

MINUTES OF THE 22<sup>ND</sup> HOLSTEIN UK ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGHELD VIA ZOOM, WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2020 AT 6:00PM

Minutes: Hannah Williams

	<p><b>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Holstein UK Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place virtually via Zoom. Prior to the AGM, members were asked to register their attendance for the meeting and were sent a link to an online form of proxy to enable them to vote on the agenda items. A paper copy was also available for those who requested it.</b></p>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>WELCOME &amp; INTRODUCTION</b>
1.1	Sue Cope, CEO of Holstein UK welcomed the attendees to the virtual AGM. Sue thanked the President, President Elect, Chairman, trustees and employees for their contribution and continued work.
1.2	Sue Cope invited attendees to view a video update on the strategic plan.
1.3	Meurig James thanked attendees for joining the AGM and thanked Sue Cope for the introduction. Meurig explained that due to the current conditions, it was not possible to hold the traditional face to face AGM and thanked attendees for taking the time to be part of the first Holstein UK virtual AGM. Meurig James thanked the Shropshire Holstein Club for all their efforts towards planning the Holstein Celebration that had sadly needed to be cancelled.
1.4	Meurig James stated that on behalf of Holstein UK President Bryan Thomas, he will now declare the meeting open.
1.5	Meurig James reported that no apologies had been received.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM HELD ON 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2019 AT THE STRADEY PARK HOTEL IN SOUTH WALES.</b>
2.1	Meurig James reported that no amendments had been received following the minutes being published on the Holstein UK website. Mr Stephen Hill of the Hydaways herd and trustee for the North Midlands Region proposed that the minutes of the previous AGM were accepted and adopted. Mrs Jane Whittaker of the Knowlesmere herd and trustee for the North Western Region seconded this proposal.
2.2	Meurig James stated that from the votes received, the minutes had been unanimously agreed and were therefore passed as a true and correct record.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>
3.1	Meurig James stated that the first matter arising from the 2019 Holstein UK AGM concerned a matter raised by Mr John Jamieson of the Firth prefix who asked the trustees to consider the practice of rib shaving in the show ring and the necessity of it with particular reference to public perception. Meurig reported that following this meeting, the Holstein UK Board of Trustees agreed the following addition to the Holstein UK Rules and Regulations for Showing Dairy Cattle:  “Shaving or cutting the hair on the ribs, using the very fine blades of the trimming machines or cutters, such that the ribs appear scratched or bald, is forbidden.”  The amended rule had also been shared with all other Breed Societies and Show Societies who had been strongly encouraged to adopt this ruling for their own events.
3.2	Meurig James stated that the second matter arising from the 2019 Holstein UK AGM concerned a matter raised by Mr Ken Proctor of the Airfield prefix who asked the trustees to ensure the Society was relevant to today's industry and particularly the commercial farmer. Meurig James reported that the Holstein UK Board of Trustees had approved a member survey which was due to be sent out in the spring. Unfortunately, due to the current situation, this had not been published as yet but the plan was to publish this in the near future. In addition, a survey had been designed to be sent to all non-member customers of The Cattle Information Service to engage with them and understand their business requirements. Following receipt of responses from both surveys, the Board of Trustees would be reviewing the strategy to make sure Holstein UK were relevant in today's industry and meeting both current and prospective member's needs.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT &amp; ACCOUNTS</b>
4.1	Meurig James reported that Mr Stephen Brough of the Carrock herd and trustee for the Northern Region proposed that the Annual Report and Accounts were accepted. Mr Aled Jones of the Hendy herd and trustee for the North Wales Region seconded this proposal.
4.2	Meurig James reported that from the votes received there were no objections and the Annual Report and accounts had been adopted.

<b>5.0</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS</b>
5.1	Meurig James reported that Mr Edward Griffiths of the Coachgate herd and trustee for the Yorkshire Region proposed that Whittingham Riddell were re-appointed as the Society's auditors. Mr Iwan Morgan of the Erie herd and trustee for the South Wales Region seconded this proposal.
5.2	Meurig James reported that from the votes received there were no objections and the auditors would be re-appointed.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>ADDRESS FROM THE PRESIDENT</b>
6.1	Meurig James introduced Holstein UK President Bryan Thomas to give his address.
6.2	Bryan stated that he would like to be the first person to congratulate Robert Clare on becoming President of Holstein UK, the largest breed society in Europe. Bryan stated It was a privilege and honour to have served as Holstein UK President and he had never dreamt 12 months ago this opportunity would come his way. Historically, Society Presidents were members of the aristocracy but this had now changed and ordinary members had the opportunity to represent the Society. His year had started with the Holstein Celebration held in South Wales where the sun had shone. Bryan thanked all the people who had opened their doors and gates to welcome the delegates to the event. One of the highlights of the event was the fantastic dinner following the AGM which saw over 260 guests attend. The Royal Welsh Show shortly followed and he had thoroughly enjoyed the President's Reception where so many members had turned up to be a part of the event. One of the highlights of his year in office was the HYB Weekend Rally in Carmarthen and Bryan wanted to thank the South Wales HYB club for all their hard work in putting together such a successful event. Bryan also thanked the George family for hosting the Competitions Day and all the breeders who brought calves over the weekend for the Field-2-Foto event. Bryan thanked the clubs for all the invitations to attend their annual dinners and although he had been able to attend a good number he apologised to those he could not make it to. Bryan stated he and Eirlys had thoroughly enjoyed themselves and it had been a great opportunity to meet new breeders and catch up with old acquaintances. Bryan thanked all the clubs as they had all been memorable experiences. Bryan was disappointed that he had been unable to attend UK Dairy Day or the All Breeds All Britain Calf Show but he had managed to get to AgriScot. The quality of cattle at AgriScot was fantastic and had boded well for an exciting year of competition that was sadly not to be. Bryan stated that he had a great day judging the President's Medal Award and the six candidates they had interviewed were all worthy of winning, however three finalists were chosen and choosing a winner from the final three was very difficult. Bryan congratulated Andrew Neilson for his fantastic presentation and contribution to the breed. Andrew would be a leader of the future and the Society should be proud there are people like Andrew ready to take over the reins. The President's Medal winner was announced at the Semex Conference in Glasgow and he wanted to take the opportunity to thank Semex not only for a great conference but for their support of the Holstein Young Breeders movement over the years. Bryan thanked Meurig James for his help in attending the events over the year. Bryan had been looking forward to all the events planned for 2020 but sadly COVID-19 took hold and this was not to be. Bryan thanked the trustees for the way they run the society and stated that the work they do on behalf of the members was phenomenal and carried a great deal of responsibility. Bryan thanked the staff from the top down with special thanks to the field staff as they were the people that the ordinary members of the Society see. Bryan thanked the South Wales Club for their backing and fully appreciated their support both materially and morally. Bryan reminded the trustees their greatest responsibility was to dispose of the assets of Scotsbridge House wisely; similarly, as the trustees 50-60 years ago did when they purchased the property as this had been a good investment. Finally, Bryan once again wished Robert and Hilda a very successful and enjoyable year in office and hoped that the lockdown would soon be over. Bryan also wished John Jamieson good luck for when he takes over as President in 2021. Bryan wished the Society a fantastic future and felt with the calibre of the young members coming through that they would undoubtedly make the right decisions.
<b>7.0</b>	<b>ADDRESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN</b>
7.1	Meurig James invited Holstein UK Chairman of the Board, Michael Smale, to give his address.
7.2	Michael stated that 12 months ago when he became Chairman he didn't think for one moment that he would be doing his report from his garden by video link and nor did he think that as a Society, we would be fighting a contagious disease which would keep us all at home. Michael reported that last year was quite successful for the Society, starting with a memorable AGM in South Wales. He thanked everyone involved for opening up their farms and businesses so attendees could have, what was, a really enjoyable time. Shortly afterwards, the South Wales Club also held the HYB Rally and although this was a bit of a soggy event due to the storm, he felt that it set the tone for the year. Michael reported that the Society members had been successful at home and abroad at the European Championships, the European Young Breeders School in Belgium and the Open Junior Show in Cremona. At home, the President's Medal and the Littlestar awards highlighted the talent within the HYB movement. The sheer enthusiasm from everyone who made the trip to the All Breeds All Britain Calf Show underpinned the future of the Society and showed the strength and depth within the HYB organisation that the Society continued to promote. UK Dairy Day had established itself as a major event to showcase the industry and thanks must go to all those who helped and to the sponsors for their continued support. The Master Breeder Award saw 19 herds achieve the high standard required for this accolade and Holstein UK members had also been active in the wider industry winning many awards. Michael felt that this surely highlighted the value of pedigree breeding. Michael thanked retiring President Bryan Thomas and all of his family for the considerable time that they had given to the Society over the past

	<p>12 months. Michael had heard Bryan say on many occasions how proud he was to be President and Michael wanted to say, on behalf of the Society, how honoured the Society had been to have such a highly respected President. Michael thanked the two retiring trustees, Aled Jones and Stephen Brough, for their work, expertise and experience that they had brought to the Board over the last eight years and wished them well in the future. Looking forward, the Society finds itself in a strong position financially which is reassuring given the uncertain times and puts the Society in a good position going forward. CIS had strengthened its position with a 14% increase in new herds and health testing had become a bigger requirement within the industry and CIS had tested over a million samples for BVD and Johne's disease in the last 12 months. Within the Group, product development had shown it's worth with over 350 herds now using the ARC tissue tagging. The growing reliability of genomic testing had helped members to identify the most efficient animals in their herds which can now be viewed using the new genomic portal. Classification had also introduced five new traits to collect data which will be analysed to identify breed improvements in longevity. The Board had worked with the Management Team to continue to bring the services to the members that were fit for the modern-day dairy industry and Michael thanked the trustees for their work and the Management Team. Michael said it was with pleasure that he welcomed the new President, Robert Clare, and two new trustees, Andrew Williamson and William Williams. Finally, and most importantly, Michael thanked Sue Cope and all of the staff of the Holstein UK Group. The incredible effort that they have put in over the last four months during the COVID-19 lockdown had been incredible. The commitment to the Society to adapt and to change to new working practices and the interference that this had brought into their personal lives at home has been remarkable. Michael concluded that if there was one thing he had learned in the past few months, it was that the true strength of this Society lay within the people that work in it and the members that join it.</p>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>ELECTION OF PRESIDENT</b>
8.1	Meurig James stated that the Board of Trustees had recommended the name of Robert Clare of the Hawksmoor prefix as the next President of Holstein UK.
8.2	Meurig James introduced David Hiles of the Yockingsgate prefix to make his recommendation.
8.3	David Hiles stated that it was a great honour on behalf of the Shropshire Holstein Club, and himself, to propose Robert Clare as the President of Holstein UK for 2020 - 2021. David has known Robert for over 55 years, and at the age of 74, Robert had been married to his wife Hilda for 32 years. Robert had been born and grew up at Hawksmoor, where he has lived for all of his life, and he took over the reins from his father 52 years ago and established the Hawksmoor herd. Robert had received Champion Herd for the Shropshire club for eight consecutive years and had achieved Holstein UK Reserve Premier Herd in 2017. Robert had bred Hawksmoor Roman who had won sire progeny group for the last nine years. Robert had been Chairman of the Shropshire club in 1984 and 1985 and President in 2014 and 2015. Robert had judged many county herd competitions all over the country and was well known throughout Holstein circles in the UK. Robert was a keen showman and had received Herd Supreme Champion with his cows at many of the shows over the years. Robert was now dispersing the herd following a successful sale in October 2018. Robert enjoys walking, crown green bowling, whist drives and, of course, has a passion for the Holstein cow. Robert had seen the transition from British Friesians to the Holstein cow of today and has been a member of the Society for over 50 years. All the cows in the Hawksmoor herd were homebred. Robert is a true gentleman, an exceptional cow man and would uphold and maintain the high standards expected from a President of Holstein UK. Robert's knowledge and experience would be beneficial to all members of the Society. David had great pleasure in proposing Robert Clare as President of Holstein UK for 2020 – 2021.
8.4	Meurig James thanked David Hiles and introduced Frank Dixon, Secretary of the Shropshire Holstein Club to second the proposal.
8.5	Frank Dixon stated that it was his honour and privilege on behalf of the Shropshire Holstein Club to second the motion from David Hiles that Mr Robert Claire be elected as President of Holstein UK for 2020 - 2021 . Robert is a highly respected member of the Shropshire Holstein Club and the wider Holstein breeding family. David had outlined some of the huge successes that Hawksmoor had achieved over the years and the herd continued to gain recognition for the very high calibre of cattle still being bred under the Hawksmoor banner. These animals continued to go on to win many more accolades in their new homes around the country. Robert was a unanimous nomination from the Club and the Club were confident that Robert would be a credit to the Board and a fantastic ambassador for the Society.
8.6	Meurig James thanked Mr Frank Dixon.
8.7	Meurig James confirmed that Mr Robert Clare was now confirmed as the next Holstein UK President and would take office following this meeting.
<b>9.0</b>	<b>ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS</b>
9.1	Meurig James stated that Bryan Thomas of the Gelliddu herd and President of Holstein UK proposed the following members for election and re-election onto the Holstein UK Board of Trustees. Mr John Hartley of the Roughwood herd and Trustee for the Lancashire Region seconded this proposal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr Andrew Williamson – 1<sup>st</sup> Term, 4 Years</li> <li>- Mr William Williams – 1<sup>st</sup> Term, 4 Years</li> <li>- Mr Peter Prior – 2<sup>nd</sup> Term, 4 Years</li> <li>- Mr Wallace Gregg – 2<sup>nd</sup> Term, 4 Years</li> </ul>
9.2	Meurig James confirmed there had been no objections and the elections into office were confirmed.

<b>10.0</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUISNESS</b>
10.1	Meurig James reported that no items had been received for discussion.
<b>11.0</b>	<b>MEMBERS'S SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS</b>
11.1	Meurig James reported that no items had been received for discussion.

Meurig James thanked everyone again for attending the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of members of Holstein UK. Meurig wished for all the members stay safe over the coming weeks and months and very much looked forward to meeting up with everyone again in the near future.  
Meurig James on behalf of the retiring President declared the meeting closed.