



PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS (SCOTLAND) LIMITED

Minutes of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Sunday 5th March 2023 at 1.00pm in the Bridge of Earn Institute, Station Road, Bridge of Earn

Present: Andrew Mitchell Snr – Honorary President
Gavin Robertson – Interim Chairman
Dave Carnegie – Interim Vice-Chairman

Ian Bain	Brian Baxter	Gordon Beattie
Frank Blyth	Alistair Brown	Iain Brown
Colin Crawford	Margo Crawford	Ian Cruickshank
Hugh Currie	Andrew Cuthbertson	Bill Daniel
Hamish Easton	Steven Eccles	Alastair Fotheringham
Steven Fowler	Alistair Greenhill	Jill Grieve
Willie Grieve	Denis Hampton	Jim Harrow
Gordon Hepburn Jnr	Gordon Hepburn Snr	Carol Jack
James Jack	Doreen Keane	Neil Keillor
Alex Keith	D Kirkpatrick	W McHarrie
James McIndoe	Drew McKendrick	J McKie
George McLachlan	Derek MacIver	Ewan MacIver
Stephen MacKenzie	Elaine MacRae	Iain MacRae
Scott MacRae	Raymond Middleton	Angela Mitchell
Gordon Mitchell	Campbell Morrison	Ron Phillips
E Proctor	A Ramsay	Bruce Richardson
Iain Sinclair	Mark Skea	Ian Small
James Tait	David Taylor	Jim Thomson
John Walker	David Wood	

In Attendance: Lizzy Baxter (Interim Secretary)

Interim Chairman, Gavin Robertson welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked everyone for a large turnout. He introduced the table as Dave Carnegie, Interim Vice Chairman and Interim Secretary Lizzy Baxter.

1. Apologies

There were apologies of absence received from Robert McKechnie, Bill Wood, William Ronaldson, Robbie Gauld, Richard MacWilliam, Stuart Bathgate, Ross McDonald, Jim Edgar, Andrew Mitchell Jnr, Joyce Mitchell, Andy Greenhill, William Campbell, Willie McIntosh, Euan Anderson and Ed Bennie.

2. Opening Statement

Lizzy Baxter read the following out as an opening statement:

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

For those who don't know me, I'm Lizzy Baxter, the current Interim Secretary for the Association. As an independent to the group, I would just like to give a brief update on what's been happening since the EGM which was held on Sunday 29th January. I want to point out that I don't want to dwell on what has happened

as we are of firm belief that everyone would like to move on, but we feel that the membership should be afforded an update.

A few of the Directors and myself met with the outgoing Secretary and a couple of past Directors a few days after the EGM. This was to take the form of the handover. It was all very amicable and items were handed over. Unfortunately, it wasn't a complete handover and what has ensued has been a month of asking for information. Things have not been easy and there will be a lot of setting up required to be done, including templates, score systems, etc. One of the items requiring set up was a new email address and inputting all the information for this too. I can only apologise if you have not received the AGM information, I had tried my best to contact as many people as I could via the email and social media platforms. Moving forward, to try and 'save the planet' we would like to communicate more via email and electronic platforms to save on printing and postage costs.

There is a slight change to the agenda for today's proceedings. You will have noted this in your email received. The running of the afternoon is the same but for the formality side of things, there will be 2 agendas to keep the AGM proceedings separate from the Open Meeting.

As I said, we don't want to dwell on the past and having worked for the last 5 weeks with a group of enthusiastic and forward-thinking people, I can foresee an inclusive and open organisation that would strive to make things better for the purpose of the Scottish Ploughing Championships.

Gavin thanked Lizzy for her opening statement and asked for the membership to bear this in mind for moving things forward.

3. Minutes of previous General Meetings

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 13th March 2022 were previously circulated and with no matters arising were approved by Brian Baxter and seconded by Willie Grieve.

The minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on Sunday 29th January 2023 were also previously circulated and with no matters arising were approved by Iain MacRae and seconded by Raymond Middleton.

4. Chairmans Report

Gavin Robertson gave the following report:

What can I say 2022 has certainly been an eventful year for the Scottish Ploughing Championships! If someone had told me a year ago I would be standing here as interim Chairman today I would never of believed them but here we are!

Our first competition of the year was the European Vintage and Classic on the 2nd and 3rd of September in Ballykelly, Northern Ireland, our representatives were Dave Veitch, Doug Stewart, Neil Ramsay and Fraser Millar. Dave was third in the Vintage Mounted, Doug was third in the Vintage Trailing, Neil was second in the Non Hydraulic Reversible with Fraser finishing third. Well done lads and thanks to George Melville and John Walker for judging. I would also like to thank Andrew Mitchell, Snr for judging the European Reversible competition; unfortunately we had no ploughers competing in this.

Next up was the 67th World Championships held in the Republic of Ireland on the 21st and 22nd September. Our representatives were Dave Carnegie and Gordon Rae, this being Gordon's first time competing at the world match. Dave was 5th on stubble and 11th on grass, securing 9th overall and Gordon was 16th on stubble and 22nd on grass, securing 17th overall. Well done to you both and a thank you to our world board member Joyce Mitchell for coaching and Alistair Brown for judging,

The 22nd and 23rd October say the 58th Scottish Ploughing Championship take place after a lay off due to covid for a few years, at Stanstill Farm Caithness. Our host Morgan Milne was, again, his usual accommodating self

and nothing was ever a problem to him. The match did not go without its problems, but was still very successful. The weather was not the kindest to us but a high standard of work was produced over the two days.

The Reversible and Conventional Five Nations was also incorporated at our Championships this year as well and our representatives were Mark Skea ploughing Conventional and James Tait ploughing Reversible. Mark came second in the Conventional with James winning the Reversible class. I would also like to thank our judges Billy Gordon and Kenny Anderson.

I would like to thank Margaret Wood for feeding the troops the week of the match and to everyone who helped setup and clean-up before and after the match. At this point I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members, ploughers, Caithness Sub-Committee, Jane and Directors for all their support and efforts this last year.

A special thanks to all the Directors who have worked tirelessly since the EGM to get things back on track. Dave and Willie your experience and knowledge has been a great help to me in the brief role as Interim Chair.

Lastly and by no means least our Interim Secretary, Lizzy. You have been a gem since you came on board in January, we cannot thank you enough for all your hard work, it has certainly not gone unnoticed, thank you.

If I have missed anyone out it is purely accidental.

Finally, I hope that you, the membership, can all support the match in 2023 in Ayrshire, by what I have been told it will have another excellent host and site.

Gavin's report was proposed by Gordon Beattie and seconded by James Tait.

5. Annual Accounts and Appointment of Accountants

Gavin called upon Elaine MacRae (acting Treasurer) to give a brief update on the Income & Expenditure Account presented to the AGM members. It showed a net profit for the year 2022 as £22,433. In breaking down the income, it could be noted that the sponsorship received at the Caithness match was well over £17,000 which was a great reflection on the hard work achieved by the Caithness committee. Entry fees were just over the £5000 and the gate entry and catalogues were just under the £3000. Overall the total income for the year came to just over £50,000. In expenditure the only things to note was that there was no prize money given out at the match in October so the total of £1234 would just be for engraving. The Social Evening was just over £3000 and this money didn't have any income attached to it. This would be looked into. It was noted to the accountants that the previous Company Secretary had resigned in January 2023 and this was noted in the Financial Accounts for the year 1st January 2022 – 31st December 2022. Alastair Greenhill had asked for a Balance Sheet to compare 2019 accounts against 2022. This will be made in due course.

With there being no further questions, Derek MacIver proposed the adoption of the Annual Accounts and Iain Sinclair seconded the adoption.

Appointment of Accountants – Montpelier Professional (Galloway) Ltd were the current accountants and these were proposed by Willie Grieve and seconded by Derek MacIver to remain as the Accountants for the following year.

6. Constitution and Articles of Association

Prior to the AGM, Lizzy had sent out two proposals for changes to the constitution. These were as follows:

Option 1 – Leave as per Constitution

This is to have 3 Directors nominated from each of the 5 areas. From them, a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer are voted into position. Total of 15 Directors.

Quorum is 8, change this to 5.

A sub committee is formed – with a Chairman, a Secretary, 2 Directors and 12 volunteers from the local area of the match. This committee organises the match.

A company secretary is a separate paid position.

Option 2 – Changes to the constitution

Chairman and Vice Chairman elected from membership. Term of office is 2 years per position.

3 members are then elected from each area, making 15 members – this makes up the Management Committee (including Chair and Vice). Total of Management committee is 17. They organise the match. Quorum is set at 5. Term of office....

From the 15 members, 1 from each area will be elected to be a Director. Total of 5 Directors and the Chair/Vice. This makes up the Directors totalling 7. They organise financials and keep admin etc up to date. Quorum is set at 3. Term of office....

A sub committee is set up annually with locals from the match area. They are mainly volunteers who can give local knowledge to the Management committee.

A company secretary is a paid position. This is separate to the committee.

A treasurer is a separate position. This is a new position with details to be reviewed by the new committee.

Lizzy gave a brief description in more detail as to what was expected of each position within the current constitution.

Gavin then asked for a vote to take place with those members who were voting delegates (paid up members). A show of hands revealed that for Option 1 there were no hands shown and Option 2 (to adopt the changes to the constitution) there were 50 hands shown. Option 2 was unanimously decided by the membership and will be adopted at this AGM.

7. Appointment of Office Bearers, Directors and Trustees

Nominations were invited from the floor for the following:

(For the position of Chairman and Vice Chairman – these positions are expected to be a 2 year term but will still require to be voted on at every AGM)

<u>Chairman</u> – Derek MacIver	Proposed by: Willie Grieve	Seconded by: James Tait	ACCEPTED
Chairman – Gavin Robertson	Proposed by: Alastair Greenhill/John Walker – Gavin declined the position		

<u>Vice Chairman</u> – Gordon Beattie	Proposed by: Alex Keith	Seconded by: Brian Baxter	ACCEPTED
No further nominations			

(Management Committee positions will be 3 members from each area and hold a maximum term of 5 years in office at any one time)

Management Committee - Area 1 (Thurso to Inverness)

Iain MacRae	Proposed by: Alex Keith	Seconded by: Gordon Hepburn Jnr	ACCEPTED
James Tait	Proposed by: Willie Grieve	Seconded by: Alex Keith	DECLINED
Gavin Robertson	Proposed by: Brian Baxter	Seconded by: Raymond Middleton	ACCEPTED

Campbell Morrison	Proposed by: Iain MacRae	Seconded by: Iain Sinclair	ACCEPTED
William Campbell	Proposed by: Iain Sinclair	Seconded by: Campbell Morrison	ACCEPTED

A vote took place. Iain MacRae received 28 votes, Gavin Robertson 34 votes, Campbell Morrison 13 votes and William Campbell 5 votes.

The 3 committee members from area 1 will be Iain MacRae, Gavin Robertson and Campbell Morrison.

Management Committee – Area 2 (Inverness to South Grampian)

Dave Carnegie	Proposed by: Brian Baxter	Seconded by: Alex Keith	ACCEPTED
Gordon Hepburn Jnr	Proposed by: Willie Grieve	Seconded by: Iain MacRae	ACCEPTED
Mark Skea	Proposed by: Gordon Beattie	Seconded by: Alex Keith	ACCEPTED
Raymond Middleton	Proposed by: Gordon Hepburn Jnr	Seconded by: Alex Keith	ACCEPTED
Ian Cruickshank	Proposed by: Brian Baxter	Seconded by: Dave Carnegie	ACCEPTED

A vote took place. Dave Carnegie received 47 votes, Gordon Hepburn Jnr 33 votes, Mark Skea 21 votes, Raymond Middleton 20 votes and Ian Cruickshank 11 votes.

The 3 committee members from area 2 will be Dave Carnegie, Gordon Hepburn Jnr and Mark Skea.

Management Committee – Area 3 (Tayside, Fife & Stirling)

Brian Baxter	Proposed by: Willie Grieve	Seconded by: Alex Keith	ACCEPTED
Willie Grieve	Proposed by: Gordon Hepburn Snr	Seconded by: James Tait	ACCEPTED
Alastair Greenhill	Proposed by: Gordon Hepburn Jnr	Seconded by: Neil Keillor	ACCEPTED
Mike Melville	Proposed by: Brian Baxter	Seconded by: Gordon Beattie	ACCEPTED
Ron Phillips	Proposed by: Brian Baxter	Seconded by: Willie Grieve	ACCEPTED

A vote took place. Brian Baxter received 46 votes, Willie Grieve 49 votes, Alastair Greenhill 27 votes, Mike Melville 2 votes and Ron Phillips 15 votes.

The 3 committee members from area 3 will be Brian Baxter, Willie Grieve and Alastair Greenhill.

Management Committee – Area 4 (Lothians and Borders)

Colin Crawford	Proposed by: Iain MacRae	Seconded by: Gordon Beattie	ACCEPTED
James McIndoe	Proposed by: Gordon Hepburn Jnr	Seconded by: Brian Baxter	ACCEPTED
David Wood	Proposed by: David Kirkpatrick	Seconded by: Alastair Greenhill	DECLINED

With no further nominations, a vote did not require to take place and both Colin Crawford and James McIndoe were elected to the management committee for area 4. The final place was not filled.

Management Committee – Area 5 (Glasgow, Ayrshire, Dumfries & Galloway)

Robert McKechnie	Proposed by: Willie Grieve	Seconded by: Alastair Greenhill	ACCEPTED
Alastair Brown	Proposed by: George McLachlan		DECLINED
Hugh Currie	Proposed by: Willie Grieve	Seconded by: Gordon Hepburn Jnr	ACCEPTED
Alan Ramsay	Proposed by: Willie Grieve	Seconded by: Gordon Hepburn Snr	ACCEPTED
George McLachlan	Proposed by: Brian Baxter		DECLINED
Drew McKendrick	Proposed by: Brian Baxter		DECLINED
Andrew Cuthbertson	Proposed by: Alastair Greenhill	Seconded by: Gordon Hepburn Snr	ACCEPTED

A vote took place. Robert McKechnie received 29 votes, Hugh Currie 35 votes, Alan Ramsay 32 votes and Andrew Cuthbertson 20 votes.

The 3 committee members from area 5 will be Robert McKechnie, Hugh Currie and Alan Ramsay.

Directors

Area 1 Nominations

Gavin Robertson	Proposed by: James Tait	Seconded by: Mark Skea	ACCEPTED
Iain MacRae	Proposed by: Gordon Hepburn Snr		DECLINED

With no other nominations, Gavin Robertson will be the Director for Area 1.

Area 2 Nominations

Gordon Hepburn Jnr	Proposed by: Iain MacRae	Seconded by: Mark Skea	ACCEPTED
Dave Carnegie	Proposed by: Willie Grieve	Seconded by: Mark Skea	ACCEPTED
Mark Skea	Proposed by: Gordon Hepburn Snr		DECLINED

A vote took place and Gordon Hepburn Jnr received 26 votes to Dave Carnegie 22 votes. Gordon Hepburn Jnr will be the Director for Area 2.

Area 3 Nominations

Brian Baxter	Proposed by: Willie Grieve	Seconded by: Gordon Beattie	ACCEPTED
Willie Grieve	Proposed by: Gordon Hepburn Snr	Seconded by: Iain MacRae	DECLINED

With no other nominations, Brian Baxter will be the Director for Area 3.

Area 4 Nominations

Colin Crawford	Proposed by: Brian Baxter	Seconded by: Willie Grieve	ACCEPTED
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With no other nominations, Colin Crawford will be the Director for Area 4.

Area 5 Nominations

Hugh Currie	Proposed by: Alan Ramsay	Seconded by: Drew McKendrick	ACCEPTED
Robert McKechnie	Proposed by: Alastair Greenhill		DECLINED

With no other nominations, Hugh Currie will be the Director for Area 5.

Sub Committee Nominations

Gavin asked for nominations to be put forward for the sub committee – which would be locals to the match so therefore from Ayrshire area. The following list of names was put forward for Hugh (from Area 5) to contact:

Ross Anderson	Proposed by: Brian Baxter	Seconded by: Willie Grieve
George McLachlan	Proposed by: Brian Baxter	Seconded by: Willie Grieve
Irene Wilson	Proposed by: Willie Grieve	Seconded by: Gordon Hepburn Jnr
James McKie	Proposed by: David Kirkpatrick	Seconded by: Willie Grieve
Andrew Cuthbertson	Proposed by: Hugh Currie	Seconded by: Gordon Hepburn Snr
Willie Dunlop	Proposed by: Willie Grieve	Seconded by: Hugh Currie

These people will be approached by Hugh and any other names that the area reps feel appropriate to ask would be most welcome.

Appointment of Secretary

This position has been advertised and there will be interviews taking place next weekend. The membership will be updated in due course on the new secretary appointed.

Appointment of Treasurer

Nominations have been sought for a Treasurer. Elaine MacRae was proposed by Gordon Hepburn Jnr and seconded by Derek Maclver. Elaine had done a great job in the time that she had been involved and the membership would be keen for her to continue. With no other nominations, Elaine accepted the position for the next year.

Appointment of Health & Safety Officer

The membership were asked for nominations or suggestions of who to approach. Iain MacRae explained that he had been in contact with NFU Scotland with regards to their Health & Safety Audit reports available. The membership were in agreement with Iain to find out more information from the NFU with regards to what is all involved. Eddie Scott was the previous Health & Safety Officer. If nothing comes from the NFU, then Eddie Scott will be approached for help. Gordon Hepburn Jnr asked the host farmer for 2023 match, Andrew Cuthbertson, if he had anyone local that he would use. The membership agreed to contact the NFU first and go from there.

8. Appointment of World Board Member

A letter of retirement from Joyce Mitchell for the role of World Board Member had been received. She thanked everyone who had helped her in her role and wished the Association all the best for the future. Gavin asked Andrew Mitchell Snr (on behalf of Joyce) to accept a bunch of flowers and a card as a way of thanks from the Membership to Joyce for all her hard work over the years in her role as World Board member.

Nominations for this position was sought.

Dave Carnegie	Proposed by: Alastair Greenhill		DECLINED
Jill Grieve	Proposed by: Dave Carnegie		DECLINED
Derek Maclver	Proposed by: Brian Baxter	Seconded by: Willie Grieve	ACCEPTED

With no more nominations, Derek accepted the position of World Board Member.

9. Any other competent business

(a) Honorary President nomination – Dave Carnegie

Willie Grieve praised Dave Carnegie on his commitment and outstanding achievements that he's received in his time within the Scottish Ploughing Championships. Willie described Dave as 'The Godfather of Scottish Ploughing'. He had represented Scotland 7 times at the Worlds and won the World Reversible Title in 1996. He has been a great supporter of the Ploughing movement most of his life and continues to be a support to all. A very well-deserved role as Honorary President. Gordon Hepburn Snr seconded Willie's proposal.

Dave replied and thanked Willie for his kind words. He wanted to note that it's been 9 times that he has represented Scotland on the World stage and he's been on the Directors Committee since 1999. Dave was honoured that he was being made an Honorary President and happily accepted this position.

(b) Bill Daniel's would like to note that he has a letter that was addressed to the Scottish Ploughing Championships which was bringing up flaws that were apparent in the judging system. He explained in detail what he would like to see change and has asked for SPC to set out their own system rather than follow the World scoring system. The letter and all information with regards to the Judging System will be discussed at the next meeting in June.

- (c) Outgoing Secretary – On behalf of the membership, Gavin extended a thanks to Jane McDowall for her near 19 years service that she has given to the Scottish Ploughing Championships. An engraved glass trophy was presented to John Walker (Jane McDowall was absent from the AGM).
- (d) Iain MacRae extended a thanks to Lizzy Baxter for her time and commitment that she has given to the Organisation since January.
- (e) Open Meeting – Gavin noted that the AGM would close and there would be a short break before the commencement of the Open meeting.

10. Close of Meeting

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the AGM at 2.15pm.
A vote of thanks to the top table by Gordon Hepburn Jnr.

Signed Date

Name

Role