**UK Loggers**

Annual General Meeting on 17 August 2019

Note of the meeting

1. **Welcome**

Andy Campbell (AC) as the Chair of UK Loggers confirmed that he would Chair the meeting.

AC welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting for 2019 at Newton Rigg College, Penrith Cumbria.

He thanked everyone for their support throughout the last year and their participation in delivering the events and supporting the UK team.

He also thanked on behalf of UK Loggers our sponsors. Husqvarna UK, Euroforest, Tilhill Forestry, Clifford Jones Timber, Aspen and Fisa. In addition, all our hosts for the competitions which are mentioned later in his report on activity for the year.

1.1 **Quorate**

AC confirmed that there were at least 10 members of UK Loggers present and that we were Quorate.

A list of names of those present was taken and is attached to this note at Appendix 1.

1. **Apologies**

AC asked Richard Siddons (RS) whether there were any apologies from the members. RS confirmed that the only apology was from Malcolm Ferguson who had confirmed that he was unable to make the meeting.

1. **Minutes of previous AGM**

AC informed the meeting that there was no note from the last AGM.

1. **Matters arising from the Minutes**

AC informed the meeting that there were no matters arising.

1. **In accordance with the Constitution the Committee presented a report of the work of UK Loggers over the last year.**

AC gave a summary of activities since the 2018 UK Loggers AGM. This covered the following -

1. A new constitution was agreed at the last AGM and was published late summer 2018 on the website. The Committee now use to guide the running of UKL.
2. UK Loggers has a new website after the old one on obsolete software was closed. AC thanked Michelle Campbell (MC) for getting this up and running at short notice. RS now taking this on, but first he needs to work on getting the structure right before putting lots of pictures and documents on it. So there will be a delay as priority at the moment is the Confor Woodland Show.
3. AC listed the following events held or attended –

* WLC Lillehammer Norway. 2 – 5 August 2018
* One Day Practice and Competition Event – Sparsholt College 16 March 2019 – Unfortunately insufficient numbers entered to make the competition viable.
* One Day Practice and Competition Event -Coleg Cambria, Llysfasi – 6 April 2019
* One Day Practice and Competition Event - Newton Rigg College - 27 April 2019

Both the one day events went well with a good level of competition and support from judges and sponsors. We should aim is to try to run at least 3 one day competitions again in 2020.

Also -

* European Championship Bertrix, Belgium - 30 - 31 July 2019.
* UK Championship Newton Rigg College 17 – 18 August 2019.

1. **In accordance with the Constitution the Committee presented the accounts of UK Loggers for the previous year**

* Peter Fox (PF) as Treasurer present the accounts for UK Loggers for the year since the last AGM. The opening balance was £7615.64, and the closing balance was £12184.32. PF explained main income and expenditure during the year. Confirmed that the accounts were healthy and that we have the funds for the 2020 competition year and the World Logging Championships. Should anyone want to discuss any element of accounts then PF asked they contact him directly. The summary sheet is attached at Appendix 2.

1. **Election of Officers**.

RS informed the meeting at in accordance with the Constitution, all Officers, namely the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary need to be elected annually. For each of the position’s RS had received the following nominations:

For the position of Chair only one nominee was received, Andy Campbell. Proposed by Andrew Townsend and Seconded by Simon Tranter. Andy Campbell was re-elected.

For the position of Treasurer only one nominee was received, Peter Fox. Proposed by George Milne and Seconded by Dewi Williams. Peter Fox as re-elected.

For the position of Secretary only one nominee was received, Richard Siddons. Proposed by Alun Jones and Seconded by Richard Elliott. Richard Siddons was re-elected.

1. **2020 Competition Locations**

AC confirmed that the UK Championship 2020 is to be held at Windsor and will be the felling of trees. It was proposed that this be held on the 27 June 2020. He asked the meeting if this venue and date was suitable and whether they were aware of any clashes with any other significant event. No one was aware of any problems so the 27 June 2020 was confirmed.

AC asked the meeting whether there were any preferences on the location of the one day events. The meeting discussed possible locations for these competitions. Dan Williams offered to host a competition at Hartpury College, Gloucester, subject to the College agreeing. Andrew Townsend and Simon Tranter confirmed that Sparsholt was still being planned for 2020. RS said that Richard Hunter and Andy Whitworth (Newton Rigg/Lowther Estate) were keen to host another event and that Glynllifion/Llysfasi would be interested. It was agreed to try to plan to run 4 one day events. 3 in the spring and 1 in the autumn. Plus the UKL 2 day event at Windsor.

**Dan Williams to confirm is Hartpury are willing to host an event.**

**RS to develop provisional programme with contacts for the 4 locations.**

1. **Any Other Competent Business**
2. Andrew Townsend (AT) put forward the proposal to try to ensure that the 2 day events (qualification events,) use poles and trees and not short logs/stumps. Needs support from all to ensure that timber is available and sponsorship to ensure that we can afford to do this. In principle this was agreed and next year we already have the UK Championship at Windsor felling trees.

PF was of the view that if we use poles they should be the long 15m plus poles. AT agreed that was the proposal. PF pointed out that long poles is a significant cost. AT was interested in harnessing a range of depts at Sparsholt to try to keep costs down. This may not be an option at other venues.

1. Rules and regulations for felling.

AC explained the reason for the additional rules for short logs. This was accepted.

Gethin Hughes (GH) suggested we lasered the front of the hinge and the back of the hinge and split the difference. All agreed to try this at a one day in 2019. **GH to build the apparatus to undertake the measurement. T**hen review and agree way forward.

1. Project building/purchase of lathe to turn down combi/precision logs. AT explained that he felt in that we could construct a second lathe this would share the load and reduce the amount of work and haulage cost that currently mainly falls to Alun Jones (AJ). Everyone supported the requirement for access to more timber particularly for practise. The meeting also discussed the lathe that was used by UK Loggers in the past when the event was held at the Highland Show. PF informed the meeting that this was now in the possession of Graham Hodgson, who claimed it belonged to the Royal Highland Show and not UK Loggers. At the moment it seemed that access to this machine was not an option. AC asked how AT wanted to take this forward. AT promised to do a bit more research. All agreed to this. **AT to report back.**
2. AT proposed a regular blog or article in the forestry magazines. Mark Edwards proposed that we could do periodic caption competitions. All agreed this would help promote the sport. RS said that this needs authors to draft the items. If there is interest could **authors please draft a piece and please send to RS and we can publish and pass on the forestry press.**

Discussed Facebook and Instagram. RS – currently posting on Instagram. **RS needs pictures from Newton Rigg so please send to him and he will upload them**. New public Facebook site set up in last few days. Accessible to all those that ask. Already plenty of content on it. **Everyone to monitor Facebook posts.** Any post that we don’t like we will delete and ban.

AC explained that as previous stated we have a new website with restricted access. This needs to remain to ensure the platform remains stable. It is also not the best place for lots of pictures and video’s. Once design is completed it will be a place to explain the sport post forthcoming events and results. All agreed.

Discussed increasing Committee capacity to help with managing media and promotion. (Proposal is to use the 2 co-opted members.) Agreed that **the membership would discuss and see if there was someone interested in joining the committee to lead on promotion, media etc**.

1. **AGM Closed**

**General Meeting**

1. Public Liability Insurance. AC gave update Committee looking into this. **AC will get back to the committee on options.**
2. Competition parts for chainsaws. AC gave update on Husqvarna availability that is they are not available at the moment. Eric Moors can get Oregon parts if we put forward a reasonable order. PF gave update on Stihl, some availability. **For Stihl competition parts speak to PF**. Mark Edwards has some new 372 felling and limbing bars. **Please talk to Mark Edwards if you are interested, only £50.00.**