



Institution of Agricultural Engineers

South East Midlands Branch

Notice of Branch AGM to be held
19.00 Monday 05 February 2017
Maulden Church Hall, Church Road MK45 2AU

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 06 February 2017
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Election of Officers for 2018/19
7. Message from the Institution President
8. AOB
9. Date of next meeting.

INSTITUTION OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS
South-East Midlands Branch

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Monday 06 February 2017
at 7.00 pm in Maulden Church Hall

1. Apologies

R Godwin, J Hunter, R Jones, D Tinker. 18 present

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 08 February 2016

The minutes of the AGM were accepted as a true record. (proposer: P Miller, seconder: J Stafford)

3. Matters arising

None

4. Chairman's Report

We started the year well with an attendance of 21 at our AGM, which as usual included judged presentations on a range of topics given by a number of students.

Dr Clare Butler Ellis represented the President, Prof Mark Kibblewhite on this occasion and provided a broad overview of the activities of the Institution, which were in good shape both on the membership front (up 72 compared with the previous year) but corporate members and chartered registrations had fallen by 12 and 17 respectively. Steps were being taken to improve member benefits and its attraction to students and pre-professionals. Clare stressed the fact that all members were now welcome to join Council meetings, wherever these may be.

Our technical programme was effectively initiated by the student presentations, which included the following:

Alexandra Cooke spoke to the subject of "Filter socks as an effective end-of-pipe solution" for removing fine sediments, **Agnese Mancini's** presentation was on the subject of "Optimising soil erosion control and run-off management in forage maize", while **Iain Dummett** spoke to the subject of "Strip tillage and soil health, within and between rows" Sadly, **Anthony Millington**, the only student from Harper, who was going to present on the subject of "The effect of soil compaction and tillage on plant growth and yield" was not well enough to attend. The judges selected **Iain Dummett** as the winner of the competition who was presented with a cheque for £75. Sincere thanks to Alexandra, Agnese and Iain for putting themselves through the ordeal and to Anthony for anticipating it!

The year followed the pattern of previous years, with six technical meetings, the first of which was in April on the subject of "Advances in field spectroscopy" given by **Abdul Mouazen** of Cranfield University (now a Professor at the University of Ghent). This technology is now being incorporated in trials work at Stockbridge. Our next meeting took on a different guise by being held at Lely UK Ltd at St Neots and consisted of a presentation by **Ian Forman** on the National Sprayer Testing Scheme followed by a mock test being undertaken. Attendees were rewarded by having the option of fish and chips afterwards from a local vendor. Our thanks to **Mike Stephenson** for organising and hosting this event.

Our summer visit this year was to G's mushroom production facility and their newly established AD plant, the latter being fed principally by maize grown for the purpose. Much amusement was gained from the less than appealing headgear that went with a tour of the mushroom facility!

Following a summer break, our technical programme resumed in October with Dr Sachin Shende and Alistair Taylor from KisanHub talking to the subject of “Connected Farming”. Sachin’s background was in Ag Eng and water resources but also in computational hydraulics and financial services in the City. KisanHub offers such things as Geo-spatial analysis, irrigation management and farm and field mapping amongst other related services.

Our November meeting took us to the very small in scale, namely Nanotechnology and its application in agriculture, given by Dr Sophie Rocks of Cranfield University. These materials are incredibly small, with external dimensions in the size range 1 nm – 100 nm, meaning they don’t behave as we might expect and move about in the environment undetected. However, their uses would appear to be numerous but are associated with some risks.

At our next meeting we picked up on one of the subjects of our summer visit, namely biogas, but this time in terms of its end use. **Mark Howell** of CNH Agriculture provided us with an overview of how use of this fuel was currently being used in tractors and in some rather surprising ways!

We finished off our year with a presentation from **Rob Fillingham** (an erstwhile student who won the presentation award at our AGM in 2014!) who is now Technical Manager for Claas Tractors in the UK – just shows what the student competition can do for you! Rob highlighted the challenges associated with getting their engines to comply with emissions standards from Stage 1 in 1998 to the current Stage 4. Stage 5 will be even more challenging with further reductions in CO₂, NO_x, particulates and hydrocarbon emissions.

This year’s winner of the Shepperson Memorial Prize was Ms **Chonfun Atichat** from Thailand for her thesis on “Critical Evaluation Of Anionic Polyacrylamide Based Soil Conditioners To Reduce Soil Surface Crusting”. Congratulations to Chonfun who is unable to be with us this evening but will be receiving a cheque for £75.

Finally, thanks to all those who have supported the Branch over the past 12 months, to our speakers who have provided us with excellent and diverse presentations and to our staunch committee who have a never-ending supply of ideas and contacts to ensure our technical programme continues.

Tim Chamen
February 2017

The meeting accepted the report. (proposer: G Spoor, seconder: R Oates)

5. Treasurers Report.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31.12.2015 SOUTH EAST MIDLANDS – BRANCH 5

	£	£	£
Balance at 01/01/16			
Branch current a/c	560.87		
Central deposit a/c	(5.28)		555.59
Add: grant		356.00	
Less: meeting expenses	468.35		

prizes	210.00	678.35	
			(322.35)
Balance at 31/12/16			233.24
- made up of			
Branch current a/c	560.87		
Central deposit a/c	(327.63)		233.24

The foregoing is a true statement of the transactions recorded in the Institution's central records for the year ending 31 December 2016.

Alastair J Taylor

Secretary and Chief Executive

January 2017

The accounts were accepted. (proposer: T Chamen, seconder: A Plom)

6. Election of Officers for 2016/2017

Chairman: W C T Chamen

Vice Chairman: J Hunter

Secretary/Treasurer: J V Stafford

Ordinary Members: R Jones, A Plom, M Redman, J Rickson, M Stephenson, D Tinker

R Simmons was proposed to join the committee by P Miller, seconded by R Oates.

The meeting accepted these officers and committee members.

The meeting expressed gratitude for all the work that our chairman, Tim Chamen, puts in running the branch and also to our secretary, John Stafford.

7. Message from Institution President, Robert Merrell – presented by A Taylor.

It was emphasised that all members may attend council meetings which are now being held at various locations.

8. Any Other Business

None

9. Date of next Annual General Meeting

05 February 2018

John Stafford

Branch Secretary & Treasurer

24 March 2017