

The 137th Annual General Meeting of the Jersey Cattle Society of the UK...

- Held on Tuesday 4th August 2020 at 11.00am by video conference call.

In the early months of this year the Society found itself carefully planning, under the guidance of the charities commission, how it could, for the first time in its 137-year history, hold an Annual General Meeting virtually. As a result, on 4th August 2020 at 11.00am the JCS AGM was held using the video conferencing platform Zoom.

In the months preceding this, the new member's area on the website enabled the office to upload the AGM papers and via the new JCS e-newsletter disseminate AGM updates and information directly to all members on email. This made a substantial saving in postage costs. A virtual practice run was held the day before, to ensure any members planning to attend could iron out any potential glitches and ensure the smooth running of the meeting the next day.

The opening of the virtual 137th JCS AGM on 4th August 2020

The Chairman of the Society, John Whitby, welcomed all members before introducing the Society's President, Mr John Stubbs who made the opening address.

John Stubbs spoke about the great successes following last year's AGM, including the 2019 National Show, congratulating the Llewellyn family on winning the championship, and Emma, Allison and Becky for their hard work building the JCS stand which had won the best indoor stand at the show.

John reflected that under covid, it had been "a strange and trying time for us all. As farmers we have all had to adapt our normal routines slightly but our day to day jobs continue as normal. Unfortunately, some have really suffered during this time, but others have thrived and as a Society we were here to support our members and he hoped everyone was able to get through this happy, healthy and safe". He thanked the Board and the JCS team for their hard work under very difficult circumstances.

Chairman, John Whitby thanked John Stubbs for his opening address before commencing, on behalf of the President, the formal business of the 137th Annual General Meeting.

Following apologies received, John Whitby spoke about the members who the Society had lost over the year, remarking throughout the long and illustrious history of the Society, the Society had lost some wonderful characters and this year was no different. A minute's silence was held in memory of those the Society and members had lost.

Chairman's Annual Report.

The Chairman's report had been prepared and sent to members in advance of the AGM.

The Chairman's full report can be viewed in the Members Area of the JCS website.

Visit: www.jerseycattlesociety.uk:

Select: 'Members Login'

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Once logged in, select 'Documents' from the side menu and the AGM 2020 reports are at the top of the document listing.

At the close the Chairman's annual report, upon no questions, the report was proposed and adopted by members of the Society. The Chairman thanked members for listening before passing to the Finance Director, Steven Bland to provide his annual report on the Society's accounts for the year ending 31st December 2019.

The Finance Director's Annual Report (Society Accounts 31.12.19)

Again, the Finance Director's report had been shared with members in advance and is still accessible to review, as mentioned above, via the Members Area on the JCS website.

Following the receipt of the Finance Directors report, questions were raised around the effective management of the Society's investments. Mr Bland reiterated that, as stated in his report, these were regularly reviewed with an independent investment advisor now appointed to undertake an in-depth strategic review.

Following the close of questions, the accounts for the period ending 31st December 2019 were formally approved and adopted, and Old Mill Accountants remained as the Society's accountants and auditors for 2020.

Election of Members to the Board of Directors

Chairman, John Whitby spoke of his concern about the lack of any nominations from members to stand for election, when the board had four vacancies at this year's AGM.

John continued to express the board were treading a very thin line of being quorate. Advising prior to the AGM the board had six elected board members in position, with the possibility to have up to nine board members, two of which could be co-opted.

At this year's AGM, Director John Dickinson was due to retire as an Elected Director. John Whitby formally thanked Mr Dickinson for his hard work and long service given to the Society and the Board, explaining that after the AGM, the board would co-opt Mr Dickinson onto the board as an Appointed Board Member.

John Whitby then explained the Society's President, John Stubbs had kindly

agreed to continue as President for a further year as he had been unable to undertake his normal ceremonial duties due to the pandemic. This also applied to fellow board members all of whom had generously agreed to continue in their current roles recognising the need to provide continuity during these unprecedented times.

Member, Malcolm Huxtable supported these ideas and thanked the President and the Board.

Other Business

Weydown Trophy:

Chairman, John Whitby explained normally each year the Society presented the Weydown Trophy to the member who had contributed the most to the breed and the Society in the past year. However, due to the pandemic, the Board felt that opportunity had not been possible. It had therefore been agreed there would be no recipient for 2020 and the award would be taken forward to 2021.

2018-2019 JCS Milk Production Winners:

Director, Mark Logan spoke about the 2018-2019 Milk Production Competition Awards results which were posted on the JCS website, social media and latterly published in the August edition of the UKJT. Mark Logan spoke very highly of the outstanding production awards, expressing the great significance it gave JCS members who continued to manage and look after their cows so well, and the tremendous job they did not only as Jersey breeders but within the dairy industry as a whole.

Close of AGM.

Society Chairman, John Whitby drew the first ever virtual AGM to a close, speaking about the exceptional and unusual format of the AGM due to covid 19. Then speaking



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as a farmer and as an eternal optimist John hoped the Society would be able to meet again properly at next year's AGM.

The formal close of the AGM took place at 11:49am.

JCS board and members then remained on the video call for an informal chat about Society matters. Topics included current issues around bull calves, queries on pedigree status and pedigree certificates, alongside lighter matters including commendations for the new JCS website launched in June, and of course, the endlessly fickle subject of the weather.

Informal member and board chat closed at 12:22pm.

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