

Stalham 184<sup>th</sup> AGM 11.2.2026

## STALHAM FARMERS' CLUB 184<sup>th</sup> AGM

Our guest speaker and Norfolk farmer Jamie Burrows, chair of the NFU's Cereals and Combinable Crops Board, joined the chairman Jonathan Pye and 17 other members and guests for supper at Wroxham Barns.

After welcoming more than 30 members, the chairman asked for a minute's silence in memory of a popular club member, Fran Baugh, of Neatishead. Our thoughts are also with husband Louis and her wider family.

Apologies – Alan Beck, Felicity Daniels, Tim Papworth, Kevin Starkings, Graham Duncanson.

Chairman's report – It had been an eventful year with a memorable visit, with the East Norfolk NFU branch, to the Crown Point estate on the edge of Norwich. The enthusiastic farm manager Michael Balls, had shown members a range of enterprises including pumpkin growing and sunflowers as well as mint for Colman's of Norwich.

In October, a 20-strong party had visited the Jubilee Diamond Fire and Rescue Station at Carrow. Thank you to the Red Watch for their warm welcome and an opportunity to see some of the latest high-tech equipment.

The indoor meetings started with a briefing in November by Carole Jacques, head teacher of Earlham Nursery School, and then a presentation by Sir William Cubitt, who talked about his father's captivity following the surrender of Singapore to the Japanese Army in 1942. Around 2,000 men of the Royal Norfolk Regiment were captured and in total 7,000 men died during the subsequent construction of the infamous Burma railway.

The December meeting, was attended by some 35 members and three speakers – Andrea Kelly, of the Broads Authority, Henry Parkinson, of Langley Abbey Environment Project and Evan Burdett, of Norfolk Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group.

In January, a Stalham member, Emily Norton, chair of the AHDB (Agriculture & Horticulture Development Board), briefed members on the 370-strong farmer/industry funded body, which had an annual budget of circa £50m. A lively discussion followed.

In closing, he said that he had thoroughly enjoyed his two-year term as chairman, which actually ends after the club's annual dinner on March 25. He thanked the team at Wroxham Barns for excellent hospitality, the support of fellow officers including Jason Cantrill and the secretary/ treasurer Michael Pollitt.

183<sup>rd</sup> AGM – The minutes of the meeting had been on the club's website for a year. It was agreed to be an accurate record, proposed Ken Leggett, seconded John Grier and agreed. The chairman signed a copy of the minutes. Apparently in the past year, almost

100,000 visits to the website had been recorded, taking the total to just short of 777,000!

Secretary/ treasurer's report – The club's accounts to December 31, 2025, showed a healthy balance of just under £8,000. The club had a deficit of £1,889.99 on the year against £328.66 in the previous year. Subscription income was £2,514 – and £400 lower than the previous year's £2,965, which was inflated by the collection of arrears. The farm walk cost £1,315.10 and subsidising suppers and pegging the dinner price at £35/head were the main reasons. In addition, the club made donations to Earham Nursery School of a total of £415 and £1,000 to the RNAA's Food & Farming Discovery Trust. The accounts were accepted, proposed Nick Deane, seconded Ian Willetts.

It was also agreed unanimously to pay the annual honoraria to the secretary/ treasurer.

## ELECTIONS

President – The chairman thanked the retiring president, George Gay for his enthusiastic support during his three-year term. Mr Gay had great pleasure in proposing his successor, Sir William Cubitt, of Honing. He noted the family's long association with the club, probably since its foundation in 1841. His uncle Reggie had been involved with the club for 42 years until 1975. Sir William had given a talk to club members about the 2,000 men of the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Royal Norfolk Regiment, who had surrendered at Singapore. Some 6,904 men of more than 30,000, who had worked on the infamous Burma railway of death had died. Mandy Sands seconded. Agreed.

Chairman – Jonathan Pye proposed Jason Cantrill, seconded Ian Willett. Agreed.

Vice-chairman – Jason Cantrill proposed William Love, who had agreed to stand but couldn't attend the meeting, seconded Jonathan Deane. Agreed.

Secretary/ treasurer – Jason Cantrill proposed Michael Pollitt, seconded John Grier. Agreed.

Membership – Jo Willett, proposed George Gay, seconded Christopher Deane. Agreed.

Webmaster – Tim Papworth, proposed John Pye, seconded Ken Leggett.

Committee – It was agreed that the new officer team, including immediate past chairman, would re-constitute the committee and include three members, one to retire annually, would be recruited. It was noted that formerly the committee had potentially included as many 15 to 18 members, which was felt to be somewhat "bloated."

AOB – Christopher Deane asked about progress on digitising club records. This was work in hand, said the treasurer.

The chairman then introduced the guest speaker, Jamie Burrows, who had been elected chair of the NFU's cereals and combinable crops board. Now farming in Norfolk, he had

joined the NFU after returning from Harper Adams in 2005. He still has family ties in Hertfordshire and had built up a mainly cereals' enterprise of 1,000ha plus a livery yard and riding school in south Hertfordshire, near St Albans.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.