Lancashire Federation of Young Farmers
85th Annual General Meeting

Meeting Minutes - unadopted

Thursday 28th November 2025, 19:30 for 19:45 Start
Rochdale Town Hall

Present:

Alfie Naylor
Becky Sackfield
Brooke Faulkner
Cathy Thompson
Dan Holley
Dan Rowland
Edward Dickinson
Eleanor Fish
Ella Mason
Gary Davies.
George Ireland
Grace Murphey
Heather Harrison
Helen Dakin
Henry Braid
Isaac Middleton
Izzy Deacon
Jack Hepplestone
Jessica Holden
John Garnett
John Neary
Kater Dewhurst
Lucy Bargh
Maisie Naylor
Matthew Wallbank
Meg Johnson
Megan Whittle
Michael Rimmer
Neil Hodkinson
Pamela Fawcett
Pete Dakin
Pete Davies
Rachel Hardman
Rachel Webster
Robert Webster
Steve Morris
Sue Davies
Tom Walker
Wendy Bracewell
Will Harrison

<u>Top Table</u>
President: Simon Thompson
Retiring Chair: Ana Haworth
Retiring Vice Chair/ Appointed Chair: Anna Robinson
Appointed Vice Chair: Bethany Duerden
Administration: Hannah Rose
<u>Guests</u>
John Lee OBE DL
Mayor of Rochdale, Janet Emsley
Jill Bargh
John Garnett

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks and Welcome

Good evening fellow Young Farmers, Honoured Guests and Ladies and Gentlemen.
Welcome to the Lancashire Young Farmers' 85th Annual General Meeting at Rochdale Town Hall, and fittingly today is Lancashire Day, what a perfect day to celebrate everything we have achieved and what young farmers bring to Lancashire!

I'd like to begin by thanking you all for being here tonight, members guests, supporters, advisory and friends of the Federation. Your commitment to YFC is what keeps this County strong, and it's fantastic to see such a good turnout.
A very warm welcome to our NFYFC President, John Lee, who has travelled here to be with us this evening – thank you for your continued support of Lancashire and everything you do for young farmers across the country.
We are also honoured to welcome the Mayor of Rochdale, Janet Emsley. Thank you for joining us; we are delighted to have you with us as we review our year and celebrate the achievements of our members.
Tonight, we will look back on a year of hard work resilience progress and plenty of memorable moments across the Lancashire YFC. I'm incredibly proud of everything our members and officers have achieved and I'm grateful to everyone who has contributed to the success of the federation this year.
Thank you once again for joining us the best speaker award is being judged tonight by NFYFC president Mr. John Lee and Mayor Janet Elmsley so please when you are speaking state your name, age and club before starting your speech.

2. Apologies for Absence
Winmarleigh Club members.
Clitheroe YFC members.
Clare Platt, Moira Roberts, Rachel Kelsall, Lucy Phillips, Holly Barton, Richard Eccles, Hannah Webster, Millie Thornber, Scott Bennet, James Nairey, Annabelle Robinson.
Alice Bradley – Alice asked that we please thank Ana and the officer team for their hard work throughout 2025 on her behalf. She wishes the 2026 team very best wishes for an enjoyable year of fun and achievements.
Clare Platt - congratulated Ana on her year, and gave best wishes to the new officers.

3. Minutes of the 84th AGM as circulated
Acceptance proposed by Megan Whittle and seconded by Pete Davies.

a. Matters arising from the minutes not covered on the agenda
None
b. Correspondence
None

4. County Chairman's Report, to include Audited Balance Sheet for 2024/25

Good evening fellow Young Farmers, Honoured Guests and Ladies and Gentlemen.
Welcome to the Lancashire Young Farmers' 85th Annual General Meeting at Rochdale Town Hall, and fittingly today is Lancashire Day, what a perfect day to celebrate everything we have achieved and what young farmers bring to Lancashire!

I'd like to begin by thanking you all for being here tonight, members, guests, supporters, advisory and friends of the Federation. Your commitment to YFC is what keeps this County strong, and it's fantastic to see such a good turnout.

A very warm welcome to our NFYFC President, John Lee, who has travelled here to be with us this evening – thank you for your continued support of Lancashire and everything you do for young farmers across the country.
We are also honoured to welcome the Mayor of Rochdale, Janet Emsley. Thank you for joining us; we are delighted to have you with us as we review our year and celebrate the achievements of our members.

Tonight, we will look back on a year of hard work resilience progress and plenty of memorable moments across the Lancashire YFC. I'm incredibly proud of everything our members and officers have achieved and I'm grateful to everyone who has contributed to the success of the federation this year.
Thank you once again for joining us the best speaker award is being judged tonight by NFYFC president Mr. John Lee and Mayor Janet Emsley so please when you're speaking state your name, age and club before starting your speech.

Ana Haworth, Chairmans report
Good evening fellow Young Farmers, honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen. As I stand here tonight it feels like only yesterday that I stepped into the role of County Chairwoman. What I didn't know at the time was just how much this year were challenged me shape me and make me prouder than ever to be part of Lancashire YFC. These last few years have not been easy. We have faced obstacles as a county - from operating without a member of staff for part of the year to getting to meet back in our own office. But, together as a federation we refuse to let anything hold us back and tonight I want to celebrate all that we have achieved as a Federation. We didn't just steady the ship, we moved it forward. We have recruited, rebuilt, supported each other and showed what true resilience in young farmers looks like.

I'm incredibly proud that during my time as chairman, we moved from a different position, that wasn't done by one person. That was all of us; officers, club leaders, members, volunteers, advisory and supporters all pulling in the same direction.

When I look back over the last 12 months, we have done an unbelievable amount as a County!
The year kicked off with the county debate competition final, Chipping versus Winmarleigh. With members stepping up, sharpening their thinking and proving that Lancashire aren't afraid to have an opinion... or 10! Winmarleigh managed to take the win, leaving Harry Salisbury happy to end his YFC career on a high!

What feels like the biggest challenge of the last 18 months was operating without a member of staff, the uncertainty, the juggling, and making sure what needed to be done was completed. Interviews started in early December for a new member of staff, and we finally found stability in the form of Hannah Rose. We began 2025 with a spring in our step and I couldn't thank Hannah enough as she has genuinely made my year better. Another person I would have struggled over the last year without is Anna Robinson, our Vice Chair, you've been a great support, and it's been easier with you by my side. Simon, as President you've been here for us throughout the year too, you've always been at the end of the phone.

There have been plenty of tractor runs over the Christmas period to raise money for all sorts of good causes, Turton managed to raise a huge £12,000 and Clitheroe, over £10,000 for Yellow Wellies.

Julie Bennett kindly volunteered to write all the heats for our county quiz competition, although the questions were quite hard and left us scratching our heads. The Final saw Andy from Lancashire Wildlife Trust sponsor the event and be our quiz master for the evening. Bilsborrow took the win for the juniors and Chipping for the seniors.

There have been plenty of dinner dances across the county over the year: Slaidburn hosted their 90th anniversary dinner, making them one of the oldest clubs in the county. Chorley hosted their annual dinner dance with a great turn out from across the county. We held our annual County Ball at the Bolton Wanderers Stadium, welcoming around 250 members and past members from all corners of Lancashire, a proper celebration of everything we've achieved.

Northern area weekend, a weekend of sports, public speaking, panto and socialising with our northern counterparts. We booked 3 venues and every single one let us down or didn't have the facilities we needed. But we persevered, kept planning, and eventually ended up bringing the whole of northern area to Bacup in the Pennine region. Not quite the original plan, but very on brand for YFC; stressful, chaotic, last minute, and brilliant in the end. We even managed to turn a profit with the help of our northern area night do, hosted in a nightclub in Burnley Town Centre. It was an eye opener to say the least, but a good night was had by all.

A huge thank you to Pete, for being Northern Area Weekend Chair, even though I proposed you for the role when you weren't there to say no. You did a great job for the weekend. Thank you for all your support whilst I've been county chair too, I wouldn't have been able to do it without you!

A special mention to Bury and Parbold for taking on the after dinner speaking this year, it's amazing how a competition designed to test confidence and communication also seemed to bring people a little closer together.

We headed to Myerscough for County Rally this year, hosted by North Lancs region. It was a day filled with sunshine enthusiasm. The timetable went on with an array of quirky competitions to keep us all entertained, from ugly sisters to questionable karaoke. The day ended on a high for Vale who took home the win! A special thanks to North Lancs County Rally committee for organising the day.

If there is one thing Lancashire clubs are good at, it is raising money. A phenomenal amount has been raised for all sorts of charities this year. Pendle's Speed Shear took place once again raising a huge £17,000 for Lyme disease, Yellow Wellies and Sepsis UK. Longridge have just hosted A Dyno Day raising £13,000.

Bonfire night is another key event in the YFC calendar, with clubs pulling together for food and a get together. Bolton by Bowland hosted Bowland regions bonfire once again, with a cracking night of fireworks, pie and peas supper and proper community spirit, which is what YFC is all about.

A couple of weeks ago 16 of you from across the county; Slaidburn, Rainford, Bury and Samlesbury (to name a few), went to the English winter fair to compete in the Live and Carcass competition. Arry Young from Bury and Erin Wright from Samlesbury managed to bag a National trophy.
The last competition before Christmas took place this week. 14 of the 15 clubs rocked up to Red Rose Bowl and gave it their best shot for the bowling competition. Rainford took the lead winning overall.

I've had the privilege of representing Lancashire at county level, national level and being part of some unforgettable moments; competitions, rallies, county events, northern area weekend, and all the

times our members have shown with their talent, humour and sheer passion for YFC. It's been a busy year to say the least! But the absolute highlight has been you. Every club I visited, every message I've received, every conversation at meetings or events, you've reminded me why YFC is so special. Lancashire is full of leaders, of doers and of people who care. And it has been an honour to be someone you could come to for guidance, support, or even just a moan. I promised when I took on this role I would lead with integrity, transparency, and a commitment to our federation. I hope I've done that. And I hope I've shown that you don't have to be the loudest person in the room to make a difference, you just have to care deeply enough to keep going even when it's hard.

As I step down tonight I do so with a full heart. I am grateful, I'm proud and I am excited for the future of Lancashire YFC. Our next county officers will bring new ideas, new energy, and new passion. And I will be standing behind them every step of the way cheering them on.

Thank you, young farmers, for trusting me, challenging me, supporting me and for making this one of the most meaningful years of my life. Thank you.

Ana's highlights of the accounts:

- Finished with surplus of £8,525
- Income was up across the board, total £94,501.
- Affiliation fees increased.
- Event income doubled.
- Interest on reserves continues to support us.
- Expenditure slightly higher than last year at £85,976.
- Increase in staffing costs and National levy.
- Reduced overspend in other areas.
- Currently hold £243,309 in reserves covering keeping well above the 3-monthy running cost threshold.
- Far healthier position for next year.

a. Northwest Auction presentation

Jill Bargh and John Garnett, directors of Northwest auctions introduced themselves. They discussed their decision to provide sponsorship and why they decided to give LFYFC money.
The organisation had been appalled at lack of recent support to farming communities and the discretionary YFC grant for research being pulled. They made decision to make a long-term pledge to Lancashire and Cumbria YFC. NWA want to welcome young farmers, for them to feel valued and for NWA venues to be seen as somewhere they can always feel welcome and supported. They want to promote training and the sense of community in YFC.
It is hoped that their commitment shines a ray of light in a gloomy situation and that the government come to their senses in terms of recent policies.

They hope that this will help LFYFC to go from strength to strength.

Presented cheque for £2,500, Ana thanked them for their annual sponsorship.

5. Review of County Fees for 1st September 2026

Due to financial uncertainty Ella Mason proposed fees remain as they are (charged at £40 per member for the 2024/2025-member year). Hopes this will secure stability and can continue operating responsibly. Eleanor Fish seconded.
Motion Agreed.

6. County Presidents Report

Simon stated it has been a privilege and pleasure to be chair. The charity events have been fabulous.
Simon sees himself as the person at the start of a marching band with a massive drum who goes ahead and bangs his drum loudly telling all how great LFYFC is.
He gave credit to the efforts of Anna and Ana and the efficient way they have managed everything and the great job they have done. He also gave thanks to Hannah.
Simon was very thankful to Julie Bennett and her help in getting 130 applications down to a manageable amount. And for help with the interviews and getting the office up and running.
He also relayed thanks to Ana and Anna to helping Hannah get settled into the Administrator role.
It has been a great year of events and competitions. Lots of clubs having their fabulous dinner dances and memorable nights.
There are two things he wants to say to all young farmers and get the maximum out of being a young farmer. Don't go into it half-hearted and don't leave with regrets. Feels that it is important no one misses out on being a young farmer. Over the years, we have lost quite a few clubs, especially around the county periphery. He would like to start conversations with people about the longevity of clubs.
He concluded that he feels it is a great time to be part of a YFC organisation.

7. Vote of Thanks to President, Honorary Life Vice Presidents, Vice Presidents, Honorary Life Members, Officers, Trustees of the Federation and retiring officers was given by Beth.

8. Presentation of Awards
    a. Member of the Year
        i. Junior — 1st Sally Hunt, 2nd Molly Thompson, 3rd Edward Leigh
        Ana and James conveyed that it had been an honour and privilege. Interviews and presentations were fantastic, shows the future of YFC is in good hand. Highlighted members are throwing themselves into events, comps and planning and all finalists did wonderfully.
        ii. Intermediate — 1st Alfie Naylor, 2nd Megan Johnson, 3rd Feddie Shorrock & Mindy Binney
        Apologies from Claire and David (intermediate judges). They wish to convey a big well done to all. Positive to see members wanting to engage in all of YFC. Advice would be to make the best use of the synopsis form, and make it clear and concise. Elaborate on question answers in the interview and share as much as possible with judges. All finalists should be very proud and hope they will continue to bring enthusiasm to county level in the future (Clare).
        iii. Senior 1st — 1st Ana Haworth, 2nd Megan Whittle, 3rd Beth Duerden & Lucy Phillips
        Apologies from Rachel (senior judge) given by Steve (senior judge), had a lovely evening judging together. Found turned into a lovely chat about YFC, the future, the challenges and they found the knowledge and passion was great and that members thought about YFC in great depth. Wonderful evening with young people who have given lots to YFC and intend to give more. Rachel has said was great honour to judge, Lancashire YFC is very fortunate to have such dedicated members leading the way for their clubs and the county. Steve shared Rachel's notes for those moving on to the next stage; General tips for next stage: get someone

else to read your synopsis form through (just to make sure it flows well), update your synopsis form throughout the year - e.g. add in each step of this competition (like winning regional round, getting placed at Lancashire round, getting through to NA etc), brush up on county, area and national knowledge. e.g. national office holders, counties in our area, who holds what role at area, next time Lancashire hosting an event/being role holders etc. At the higher level needs to be very professional. Steve stated the evening was a real tribute to LFYFC.

b. Club of the Year Rainford

Anthony Cowell expressed thanks for asking to him to judge, been a long time since been part of YFC and really enjoyed the process. Reiterated what a fab venue this has been to come to.
Visited four clubs and looking for leadership, enthusiasm and quality. Were the members engaged and enthusiasm? How was the communication? New members were also noted and was pleased to hear about the activities being panned. Also looking for very well-kept books and records. All clubs were really great in terms of their charity work and the amount of money raised. Clubs need to be better at shouting about the amount raised. He also noted that it would be nice to make it clear and obvious who is in charge and running any meeting. Of the four finalist clubs, found one club displayed most of what he was looking for.

c. Best Chairman of the Year Freddie Shorrock

d. Best Secretary of the Year Annabelle Robinson

e. Best Treasurer of the Year Dan Holley

f. Top Junior Involvement Award Pendle

g. Top Club Involvement Award Vale

h. Top Regional Involvement Award Bowland

i. Club Membership Increase Pendle

j. Member Promoting LFYFC the most Ella Mason

k. LFYFC Club Charity Award for the most money raised in 2024/25 Pendle

l. President's Award Helen & Peter Dakin

Simon feels proud to give this award.
The winners recently stood down as long term leaders of Bolton by Bowland. During Covid the club had 6 members. They organised outdoor events and never gave up. Their good leadership, support and guidance have kept this club alive. The future for this club is very bright.

m. Chairman's Award Bethany Bracewell

9. Election of Officers
   a. Patron: Lord Derby – Proposed by Ella Mason, seconded by Brooke Faulkner. Passed.

   b. President: Simon Thompson – Proposed by Will Harrison, seconded by Alfie Naylor. Passed.

c. Vice Presidents: - Proposed by Beth Duerden, seconded by Meg Johnson.

Proposed VPs:
Greg Fitton
Julie Bennett
Heather Harrison
Anthony Ollerton
Clare Platt
Robert Webster
George Hodge
Sue Davies
Moira Roberts
Richard Eccles
Angela Whitwell
Ruth Wareing

And the addition of Steve Morris. Ella posed that Steve has wealth of knowledge and experience, attends all meeting and is invaluable in debate.

Neil Hodkinson countered that Steve was removed for a reason. Ella reiterated her opinion in support of Steve in response to this. Rachel Webster also voiced her support of Steve. John Neary voiced his support of the previous removal. Susan Davies provided constitution contents as relevant to this motion. Neil counter proposed that the VP list remains as it was and this was seconded by Becky Sackfield.

Steve Morris left the room. A vote was taken with an overwhelming support for the motion to add Steve to the list.

d. Honorary Life Vice Presidents: - Proposed by Isabelle Deacon, seconded by Megan Whittle. Passed.

Proposed HLVPs:
Pamela Fawcett
Fred Mason
Graham Hayhurst
Alice Bradley
Gary Davies
Daid Kay
Marion Ashton
John Towers
John Neary
Michael Rimmer

e. Honorary Life Members: - Passed.

Proposed life members:
David Lynch
John Sowerby
Audrey Townson

f. Chairman: Anna Robinson – Proposed by Beth Duerden, seconded by Meg Johnson. Passed.

g. Vice Chairman: Bethany Duerden – Proposed by Katie Hargreaves, seconded by Megan Whittle. Passed.

h. Financial Officer: Liz (Elizabeth) Seed – Proposed by Rachel Hardman, seconded by Dan Holley. Passed.
John neary requested a vote of thanks be given to Laura Rimmer as she stands down from the role.

i. Auditors: Voisey – Proposed by Rachel Webster, seconded by Jen Miller. Passed.

j. Safeguarding Officers – Proposed by Ana Haworth, seconded by Anna Robinson.

Proposed Officers:

Ellie Fish to continue.
Hannah Rose as addition.
Neil Hodkinson proposed addition of John Neary so there is male representation as well. He has taken great enjoyment out of the role so far. Dan Holley seconded the proposal.
A vote was taken for the increase to three safeguarding officers, and this was passed.
A vote was taken for the proposed named three persons and passed.

10. Election of Committees:
    a. Staff Management Committee: - Proposed by Lucy Bargh, seconded by Ed Dickinson. Passed.

Proposed committee:
James Oddie
Kathryn Wright
County President – Simon Thompson
County Chair – Anna Robinson
County Vice Chair – Bethany Duerden
Ex Officio County Chair – Ana Haworth

b. Trustees: - Proposed by Alfie Naylor, seconded by Isabelle Deacon. Addition of Rachel Stott. Passed.

Proposed trustees:
Sue Davies
Andrea Gardner
Mark Pearson
Angela Whitwell
County President - Simon Thompson
County Chair – Anna Robinson
County Vice Chair – Bethany Duerden
Ex Office County Chair
Removal of Andrew Holden (time served)
Rachel Stott (agreed new addition)

c. Holding Trustee – Proposed Tom Walker, seconded Jack Heppleston. Passed.

Proposed trustees:
Julie Bennet
Julie Gardner
Clare Platt
Removal of Steve Morris (time served)
Removal of Paul McWhirter (time served)
Tom Walker (agreed new addition)

d. County Staff Appeals Committee: Proposed by Jen Miller, seconded by Ana Haworth. Passed.

Proposed committee:
Anthony Cowell
Christine Parkinson
Matt Dugdale
Removal of Angela Whitwell (time served)

e. Training Fund Committee: _ Proposed by Rachel Hardman, seconded by Jack Hepplestone. Passed.

Proposed committee:
Jess Dodd
Laura Webster
Amy Dickinson

f. Social Media Officer: Rachel Webster - Proposed by Ella Mason, seconded by Ana Haworth. Passed.

11. National President Mr John Lee OBE DL

John Lee sated what a privilege it was to come to Lancashire again after attending Bury's 80th dinner dance. He was very pleased to see the mayor here and of the respect she has for the YFC, which he stated was well earned, and that we heard this evening how Lancashire YFC have earnt this over the past year. He felt it was great to hear about how well Lancashire clubs have done in charity fundraising, and also really pleased to see how many past members are here still showing their support. He thanked them for the invaluable contribution.

He reflected on how he got involved in YFC and how he was not doing very well at school. Joining YFC helped shape him into the person he is today. He stated his decision to join YFC at 17 made the difference to him and his progression academically and professionally. He has now gone to performing less than ideally at academically to having been asked to be chairman of the governors of his previous college! He urged members not to underestimate the experience gained form YFC and how they will serve you in the future. Lifelong friends made in YFC will be with you for the rest of your life supporting you in tough moments.

He finished stating that it was a privilege to come back to Lancashire. He congratulated all on a great year and urged everyone not to rest on their laurels as it is only as good as what you put into it.

12. Date of 85th Annual General Meeting

26th November 2026

13. Any Other AGM Business and Notices

a. Best Speaker Award

Presented by Mayor of Rochdale to Alfie Naylor.

It was felt Alfie delivered good internation, good introductions, laughter and good comments. Plus, information was given at a clear volume and good pace.

b. Other

John Neary raised the signatories had not been mentioned. Ana apologised as she meant to mention this during finances.

Signatories: Proposed by Ana Haworth seconded by Rachel Hardman. Passed.

Main accounts proposed signatories:
County chair – Anna Robinson
Vice chair – Bethany Duerden
Finance officer – Elizabeth Seed
Administration Officer – Hannah Rose

Other accounts proposed signatories:
Appointed holding trustees - Julie Bennet
Julie Gardner
Clare Platt
Tom Walker

14. Closed Meeting at 21:53