



Institution of
Agricultural Engineers

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Northern Ireland Branch
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To All Branch Members and Branch Associates.

The 41st Annual General meeting will be held in the Prof. James Morrison Room AFBI, Hillsborough (above the usual meeting room and accessed through the same entrance) on **Tuesday 19 March 2019 at 6.30 pm. All Members and Branch Associates are invited to attend.**

An informal meal for those interested has been arranged prior to the AGM. This will be held in the Plough Inn, The Square, Hillsborough where a table has been booked for 5 pm sharp. The “mid-week mains” menu offers a choice of the following for just £13 including tea/coffee.

- Freshly Battered Duo of Seafood - triple cooked chips, peas, tartare sauce.
- Smoked Beef Brisket - sweet potato mash, seasonal vegetables, cracked peppercorn jus.
- Thai Style Chicken Curry - basmati rice, naan bread, poppadum & dips.
- Melange Mushroom & Spinach Risotto - garlic sourdough – + £2 with chicken.
- Slow Roasted Sugar Pit Pork Belly - garden greens, potato & Orchard Thieves apple cider cream.

Those interested in joining us for the meal MUST let me know no later than 12pm on Monday 18 March with their choice of main course so this can be booked with the “Plough”. A table for 12 has been booked and places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Additional places will depend on availability on the night.

The Branch Meeting will commence at 8.00 pm in the usual AFBI lecture room at which Sean Gorman, Area Sales Manager , AGCO Ltd. will speak to us on the subject "Fendt – our journey and vision for the future".

Future Meetings.

Tuesday 26 March 2019, 7.30 pm Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick. Joint meeting with the Northern Ireland Institute of Agricultural Science, including a **presentation by Kit Franklin (Harper Adams University) on the Hands-free Hectare.**

The Hands Free Hectare project started in October 2016 with the aim to be the first in the world to plant, tend and harvest a crop without operators in the vehicle seats or agronomists in the field. The small team of engineers hoped that the project would progress conversations about the progression of agricultural automation along with highlighting the benefits of using small-scale machinery. They believed that their lighter machines would cause less soil compaction, and therefore have a beneficial effect on plant health, along with providing a platform for more precise applications.

Since successfully harvesting their original crop of spring barley, which was followed by a crop of winter wheat a year later, the project has won the BBC Food and Farming Future Food Award and the team has been presented with the IAgRE Team Achievement Award.



Ian Duff Hon Sec.

Details of the AGM follow

Agriculture ■ Forestry ■ Horticulture ■ Environment ■ Amenity

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Agenda for 41st Northern Ireland Branch Annual General Meeting to be held in the Morrison Room, AFBI Hillsborough commencing at 6.30 pm.

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous AGM (22 March 2018)
3. Presidents Report (Secretary)
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Committee Nominations and election of 2019/20 Branch Committee.
7. Any Other Business.

*The nominations for the 2019 / 20 Committee, as proposed by current Branch Committee, are enclosed. Any two members of the Branch may nominate any duly qualified person (who has given his/her permission) for membership of this Committee, indeed **we urgently need new blood and would welcome new members onto this Branch Committee.***

Branch Associates are very welcome to attend the AGM but, as Institution Rules currently stand, are not eligible to nominate or serve on this committee.

I hope you can join us for the meal and AGM on Tuesday 19 March 2019 and for the Branch Meeting which will commence 8.00 pm in AFBI, Hillsborough

Yours sincerely,



Ian Duff (Branch Secretary)

**Institution of Agricultural Engineers
Northern Ireland Branch
41st Annual General Meeting - 19 March 2019.**

Committee Nominations 2019 / 20

Position	Nomination
Chairman	P J Frost PhD
Vice Chairman	Ken Gardiner
Hon. Secretary	Ian Duff
Hon Treasurer	L Knox
Press Officer	J T Chambers
Committee Members	A Hudson H McIlvenna H Barr
Branch Rep on Council	D Morris
Immediate past Chairman	P O’Kane