

# IAGR E Wrekin Branch AGM

Minutes of the Wrekin Branch 54th Annual General Meeting, held at 7.30pm on 8th April 2025, Online.



The professional  
body for the  
landbased sector

**Present:**

Dave Clare (Sec)	Graham Higginson (Chair)	Bill Basford	Jim Loynes
John Gough	David White	John Morgan	Declan Flynn

<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies</b>								
1.1	Apologies were received from: Phil & Ruth Metcalfe, Andrew Court.								
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of the 54<sup>th</sup> AGM:</b>								
2.1	The minutes of the 54 <sup>th</sup> AGM were circulated before the meeting. The minutes were accepted as being a correct record of the AGM. (Proposed by Jim Loynes, seconded by Bill Basford).								
<b>3</b>	<b>Matters arising from the 54<sup>th</sup> AGM</b>								
3.1	None								
<b>4</b>	<b>Chairman's Report (in summary)</b>								
4.1	<p>The 2023-24 year finished with a summer visit to AP Webb, which due to some late operational requirement meant the visit had to be shortened. We have been invited back in the future.</p> <p>The 2024-25 year started with a joint presentation by Chris Mann of Bennamann and Ian Barratt of CHN on the latest developments in methane capture and use.</p> <p>This was followed in December with a presentation from Kverneland on their Pudama drill.</p> <p>2025 started with a presentation in January by Steven Child of IPG Automotive who have developed a computer simulation package that can be used to model agricultural machinery.</p> <p>The last presentation was by George Nowell of Kubota who informed us of Kubota's latest developments both world-wide and in Europe, particularly on autonomous machinery.</p> <p>The next and final meeting of the season will be a presentation by Adrian Hill of Morris Lubricants, on lubricants for use in agriculture.</p> <p>We hope to organise a summer visit for June or July.</p> <p>Graham thanked the committee for their support over the last year and looked forward to the coming year.</p>								
<b>5</b>	<b>Election of Branch officers</b>								
5.1	<p>The members currently standing on the committee are happy to remain on the committee and continue in any specific role where applicable.</p> <p>This was proposed by John Gough and seconded by Jim Loynes</p>								
5.2	<p>In addition, Andrew Court and Paula Misiewicz were nominated for the committee and were accepted.</p> <p>Tim Chamen and HAU first year student Tom Evans have been approached to join the committee. We are awaiting a response from both. DW and DC to follow up respectively.</p>								
5.3	It was also suggested that Sarah Parsons should be approached to join the committee. GH to follow up.								
5.4	<p>In summary the committee is as follows:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Chairman</td> <td>Graham Higginson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Honorary Secretary</td> <td>David Clare</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Information officer</td> <td>Bill Basford</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Immediate past chairman</td> <td>Simon Cooper</td> </tr> </table> <p>Committee members – D White, John Gough, Jim Loynes, Eric Murray. Andrew Court, Paula Misiewicz.</p> <p>The post of vice chairman remains vacant.</p>	Chairman	Graham Higginson	Honorary Secretary	David Clare	Information officer	Bill Basford	Immediate past chairman	Simon Cooper
Chairman	Graham Higginson								
Honorary Secretary	David Clare								
Information officer	Bill Basford								
Immediate past chairman	Simon Cooper								
<b>6</b>	<b>Presidential Address by Graham Higginson</b>								
6.1	<p>Highlights of the address were:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fantastic 2024 Awards held at CNH</li> <li>• Thought provoking conference held at Rothamsted Research</li> <li>• Pan African Society of Agricultural Engineers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosted African visitors to the UK in the summer.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>								

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IAgRE attended Cape Town Conference and gave keynote speeches.</li> <li>• Lunchtime Lectures for the rest of the year are fully booked. Over 5200 YouTube views, up 64% on last year. &gt;280 subscribers.</li> <li>• Over 800 people have attended IAgRE events excluding branch meetings.</li> <li>• Over 33 branch meetings/visits.</li> <li>• eNews is published fortnightly and available via email, app or website.</li> <li>• Biosystems Engineering received 1961 papers up 13% on 2023, with 11% accepted for publication (down 1% on 2023)</li> <li>• Three additional special issues running.</li> <li>• Biosystems still contributes to over 40% of IAgRE's income.</li> <li>• Impact factors have dipped but this is as other journals.</li> <li>• Increasing focus on EngTech, not only for Technicians, but also for Graduates as a first step towards IEng/CEng.</li> <li>• Continue to promote Professional Registration in the sector. EngTech, IEng, CEng, REnvP, CEnv.</li> <li>• Engineering Council and Society for the Environment 5 year licence renewal is due.</li> <li>• 5 'How to' videos launched to support member progression and registration.</li> <li>• Presented journalist award at Cereals.</li> <li>• Judged and presented machine innovation and people awards at LAMMA.</li> <li>• Attended the Armed Forces transition event at Silverstone promoting careers.</li> <li>• Continue to work with EurAgEng AEA &amp; BAGMA through LE-TEC; T-Level development and apprenticeship standards.</li> <li>• Business interaction – NFU Energy, JCB, AGCO, Manitou, Alvan Blanch.</li> <li>• NGOs/Others; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising awareness - Royal Horticultural Society, Institution of Horticulture, British Growers Association.</li> <li>• Collaboration discussions with the Institute of Ag &amp; Horticulture (TIAH)..</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Regular liaison with RAEng on national engineering policy support.</li> </ul>
6.2	<b>Questions</b>
6.3	<p>Dave Clare - The IAgRE website still displays the old twitter icon and uses X as a means of communication. With all the recent negative publicity around X, should the IAgRE still use the platform as a form of communication?</p> <p>Graham Higginson – I don't know what the IAgRE's policy is, but will raise the question with HQ.</p>
6.4	<p>David White – I note that there doesn't appear to be any acknowledgement within the presidential address that the Douglas Bomford Trust pays for students to become members of IAgRE. Many students think that membership is free when it's not, its paid for by the DBT.</p> <p>Graham Higginson – I will pass you comment back to HQ,</p>
6.5	<p>Dave Clare – I have noted that there aren't as many new student members from HAU this year.</p> <p>Graham Higginson – Yes, this is because the membership applications have moved to being online as opposed to previously being on paper. I can ask students to sign up online, but many don't. In the past I would give them an application form and get them to fill it in at the start of a lecture and then collect completed forms up. I have discussed this with Charlie and Alison at HQ, and next year they will accept paper applications.</p>
7	<b>Any Other Business</b>
7.1	<p>David White raised the point raised at our last committee meeting about future AGMs. There is no longer any constitutional need to hold AGMs anymore.</p> <p>Graham Higginson informed us that there is only one other branch that has an AGM.</p> <p>Bill Basford suggested that as a professional body he feels that we should have an AGM to give the branch an organisational structure. Having no structure could lead to just one person organising everything and if anything should happen to them, then the branch stops.</p> <p>Jim Loynes agreed with Bill's Point.</p> <p>Dave Clare also commented that it's a good way to round off the year.</p> <p>The consensus was to carry on with an AGM.</p>
8	<b>Close</b>
8.1	The meeting closed at 8:24pm

Chairman

Date