



Western Branch

IAgrE Western Branch AGM 2017

Notice is hereby given that the sixty first Annual General Meeting of the IAgrE Western Branch will be held at the Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester on Wednesday 15th March 2017 at 6.30pm.

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Receive and approve 2016 AGM minutes**
- 4. Receive and adopt Branch accounts.**
- 5. Chairman's address – Rupert Caplat**
- 6. AOB**
- 7. Presidential Address- Andy Newbold**
- 8. Close**

If any member wishes to be nominated for any of the Officers positions please submit your name to the Chairman of the meeting either prior to or at the meeting. If more than one person is nominated for a position then a ballot will be held.

Following the ADM there will be a presentation by Professor Dick Godwin on the "Pros and Cons of min till"

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Whiting", with a stylized flourish below it.

Mike Whiting MIAgrE BEng (Hons)

Honorary Secretary

IAgrE Western Branch



Unconfirmed minutes of the 60th Annual General Meeting of the Western Branch held at Wiltshire College, Lackham on 9th March 2016

Present: Richard Robinson, Rupert Caplat (Branch Chairman), Alastair Taylor
IAgrE CEO, Tom Overbury (Vice Chairman)
N Ansty, J O'Sullivan, J Golden, C Bentley, Mike Whiting

Apologies: N Handy, Glen Craig, Chris Biddle, Rob Robinson

1. Welcome

The Chairman, Rupert Caplat, opened the meeting by welcoming members, guests and Alastair Taylor who was representing the IAgrE President and giving the President's address.

2. Minutes of the 2015 AGM

There were no matters arising.

Proposed: R Robinson Seconded: T Overbury

3. Consideration of the Branch Accounts

The accounts were prepared and sent to the meeting by IAgrE Chief Executive Alastair Taylor. A closing balance of £570.05 was recorded at 31 December 2015, an increase on 2014.

Proposed: R Robinson Seconded: T Overbury

4. Chairman's Address

Rupert Caplat reviewed the year starting with the following address which can be found at the end of these minutes.

5. Election of Officers for 2016/17

The Chairman mentioned that due to ill health Glen Craig has resigned the position of Honorary Secretary and that the committee thanked him for his service and wished him well with his recovery. There was one volunteer for the position, Mike Whiting and therefore he has been made Honorary Secretary from this AGM:

Chairman:	Rupert Caplat
Vice Chairman:	Tom Overbury
Honorary Secretary:	Mike Whiting
Information Officer:	Nick Handy

Committee members:

- Nigel Warner
- Nick Paul
- Richard Robinson
- Bob Painting
- Nigel Anstee

6. AOB

Richard Robinson mentioned that there has been little contact with Bob Painting recently. Also that Nick Paul is no longer in the Western Branch area. The chairman will check this and the committee can be revised as necessary at the next AGM. Richard suggested we make contact with Paul Mudway, a Chartered Environmentalist living in the Bristol area.

The Chairman, Rupert Caplat, asked all members present to consider suitable visits or speakers for the coming year and to let him or any member of the committee know. The Branch has a sum of money to spend so this can be spent on visits, lectures and other events.

Proposals for future talks and visits were discussed with suggestions being:

- Min Till – suggested by Nigel Anstee, Alastair Taylor suggested Dick Godwin as a speaker on this subject
- Knights Sprayers – talk by Brain Knight suggested by Richard Robinson
- Woodlands Farm visit (reorganisation of previously arranged but cancelled visit from Nov'15)
- Marchwood Power Station – suggested by James O'Sullivan, requires 18 months notice for visits
- George Sly of Sly Agri – Mike Whiting suggested a talk on strip tillage
- Robert Wiseman dairy
- Rexquote Ltd, near Taunton – possible visit suggested by Rupert Caplat to view Road/Rail conversions on excavators, cranes and tractors

R Robinson mentioned the Young Engineer event was held on the 8th March 2016 at Kights Sprayers, Oakham. Only 2 teams had entered due to other teams being unable to travel to the event.

It was agreed a committee meeting should be held at a location and date to be confirmed to further discuss and plan events for the 2016/17 season.

7. Presidential Address

Alastair Taylor gave a review of IAgrE's activities on behalf of President. Could any Member who would like see a copy please contact the Chairman.

8. Close

The chairman closed the AGM by thanking all who had attended. He then welcomed David Lester of MAN UK who gave a presentation on their remote truck telemetry systems.

2016 AGM Chairmans address – 9th March 2016, Lackham

Welcome to the 60th Annual Western Branch AGM and my second as branch Chairman.

Firstly, as I've already mentioned, our Branch Secretary, Glen Craig, was not able to attend tonight due to ill health so I wanted to record here that we all wish him a speedy recovery.

It was only when I started writing this in early Feb that I realised it was the 60th AGM and kicked myself that we hadn't made more of an effort to celebrate our "Diamond Jubilee". Hopefully the tea, coffee and sandwiches outside will serve as some form of party food but I cant promise any other form of entertainment apart from two interesting talks yet to come.

Certainly, the fact that we retired the old meeting record book in the Spring of last year dating back to 1963 showed a rich history of meetings and visits. This now resides in the care of Richard Robinson at Autoguide in Heddington.

I wanted to summarise the branch activities in the past year since the 2015 AGM at Cirencester. This is the second time I've said this but I like to think we are one of the more active Branches which is due to the support of the Committee, Branch Members, our industry connections and our academic institutions who we rely on to host our meetings. At a recent branch event it was commented to me that Western Branch appeared to have a much fuller calendar than a certain neighbouring branch – positive feedback like this is always welcome.

4th March 2015 AGM – The year was started with our well attended AGM at Cirencester at which the Presidential address was given by Dr Paul Miller, Honary Fellow of NIAB and Silsoe Spray Solutions, past IAgrE President and also Secretary of the Douglas Bomford Trust. This was followed by presentation entitled "From Cloud To River" by Fred Clark on his company Mastenbroek and their range of trenching and drainage equipment with a particular focus on the latest GPS surveying and trencher control techniques. Many thanks go to Nigel Anstee for arranging this due to his connections with the company which was a follow up from a branch visit to Mastenbroek in Boston, Lincolnshire a few years previously.

Comittee mtg – held on 20th May 2015 @ Autoguide Equipment where we discussed 2015/16 programme. Do please let us know if you have a suggestion either in a meeting or by email. The programme is not just down to the committee, we always welcome suggestions from all members. Although as the "Institute of Agricultural Engineers" I believe we should aim to ensure our focus is on current and future technology and practices and not

to spend too much of our time visiting museums and looking back on what we did “back then”.

The 2015/16 season started again at Lackham on the 30th September with a presentation by Richard Danby on his life and times at RDS Ltd. Richard, a farmers son and Silsoe graduate, spent many years at RDS from an apprentice in the technical service department working his way up to Managing Director before retirement in 2013. RDS are well known for their grain loss monitoring systems for combines and also electronic sprayer and drill control systems. Today it employs 95 people from its Nailsworth HQ and is a division of Topcon – a Japanese-American leader in precision farming systems.

The plan was to then follow this on the 11th November by a visit to Woodlands Farm at Chedworth in Gloucestershire to view their Dairy and on-site Ice Cream and Yogurt business but being mid November the influence of Agritechnica and other commitments meant this had to be postponed and, at the time of writing, we are looking to re-arrange this visit for the Spring/Summer 2016. Information will be sent out in due course.

27th Jan 2016 – Andover Trailers visit – ten Western Branch members attended this visit in Andover Trailers main facility. The visit was arranged by Nick Handy with Leonard Fuller, once MD of Taskers who’s history of making trailers near Andover goes back to the early 1800’s. Leonard was one of the original founders of Andover Trailers in 1985. A company presentation was given showing various applications and specialist rigid body and articulated trailer designs along with information on Goldhofer heavy/large load transportation solutions made in Germany for whom Andover Trailers are UK distributors for. This was followed by a tour of the assembly and fabrication shops and it was very interesting to see the design and fabrication techniques used. Thanks go to both Nick for arranging the visit and to Leonard for his time and hospitality.

On 17th February around 8 members and guests were treated to a tour of the Wadworths Brewery in Devizes kindly organised by Richard Robinson. As Agricultural Engineers we should always be aware of the eventual uses of the arable crops we design and build machinery for so this in depth look at the processing of Barley and Hops was a good example of that! Our guide Dec was an excellent host taking us through the whole process from the milling of the malted barley, mash tuns, original Victorian & modern boilers and the fermentation room. This was then followed by a tour of the famous sign works, dray horse stables and the inevitable sampling of the product. Thanks go to Richard and Mandy Dunn at Autoguide for arranging this visit.

Shortly I will hand over to Alastair Taylor (IAgrE Chief Executive) who has very kindly come this evening to present the 2016 Presidential Address with all the latest news of the Institution and the good work it is doing. After that and a short break we will hand over to David Lester of MAN UK who will present a lecture on remote telemetry systems.

Lastly I’d like to thank you all, committee, representatives of Institute HQ and other gathered members and guests for your support in the last year and for attending this AGM. In particular the support of Glen, Nick, Nigel and Richard in organising these visits without which the branch would not be what it is. Thankyou