

Chairman's Report – Pat Pawsey

This is the third AGM to be held at Tractor World, I did wonder when we first tried this whether it would meet with members' approval. So far there has been very little criticism, but I am sure you will let us know if you are unhappy with the arrangement continuing.

I am sorry to announce that Conrad Hopkins resigned from the committee last year, I am sure that we will continue to see him. I am pleased to welcome two new committee members, Peter Mitchem and Lin Prince who were co-opted during the year. Both are well known to many of you, Peter has been active particularly in Kent and Lin has agreed to become our Show Co-ordinator.

Also during the business part of this meeting, revisions to the Club's Constitution are necessitated because of last year's changes and will be discussed.

I am pleased to report another very successful year for the Club and of the many events attended I shall just mention two;

The first was The World Ploughing Championships held near York. Roger Ingham organised a Ford & Fordson ploughing section that was a great success, thanks to Roger's hard work and the sheer professionalism of his fellow Yorkshire ploughmen. It was an enormously interesting event on a huge site with something for everyone even, dare I say it, for those not really into ploughs! I hope that the Club's success will be repeated at the Nationals this year.

The second was the "New Show on the Block" - Autumn Tractor World at Newbury. This is another 'Mark Woodward production'. The Club was there and I thought that the show has great potential, but it does need more 'under cover area' if its future is to be assured.

The new subscription arrangements agreed last year have been well received and although it has made a lot more work for Jane and Keith I hope that that will lessen as more members become used to the new system. We have had one or two instances of members receiving renewal reminders from Kelsey by mistake. This should not happen but please let Jane know if you receive one.

Over the years, I have continually stressed the Club's need for local representatives and am very pleased to report that Mike Mitchell will now be covering Somerset for us. As you know we are asked to take a Club stand to many more shows than the committee has the manpower to deal with, and could not possibly attend as many without our area representatives taking charge and running their local events themselves. I know I have said all this before but it demonstrates just how important area representatives and our ploughing directors are to the Club. They really are the "backbone" of the Club and I thank them all for the tremendous work they put in.

We also all owe a terrific vote of thanks to the members' wives for all they do. I can tell you that without them there would be very little in the way of teas and coffees and certainly no cake or biscuits. It just doesn't bear thinking about; events just wouldn't be nearly as enjoyable without them and I am sure you will join with me in thanking them all.

I must also thank the committee for the work they have put in, much of which is behind the scenes. If things happen as they should, it goes quite unnoticed but I can assure you that they all really work very hard for the Club.

Lastly, I became Chairman in 2011 with the intention of serving for three years and have made no secret recently of my wish to step down. It has been a privilege to serve you and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Chairman but I am not getting any younger and it is time to make way for someone new with fresh ideas to take the Club forward.

Thank you.