

Young Farmers Ambassadors 65th Annual Reunion

Sunday 23rd October 2022

Hilton Hotel East Midlands Airport

Annual General Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the previous meeting
4. Matters arising from the minutes
5. Correspondence
6. Executive committee meeting report
7. Election of National Office Bearers
8. Regional reports
 - a. England and Wales
 - b. Scotland
 - c. Northern Ireland
9. Election of office bearers for 2023 reunion
10. Any other business

Young Farmers Ambassadors 65th Annual Reunion

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 23rd October 2022
at Hilton Hotel East Midlands Airport

Welcome

Aimee Mahoney, acting chair for the AGM, joint chair of the reunion committee welcomed everyone to the 65th YFA AGM in the Hilton Hotel East Midlands Airport. At this point, Aimee asked everyone in attendance to mark a moment of silence for those we have lost in the last year.

Attendance

There were 73 members in attendance at the AGM

Apologies for absence

Apologies were recorded in the attendance book from the following; Richard Willis, Adele Willis, Neil Brims, Marion MacPherson, David Paterson, Kathleen Stewart, John Rendall, Margaret Khnichich, Mary Roberts, Karl Hockenhull, Huw Williams, Angharad Williams, Alison Moran, Donna Simmons, Sandra Hockenhull, Polly Baines, Philip Walker, Trevor Woods, Claire Woods, Helen Ervin, Alex and Leslie Boyle

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held at the Canal Court Hotel, Newry on Sunday 27th October 2021 were circulated with the programme, these were approved and signed by Aimee Mahoney.

Matters arising from the minutes

No matters were arising from the minutes.

Correspondence

1 email of correspondence had been received from Neil Brims, Chairman of Scotland YFA, but would come up later in business.

Executive committee meeting report

The executive meeting was held on Saturday 22nd October 2022. The main topics were upcoming conferences and reunions which were covered later

in the agenda. Support for future home stay programmes, legislation around hosting and how we can support the sending organisations which was discussed at country meetings also.

Election of National Office Bearers

Chairman- James Cowan had served his time as Chairman, Sam Hawkes was proposed by David Hull and seconded by Roger King on behalf of Ulster. Secretary – Janette Stirling would remain for a second year.

At this point, Aimee thanked everyone so far for the support shown to executive committee and handed over to Sam Hawkes to chair the rest of the meeting.

Regional reports

England and Wales- Delivered by Aimee Mahoney

Good morning fellow YFA members and guests. It is a great pleasure to be stood here delivering the England YFA report at this fantastic reunion weekend in Leicestershire. I'm going to keep this short, like me!

This year we've seen the return of some of the NFYFC travel trips which has been great. We saw 20 YFC members travel to Peru and group trips are also planned for next year including Jamaica and Kenya. YFC members will also have the chance to attend the European rally and seminars. England YFA member Polly Baines will be the leader for team England at the European rally in Germany. NFYFC are also looking in to a five nations trip.

There's currently a few things stacked against home stays including a growing number of requirements for hosts and a number of demands from other countries. As a committee we are committed to supporting NFYFC to ensure home stays can remain a key feature on the YFC travel programme because the truth is that without these opportunities we wouldn't be sat here today. To other business and we have hosted an online quiz this year which was enjoyed by the members who attended and tested their brain power and we hope to organise more events between reunions to connect with our members, both current and new.

Thank you for making this reunion weekend such a tremendous occasion and I wish next year's organising committee very best wishes from all at England YFA.

Scotland – Delivered by Kristie Black

The AGM was held on Sunday 20 March, 2022, at the Reception Building, Balbuthie Farm, Leven, by kind permission of Mr John Cameron. The following Office Bearers were elected: Chairman: Neil Brims; Vice Chairman: Kirstie Black; Secretary and Newsletter Editor: Mary Turner; Treasurer: Elaine Mowat; other committee members – Meg Findlay, James Gray, James Law, Elaine Meikle, David Paterson, Caroline Robertson and Alison Ross

Following the AGM, Neil Brims gave a photo presentation and talk on his recent working trip to the Halley Research Station, Antarctica. To finish off the afternoon, we had an interesting tour of the farm.

After the success of the virtual drinks night last year, we went ahead with another one in May. Amongst the twenty who joined in, there were several people who were celebrating significant years since their exchange. There was a lot of banter and interesting stories from the anniversary guests and it was a fun night in!

It was great to back at the Royal Highland Show in June and what a wonderful turnout we had at the Drinks Reception at the Young Farmers Centre on the Friday evening. From the length and breadth of the country and as far afield as Canada and Austria, it was great to see everyone. We had around 80 people, including 16 Anniversary Guests from this year's group, from 1972 to 2017, as well as 6 who would have celebrated anniversaries the last couple of years. The generous sponsorship from Aldi and Mackie's of Scotland really helped to keep the costs down. If anyone here plans to be at the Highland next summer, then come along to the Drinks Reception at the Y F Centre on Friday 23 June.

The SAYFC exchange programme started again but only to Northern Ireland and Wales, as well as four to the European Rally in Germany. YFA made a contribution to all of these trips.

Twelve Scots headed to Finland for the 62nd European IFYE Conference which took place at Alkio-opisto, Korpilahti from the 16 to 23 July. The Finnish organising group did a fantastic job organising such an event over the past few years, not knowing if it would actually take place. They were really very emotional and so glad that 150 people from 14 different countries had made the journey to their part of the world. A varied day time programme to suit all

tastes, fun in the evenings and first-class food made it a really memorable week.

Following on from a committee meeting held at Kirstie's parents place in Aberfeldy in August, those in attendance enjoyed a tour of the garden nursery and the log production enterprise.

On behalf of Scottish YFA, I'd like to thank the 2022 UK Reunion Committee for a great programme and fantastic weekend here in Derby.

Northern Ireland – Delivered by Stuart Rea

After a busy reunion weekend in Newry, we took a break from YFA meetings and catch ups and with COVID still around, we were always waiting for a date to have our winter dinner, we are still waiting – but this makes us look forward to 2023's dinner more.

The first gathering we had in person in 2022 was a new venture where we held a drinks reception at the presidents suite, RUAS, Balmoral on 9th May. This was very well attended with incoming short term exchangees, 2022 outgoing exchangees, a Devon Yf agri-affairs trip and a lot of YFA members who haven't been to any meetings lately. It was hard to count how many people attended and with Helen pouring the wine, it was hard to judge at the end too! Our time in the suite flew in, and with a lot of old friendships rekindled, we have planned to run the drinks reception again in 2023.

On 15th June, we held a pizza night at Moss-brook pizza in Moneymore. As the waitress carried out pizzas, we kept eating, with pulled pork being a firm favourite. A YFA event isn't complete without some activities, we had an Italian quiz, with the questions in Italian! We all learnt something that night! 24 members attended.

Sunday 15th August over 50 YFA members packed up their picnics and headed to Florence court, County Fermanagh. We didn't join in the 24 hour ultra running race that was taking place, instead we gathered our blankets, chairs, picnics and candelabras together followed by a walk around the estate, house and tour of the walled garden by our resident gardener. We had a great afternoon in Fermanagh and the weather remained dry!

Our most recent event was the Sunflowers and s'mores evening held on 24th September at the sunflower woods. These sunflower fields are run by member Tracey weir and her sisters, and we enjoyed a lovely evening walking around the sunflowers, picking our own to take home, followed by homemade pumpkin soup or tomato soup provided by Helen. As dessert, we toasted our own s'mores over the fire pits. Again over 60 members attended with some future members who are Boy Scouts teaching us how to make the best s'mores and Stuart Vaux provided the perfect sound track.. this evening was very magical and we can't wait to get back to the sunflower woods again!

During the summer, we had 11.5 members (Matthew hull is the 0.5 member attending half the week) attend the European ifye conference in Finland, this was an excellent week enjoyed by those in attendance, as well as those who had out of date passports watching from afar! Thank you to the organising committee for putting on an excellent conference in challenging times.

In 2022, we seen the return of the exchange programme, where we sent 4 short term and 2 long term exchangeees along with 5 members on rally to Germany. We look forward to hearing bout these members adventures.

The gooseberry bushes have been fruitful in Ulster again and we wish all those who have had little additions to their family well. No more bushes have been bought since we last met, but have some impending nuptials. As a YFA family, some of us have suffered losses of family members, and we have lost some YFA members during the year as well. Our thoughts are with those who have lost a loved one.

Finally, I want to thank the English organising committee for putting on an excellent weekend for us all. We love being able to come together, make new friends and memories, revive old friendships and memories. Thanks again.

IFYE updates- Report from Hanna Taala, vice-chairman of IFYE Finland

Hanna Taala had been in attendance at the reunion weekend and spoke on the IFYE conference held in July 2022. The week had 150 members from 14 countries, and pictures from the week were displayed to show the activities and sessions members participated in. Hanna finished by saying that the IFYE forest planted by participants will be a lasting legacy of the week.

Future IFYE- presentation by Sam Hawkes

Sam used the power point slides from the Austrian organising committee to advise the world conference would be held from 27th August 2023 in Southern Austria, bookings will open in January 2023 with numbers restricted to 300. On the Thursday of the conference there will be a European Day where the committee has requested help from other nations to deliver crafts, workshops, food and drink demos, the UK nations decided to come together with elements of dance, food and culture.

Election of office bearers for 2023 reunion

Mary Turner proposed the Scottish committee of Neil Brims as chairman, Kirstie Black as secretary and Elaine Mowat as treasurer for the 2023 reunion in Pitlochry on 3rd – 6th November 2023. Kirstie Black then gave a presentation on the venue, surrounding area and transport options.

Any other business

There had been an email to propose rebranding from Scotland YFA to IFYE UK and the Scottish committees intention to change their name. This email had been discussed at the executive committee with members being asked to discuss the proposal at the country meetings. A discussion around this took place during the AGM where various comments regarding the length of time YFA name had been in existence, how Ambassadors as a word was important to retain. To incorporate IFYE as part of the over all name may work. Organisations decided to discuss further with their own members and decide if they wanted to proceed. The various parts of name changes in constitutions and bank accounts had to be considered also. It was also recognised that standing still is not progress, we need to keep an open mind to attract new members.

Christine Cooper updated for future IFYE conferences following Austria in 2023, Germany in 2024, England will be hosting in 2025 with more plans to be advised.

Alun Morgan gave a vote of thanks to the organising committee and commented on how well run the weekend had been.

Sam Hawkes closed the meeting with a vote of thanks to the committee also and took a video of all attending to be sent to those who couldn't join us this year.

The meeting came to a close at 12.55pm.

Young Farmers Ambassadors executive committee meeting

Saturday 22nd October 2022

Hilton Hotel East Midlands Airport

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Apologies for absence
3. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting held on 30th October 2021 at Canal court hotel, Newry
4. Matters arising from the minutes
5. Correspondence – email from Scotland
6. Election of National Office Bearers
 - James Cowan finishes this year, Northern Ireland will propose a new chairman
 - Janette Stirling has one more year to serve as secretary
7. Regional reports to be delivered at the AGM
 - a. England and Wales -
 - b. Scotland-
 - c. Northern Ireland –
8. Updates on future YFA UK reunions
 - a. 2023 Scotland
 - b. 2024 Wales
9. Reports and updates on future IFYE conferences
 - a. 2023 Austria
 - b. 2024 Germany
10. Any other business
 - a. Future travel plans for organisations

Minutes of 2021 executive meeting pasted on back