



Lancashire Federation of Young Farmers

84th Annual General Meeting

Thursday 28th November 2024, 19:30 for 19:45 Start
Whitechapel Village Hall

Present:

President: Micheal Rimmer

Chair: Neil Hodgkinson

Vice Chair: Ana Howarth

Pendle: Alan Gill, Ethan Spink, Beth Duerden

Vale: Olivia Coates, David Hartley, Tom Walker, Ed Clarke (Ex- Officio Chair)

Bolton By Bowland: Edward Dickinson, Lucy Armer

Bilsborrow: Emily Thompson, Lucy Phillips, Viki Clarke

Chipping: Sam Gornall, Lucy Williams, Jen Miller, Rachel Hardman

Samlesbury: Peter Jackson, Scott Bennett, George Noblet

Slaidburn: Ailsa Bury, Millie Thornber, Ella Mason, Anna Robinson

Bury: Eleanor Fish, Peter Davies, Alfie Naylor, John, Wendy and Bethany Bracewell

Parbold: Meg Johnson

Chorley: Chris Leadbetter

Longridge: Daniel Rowland, Eleanor Wallbank, Charlotte Blezard & George Ireland

Turton: Isabelle Holden, Ciaran Wainwright

Winmarleigh: Tom Hull, Tom Boardman and Harry Salisbury

Vice Presidents: Simon Thompson, Moira Roberts, Julie Bennett, Sue Davies, Richard Eccles, George Hodge

Trustees: Steve Morris & Sue Davies

Honorary Life Vice Presidents: Pam Fawcett, Alice Bradley, Fred Mason, John Towers, John Neary, Gary Davies

Staff Management: Julie Bennett, James Oddie (Staff Management Chair)

Honorary Guests: Bill Bradley, Christine Smith, Adrian Willis (NFYFC Deputy President)



1. Chairman's Opening Remarks and Welcome

2. Apologies for Absence

Heather Harrison & Robert Webster, Tom Oston, Mary Bailey

3. Minutes of the 83rd AGM as circulated

a. Matters arising from the minutes not covered on the agenda

No matters arising.

b. Correspondence

No correspondence received.

4. County Chairman's Report, to include Audited Balance Sheet for 2023/24:

Neil welcomed everyone to the meeting, with reflecting on the successful yet chaotic year. The first event of the year started with debate with pendle winning the debate competition, showing they are not to come up across in argument. Sports and Speaking was next with Sam Gornall's dancing being a highlight. Bowland Region hosted the county rally with a well done to the region for organising and Ethan Spink for multitasking. Neil continued with the Tug of War nationals with not a win at nationals but a good journey. National stock judging at Isle of man with Erin success following at live and carcass with Erin and Anna Robinson joint win as a pair. Neil moved onto the Social as successful county ball and horse racing night. But the biggest event was the chairman's challenge,+ with thanks to Rachel Hardman for organising the event. Ready for the next AGM. Neil finished his speech thanking Ed, Ana and Micheal Rimmer and encouraged members to keep the spirit going. Neil thanked everyone and encouraged members in the future to be more of a help to the county office.

No balance sheet present

Tom Oston not present

Ed Clarke reported on behalf on Tom Oston, Tom sends his apologies. Tom has been unable to access the accounts due the employment situation of no County Office Co-ordinator, leading him to be unable to access the bank to confirm identity. Once there has been access to the accounts will be then able to send to accounts. Tom added that when he accepted the job it was not as described as it is, with eventually getting communication from the trustees, having to sort problems himself without their assistance and to take note of this for the future. Tom apologises for the unavailable update of the accounts and not being able to attend the meeting. Wishes the new management team the best of luck.

5. Review of County Fees for 1st September 2025



Anna Robinson proposes to keep the county fees the same, this was seconded by Becky Sackfield.

6. County Presidents Report

Micheal Rimmer started his report with times flying when you're having fun. Micheal reported at times it felt like walking through treacle with the flooding issues and staffing, but we have learnt a lot. Micheal apologises for the staffing vacancy but there will be light at the end of the tunnel, and gave thanks to Julie Bennett for her efforts over the past six months. Micheal added that members and trustees do need more information for reporting officers to make better decisions and choices, the YFC is stronger when members are at the centre of the decision-making process. Micheal continued with as he is now coming to the end of his term, he reminded to continue to look after young members but not forget to look after older members. Meeting everyone of all ages and will carry on Young Farmers into an older age, it will always be with you, to come for the happy days and mourn the sad, whether its events and competitions to setting rules in place for safer events. Micheal apologised for his absence at times with the commitments to the farm but adds that when attending with troubles at home the company of young farmers always leave him feeling better. Micheal finished with that he will now return to his plough.

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

Abi Stansfield, 25, Clitheroe, Abi thanked everyone over the past year specifically over the problems last year managing to still come together. Abi asked everyone to show their appreciation in the usual way.

8. Presentation of Awards

Member of the Year:

Christine Parkinson congratulated the junior members for entry's and added a well done to everyone for their in-depth synopsis form throughout all entry's. Members were all winners coming through winners. Added that members do need to sell themselves more, knowing more knowledge about the structure YFC i.e. knowing where your club and region sit in the county. Christine added if any further advice is need, please come to her for assistance.

- i. Junior 1st Place Bethany Bracewell, Pennine, Bury YFC Runner Up Molly Thompson, North Lancs, Bilsborrow

Moira Roberts, was always a pleasure to judge four very impressive people that put themselves forward for intermediate member of the year, a very well, each one was a credit to their clubs, and being passionate about YFC, as well



as contributing to county and region which is expected in this region. Moira added they followed the senior scoring system to judge to aid going forward for these members in the future.

- ii. Intermediate 1st Place Mia Stott, Chipping YFC, Runner Up Jess Holden, Bury YFC.

Julie Bennett was an hour to meet four female senior members from Lancashire. The four individuals were all winners and a credit to their club's region and what they support. Julie added they were looking for someone that shone through spirit and the potential to lead the club, region and county and become an ambassador for young farmers The individual that has supported competitions, events and rural matters that is not just YFC and eventually Taking part to lead Lancashire with ambition.

- iii. Senior 1st Place Bethany Duerden, Pendle YFC Runner Up Eleanor Fish, Bury YFC

Julie apologised in regards to club of the year as they only had 2 and half weeks to judge four clubs, and not judging clubs fairly by attending meetings that has a business meeting by doing the best they can, with a variety of meetings, pizza night, sparrow hawk meeting and games night and tractor run preparation. They were looking for a well-run club, with members in an inclusive environment to feel part of the young farmers community, this is what we are really wanting from clubs. How clubs communicate with members and how they embrace partnerships with the local community. Micheal added that him and Julie split the jobs with Julie judging Turton and Bilsborrow, and Micheal with Chipping and Rainford.

The results for club of year were as follows : 1st Rainford YFC, Reserve Bilsborrow

b. Best Chairman of the Year: Alan Gill, Pendle YFC

Neil and Ana judged best chairman award by going through clubs all year, well chaired meetings and this chair was the most welcoming they had throughout all meetings.

c. Best Secretary of the Year, Megan Whittle, Rainford YFC

Ana added her and Neil judges this due to the replies for competitions and deadlines, this secretary has put their club back on the map by attending competitions and meetings representing her club.

d. Best Treasurer of the Year, Mia Stott, Chipping YFC

Ana mentioned this is done off invoices paid on time, she added she has never had invoices paid so quickly.



e. Top Junior Involvement Award

Pendle YFC has been decided due to a spreadsheet

f. Top Club Involvement Award

Chipping YFC

g. Top Regional Involvement Award

Pennine Region

h. Club Membership Increase

Rainford YFC (increasing members by a massive 19 people from 28 to)

i. Member Promoting LFYFC the most

Bethany Duerden Pendle YFC

This member has organised a massive two charity events close to her and her club, county rally and a regional ball whilst also being regional chair,

j. LFYFC Club Charity Award for the most money raised in 2023/24

Pendle YFC

Pendle have won this with the hike for hector raising £ 4120.28 for air ambulance speed shear 13309 for Lymes disease with a total

k. President's Award

Tom Webster, Rainford YFC

Micheal reasoned that a couple of years when he took this job on, he was telling a neighbour of where he travelled all around the county for example when going to barley village hall pointing out pendle hill, Micheal added going to vale of lune pointing over in a direction round the corner. The point being how big the county is yet how small. Micheal concludes it highlights the members travelling far from the small corners of the county, adding members being on the border of neighbouring county's but still being a Lancashire member, The winner has a strong backing from his club and does not hesitate to travel afar.

l. Chairman's Award

Ana Haworth, Bury



For Neils chairman's award he made a decision for a good five or ten minutes and he couldn't have done it without them, has always been there supporting the county, no matter what.

9.Election of Officers

a. Patron

Ed Clarke, 28, Ex chair of Lancashire. "Ladies' gentlemen, honoured friends and top table, I would love to re propose the lord derby. As Lord Derby has been proposed before Ed has looked into this a patron is a well-known person that supports a charity as a figure head. Edward Richard William Stanley, born 1962 lives at Knowsley. Earl derby has been a champion of agriculture for some time now and massive champion of horses. Ending with he must be alright as his name is Edward.

Becky Sackfield 25, Chorley YFC

"I would like to second this proposal for Lord Derby as the patron"

b. President

Peter Davies 25, Bury:

"Good evening, Mr President, Vice Presidents, Chair, fellow young farmers and honoured guests it gives me great pleasure to propose Mr Simon Alan Thompson as president, since a young age Simon has been heavily involved in young farmers, well known for his key eye for stock and carcass judging, always getting involved in as many competitions as he could. Over the years he has held many roles, such as chair of Rochdale with roles within in region and county at the age of 23. Simon has never been one to miss an opportunity applying for the silver jubilee fund to travel to America, meeting other farming clubs and families learning about their life across the pond. But it is not just what Simon has got out of YFC, but what he has contributed and given back to members with being a judge and host for many stock judging competitions, but his main contribution in 1981 to form Turton YFC with Joe Holden opening with 79 members, a great achievement. Since retiring Simon has grown his hobbies with playing bowls, joining a local choir, so we won't be short of a judge for public speaking and sports. I hope you all can stand with me in this proposal, thank you"

Seconded by Will Harrison: "it gives me great pleasure to second this, Simon has spent a great deal in time in Longridge, I can't think of any one more appropriate of someone down to earth and willing to help the young farmers with meetings, competitions and stock judging."

Simon is happy to take on this role

Neil thanked Micheal for his two years as president and has been a pleasure to work with for himself Ana and Ed.



Simon added he is not often lost for words; he feels a current emptiness of pride and humility. Adding that Micheal is a hard act to follow. The first element of YFC is price of beer and telephones are not what it used to be, however young farmers is a member led organisation always has been always will be. The second element is the friendships and travel that come from this. Whatever he can do to help he will and will look forward to meeting anyone he has not met.

c. Vice Presidents

Tom Walker, 21 vale chair “This evening I would like to propose Greg Fitton, Julie Bennett, Heather Harrison, Anthony Ollerton, Clare Platt, Robert Webster, George Hodge, Sue Davies, Moira Roberts, Richard Eccles, Angela Whitwell, Ruth Wearing. Offering the voice of meetings and run a vast majority of competitions that is the pride of what it is today”

Ailsa bury 21, Treasurer of Slaidburn seconded this

d. Honorary Life Vice Presidents

Meg Johnson 18 Parbold Secretary

“Good evening, I would like to start by thanking the honorary life vice presidents: Pamela Fawcett, Fred Mason, Graham Hayhurst, Alice Bradley, Gary Davies, David Kay, Mary Bailey, Marion Ashton, John Towers and Jonny Neary, for all their hard work and continued support to Young Farmers. I want to propose the addition of Micheal Rimmer. I'd like to thank Micheal for his support as president over the past two years. I'm sure all our members can stand together and agree with me on this. Micheal's dedication and commitment to young farmers has been nothing but invaluable. As a Parbold member who is lucky enough to have Micheal on the club's advisory, I have seen firsthand how much time and effort he puts into Young Farmers. Micheal is always willing to help with whatever we may need, whether that's advice or a bag of spuds donating to our charity auction. Not just for us as southwest but across county he's offered excellent advice and has been very approachable to younger members. Micheal please don't forget the bag of spuds you promised for tomorrow night's auction, Thank you”

Alan Gill 28, Pendle chairman “I would like to second Megs' proposal he added he has been a great president”

e. Honorary Life Members



f. Chairman

Eleanor Fish, 26 bury: Good Evening Mr President, Vice Presidents, Chair, Fellow Young Farmers and Honoured Guests, it gives me great pleasure to propose Ana as Chair, Ana started in 2019 jumping straight into competitions coming back with advice to support members. Ana has stepped up this year with county to support the office. Ana has attended everything that was required for northern area, AGM's and competitions. Ana has completed a degree making her Livestock coordinator with progressing in her career as well as helping Pete with their business at home. Ellie added that Ana's father would be so proud of everything she has done with her achievements.

Ella Mason 24, Slaidburn YFC

“Good evening, Mr President, Vice Presidents, Chair, Fellow Young Farmers, I would like to second Eleanor proposal, I have no doubt Ana will be a great success in her role, her organisational skills are fantastic, always being one step ahead”

Ana expressed her deepest gratitude for considering as chair. She would like to add she feels humble and excited for the new chapter, emphasizing the great potential that is within the county. Ana added that as a county we will focus on building a network that fosters innovation and promotes sustainability and addresses the challenges what we face in agriculture today, most importantly inspire those going in to agriculture today. Ana promised she would listen to each and every one, to be a voice for your needs and ideas. To lead with integrity, transparency and commitment for the federation making a positive impact pm the commitment and she want all clubs to view her as a member of their own clubs and someone to lean on for guidance and support. Ana finalised her speech to make this year a year for unity and progression.

g. Vice Chairman

Peter Davies, “Good Evening Mr President, Vice Presidents, Chair, Fellow Young Farmers and Honoured Guests, It gives me great pleasure to propose Anna Robinson as Vice Chairwoman. As many will agree Anna takes no introduction to us in the room tonight, as from a young age has always been involved in everything from YFC. 10 years ago, she started Slaidburn young farmers and thorough her time she has been involved at a club level from comps to being a tea monitor, secretary and chair, also being a vice chair for region and competitions chair, demonstrating the qualities required for vice chairman of county. Anna has always been a keen member to take part in a wide variety of competitions including debate, quiz, bowling, and any form of stock judging which is a firm favourite. You can guarantee Anna will be keen to get around all the clubs in Lancashire, whether it to go pheasant hunting with her car bumper or to engage with the members and listen to their views, I'm sure she'll do her best to champion her members, The only challenge we will face is the two annas on email sign off, so I'm sure you'll all stand with me to welcome Anna as our new vice chairwoman”



Beth Duerden would like to proudly second this adding her candid approach, with Anna being a valuable asset to the county with its struggles. Anna is confident she will bring value to the top table. Ask Beth for her speech

h. Financial Officer

Rachel Hardman proposed Natalie Bristol as a friend she knows that her work background dealing with finances as a Career as well as her partners accounts. Natalie was also a member of Clitheroe young farmers taking upon roles of secretary, vice chair and club leader. Natalie combination of expertise and dedication will make her a great contribution to this organisation.

Lucy Phillips would like to second this with her support of young farmers.

i. Auditors

Lucy Williams proposing Boyce as other the years they have done an excellent job

Dan Rowlandson would like to second this

j. Safeguarding Officers

Ana Haworth Chairwoman of Lancashire

“Good evening, Mr President and fellow young farmers, it is a real privilege to be with you all here today, I would like to take a moment to propose someone who is incredibly well suited for a vital role within the county for the new safeguarding officer Eleanor Fish. I would like to highlight the importance of looking out for vulnerable members and the safety for every member making Ellie perfect for this role. I have had the pleasure of working closely with Ellie for a number of years within Young Farmers, and in that time, I have witnessed her strong sense of responsibility, compassion and commitment to creating safe and supportive environments for everyone. She has always gone above and beyond for others and stepping when something isn't quite right. Ellie is approachable enthusiastic and trustworthy and always leads by example. She understands the importance of building trust and respect; I have no doubt she will take this role seriously and work tirelessly to support our members”

Harry Salesbury 28, seconded this by adding this was superb recruitment as well-known well liked and approachable member of the county, Harry added Ellie has been involved with young farmers way before Instagram knowing the ins and outs of YFC. Being brought up on the outskirts of Bury she will know the challenges that can be faced.

Anna Robinson proposed John Neary as it's always valuable to have a male and female representative making it easier for everyone to approach.



Neil second this by adding that John is approachable, easy to talk to and slight deaf.

10. Election of Committees

a. Staff Management Committee

Isobelle Deacon 20 Parbold YFC, “I would like to applaud their commitments and efforts with the year they have, I would like to thank the staff management for efforts of looking for staff, I would like to propose James Oddie, Kathryn Wright, Simon Thompson, Ana Howarth, Anna Robinson and Neil Hodgkinson”

Tom Webster added his thanks to everyone for what they have done seconding James Oddie, Kathryn Wright, Simon Thompson, Ana Howarth, Anna Robinson and Neil Hodgkinson for staff management.

b. Trustees

Jennifer Miller 20 chipping “I would like to propose the trustees Andrew Holden, Sue Davies, Andrea Gardner, Mark Pearson, Simon Thompson, Ana Howarth, Anna Robinson, Neil Hodgkinson, with the removal of Greg Fitton and the addition of Angela Whitwell is always there at meetings and available to help at events. Trustees are always there to provide guidance and help whenever advice is needed.

Alan Gill seconded Jen’s proposal, adding Angela will be a great addition, with Angela contributing to YFC since our age with her daughter in law also contributing a great to county.

c. Holding Trustees

Peter Jackson Samlesbury 21 “I would like to propose Stephen Morris, Paul McWhirter and Clare Platt, I believe they will continue with doing a great job”

Eleanor Fish 26, Bury seconded this and added I believe they have shown great responsibility to what has been shown.

d. County Staff Appeals Committee

Megan Whittle 23, Rainford Secretary proposed Anthony Cowell, Angel Whitwell and Matt Dugdale as they will fulfil this role to their best of the ability with YFC at heart.

Emily Thompson seconded this with their continued support is well appreciated.

A further proposal was needed as Angela could not stay on the appeal committee due to being added to vice presidents

Harry Salesbury proposed Val Morris

Pete Davies second this as she has done a lot for county



e. Training Fund Committee

Neil Hodgkinson 26 ex officio chair proposed Jess Dodd, Laura Webster and Amy Dickinson as they have a vast array of experience and do a great job in and out the committee.

Mia Stott seconded the proposal and what Neil had said.

Removal of president elect

Neil Hodgkinson proposed removal of president elect the role was brought in to assist at the time but however this is no longer needed.

Sam Gornall seconded this by adding that president could be more fulfilled in a role with it being 3 years rather than 2 years.

Sue Davies added to check if Simon is happy to be re-elected for three years, this will also change the constitution and to be noted for clubs.

11.Date of 85th Annual General Meeting

a.27th November 2025

12. Any Other AGM Business and Notices

Sue Davies, added she would like to thank Greg and Micheal for their service on the trustees and welcoming Angela to the committee. She is disappointed with the finance situation that has been presented tonight, Sue adds she is looking forward with welcoming Natalie to work as a team with contribution with how she or you as member wishes.

Best Speaker Award

Alice Bradley: "The award that is given tonight is the Owl, that myself and Bill commissioned by a sculpture with it being appropriate for the best speaker at the AGM. I am looking for the best speaker with how they addressed the meeting, the clarity that which they spoke with for everyone to hear, adding a bit of humour into this adds to what is being said with a good knowledge of the topic, with proposing remarks. Usually this awarded out right to a winner" Alice adds that we haven't had a chance to speak with passion, Alice has now added a reserve award to go to Meg Johnson doing everything right adding humour with the bag of spuds with knowledge behind and adding her own flare.

Tom Walker is the winner of the award, tom stood up and spoke very clearly and slowly with points made being very well understood.

Ed Clarke would like to add a vote of thanks for Alice coming back to present the award, glad to see she has come back fighting fit and thanks to her contribution.



Simon closed the meeting with following on from Micheal's comment of looking after members to also look after the girls that now power the county and clubs being the voice of reason.

13. Close Meeting