



Western Branch

IAgrE Western Branch AGM 2022

Notice is hereby given that the sixty sixth Annual General Meeting of the IAgrE Western Branch which is to be held at 18:30pm on 16th March in the Lacock suite at Wiltshire College, Lackham.

AGENDA

- 1.0 Welcome**
- 2.0 Apologies**
- 3.0 Receive and approve 2021 AGM minutes**
- 4.0 Chairman's address – Rupert Caplat**
- 5.0 AOB**
- 6.0 Presidential Address- IAgrE President Paul Hemingway**
- 7.0 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 AGM there will be a presentation by Alistair Walshaw, CNH's Innovation Manager will present the development project of the worlds first methane powered tractor.

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 65th Annual General Meeting of the IAgRE Western Branch held virtually due to Covid 19 control measures: Wednesday 10th March 2021.

Present: Rupert Caplat (Branch Chairman), Mike Whiting (Branch Secretary), Richard Robinson, Adrian Snow, Geoff Burgess, Charlie Nicklin, Paul Hemingway, + members of IAgRE from other branches and Lackham College.

Apologies: Tom Overbury (Vice Chairman), Brian Mathew

c.c: Sarah McLeod: IAgRE

1. Welcome

The Chairman, Rupert Caplat, opened the meeting by welcoming members, guests, Paul Hemingway IAgRE President and Charlie Nicklin, IAgRE CEO who was providing the President's address. Also, Rupert thanked Sarah McLeod and the IAgRE team for making the Zoom platform a success for such meetings.

2. Minutes of the 2020 AGM

No issues were raised with regards to the 2020 minutes.

Proposed: Richard Robinson Seconded: Nick Handy

3. Consideration of the Branch Accounts

The IAgRE financial policy is that all branch expenditure is controlled by the team at the IAgRE HQ. Expenses were claimed for the using the lecture room facilities and buffet at Lackham College for the March 2020 AGM. No other attended meetings have taken place since March 2021. The costs of the zoom facility are covered by HQ.

4. Election of Officers for 2020/21

Rupert Caplat thanked the elected officers for their contribution to the Western branch. As 2020/21 has been confined to on-line meetings only, not all the members have had the opportunity to dial in. The recommendation was therefore for committee members to remain in their current positions and review again at the 2022 AGM.

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

Committee members:	Nigel Warner
	Richard Robinson
	Nigel Anstee

Proposed: Geoff Burgess Seconded: Richard Robinson

5. Chairman's Address

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

6. AOB

In general discussions it was concluded that attending visits to manufacturers premises is unlikely to take place until early 2022. We therefore need to explore the options for inviting speakers to present to the Western Branch at a venue with Covid compliant meeting room facilities. This might be a speaker presenting remotely to the group or in attendance. Either option could allow Western Branch members to meet up in person. Alternatively pursue further speakers for presenting via the IAgrE zoom facility.

Logging of CPD: Please can members provide their IAgrE membership numbers to Mike Whiting. This will permit Sarah McLeod to upload the template summaries of branch meetings, drafted by Mike to their CPD accounts. Members then need to login and add further detail explaining how the CPD has developed their knowledge and understanding. An external annual review of members CPD is undertaken to confirm that we all are maintaining and developing skills in the agricultural engineering and allied sectors. This doesn't necessarily need to be a Zoom meeting and can include work projects and reading articles from trade magazines. Please note members can obtain subscription discount for Profi magazine via IAgrE membership: <https://iagre.org/profi-magazine-subscription-discount>

7. Presidential Address

Charlie Nicklin kindly gave a review of IAgrE's activities on behalf of the President. Charlie congratulated the head office team and members for their support of the Zoom meeting facility and particularly the lunchtime technical meetings. In addition, there was reference to the ratio of retired members within the grades (one in three for both MIAgrE and CEng). The aim is to increase the number of those in employment status to achieve CEng and Fellow grades. Any member who would like a copy of the address; please contact the Secretary.

8. Close

The chairman closed the AGM by thanking all who had attended. Richard Robinson kindly introduced Paul Hemingway to present his varied career experiences with JCB.

2021 AGM Chairman's address 10th March 2021, Online Zoom Meeting

Here follows the 65th Annual Western Branch AGM Chairman's address.

Good evening and welcome Western Branch members and guests to a very different AGM meeting from the previous 64. Our AGM at Lackham in March last year proved to be our final meeting in person before the first Coronavirus Lockdown which started less than two weeks later. Certainly, at the time we were well aware of the approaching situation and had already started to "elbow bump" instead of shaking hands and hand sanitiser was served along with the coffee and sandwiches. Before I go on, I do hope all present have coped with the last twelve months as well as possible and that you, your family, friends and work colleagues have not been affected adversely by the Pandemic. My condolences go out to anyone who has lost a loved one during this time.

I want to summarise the Branch activities in the past year since the 2020 AGM at Lackham. During the last meeting I improved this Address somewhat to include a slideshow of photos taken at the previous year's meetings to refresh people's memories. Although this year, photos of people's faces peering out of the gloom in a Zoom call didn't seem too interesting but I'm sure it will be back in the 2022 AGM Address. Talking of Zoom, I could imagine it has tested member's IT skills somewhat but without it we would have had no talks or meetings in the last twelve months so all credit to Institute HQ, especially Sarah McLeod, for helping us out with adopting this new technology.

At the 2020 AGM, Paul Hemingway, who had at the time recently been elected President, was present and gave the President's Address. This was followed by David Chell of AGCO who gave a very informative and detailed presentation on their new IDEAL Combine.

During the Summer of 2020 the Branch committee underwent its first Zoom Initiation and after some initial IT teething troubles we felt confident enough to arrange our first full online evening talk which took place on the 11th of November. Dr Andrew Landers, Fellow of this Institution and past lecturer at both Harper Adams and RAU Cirencester, not to mention more recently Faculty Fellow at the well-known Cornell University in the USA, gave a very informative talk on the spraying of fruit orchards and the research he and his team had carried out over the last few years.

Developments in fruit production is probably one area of Agriculture we as a Branch have probably been less aware of (apart from our visit to a vineyard!) therefore it was very well received with many questions being put to Andrew at the conclusion.

On the 20th of January our second online meeting saw Chris Biddle, ex Editor of Landwards give his talk "Never a Dull Moment" from his home in Salisbury. This was a presentation of his long and varied career in Agricultural Engineering from a Fordson dealership in his native Somerset, through demonstrating driverless tractors in Spain in the 60's to rubbing shoulders with the likes of Arsenal manager Arsène Wenger at the Emirates Stadium in his role as Editor of Turf Professional magazine. The latter being an industry close to his heart through his love of Cricket.

Our thanks go again to Andrew and Chris for their kind support of the Branch.

If any member wishes to get further copies of the reports, please let Branch secretary Mike Whiting know. The recordings of the Zoom meetings also get uploaded to the Institute's YouTube channel for anyone who can't attend them live.

I would also recommend the Lunchtime Lectures which HQ organises on a regular basis. I certainly expect the use of Zoom to continue when we return to real

meetings and that we could "broadcast" talks online to any members who can't attend in person.

Shortly, I will hand over to Charlie Nicklin, IAgrE President, who will present the 2021 Presidential Address with all the latest news of the Institution and the good work it is doing. After that and a short break to allow other guests to join its back to Paul to present his memoirs including his 30-year career at JCB. I am sure this will be very entertaining.

I say this every year, and this year's no different, but we are one of the more active Branches in the Institution 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. Suggestions for visits and talks are always welcome from all members and not just the decisions of the committee. Please feel free always to call or email myself or the Secretary to let us know what you would like to see.

Lastly, I'd like to thank you all, the 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 Mike, Richard, Nick, Nigel and Tom in organising these events without whom the branch would not be what it is.

Thankyou

Thankyou

R. Caplat