

Minutes of the Texel Sheep Society Annual General Meeting
Woodland Grange, Milverton Lane, Leamington Spa, CV32 6RN
Wednesday 12th November 2025, 14.00PM



In attendance

John Yates – Chief Executive

Peter Mitchell‡ – Society Chair | Avon Vale [MQZ]

James Draper‡ | Claybury [DHL]

Neil Harvey‡ | Blackadder [HNQ]

Angus Howie‡ | Millhouse [HNL]

Kiree Kermode‡ | Orrisdale [KAO]

Robert Laird‡ | Cambwell [LTC]

Steve Martin‡ | Broomhall [BMO]

David McKerrow‡ | Tillycairn [DMK]

Keith Thomas‡ | Tywi [TKT]

Nick Woodmass‡ | Harene [WHH]

Aubrey Andrews | Miserden [AAS]

Paul Phillips | Kimbolton [PPK]

Ed Smith – Society staff | Minute taker

Ailish Ross – Society staff

‡Society director

PM opened the meeting at 14.02

AGENDA		
AGENDA NO.	DETAILS	DELIVERY
AGM001/25	To receive apologies for absence Alastair Gault Forkins [GAF] Jenna Ballantyne Roadend [BYM] Nigel & Shirley Hamill Ballynadrenta [HNB] Roy & Liz Campbell Cowal [CKC] John & Anne Beaumont Ferncumbe [ABU] Steve Richardson Stonebridge [RSS] Ian Murray Glenway [MFZ] Jeff Aiken Coniston [AXC] James Theyer Clanfield [THE] Dafydd Jones‡ Kitrob [JOK]	JY
AGM002/25	RESOLUTION <i>Approval of the minutes and Matters Arising of the AGM which took place on Saturday 16th November 2024 at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Chester, CH1 2BD</i> Proposer: Aubrey Andrews Seconder: Nick Woodmass	JY
AGM003/25	To receive the Chair's report PM gave his report for the year. The past year has gone by in a blur, being chairman of this great organisation has taken me across the UK, seeing quality Texels the length and breadth of the country. And while the sheep, wherever I've been, have been excellent, what has been even better is the warm reception I've received from members no matter what level their involvement in the breed. It is, of course, the people which make this Society what it is, the highly sociable nature of Society members marks our organisation out for many. From Society receptions at summer shows through to	PM

	chatting with members ringside at the National Sales, it has been wonderful to be so warmly welcomed wherever I've been. My wholehearted congratulations go to all those members who have been out showing their stock this summer. The breed has enjoyed some great successes, including clinching the interbreed title at Great Yorkshire and having some of the largest entries at many major and local shows. Sales season has, once again, reaffirmed the commercial demand which underpins the breed and seen averages rise at nearly every sale. A rampant demand for shearling rams from commercial customers has seen the breed dominate the major sales again and many buyers have been forced to reassess their budgets in order to secure the rams they wanted. At a breed level prices have been strong at the National Sales, with records averages recorded at Worcester and Ballymena, a new sale record set at the latter and Lanark seeing a top call of 110,000gns. These sales draw together the best of the breed and give breeders the opportunity to invest in their flocks, something they have been increasingly willing to do off the back of stability in the commercial sheep sector. Mirroring this, the Society has continued to invest too. Developments on iTexel are helping boost the user experience and ensure the latest genetic information is available at breeders' fingertips, while marketing and promotional investment has risen, initiative such as our successful Primestock magazine, with 84,000 copies sent to commercial producers this year. Allied to this, the Society has invested in advertising at seven key livestock markets across the UK and continues to be the leading Society for social media and web activity, keeping members and others informed of all the latest Texel news. Finally, may I thank the board members for their work during the year and express my warmly felt gratitude to the Society staff for all their efforts in supporting members and everything the Society does.	
AGM004/25	To receive the Chief Executive's report JY described how this had been a strong year for members and the breed, and how he works with a great Society team that always aims to raise the bar with a professional business focus. The Society maintains a positive financial performance: stable, well-managed, focused on financial robustness for long-term benefit, supporting breed development, and breed marketing. There is high-quality reporting to, and engagement with members and for members with commercial producer engagement.	JY

	Alongside an active digital presence with website and social media growth. There is significant investment in the regular Spring and Autumn Bulletins plus wide Texel Primestock magazine distribution. The Texel breed is built on measurable performance since Society's founding in 1974. The evolution of BASCO to iTexel.uk – advanced data management platform underpins society services and success. The Society's drive to collect and interpret more data means that it is now well-positioned due to the decisions taken in the past. Decisions and actions around Microphthalmia are a perfect example of this. This is complemented by the improvement in the breed's Scrapie profile and the Society will look to build on this in the coming year by pioneering the release of genotype data on MV resistance to members. The breed's terminal performance is second to none, as evidenced by sales across the UK. The breed is part of the commercial solution for the industry. The Society has to offer affordable data-driven services to all flocks – focussing on inclusivity rather than exclusivity, with new initiatives in development for 2026, helping to secure and sustain the society success. There is a proud legacy of innovation and progress, that is not easily achieved within a breed Society. Continued investment is required to provide valued services and leadership in the field. Society is an exemplar of applied science for genetic improvement. Whilst costs need to be managed and balanced with any investments in betterment of society services. The future is brighter, data-driven, and full of opportunity. Progress will be achieved through a sustainable business structure, privately funded, targeted communication, provision of modern registry and genetic improvement services, integrated and available to all members.	
AGM005/25	RESOLUTION <i>To receive, consider and adopt the income and expenditure account for the year ended 31st March 2025 and the balance sheet as at that date and; to receive, consider and adopt the reports of the Board of Directors and the Auditors for the year ended 31st March 2025.</i> JY described the financial statement and reports as presented. Value for money measures and performance assessments are monitored and reported on a regular basis to enable the Board to oversee the operations and objectives of the organisation and ensure core services are maintained and developed. Expenditure increased by 19% (~£134K), broken down into six main areas: ▪ Sales/shows/publications (£77K) ▪ Breed development (-£33.5K)	JY

	▪ Staffing (-£1K) ▪ Registration costs (-£21.5K) ▪ iTexel developments ▪ 50th anniversary activities Income increased by 11% (~£77K), broken down into several categories. ▪ 50th anniversary sponsorship ▪ Genotyping service ▪ Research grants reduced, as projects completed ▪ Birth notification/registrations income reduced ▪ Sales Auctions income reduced ▪ Investments income increased along with Gift Aid income The operating performance deficit (-£36,355) was considered acceptable to the Board and they highlighted the impact of significant performance providing: ▪ Genotyping service to support members ▪ Provision of 50th anniversary activities and legacies ▪ Continued investment in the iTexel.uk ▪ Investments positively impacting on financial performance ▪ Increased promotional activity for the members and breed The Society's operational activity continues to include database, breed development costs, as well as youth development, and breed promotion. There is planned activity and investment to support a data rich registry and genomic service, with the launch of genomic evaluations in 2024, a first for UK sheep breed, as part of the modernising of pedigree and performance registry service, again a service unique to the Texel Society and an exemplar to the industry. The Society remains focused on improving efficiency, through value for money and benefit to members initiatives whilst implementing current strategies and improvements across: ▪ Communications & promotions ▪ Events to support sales, shows and youth programme ▪ Breed development, including iTexel and mitigation costs incurred, because of management of lethal genes as part of genomic breed development programme JY thanked AR for dedication to summer events across the UK, and ES for support in breed development and registry activity. Adding the raising of the bar on all fronts was a credit to them and all that benefit from the Society. JY presented the Society's OSCAR (Scottish charity regulator) reporting summary for the last five years that showed income and spending amounts. These figures do not include investment returns and described how contributions to reserves are a result of investments, not from operating profit, with society operations	
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	remaining marginal, within the board's level of acceptance and tolerance. The Society's balance sheet has performed well over the last 15+ years, achieving growth slightly above the inflation rate. JY added that all the presentations and reports provided to the board will be available on the Society website. Proposer: Robert Laird Second: Neil Harvey	
AGM006/25	RESOLUTION <i>To confirm the appointment of Dafferns LLP as the Auditors for the Society and to authorise the Board of Directors to fix their remuneration.</i> Proposer: Steve Martin Second: Angus Howie	JY
AGM007/25	Announcement of Board of Directors election results <i>Area 2: West of Scotland</i> Robert Laird Cambwell [LTC] – unopposed – 2025-2029 <i>Area 5: North East of England</i> Position vacant – 2025-2028 <i>Area 6: North West & Central North of England & Isle of Man</i> Jeff Aiken [AXC] nominated Kiree Kermode Orrisdale [KAO] – unopposed – 2025-2029 <i>Area 10: North Wales & Borders</i> Dafydd Jones Kitrob [JOK] – unopposed – 2025-2029 Special thanks to Jeff Aiken, retiring after 12 years of continuous service. YDP Area B Northern England – James Porter Saltcoates, unopposed – 2025-2028 AR described the other YDP representatives: ▪ Area A - Amy Laird ▪ Area C- Rhian Watkins ▪ Area D- Gerallt Rowlands ▪ Area E – Stuart Ferris JD asked if the Board has ever met the YDP committee as a group? JY explained that the YDP exists to act as a conduit of new ideas to support youth activity as well as monitor the operation of the current YDP programme. The committee is a great complement to the society structure. Meetings take place by Teams to keep costs manageable. NW suggested a representative of the committee could attend a Board meeting. JY agreed that whilst the YDP	JY

	programme is successful and the YDP committee perform well within what is quite a restrictive topic when delivering National activities. This is quite different to regional activities which are much more easily achieved by Clubs. Jy will arrange for a suitable time for the board and YDP committee to share ideas through a workshop, with eth focus on the YDP programme.	
AGM008/25	Any other business that has been approved by the Chair for discussion. On behalf of the Society JY is grateful for the sponsorship from Agrii this year for the summer competition. Winner was Gethin Hatcher, Penllain flock. He has won a 10 acre grassland management package No further comments, meeting closed at 1440.	JY / PM