



Northern Ireland Branch
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To All Branch Members and Branch Associates.

The 39th Annual General meeting will be held in the Colnavaddy Room, Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown BT80 8JQ on **Tuesday 28 February 2017 at 5.30 pm SHARP. All Members and Branch Associates are invited to attend.**

A meal for Members and Branch Associates has been arranged between the AGM and the Branch Meeting. This will be held in the hotel dining room at approx. 7 pm and to reserve a place at that meal it is essential that you let me know by Monday 27 February 10 am, at the latest. A single course menu has been arranged with the hotel – roast beef and seasonal vegetables. Tea and coffee will be served in the Clonavaddy Room prior to the Branch Meeting. Cost per person will be £18 per head including tea/coffee. *If the chosen menu is not to your taste please let me know in advance and I will arrange an alternative.*

The Branch Meeting will commence at 8.00 pm in the Clonavaddy Room at which Dr Robert Merrall, the Institution President, will speak on “Funding agricultural engineering research in the modern world.”

Kind Regards,

Ian Duff Hon Sec.

Agriculture ■ Forestry ■ Horticulture ■ Environment ■ Amenity

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Agenda for 39th Northern Ireland Branch Annual General Meeting to be held in Glenavon House, Hotel, Cookstown at 17.30 on 28 February 2017

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous AGM (10 march 2016)
3. Presidents Report
4. Chairman's Report (Dr Robert Merrall)
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Committee Nominations and election of 2017/18 Branch Committee.
7. Any Other Business.

The nominations for the 2017 / 18 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 AGM and meal on Tuesday 28 February 2017. This is earlier than usual but the Chairman is now putting the finishing touches to the tour of agricultural engineering companies west of Dublin and we hope to finalise details at the Branch Meeting following the AGM.

Yours sincerely,



Ian Duff (Branch Secretary)

**Institution of Agricultural Engineers
Northern Ireland Branch
39th Annual General Meeting 28 February 2017.**

Committee Nominations 2017 / 18

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



Institution of Agricultural Engineers – NI Branch.

Minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting at Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown on Thursday 10 March 2016.

Present: J T Chambers (Chair), I Duff, P Frost, H Barr, L Knox, P O’Kane, H McIlvenna, D Morris, R Armitage, B Perry and A Griffith.

In Attendance: Prof M Kibblewhite (President of Institution).,

- 1. Apologies:** G Connolly, K Gardiner, J Browne. D Sterling,
- 2. Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting.**

The Chairman asked that the minutes of the 37th AGM held in Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown on Thursday 19 March 2015, which had been circulated, be approved as presented.

This was proposed by H Barr and seconded by D Morris.

3. Presentation of Awards.

Professor Kibblewhite then presented the Awards to Members.

Branch Meritorious Award to Hugh McIlvenna.

The President made the award to Hugh in recognition of his many years of service to the Branch as a Member of Committee and active Branch Member. Hugh had been a Committee Member since the very early days of the Branch and had made a great contribution to the Branch activities over the years, and did so in his own modest and effective way. Hugh is still one of its most regular attenders and most popular members.

In response Hugh thanked the President for the Award and expressed his appreciation of the Institution and his enjoyment Branch activities and fellowship. He did so in verse – reproduced here in full.

*Many years ago I joined a group
of agricultural engineers;
At that time no synchromesh,*

just toothless crunchy gears.

I've gained a lot of knowledge

I don't know how or when:

At the risk of being sexist

A fine body of smart men.

Our Group arranged some visits

In sunshine and in fog.

It was not a call of nature,

We drove to Bord na Mona bog.

Our Branch is growing stronger.

Our seniors seldom fuss,

Young engineers are missing out

By not joining us.

Our Northern Ireland Branch is special,

With Branch Associates – no fear.

The English now should all take note,

How we do things over here.

Douglas Bomford Award for best scientific paper published during 2015 by an Institution Member.

Prof Kibblewhite presented this to Dr Peter Frost MIAgrE and Dr James Browne AIAgrE for their paper – “The effects of storage time and temperature on biogas production from dairy cow slurry” which was published in Biosystems Engineering. January 2015.

The award was received on behalf of himself and James Brown by Dr Peter Frost.

Award of Merit.

This will be conveyed to Ian Duff at the Institution AGM on 28 April 2016 at JCB.

4. President's Report.

The Chairman welcomed Prof. Kibblewhite to the Branch and thanked him for making the effort to join the Branch for their AGM.

Prof. Kibblewhite thanked the Chairman and the Branch for their warm welcome and delivered the President's message to Branch Members.

The key points from this message can be summarised as –

- He thanked the Branch Members and Officials for their sustained commitment and hard work.
- Some new Members have been recruited with a rise of 72 in overall numbers.
- Gap in middle grades and the challenge is to get more progression from Pre-prof to Member grades.
- Finances are robust due to success of Biosystems Engineering
 - Surplus of £20k in 2015
 - Investment sustained at £580k
 - Anticipate small loss in 2016.
- Supported by excellent staff headed by Alistair Taylor.
- Some staff changes with Sylvia being replaced by Sarah McLeod dealing with Membership and events. Marion King continues as Communications Officer.
- IAgRE has been re-approved by Engineering Council and highly commended for its processes.
- Landwards still popular but needs more technical content. Thanks to T Chambers for input from NI Branch to Membership Matters.
- CPD is becoming increasingly important and needs to be encouraged and documented.
- IAgRE has new logo and will shortly launch a new / improved website.
- Seeking eminent industry leaders to become associated with the Institution.

Altogether Institution is in a strong and stable position as he hands over the Presidency to Dr Robert Merrall at the AGM in April 2106.

5. Chairman's Report.

Terence Chambers provided a brief report of the Branch activities – summarised in the table provided below. Most of these meetings were, thanks to Terry's efforts, reported in detail in the local agricultural Press.

Contact with HSENI has been sustained through meetings following on from the Slurry Gas meeting organised by the NI Branch on October 2014. HSENI has now taken on board many of the recommendations made by the Branch in the report of the meeting published on the Institution Website.

Contact was developed with W5 which has a strong education function and ran a school programme on agricultural engineering with which the Institution had a small input. The Chairman spoke at the concluding Seminar at CAFRE Greenmount. Terence expressed the hope that this contact could be further developed in the future.

Branch Membership Summary.

Membership Grade	March 2012	March 2013	March 2014	March 2015	March 8, 2016
Associates	6	6	3	6	5
Members / Assoc Members	25	28	30	30	29
Pre-Professionals	45	45	90	105	84
Students	40	70	52	43	102
Branch Associates	7	9	10	12	8
Totals	123	158	185	196	228

The membership continued to grow but the challenge is to get more progression to full Corporate Membership and to get increased engagement by young members with the work of the Committee at Branch level.

Branch Activity Summary.

Date and Time	Location	Topic	Speaker	Members Responsible	Attendance
Thursday 19 March 2015	Glenavon hotel, Cookstown.	Advances in Dairy Technology	Gary McLean	L Knox	19
Tuesday 6 October 2015	BALLYNAHINCH	My Energy Efficient House	Visit to site led by Bob Armitage	T Chambers,	14
Tuesday 10 November 2015 7.30 sharp	Erwin Agri-Care Ltd., 82 Nutts Corner Road, Crumlin. BT29 4SJ	Claas Products, Maintenance and Diagnostics	Gary Clulow, Director, Erwin AgriCare Ltd.	H Barr	22
Thursday 14 January 2016 8.00 pm	AFBI Hillsborough	Rural Electrification – the success and future challenges	John Mawhinney, M I AgrE	I Duff	13
Thursday 18 February 2016 8.00 pm	Glenavon hotel, Cookstown	Terex Materials Processing: its products and global graduate training.	David McKeever and John Armstrong	I Duff	14

The Chairman thanked the members and Committee for their support throughout his 2 years of office and wished his successor Padraig O'Kane continued success during his period as Branch Chairman.

6. Treasurers Report.

Lawrence Knox presented the summary report as compiled by the Secretariat with additions relating to the £140 contribution from Branch Associates.

The Branch reserves amounted to £1,079 – down from £1,167 in 2105 and were such that no Grant was received from the Institution during the year.

Expenses for the year were only £298.14 which was exceptionally low.

A copy of the Treasure's report is appended to these minutes.

7. Committee Nominations and Elections 2016/17

Prof Kibblewhite then assumed the role of Chairman. There being no further nominations from the meeting, those proposed and circulated by the 2015/16 Branch Committee, were adopted. This was proposed by D Morris and seconded by H Barr.

The 2016/17 Committee elected were-

Chairman	P O'Kane
Vice Chairman	P Frost
Hon Secretary	I Duff
Hon Treasurer	L Knox
Press Officer	J T Chambers
Committee Members	
	A Hudson
	K Gardiner
	H McIvenna
	H Barr
	G Wallace
Branch Rep. on Council	D Morris
Immediate Past Chairman	T Chambers.

8. Closing Remarks.

Padraig O'Kane then assumed the chair and thanked Terence Chambers for his good work as Chairman for the past 2 years. The role was carried out with the professionalism and diligence for which he was known and had contributed to the work of the Branch for so many years.

A committee meeting to plan the 2016/17 programme would be held in the near future and Members were encouraged to submit ideas for meeting and visits to committee Members.

9. Closure of the Meeting.

In closing the meeting the Chairman again thanked Prof. Kibblewhite for his attendance and Members adjourned for a meal, prior to the Branch Meeting held at 8.00 pm.

Signed Date.....