income will decrease by £2,674, and then for the following year 2020/21 a further £2,272.89. Brown Clee's amendment of 10% increase for Juniors, 20% for intermediates and 30% for seniors and associates will allow us as a county to keep our membership prices the same and therefore retain our income and membership quantity, whilst still earning national an additional 22% in the years 2019/20, and 2020/21. The only way we can grow our organisation sustainably is by improving its perceived value and membership satisfaction, let us use the staggered approach to a levy increase to improve YFC and grow our income organically without penalising us the existing members. Thank you."

CS asked if anybody wished to speak this amendment;

Rebecca Joynt – Secretary of Bridgenorth Young Farmers – "Good afternoon I definitely didn't plan on speaking this afternoon, I have only been a member since June last year and this is my first AGM. Last year our club nearly folded due to lack of members, but to prove it is possible we have pushed membership and now have around 40 members, approximately half of these are Juniors approximately 13, we subsidise our new members so these juniors have only paid £27 each this year, we can't impose a large rise on them it just too much, especially when many of the parents are paying for more than one. They then have to pay for weekly activities on top of this, they want these activities free or cheap with their friends locally, unfortunately we just cannot get them interested in county competitions, so what benefit do they see from national at this age. To me it has been made apparent today that there are other cuts that can be made TEN26, travel and AGM already mentioned, we understand that a levy rise will be an increase, but a staggered increase proposed by Brown Clee YFC is the only way to support the age membership and preserve YFC for the future."

Edward Dungait – Northumberland FYFC - addressed the meeting; "Some of us think that this amendment is over complicated, I don't see any reason to make all these different levy changes at a national level, every club could charge a different amount for their juniors, as many clubs do, so I think you can just decide at a club level what you want to charge, I don't think there is any need for it. Thank you."

The members voted by show of voting cards and the Brown Clee YFC Amendment was defeated. The Yorkshire Motion is now the substantive Motion and will be voted upon.

CS invited Proposer: Stephen Jarmus final right to reply to this Motion before members voted;

Stephen Jarmus addressed the meeting; "Good afternoon we have been here a long time, firstly I would like to thank the proposers and seconders of the other motion and amendments today, I think there was some thought gone into all of them and I can see reasons for voting for and against all of them. I think the Radnor proposal is ways months ago I would have supported that definitely but as someone who had not done much work in reading up on the budgets or finances of national, I would definitely supported that, but actually looking at the finances yes there are cuts to be made but the amount of money needed to be found to close that deficit is just huge; £300,000 in a year, I think the support for Yorkshire's amendment will really help to cement the future of national young farmers, but also our young farmers at a club level which is really important. The reason I decided to come down today and propose this amendment for Yorkshire is that I had a real fear that in a few years time, I would have to go to the members in my club and district and say sorry there is no young farmers next week because we have gone bust, so I think this is a really positive step, I think it needs to be reviewed again and when this amendment finishes with a view to keeping the levy at a sustainable level, it cannot continue to be after this amendment just an uphill slope where we continue piling money on the levy, I think with a reduction in costs from national, the addition to levy from the Yorkshire proposal, I think we will find ourselves in a really nice middle ground and a strong position for the future. Thank you."

The Yorkshire Motion was voted upon by show of cards the motion was carried and was approved by the meeting. CS thanked everybody who proposed amendments and now we can all move on.



Lynsey introduced James Hutchinson.

AGM/15/19 To receive the report of the Agriculture & Rural Issues Steering Group (AGRI) 2018

James Hutchinson delivered the AGRI report as detailed in the NFYFC Annual Report and showed a montage of the year. James addressed the meeting; “ Madam President, Ladies, Gentlemen and fellow young farmers, it has been a privilege over the last twelve months to lead the AGRI steering group team and I must say a big thank you to our sponsors and in particular Kuhn farm machinery who sponsor the AGRI group. During this time the team have worked hard with industry partners to positively promote young people’s views, opportunities and opinions in the agricultural community on rural issues that we all face today. More details of what we have done can be found in your annual general report. We have done this in many ways whether that is feeding back to Defra via the Agricultural Health and Harmony paper, or lobbying at work and events which include county shows and other industry events. The AGRI team have strived to give a balanced response to all the issues that face young farmers members in agricultural issues that we face on a daily basis. During the last twelve months the AGRI steering group have put on many different events for members to allow them to give direct feedback, some of these events have been the CEJA Seminar which was held last March.

Another event was the AGRI Brunch in Blackpool last year which was well attended but considering the number of people that were in Blackpool it was a drop in the ocean. Also in February of this year we put on a weekend event up in Bakewell in Derbyshire, where again members have the opportunity to come along and feed back their views to Defra and other organisations. There is a saying; “You can take a horse to water but you can’t make it drink.” AGRI gave everybody in this room, every member in our counties at home an opportunity to have their voice and have their say, and yes we are very lucky as a steering group to have dedicated AGRI steering group members and AGRI link reps that do this, but it is your opportunity guys if you don’t take it, with the challenging times that we have coming ahead in agriculture you have got to step up to the plate everybody.

However, we have done lots of positive things as well throughout the year, whether that is creating a Showing Guide in association with the Rare Breeds Association Survival Trust, or allowing members to go to the NFU Conference last February, again open to everybody in this room, if they want to go or you have to do is go to your local NFU office. Finally the steering group works closely with all the other steering groups, one main thing we did through the year was to help the Youth Forum promote Open Farm Sunday in June, a great opportunity for members to showcase what the agricultural community does to the wider public and if everybody can see the picture on the left-hand side you will see there is a few cars parked there, 3 hours earlier that was full up with cars, thousands of people come along to look and see what we do in the rural community. We are the guardians of England and Wales green and pleasant land we have got to look after it. Thank you.” *[There followed a montage for the year].*

Lynsey thanked James and introduced Fay Thomas Chair of the Competitions Steering Group

AGM/16/19 To receive the report of the Competitions Steering Group 2018 –

Fay Thomas delivered the report as detailed in the NFYFC Annual Report and showed a montage of the year. Fay addressed the meeting; “Good afternoon Madam President, Guests and fellow young farmers kicking off the competitions programme we headed up to Blackpool for the Pantomime, Senior Member of the Year and dancing finals, soon we were in the hot sun of July where competitors entered the public speaking, across to the shooting, we also headed up to the Great Yorkshire Show for the dairy stockjudging and the first time for NFYFC the sheep shearing competition. Summer also brought the Tug O War at Tenbury and cookery and floral art at Malvern, rounding up the competitions year was the live and carcass judging. It has been a great pleasure being your competitions chairman for the last year, but before I sit down I have to thank all the shows, venues, sponsors, judges, stewards, staff, parents, trainers and finally competitors who make this competition programme happen. Thank you.” *[There followed a montage for the year].*



Lynsey invited Michael Wood to give his report from the Events & Marketing Steering Group.

AGM/17/19 To receive the report of the Events & Marketing Steering Group 2017 -

Michael Wood delivered the report as detailed in the NFYFC Annual Report and showed a montage of the year. Michael addressed the meeting; “Madam President, Ladies & Gentlemen, fellow young farmers young and old, in the year of disappointment, controversy and Brexit, young farmers much like Brexit are in a state of turmoil and unfortunately that has come to the forefront of everything YFC since the incidents of last year’s convention. Let’s try and look at the good aspects in which Events and Marketing have taken part in at last year’s convention reached the masses with over 6,000 attending enjoying the Winter Gardens with highlights including James Haskell, Greg James to name but a few, unfortunately the good work and charitable efforts of young farmers across the country was overshadowed by events which happened in the town centre, yes there are people who disagree with how this was handled but I can say with great effort by the NFYFC team, the turmoil in the aftermath was unacceptable behaviour which unfolded was done in the best way possible. This gave birth to the #tag Trueyfc which was launched by Lynsey and promoted by members across the country, with positive stories about young farmers and the great work you all undertake. These stories added to the positive material available for the National Young Farmers Week, along with the promotional videos, video competition which was judged by BBC’s Gareth Wyn-Jones and Charlotte Smith, due to the comments and media received and the implications thrust on the organisation, Events & Marketing has a serious look at their output and realised it is paramount to promote the benefits that the national organisation can offer to all of its members and maintain as many events as possible, including the YFC members to the Alps so they can enjoy gravity based activities. I look forward to the efforts of the Events & Marketing progressing for the benefit of the organisation and for generations to come. I would also like to thank all people that have taken part in every event possible because without the support of past and current members none of it would be possible.” *[There followed a montage for the year].*

Lynsey thanked Michael Wood and introduced George Goodwin

Lynsey introduced George Goodwin to present the report from the Personal Development Steering Group

AGM/18/19 To receive the report of the Personal Development Steering Group -

George Goodwin delivered the report as detailed in the NFYFC Annual Report, and showed a montage of the year. “Madam President, Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen, fellow young farmers, I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity I have been given as Chair of the Personal Development Steering Group and wanted to highlight what I consider to be our key success of the last 12 months. Members that received training via The Curve throughout last year reached 2,946 members, near on a 20% increase from our 2,500 member target. Pre-dominantly thanks to our YFC trained trainers across England & Wales. If you are or ever have been an YFC trainer, you will know it is a rewarding task. Now, hopefully more than ever as we have launched the County Training Recognition Scheme. Allowing NFYFC to deliver quality training right across England & Wales. The YFC travel programme has again been a success this year, please don’t scrap it. As before my full report is in the Annual Report. Please have a read! Finally, I would like to thank all the staff none more so than Cath Sykes, whose consistent support hasn’t gone unnoticed. That concludes my report and I would like to introduce Aimee Mahony Vice Chair of the Young Farmers Ambassadors.” *[There followed a montage for the year].*

AGM/19/19 Presentation of donation from Young Farmers Ambassadors and presentation of the YFA Multimedia

Trophy- Aimee Mahony outlined the work of the YFA and invited members who have travelled on any YFC trips to join YFA for a small fee of £10 a year. Aimee presented Katie Hall with an YFA Donation cheque to NFYFC for £3,600 towards the YFC Travel Programme. Aimee presented Abbie Williams from Gwent FYFC with the YFA wooden Globe, a small glass globe and some YFC branded gifts for winning the multimedia competition following her trip to South Africa.

Lynsey invited Megan Watkins to give her report from the Youth Forum Steering Group.

AGM/20/19 To receive the report of the Youth Forum – Megan Watkins addressed the meeting; “Ladies, Gentlemen and fellow young farmers the past year has been busy for the Youth Forum kick started with a team building residential weekend in Edinburgh supported by The Rural Youth Trust. The group has fun on quad bikes and enjoyed a visit to the



Escape Rooms followed by one of our three meetings a year in which we made plans for the future. The forum asked counties how they get younger members voices heard, the survey result showed that most counties were facilitating events or meetings that allowed younger members to input into the actions of clubs and counties. The youth forum is developing additional support for those counties that indicated they were finding this a challenge. The forum ensured younger rural voices were heard on a larger scale by successfully submitting two motions to the British Youth Council in 2018; 'A lack of affordable housing' and 'Rural Mental Health' were both added to the BYC's Manifesto, following a presentation by youth forum member Ruth Cooper from Cumbria FYFC. The forum once again supported 'Open Farm Sunday' encouraging members to open up their own farms to the public or to support an existing event, in a way promoting YFC and educating the public about British farming. A project on farm safety is being invested and the forum are looking for partner organisations to work with them on how to keep children safe on farms.

It has been an absolute pleasure to work with a group of passionate and committed junior members who really are bursting with member's ideas. I would like to thank the NFYFC staff in particular Jodie for all of the hard work she has put into the forum and I would like to wish Lucy and Ruth the very best of luck for the forthcoming year. Thank you."

[There followed a montage for the year].

AGM/21/19 MOTION FROM NFYFC COUNCIL – "That the main body of a public house (pub) is not an appropriate space for YFC business meetings" – Proposer; Katie Davis, Pembrokeshire FYFC, Seconder; Thomas Oatey, Cornwall FYFC.

Katie addressed the meeting; the Motion from council is "That the main body of a public house (pub) is not an appropriate space for YFC business meetings" I wish to highlight two key words; 'main body'. This motion is not stating that meetings cannot take place in a pub, it is stating that the main body of the pub aka the bar area is not an appropriate place for YFC meetings. This motion does not say that as an organisation we are not to use pubs as a meeting place, many pubs allow YFC members to take their meetings there 'free of charge' which is a benefit to our membership, however clubs should endeavour to use a function room or a private room in the pub for their meetings, as a democratic youth organisation where nearly half of our membership is under 18 years of age it is vital that all of our members feel entitled and able to give their opinions. Many members under and over 18 make it uncomfortable giving opinions or volunteering for one of the many competitions and activities that we offer if they are in earshot of strangers and non-members. As a youth organisation and as officials of clubs we need to consider the environment that we bring young people to on a weekly basis, we must provide a safe environment for the whole membership to be able to speak. We know that our membership is 10 – 26, meaning that some of our membership can still be at primary school, is the bar area really the best place to bring those junior members, I know many clubs seating here today and at home across England and Wales including my own have had a high number of 10 and 11 year olds joining who are so enthusiastic and are the future of our organisation, but bringing them to a bar is not suitable. As I have said a number of these are 10 and in primary school and whilst this means we have a strong future we also have a 'duty of care' to them, no we are not a babysitting service, but ultimately they are our responsibility. In order to encourage these members to join the organisation for years to come, they and their parents must feel that we are looking after them, they are in a safe place and we value their opinions. As a member living in rural Wales I know that the pubs provide a vital contribution to our community, as does our young farmers and I want to ensure their survival. This Motion in many ways supports rural pubs by allowing or enabling members to utilise them, but we are trying to safeguard our membership by taking the meetings out of the bar area, in an ideal scenario every club would have access to, or own their hall but this is not an ideal scenario and they come with problems of their own, and our clubs have to have a place to meet. I am aware that many clubs do not have the luxury of owning their own hall, or having reasonable access to a village hall or school especially as many now charge per hour to rent them when clubs maybe struggling with their finances. We recognise the importance of clubs meeting on a regular basis as we are one of the few organisations that do this and we want to encourage this but it has to be in a safe environment. Madam President, Madam Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, fellow young farmers, I stated at the beginning of this proposal, this Motion is not saying that we should not use pubs, it is merely saying that the bar area is not an appropriate place for YFC meetings, please support this Motion from Council and the Youth Forum to allow all members a voice and support the future of our organisation. Thank you."

Thomas Oatey addressed the meeting; "Good afternoon Madam President, Madam Chairman and fellow young farmers and fellow fun sponges as I have been called. I would like to second this Motion on behalf of the Youth Forum that the main body of public house is not an appropriate space for YFC business meetings. This Motion may seem like more red



tape, which I know how much you guys like red tape from the Federation, but it is much more than that. The number of under 18 members in the Federation now equates to 47.6% of the total membership, ask yourselves here today is it really appropriate that this many under 18 year olds are meeting in pubs across England and Wales, and can you honestly say Yes! The Scottish Association of Young Farmers' Clubs have already enforced that the main body of a pub is not an appropriate place for a business meeting, and we should be doing the same, it might be convenient and it might be what is always been done, but that doesn't necessarily mean that is what is right. Young farmers has been hit hard in the press in recent times and this Motion will help towards combating a negative association with drinking and the drinking culture of young farmers and we must be looking at the bigger picture in all of this. A business meeting is an important part of a club programme and the main body of a public house is not an appropriate location regardless of the ages, they should be properly carried out in a private room away from those not involved which is not always possible in the body of the main pub.

For clubs that will be affected by this should the Motion be passed, could look to hold the meeting in a local school or village hall for example, this may come with increased costs to hire such a venue but these fees could perhaps be waived if clubs offer to redecorate or carry out gardening or maintenance of the facility they are using, and even if meeting in the same venue function room is the only option it is much better than the main body of a pub. This Motion is designed to help our club committees to carefully consider a meeting place to best ensure the best environment for young people to meet and make sure that everyone between 10 and 26 is comfortable in their surroundings. Thank you."

Charlotte Smith called for any members who wished to speak to the Motion;

Matt Hosken – Cornwall "Madam President I have come here today to vote on behalf of my County Cornwall FYFC who have unanimously said that they wanted to vote against this Motion not because we disagree with what the general message is what we feel is we live in a small rural county in the back end of England and the issue that we have is that we are surrounded by small local pubs who quite often are not that busy. Our members find that it is easier going to one of those pubs because as we have already said one of the things we are faced with is cost and at this time when we are asking members to pay more and more should we then be Constitutionally asking them to pay again just to have a business meeting, when generally my club particularly can go into one space with no one else in attendance that might happen to be the main body of the pub, it's what we do regularly. We need to look after our members, we need to remember that actually we shouldn't be taxing them and we shouldn't be lambasting them and basically admitting it is their fault. The Council are saying that we have a problem by proposing and seconding and forwarding this Motion. Thank you."

Daniel Graham – Northumberland FYFC "Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, accordingly to my Club Secretary I am nothing, I am not a chairman or secretary, not even a Treasurer, I am probably the most unofficial person in this room, but I am a paid member. Originally I came down from the Scottish boarder to inject a bit of crack into this meeting, but then I heard this proposal which is probably the most ridiculous proposal I have ever heard in my entire life. The pub, the public house dates right back to Roman taverns, in 1393 King Richard II of England ordered that every public house displayed a sign outside in order that every new agricultural worker in the area knew where to go to catch up on the crack. Nothing has changed 9 out of 10 clubs in Northumberland are sponsored by the local pubs and we support them it works both ways that doesn't need to be fixed. It's free to meet in the function rooms of most pubs, the local village hall however costly £22.50 a night to be precise and I know which local enterprise I would rather support. I think I speak for everyone here after a long days graft I know I will go for a nice cold game of bowls down at the W.I. at the village hall, I want a pint in my public house. Having cancelled the annual convention and having to listen to this hilarious proposal they seems to want to withdraw farmers from the general public, shredding us off if you like, they obviously expect us to stay at home on the ranch, relaxing in a pile of barley, exercising our mental health and trying not to rack up anymore horrifying statistics. Also how are you going to police this? I don't know if you know where Thistle & Alwinton is but if you do happen to find yourself there you would be seduced by a pint of creamy Worthington before you can make a stand. Thank you."

Stephen Jarmus - "It was stated that Young Farmers is not a babysitting service, so I suggest that National try not to babysit us with this proposal."

Katie Davies – Summing up the Motion addressed the meeting; "Madam President, Madam Chairman and fellow young farmers for those that know me I come from Pembrokeshire and I as much as anybody else in this room enjoy going to



our very supportive local pub in my area for YFC meetings we are fortunate as a club that we don't meet on a regular basis. However I know that many members in my club would not be allowed to attend the pub from a young age especially to have a business meeting. This proposal is not stating that YFC need to stop socialising in a pub, it is not stating that rural pubs cannot be supported by YFC, it is purely advising that for a business meeting such as today a pub area a bar is not an appropriate venue. Ladies and gentlemen on behalf of the Youth Forum who have brought this to our council a business meeting should not be held in a bar area. A function room a private room is fine, and after the business meeting a drink in the bar to socialise is fine. I hope you will listen to their views."

The members voted by show of cards and the Motion was defeated.

Lynsey introduced Dafydd Jones Chair of the Wales Federation to give his report.

AGM/22/19 To receive the report of the Wales Federation of Young Farmers' Club

Dafydd Jones addressed the meeting: "Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, Madam Lywydd, Madam Cadeirgwraig, cydfermwyr ifanc a gwesteion anrhydeddus, Madam President, Madam Chairlady, fellow young farmers and honoured guests, it gives me great pleasure to deliver the report on behalf of Wales YFC, it has been another rollercoaster year for Wales YFC and jam packed year of events. As Wales YFC we deliver a programme of over 90 competitions throughout the year, once again participation in Wales YFC competitions has been tremendous throughout the year with a high standard as always enabling members to develop skills and also coming together to have fun.

Apart from competitions Wales YFC delivers many different opportunities for members to name a few; our travel programme allowed many members keen to explore the world and to reach out to fellow youth organisations across the globe and fantastic to see 30 members offered this opportunity. This year's rural affairs tour proved popular with limited spaces taken up very quickly as the tour travelled across the pond to N Ireland and we send a huge thank you to retiring Ulster chairman James Speers and Dunbia for their co-operation in choosing site visits, we have worked with Dunbia now for ten years to delivery our YFC lamb initiative along with Sainsburys and it continues to grow from strength to strength, benefitting members across Wales. Our rural affairs conference was a success we chose a new venue in Carmarthenshire, it provided us with an opportunity to have specialists speakers to deliver their views on the future of our industry and incorporate a tour of the college to see how deliver and prepare for the next generation of farmers.

A lot of work has gone on behind the scenes with our staff and officer holders with numerous meetings, AGRI has had a larger emphasis certainly this year, meetings with farm unions, politicians and Welsh Government and the Prime Minister at The Royal Welsh Winter Fair, as well as members going to Cardiff, Westminster and beyond to deliver our voice. BREXIT has certainly ramped up the demand for young voices and we have strived to deliver that. Partnerships formed over the year are vast and a key way to adding additional strings to our bow so that the members can use these to their advantage to utilise and benefit themselves, the county and clubs. Listed are numerous partnership to give you an insight into what we provide and who we work with and I will talk through a few of them; 'Challenge Wales' has been an exciting partnership for us this year, with interviews held to identify the crew who will be going forward for a sailing challenge. 9 Junior members will be receiving the opportunity of a lifetime which will see them sailing a boat from Gosport in Portsmouth all the way around the coastline to Cardiff, truly a challenge which will provide the perfect opportunity for the members to work as team and develop their skill as they steer, work the sails and learn to operate everything on board and the very best of luck to them. Mentor Moch Pig Finishing Competition which we first partnered with in 2017, we are very pleased to announce this partnership again for 2019, the scheme sees 6 finalists chosen they are given support and training to develop practical pig rearing in an outdoor and indoor environment depending on their farm suitability. Also training on business and marketing skills are given to the success of the venture and fully equip the members with the skill they need to raise a success pig rearing enterprise from the 5 pigs each member will receive through the scheme. Our continued partnership with Massey Fergusson has seen us deliver farm safety work with Massey dealers throughout Wales; I am pleased the membership is taking full use of this opportunity. The statistics for farm



safety and serious incidents are on the increase and anything we can do to highlight this and make young people aware of the risks in our industry is a key step in the right direction. Allflex is a collaboration working very well and our Shear Success Campaign has had numerous locations on the road show across Wales. The last one happened last Tuesday night in Brecon. Members gathered to see hear from world renown shearing company Heiniger with their Research & Development Manager for Australia and New Zealand Mr Selwyn Williams, and our world record holder Matt Smith sharing their expertise and wisdom. It was great to see the 4 members of Brecknock YFC who are attempting a 4 man standing shearing record on the 9 August this year and the very best of luck with that.

Many of you will be aware of Wales YFC headquarters on The Royal Welsh Showground in Builth; it is with great joy that following a very long process where discussion began over 20 years ago, we are finally the main Lease holders, so a happy year it has been indeed. I would like to thank current staff and office holders as well as past ones for being involved to make this happen truly as exciting time, as the membership now has the opportunity to enhance and develop the building to maximise its potential and make it a base that can utilised better by the membership to suit their needs.

Young Peoples' Village is in planning in full swing and we are just about 70 days away from our biggest week of the year which is The Royal Welsh Show and the opening of the gates to the village. This year our festival will see many changes and you will experience a different look in layout and structure, this is to accommodate the needs and to enhance the experience that everyone deserves. Last year we saw over 4,000 people stay at the village, with many more coming along to enjoy the different line up and bands. We look forward to welcoming everyone once again, for anyone interested YPV can be found on many platforms of social media as well as the website. To close ladies and gentlemen I would like to thank our entire staff team and officers for all your tremendous hard work, to all sponsors and partnerships for believing in us, to the 12 counties and most importantly every member who ventures out every week to YFC, this is why we do it and it is a pleasure as chairman to serve them."

AGM/23/19 The adoption of the Annual Report for 2018

Proposer: Lynsey Martin – Chair, NFYFC Council 2018 Seconder: Katie Hall – Chair, NFYFC Council 2019

Lynsey Martin addressed the meeting; "I am here talk about the Annual Report, first of all I will start on a positive note, I would like to thank all of you including the once who have had to leave early for what has been a really positive meeting with some good arguments from everybody and really great to see so many passionate people, what disappoints me is it takes something like this getting to this point in the time of NFYFC to see so many here. I have had, I don't even know the word to describe, my year but there have been some positives, I have managed to get out and meet as many members as possible regardless of whatever else has been going on. *[Lynsey showed the highlights of her year]* I am not really a quotes person but I will come back to that at the end. All eyes are on us but we need to make sure that they eyes are on us for the right reasons and it is not just as Delme has said the eyes of the industry, it is the eyes of sponsors and future sponsors, donors and volunteers and even Google. Weird you may think that I have mentioned Google but what is the first thing that any potential employer does, a person we have put an application for funding into, or a potential future partner organisation, they Google us and right now they would be getting some incredible mixed results. The analytics from last weekend's coverage for the unofficial AGM just from The Sun, The Star and The Daily Mail both online and in print had a 5.5M reach, over double the reach for what happened a year ago. Let's not kid ourselves that has damaged not necessarily just NFYFC but it has damaged the whole young farmers reputation further, and it is only fair that you hear what happened last year when our reputation was so damaged. Funders and sponsors started to take a step back from us they didn't want to re-tweet us, they didn't want to share what we were doing, phone calls would go unanswered and it is not without a hard fought effort from the staff and from officers until not even to the end of young farmers week which was three months later, for those partner organisations to start coming back to us. Laura and the officers staff and myself all had different experiences of this throughout the year at different times. Laura, Katie and myself all found ourselves marginalised at industry and partnership meetings, when we were there trying to do what you asked us to do



and represent you and your views, even being talked over and having people twice my age tell me that I didn't know what the view of the next generation was, or to being the butt of jokes in speeches by chairmen at dinners and meetings became the norm for me and the others. Those of you are here and are also council members will know the affect this had on me and the others, I didn't plan on crying in every council meeting I chaired but it happened, and it happened because I am passionate about this organisation, because I have been privileged to watch members evolve and change not solely by competing in competition finals or taking part in travel, but by having a go at club and county levels which all starts from the competitions and offerings we have at a national level and taking on roles however small being in charge of the tea at the weekly meetings or to being county chair, that is why I have spent so much time to promote this organisation, I dedicated a year of my life to promote this organisation, but what I will not do is be forced to feel ashamed for any decisions that I have made in the last twelve months, hand on heart I have done what I believe to be right and to try and protect the organisation that I love. [Lynsey asked all the in-age members to stand up] We are embarking on a time of change and it is fantastic to see so many of you here, it is from you that we need to hear, I am old now I am no longer an in-age member no secret and this isn't my organisation any more it is yours. All of us sat down are here to support you achieve what you want to achieve, but you all need to stand up and be counted and make your views heard continuously as you have done today and take that opportunity anyway it comes, I know the officers who are sat on this table are all open to be spoken to or are keen to be spoken to and hear your views going forward on how is the best way to represent you, it is not a 'them and us' that has to stop it is 'we'. We need to work together as we have done today to provide the change that all of you who are stood up need to see this organisation grow and thrive, that is all I have ever wanted as a member, and it is all I ever want to see in the future. Thank you."

Katie Hall addressed the meeting; "Madam President, members and honoured guests, Mum. It gives me great pleasure to second the motion to adopt the annual report, as presented here this morning. Lynsey has done an amazing job; we are in a challenging time, me, you, all of us. Those challenges will make us stronger, they will make us better and they will make this Federation fantastic, and you guys should all be incredibly proud of yourselves and the work that you have done today and the motions that you have brought to the floor, genuinely you blow me away every day as do the top table. So Lynsey it gives me great pleasure to second your Annual Report."

The members voted and duly adopted the Annual Report.

AGM/24/19 Presentation of Awards

Charlotte Smith made her way to the trophy table to make the presentation of awards.

Fay Thomas assisted by Dewi Parry took the proceedings for these awards.

The Top Trainers Award – awarded to Nottinghamshire FYFC received by: Natasha Hoggard

The Forageaid Trophy – awarded to the YFC Club which has raised the most funds for this charity - presented by Ed Ford to Teme Valley YFC (Herefordshire) received by Chloe Lloyd – Chairman.

The NFU Trophy – Champion County Federation in National Competitions Finals 2017/2018 awarded to Cumbria A, received by Henry Knowles.

The Tug Wilson Trophy – Reserve Champion County Federation in National Competitions Final 2017/2018 – awarded to Lancashire A – received by: Rachel Parker

The Worshipful Company of Farmers Trophy – Champion Small County Federation whose membership figures are amongst the lowest 50% of counties, NFYFC Competitions finals 2017/2018 – awarded to Oxfordshire, received by: Laura Gascoyne

The Merrik Burrell Tankard – The County Federation with the largest percentage increase in membership over the past three years – awarded to Berkshire, received by: Henry Graham



The Prince of Wales Trophy – Fay explained that the trophy had been kindly donated by HRH Prince of Wales. The aim of the competition is to highlight the good work carried out throughout the organisation in raising funds for charities and other worthy causes. The Trophy is awarded to the county federation that has raised the most funds per member in the year. This year's total amount raised from 14 County entries is **£489,478.84, in 3rd place Devon FYFC, in 2nd place Lincolnshire FYFC, 1st place awarded to Essex FYFC raising a total of £39,106.08 with 367 members, £106 per member.** Received by Marcus Bailey.

The Lionel J Hill MBE NFYFC Club Charity Cup – For the Club which has raised the most funds per member in 2018. Charlotte Smith awarded this trophy to: **Dartmouth YFC for raising £17,000 during the year, received by:** Rob Elliott

The Sidney Fawcett Trophy – awarded for the best AGM contribution and judged by Derek Carless and Caroline Westwood duly presented the Sidney Fawcett Trophy. Derek & Caroline noted the amount of passion in the speeches and praised those members who had addressed the meeting in order to debate motions and to make their points felt; especially those members who had not intended to speak to this meeting so did not have a planned speech. The Trophy was awarded to Edward Dungait – Northumberland.

Charlotte invited Dewi Parry to give a vote of thanks.

AGM/25/19 Vote of Thanks and Chairman's Closing Remarks

Dewi Parry addressed the meeting; "We wish to thank our President for chairing this meeting which has been long winded at times but we got through it and big thanks for her keeping us in check. I would like to thank Derek & Caroline for judging the Sidney Fawcett Trophy they have had a lot to judge with a lot of speakers today so I hope they have enjoyed it. Thank you to Stoneleigh Park Events for this venue, our thanks also to our sponsors, partners and any supporters who have helped us to make this day and also throughout the year. Thank you to the NFYFC staff team for making today possible and for the work they have put in to make today run smoothly. I have to thank Chris and his stewards they have had their work cut out today, and finally I would like to thank you the members for making the meeting as engaging and as full of debate as it was it has been healthy, it has all been kept nice so thank you very much and give yourselves a big round of applause. Thank you"

In closing Charlotte Smith noted that she was really proud to be involved with an organisation which can have very significant differences in such a positive way and I would urge all to talk to each other and to talk to your representatives because if we don't move forward together we are not going to be moving forward at all. Charlotte confirmed the date of **Sunday 26 April 2020 for the 88th Annual General Meeting** – venue to be advised and declared the meeting closed at 13:58 hrs.

Signed:

Dated:

Mrs Charlotte Smith (NFYFC President)

