



The Annual General Meeting of the British Pig Association was held on Friday 1st November 2024 at 11.00 am at The Barn, Farmers Fayre, Stoneleigh Park, CV8 2LZ and by video conference



Those present were: Lord Salisbury (President), Brian Kelly (Chair) Chris Coe, Anthony Davison, Rachel Graham, Stewart Houston, Ian Jones, Guy Kiddy, Jane Mathews, Ryan Perry, Rex Walters, Gary Wright (Trustees) and Marcus Bates (Secretary) together with some 20 members of the Association

Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on Friday 27th October 2023.

Sally Lugg asked that her name be added to the minutes. Gavin Pawson asked why his questions had not been included in the minutes Marcus Bates explained that questions raised at the end of the meeting, which did not relate to agenda items were not part of the annual general meeting and as such were not recorded in the minutes. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Report of the Board of Trustees

The Chairmans report was presented. He thanked the membership for the honour and privilege of chairing the Association during its 25th year as an independent organisation. He reminded members of some of the achievements of the past quarter of a century. He thanked the retiring board members for all their support and praised the work of the charity's volunteers. He singled out Tracey Bretherton for her work with the Junior Pig Club and Maria Naylor for her work with the Show Committee. Finally, he thanked all those who had contributed the messages and gifts for Diane Stanford who sadly had retired due to health issues.

The Chairmans report was approved

Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December 2023

Christine Coe presented the Finance Report. She explained that whilst the continued financial pressures meant that the BPA Board of Trustees faced a number of challenges, the broad skill base of willing volunteers established over the last couple of years would enable the Association to work tirelessly to develop the initiatives detailed in the report. These initiatives could give rise to a clear pathway for a brighter and more sustainable financial future for the BPA and provide business benefit and services to a broader membership.

Members asked a number of questions on the Finance Report. The Treasurer pointed out that the actual fee paid to Grassroots Systems Ltd for herdbook services was commercially confidential but was less than the cost of employing staff to carry out the work. On the subject of the money held on behalf of UKTAG, she explained that the BPA acted as agent for UK Tag Limited, pending UK Tag opening its Bank Account and that the amount was included within the cash at bank and in hand but the corresponding credit (note 17) for the equivalent amount was also shown. Thus, the gross position was noted on both sides of the balance sheet.



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She confirmed that in the absence of new or increased income sources, deficits would continue as forecast in the report. A major cost reduction program would continue aimed at reducing the cost base to a level, which would provide a core service and that membership fees would have to be set at a level that covers this core service.

Finally she gave a breakdown of the Item 3 in the accounts, Fees from Breed Society Functions confirming that this was made up of £2,458 of Pedigree Transfers, £5,543 of Pedigree Birth Notes and £9,524 of Pedigree Herdbook Registrations totalling £17,525.

The Financial Report was approved.

Appointment of Board Members. - In accordance with Article 25.9 of the British Pig Association, Memorandum and Articles of Association, there being 4 candidates for election in respect of 5 Board Member vacancies, the 4 candidates, Rachel Graham, Stewart Houston, Dr Rex Walters and Dr Gary Wright were deemed duly elected at the AGM dated 1st November 2024

Election of the President

The Marquess of Salisbury KG KCVO PC DL was elected as President.

Lord Salisbury thanked the members for the honour mentioning that ill health had prevented him from being as active as he would have liked in the previous year. It has also delayed the re-introduction of pigs to the Hatfield House estate but he hoped to that this would be resolved in the coming year. He congratulated the officers of the Association, in particular the Chair, Treasurer and Chief Executive for steering the Association through difficult times and urged the members not to underestimate the scale and range of the undertaking required to change direction and change minds. He congratulated the Association on its genbanking work in collaboration with the RBST and praised the work of the Junior Pig Club with schools.

Election of Vice- President:

Sally Lugg informed the meeting that she had received legal advice that the resolution passed at the board meeting was illegal and that Stuart Houston could not serve as vice president and a board member. Chris Coe pointed out that the clause gave the board powers to change the way in which the Objectives of the organisation are implemented, provided they do not result in a change to the primary objectives of the association. She confirmed that a majority of the board agreed with this decision.

Lord Salisbury asked Mrs Lugg if she had informed the company secretary and the chairman of this legal advice in advance of the meeting so the chair of the AGM could be duly briefed as that would be the normal practise pointing out that the election of honorary positions should be a formality.



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Mrs Lugg stated that she had only received the advice on Thursday 31st of October. As chair of the meeting Lord Salisbury proposed that the board would seek its own legal advice on the matter with a view to a speedy resolution.

Mrs Lugg continued to intervene and Lord Salisbury suggested that she was trying to raise the same point under a different head and that if she did not have any questions he considered the matter to be closed.

Stewart Houston spoke briefly to remind members that there was a serious agenda of work to be undertaken if the BPA were to survive. He pointed out that in all the years of his career in the farming industry he had never before experienced the level of disruption by a handful of individuals as that which he had had to listen to in the last six months. He urged the membership to unite behind the board to implement the agreed programme and to stop wasting the board's time and the association's money on trivial points of order

Appointment of External Accountants for the 2024 accounts.

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That being the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting Agenda, The President declared the meeting closed.