



**MINUTES of THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Held at Balmoral Park, Belfast at 1100 hours on  
Wednesday 16 May 2018**

<b>PRIVATE &amp; CONFIDENTIAL</b>		
	<p><b>Present:</b> HRH The Princess Royal (President), Mrs Fionnuala Cook OBE (Vice Lord Lieutenant), The Lord Vestey (The Chairman), Johan Ehlers, Laura Gadowsky, Andrew Gilmour (Hon Tres), Christine Knipe, Michael Lambert LVO (Hon Sec), Simon Orpwood, Chris Riddle, Edwin White, Alan Crowe, Lisa Holmes, Jessie Radies, Mark Nicholas MBE (Sec), Allan Murray, Courtenay Thompson, Rhonda Geary, Cyril Millar, Mary Gilmour, Peter Mills, Catherine Baxter, John Martin, Denise Kelso, Margaret Collinson, John Collinson, Alexandra Woods, Thomas Holmes, Alison Connolly, Terrance McKeag, Heather McKeag, Billy Yarr.</p>	<b>Action</b>
1.0	<p><b>Chairman's introduction:</b> The Chairman welcomed HRH The Princess Royal, members and guests to the AGM.</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> David Alcorn, John Bennett, Aled Jones, Anna Playfair-Hannay, William Hyde, Will Prichard, David Thomas, Josie Evans, Greg Smith, Terry Strachan and Malcolm Stansfield.</p>	
2.0	<p><b>2.1 Minutes of the AGM held on 2 June 2017:</b> The Minutes of the last meeting were signed as a true and accurate record.</p> <p><b>2.2 Matters arising:</b> There were no matters arising.</p>	
3.0	<p><b>Financial Matters</b></p> <p><b>3.1 Annual Report and Accounts 2017:</b> The Hon Tres reported that it had taken a significant amount of work to get the annual accounts to a state for presentation to the AGM. He reported that the auditors required a number of amendments to be made to the wording of the report before it could be signed off. The Chairman recommended and the meeting agreed that at that the figures in the accounts are not disputed and that the Trustees are delegated the authority to sign off the annual accounts once the amendments to the wording have been completed.</p> <p><b>3.2 Current Bank Balance:</b> The RBS bank balance currently stands at £40 929. \$6 973 USD are also held.</p> <p><b>3.3 Current Investment Value:</b> Investments with Brewin Dolphin are valued at £240 263 as at 31 March 18.</p> <p>The Hon Tres asked the meeting if anyone knew of the two individuals who had provided bequests to the RASC; Mr George Hitchen and Mrs Pamela Kimber.</p>	Hon Tres
4.0	<p><b>Appointment of Reporting Accountants:</b> In light of the move of the Secretariat to Norfolk it was proposed and agreed that Ernst &amp; Young will not be re-appointed as Reporting Accountants and that the Secretariat will look to engage Price Bailey (auditors to the RNAA) for the Financial Year 2018.</p>	

5.0

**Hon Sec's Report:**

During the past year two main activities have dominated the work of the officeholders of the RASC. The move of our office from Edinburgh, in Scotland to the Royal Norfolk Showground in Norwich and preparations for the 28th CAC to be held in Edmonton, Alberta Canada in November this year.

Charities are under increasing scrutiny to ensure they make best of the funds that they hold. As part of best governance charities should review costs from time to time. The Secretariat and Financial administration of the society is much the largest cost that RASC incurs. The RHASS have provided the Secretariat for RASC since 2007, and it was felt a review should be done. A Tender document was drawn up and put out to interested parties. A number of organisations expressed interest, but two Societies submitted bids to run the Secretariat of RASC, namely RHASS and the RNAA. Trustees considered the two bids in detail and chose the bid from the RNAA as being the best value for money. It is never easy making a change and we are very grateful to the RHASS for their service over the past 10 years. We look forward to working with the RNAA.

Work is well underway for the 28th CAC to be held in Edmonton, Alberta Canada between the 5th and 8th November 2018, and hosted by the Northlands Society. The format is similar to the most recent CAC's with 2 days before the main conference for CEO and NG meetings. There will also be a Pre-conference tour starting on Tuesday October 30th and finishing on Friday November 2nd. A brief post conference tour has also been arranged. It will be the first time since the Conference was held in Edinburgh in 2010 that a Commonwealth Agricultural Conference will be held at the same time as the host Society's show. Delegates will be able to visit Far Fair International, the largest livestock event in Western Canada which will be running at the same time. It will also be the first time since 2010 that it has been held in the Northern Hemisphere and delegates should also prepare for temperatures somewhat colder than the plus 30C we have become used to! I am delighted that our Deputy President Laura Godowsky and her colleagues Lisa Holmes and Jessie Radies from Northlands are with us today and they will give an update at the end of the AGM.

Preparations have also started on the 29th CAC to be held in Norfolk England at the end of June and the beginning of July 2020. This will be hosted by RASC member The Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association and we will be working closely with the UEA where the conference will be held. There will be a pre-conference tour allowing delegates to see some of the best of agriculture that the UK can offer and of course a visit to The Royal Norfolk Show. We will also be working closely with the Suffolk Agricultural Association. This will be the first time the Conference has been in the UK since 2010. At their September 2017 meeting Trustees chose the bid from Agri Expo in the Western Cape of South Africa to be the host for the 30th CAC in 2022.

Earlier this month RASC held their 3rd One day conference in conjunction Harper Adams University at the University Campus and we were delighted to welcome our President and Chancellor of Harper Adams University HRH The Princess Royal and thank you ma'am for your attendance.

The Next Generation section had another very successful year the highlight of which was the very successful Understanding and Assistance Mission to the Western Cape of South Africa. I am most grateful for all the hard work put in by Breyton Milford from hosts Agri Expo and Aled Jones from the UK.

	<p>We continue to develop membership around the Commonwealth and we are delighted to welcome back The Suffolk Agricultural Association as a member and they will be helping with the conference in Norfolk in 2020. We would also like to welcome the Farmers Club as a member and I am delighted they will be sending a couple of their under 30's members to Edmonton. I am also delighted to welcome a number of new members from Canada including the CNE in Toronto the largest agricultural show in Canada with some 1.3m attendees, CAFÉ. Trustees have visited a number of countries including South Africa, Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Australia New Zealand, Singapore, the USA and of course Canada. There is no doubt that face to face contact is the best way to maintain good links with societies. And we will continue this in the coming years where finance allows. Membership is growing and we have a number of potential new members from around the commonwealth. We are also grateful for the support we have had from Hon. Fellows and friends.</p> <p>We have also continued to develop links with our sister organisation the IAFE in the USA which represents most Agricultural Shows (Fairs as they call them in the USA) across northern America and I am delighted that two of them, The National Western Stockshow in Denver and the Minnesota State Fair in St Paul have joined RASC as Associate Members. IAFE have been strong supporters of the RASC CAC including providing speakers at the CAC. We have continued to develop our relationship with Eurasco the European Show organisation which represents some of the biggest agricultural shows in Europe including the Salon de L'Agriculture which puts on the Paris Agricultural Show and The DLG from Germany which puts on among other events Agritechnica in Hanover. In the UK the Royal Bath and West and Royal Highland Societies are members. They have been keen to form a closer relationship with RASC and I am delighted that Dr Rheinhard Grandke CEO of the DLG is one of our keynote speakers in Edmonton.</p>	
6.0	<p><b>Hon Press Sec's Report:</b></p> <p>Your Royal Highness, Lord President, Trustees, Members, I must firstly convey my sincerest apologies for not being able to attend this meeting in present owing to a family bereavement. Whilst it was a fairly quiet year during 2017, in terms of RASC communications, things are really picking up this year as we look forward to our CAC taking place in Canada this November.</p> <p>I am pleased to report that the communication plan which I devised, was approved by Trustees earlier in the year and we are now in the process of executing this. This is, I believe, the first time the RASC has had a formal media and communications plan and I hope this will assist with the promotion of the conference, throughout the commonwealth, this year.</p> <p>I would encourage our Members, Associates and Friends, to review the new RASC website which is more user friendly and up to date. This will be updated regularly going forward. Please also follow our social media channels - Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn – and encourage your members and stakeholders to do the same. Social media has the potential to communicate the RASC message strongly throughout the commonwealth, however we need our members, associates, and friends to interact with our content to share this message.</p> <p>I am looking forward to continuing to deliver the RASC Press Secretary functions during 2018 – with an exciting conference on the horizon, we have a lot to shout about.</p>	
7.0	<p><b>Election of Officers:</b></p> <p><b>7.1 Honorary Secretary</b> Michael Lambert proposed by Simon Orpwood and seconded by Courtenay Thompson.</p>	

	<p><b>7.2 Honorary Treasurer</b> Allan Murray proposed by Johan Elhers and seconded by Edwin White.</p> <p><b>7.3 Honorary Press Secretary</b> David Alcorn proposed by Alan Murray and Christine Knipe.</p> <p><b>7.4 Honorary Next Generation Facilitator</b> Michael Lambert explained that both Next Generation Facilitators were eligible for re-election. Aled Jones had agreed to stand as Facilitator and will Hyde had agreed to stand as the Assistant Facilitator. This was seconded by Chris Riddle.</p>	
8.0	<p><b>Election to the Board of Trustees:</b></p> <p><b>8.1 Two UK-based trustees</b> The Chairman advised that only one nomination had been received. Alan Crowe, CEO Royal Ulster Agricultural Society, was then elected to the Board.</p> <p>The Board will look to fill the remaining UK vacancy at a later date.</p> <p><b>8.2 Two overseas-based trustees</b> The nominations of John Bennett and David Thomas were proposed for re-election by Simon Orpwood, and seconded by Chris Riddle.</p>	
9.0	<p><b>Other business for consideration by the Board of Trustees:</b> Laura Gadowsky from Northlands, Canada gave a short update on the 28<sup>th</sup> CAC in Canada in autumn 2018.</p> <p>There being no further business, thanks were given to the President and to the Royal Ulster Agricultural Association for their generous hospitality to all those in attendance.</p>	

Signed as a true account of the Trustees meeting held on 16 May 2018 by:

The Lord Vestey [Chairman].....

Date:.....