



The Harper Adams Club
Harper Adams Alumni Association

HARPER ADAMS CLUB AGM MINUTES

The Minutes of the Harper Adams Club Annual General Meeting held online via MS Teams at 7pm on Wednesday 8th November 2023.

Present: Dale Allen, Richard Barsley, Ros Barsley, Ed Cooper, Sarah Furniss, Simon Jones (Chair), Alex Law, Charlotte Playfair-Hannay, Sam Roskell, Victoria Stead, Charlie Wright.

1. Apologies for Absence

Alice Whitehead, Jonathan Fitton, Gerard Poulter

2. Minutes of the last Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 13th October 2022, proposed by Charlie Wright and seconded by Charlotte Playfair-Hannay, were agreed to be a true record of the proceedings.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

4. Committee Report:

- The Club's Magazine, Harper Life, was distributed to 10743 members, to coincide with the Clubs anniversary on the 30th of November 2022. The 32-page publication featured news of old students and updates from the University and was very warmly received.
- This year's magazine is due to be published at the end of the month and thanks are expressed to all those involved in its compilation.
- The Joint Presidents have held several meetings with staff at the University regarding Alumni engagement and participation over the course of the year. Responsibility for Alumni matters transferred from the University's Marketing Department to the Development Trust Office earlier in the year.
- Victoria Stead was duly elected to fill the vacant position of Vice President at the Clubs 30th November Committee meeting.
- The Club offered 3 Scholarships to students and received a total of 61 applications. Interviews were held on the 17th of February 2023 and were conducted by Ros Barsley, Simon Jones, and Victoria Stead. In total, £8750 was awarded.

- The Club awarded the following Scholarships:
 - Final Year Scholarships – Ellie Godber and Stuart Rowlands
 - Animal & Veterinary Sciences Scholarship – Rachel Hallam
 - Postgraduate Scholarship – Liz Truss
 - Presidents Scholarship -Joe Boeg
 - President’s Award – Rachel Cornthwaite
 - Other awards – Elise Lawrence and Orla Gilligan

- Letters of thanks to the Club have been received from all Scholars.

- Simon Jones represented the Club at this year’s Development Trust Scholarship Presentation on the 17th of May 2023.

- The Club Committee are focussing their attention on developing the Clubs online presence and are endeavouring to increase awareness of the Club through a website and online Community Platform. Discussions with the University on collaborating with these are ongoing.

- The Club was delighted to have been mentioned several times in the University’s new 2030 strategy, highlighting the importance role alumni have in shaping the future of the University.

- The social media posts have always gone down well, thanks are due to Alice Whitehead for her role in keeping the Facebook page alive.

- A few Club newsletters have kindly been distributed by the University to alumni, these are important in keeping ex-students up to date in between the annual publication of the Harper Life magazine.

- On Saturday 24th February, the HobGoblins fixtures took place on campus. This year the Club provided a cup in memory of Chris Scurfield, to be awarded annually to the winner of a match. This year’s victors were the ‘Harper old Boys’ (HobGoblins) rugby team.

- The Club Committee had formed a sub-committee to review the Clubs Constitution and thanks are due to all those involved.

- The Club hosted its Annual Club Lunch on Saturday 15th July. Almost 180 ex-Harper students were in attendance, 40 stayed overnight in halls. There was a great atmosphere at the event and next year’s Lunch is scheduled to be held on Saturday 6th July at Harper Adams.

- Over the course of the year the Club Committee had met 5 times and the Constitution Sub-committee 3 times.

5. Changes to the Clubs Constitution

A few proposed changes to the Clubs Constitution had been disseminated ahead of the meeting. These include:

- A change to the wording of the Club's Objectives to better reflect its current role.
- An alteration to allow the Clubs AGM to take place online and/or in person as required.
- The inclusion of how the management committee can and should be elected via an online Club AGM

All in favour

6. Election of Club Committee

Dale Allen – BSc Countryside & Environment Management 2011-2015

Ros Barsley (Ex-Officio) – HND Agriculture 1970 – 1973

Ed Cooper – BSc Agriculture 1992 - 1996

Sarah Furness – BSc Agriculture with Land & Farm Management 1998 - 2002

Simon Jones (Ex-Officio) – BSc Rural Environmental Protection 1996 – 2000

Pam Jones – BSc Agriculture Food Marketing & Business 1999-2001

Alex Law – BSc Agriculture with Land and Farm Management 1999 – 2003 / MSc REALM 2007

Charlotte Playfair-Hannay – BSc Rural Enterprise and Land Management 2004 – 2008.

Sam Roskell - BEng Mechanical Engineering 2018-2022

Victoria Stead – BSc Countryside Environmental Management 2010 – 2015 / MSc Integrated Pest Management 2015 -17

Alice Whitehead – BSc Agriculture 2009 – 2013

Charlie Wright – BSc Agriculture 1992-1996

All in favour

7. Election of Club President and Vice President for 2023 – 2024

The Committee had proposed that Victoria Stead be elected President and Dale Allen as Vice President for the forthcoming year.

All in favour

Election of Honorary President

At the 20th of September Club Committee Meeting, Honorary President Ros Barsley proposed that Simon Jones also be appointed as an Honorary Club President, all were in favour.

- An Honorary President shall be someone who by their dedication, contribution and approach is acknowledged as an individual who could provide inspiration, guidance and support for the benefit of the Club.

- The role shall be Honorary and carries no responsibility, executive function or role.
- Honorary Presidents may (at their discretion) take on some 'ceremonial' duties from time to time such as the presenting of awards or attending events as the official representative of the Harper Adams Club.
- An Honorary President shall be appointed at an AGM and shall continue as such for as long as they remain a member of the Club.

All in favour

8. Financial Report

- The Club Accounts were kindly produced by Sarah Furniss.
- Simon Jones presented the accounts online, reporting a continued decline in the current account that needs addressing.

9. Any other business

Victoria Stead thanked Ros Barsley and Simon Jones for their dedication to the Club over so many years, highlighting that the Club would probably not have survived recent times without them.

10. Forthcoming Events

- The next Harper Adams Club Committee Meeting will take place online on 30th November 2023
- The Annual Club Lunch is booked for Saturday 6th July 2023

The meeting closed at 19:28pm