



**COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 14TH DECEMBER, 2021
VIA ZOOM, 7.00PM**

MINUTES

CHAIRMAN: Miss Sian Healey

VICE CHAIRMAN: Miss Sioned Davies

IN ATTENDANCE:

Sian Healey (Committee Chairman), Sioned Davies (Committee Vice Chairman), Gwyneth Thomas (Glamorgan County Organiser), Caryl Haf Jones (Wales YFC Chairman), Sion Evans (Carmarthenshire), Katie Court (Ex-Officio), Elen Williams (Glamorgan), Manon Williams (Meirionnydd), Emma Powell (Brecknock), Eloisa Isaac (Montgomery), Deryn Evans (Brecknock), Gwen Thomas (Eryri), Will Hughes (Ynys Môn), Meinir Owen (Eryri), Hefin Evans (Wales YFC Vice Chairman), Rhiannon Davies (Ceredigion), Millie Edwards (Montgomery), Carys Phillips (Pembrokeshire), James Nixon (Radnor), John James (Radnor), Delun Evans (Pembrokeshire), Elizabeth Swancott (Radnor)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Rhianwen Jones (Wales YFC Competitions Officer)

C/32/2022 WELOCME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Sian Healey welcomed everyone to the Competitions sub-committee and went around the screen asking everyone to introduce themselves.

Sian also noted that the meeting was being recorded.

C/33/2022 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were given by Emma Rees (Brecknock), Katie Matthews (Gwent), Ffion Rees (Carmarthenshire).

C/34/2022 TO CONFRIM THE MINUTES ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The minutes from the both previous meetings were shared on screen and were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Minutes October 2021 - **Proposed:** Elen Williams, Glamorgan

Seconded: Deryn Evans, Brecknock

Minutes November 2021 (Entertainment Feast focused meeting) -

Proposed: Deryn Evans, Brecknock

Seconded: Manon Williams, Meirionnydd

C/35/2022 ACTION POINTS AND MATTER ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

All actions are completed and there was no further matters arising from both sets of minutes.

C/36/2022 CORRESPONDENCE

Wales YFC received an email from a member regarding the Virtual Royal Welsh competitions, suggesting place cards and trophies were to be awarded to those that were successful at the Virtual Royal Welsh. This member did not feel that it was any less of an achievement winning the Virtual Royal Welsh and place cards and trophies should be awarded.

The committee agreed that certificates should be sent out to all those that competed in the virtual and face-to-face competitions over the past year.

Proposed: Katie Court, Glamorgan

Seconder: Manon Williams, Meirionnydd

Action Point 1: Wales YFC to send certificates to successful members in the Virtual and Agri Day competitions.

Wales YFC received an email from a member that was competing in the Prime Lamb competition at the 2021 Winter Fair. This member raised some concerns with regards to the competition, noting examples of where she felt rules were not adhered to.

Sian Healey updated the committee regarding every point that was made, and explained the matter that was initially raised at the Winter Fair, which was the trimming of lambs. It was noted that 4 experts were asked their opinion whether any of the lambs had been trimmed or not – the 4 experts agreed that some had, however the officials also gave the judge the option to overturn that decision, which he didn't.

Sian also informed the committee that an official did not visit the competitors in October (as stated in the rules) due to COVID-19. Rhianwen sent an email to all competitors regarding this at the beginning of October.

The committee discussed the points raised and agreed that Sian should prepare a letter to respond to this member. Sian will also contact the stewards of the competition to ask if they had any comments regarding rule 28 (that lambs should be halter led).

Sian noted that Rhianwen has produced a questionnaire for all competitors in the Prime Lamb and Beef competition. The committee were happy for this questionnaire to be circulated to competitors.

Action Point 2: Chairman to produce letter to respond to the member regarding the Prime Lamb Competition

Action Point 3: Wales YFC to circulate Prime Lamb and Baby Beef questionnaires to get feedback on the competitions.

C/37/2022 TO REVIEW RECENT EVENTS

1. Eisteddfod – 21st November 2021

The event report was shared on screen for all committee members to see.

Sian asked the committee for further feedback from counties.

Ceredigion noted that it was a well organised Eisteddfod. The backstage noise was something that was picked up by Ceredigion members noting that individuals found it

hard to concentrate on stage with the noise. Ceredigion noted that the stage was very small, in particular for the mime competition and that the piano took up valuable space. It was suggested that the stage size was circulated prior to the Eisteddfod. Also, Ceredigion noted that several found that the ticket prices were expensive at £15.

Pembrokeshire echoed Ceredigion's comments. They congratulated Brecknock on a successful day. It was noted that the audience were not adhering to the one way system in the pavilion.

Brecknock noted that they were very happy with the event and thanked David Price and the Eisteddfod committee for all of their hard work. Deryn also noted that he was one of the door stewards and it was disappointing to see people not following the COVID guidance and being rude to the stewards.

Montgomery noted that it was well organised and efficient with everything being straight forward and easy to follow.

Meirionnydd agreed with comments from previous counties.

Eryri asked that the rules of the talent competition are clearer for next year and note what is classified as light entertainment.

Radnor congratulated everyone on a successful day.

Ynys Mon had no further comments and were happy with how the day went.

Carmarthenshire were happy with the Eisteddfod. It was noted that the Social Media coverage was great and people from home were able to see what was going on.

Sian thanked Rhianwen, Anna and the officer team for all their work towards the Eisteddfod.

2. Winter Fair – 29th – 30th November 2021

The event report was shared on screen for all committee members to see.

Sian asked the committee for further feedback from counties.

Glamorgan noted that the members found writing reasons in the isolation pens extremely cold and should be reconsidered next year. Their members didn't understand why the beef stockjudging needed to change to be held late on the Monday evening compared to early Tuesday morning. Because of the timing of the competition, the results were not given on the Monday due to it finishing too late. Competing members were not given Tuesday Winter Fair tickets in order to attend the results ceremony – Glamorgan members found this unfair and should be addressed for next year. In terms of social media, Glamorgan felt it was important that all results, for all competitions were noted in full for everyone at home to see and for counties and members to share.

Radnor commented on the Lamb Trimming competition. The results in the ring and on the score sheet differed. It was asked if scores were checked before announcing. Also, it was suggested that reviewing the Prime Lamb rules would be advisable as some thought that there is too many tasks involved with the competition.

Following Radnor's comment, Sian apologised for the error in the Lamb Trimming competition and noted that it was corrected on Social Media and on the website as soon as they were made aware.

Pembrokeshire noted that the Carcass competition took four hours from start to finish but acknowledged that there had been issues with the judge.

Ceredigion asked if it could be noted in the rules what height Christmas tree it should be in the 'Decorate a Christmas tree' competition. Also, in the Chicken jointing competition,

it was asked if members could be provided with a diagram of what the overall display should look like.

Following the comment regarding the Chicken Jointing, Sian informed the committee that a video is now available as a demonstration to all competing members.

Brecknock suggested a review of the Lamb Trimming rules as by now a lot of people use shearing clippers to trim their lambs although the current rules do show more skill.

Gwent also mentioned that the isolation pens were extremely cold for members to be writing their reasons in. They also noted in regards to the Christmas Tree competition, that their members preferred the old system where all trees were numbered and members picked a tree number from a hat. In regards of the Prime Lamb competition, it would be beneficial to bring the competition more into the public eye rather than in the corner of the sheep shed.

A suggestion was put forward to work with the Winter Fair committee to move the Prime Lamb competition to a different area of the shed, or if that was not possible, to create a banner to try and encourage more people to visit the Prime Lamb area.

Carmarthenshire, Meirionnydd, Ynys Mon, Montgomery and Eryri had no additional comments.

A suggestion was made to the committee that competitors should not be allowed to handle the beef in the butchers beef stockjudging competition. The committee agreed for this to be included in the rules.

All above points were discussed and will be considered when setting next year's rules.

Action Point 4: Wales YFC to speak with the Winter Fair committee with regards to the Prime Lamb competition.

C/38/2022 TO CONFIRM ARRANGEMENTS

1. Entertainment Feast – 12th & 13th March (including appearance order)

Sian firstly reminded the committee that the competition will be held in Port Talbot.

In a recent County Staff meeting it was requested that the entry date was postponed until January due to COVID-19 uncertainty. Therefore, Sian asked the committee if they would be happy that the draw will be done in the January meeting – the committee agreed.

2. Public Speaking day 2022

The Public Speaking rules were shared on the screen for the committee to see.

The committee agreed that the Public Speaking day will be held on Sunday 27th March due to showground availability.

The committee also agreed that Brecknock Catering would be asked to supply refreshments on the day.

3. Field Day – 23rd April 2022

Sian reminded the committee that the host County is Clwyd and the Field Day will be held at Ruthin Livestock Market. There is a potential that some competitions may be held off site.

There were no further matters regarding the Field Day.

C/39/2022 TO CONFIRM COMPETITION RULES

1. Stockjuding Contingency plan

Sian asked the committee if all counties were happy with having Breeding Ewes as a contingency stock for the Stockman of the Year competition, as discussed in the previous meeting.

Proposer: Elizabeth Swancott, Radnor

Seconder: Elen Williams, Glamorgan

2. Sports Day – 19th June 2022

The Sports Day rules were shared on the screen for the committee to confirm.

Sian clarified that the Dodgeball competition has now changed to a squad on 10 to be in line with NFYFC rules.

It was agreed that an Under 21 section is added to athletic competitions.

There were no further matters regarding the Sports Day.

Action Point 5: Wales YFC to include an under 21 section to the Athletics competitions and to circulate the confirmed rules.

3. NFYFC Rules – 2022/23

The NFYFC competition list was shared on the screen for all committee to see.

Sian noted that Wales YFC have not received a copy of the competition rules from NFYFC.

It was agreed, if the rules have arrived from NFYFC, they would be finalised at the January meeting.

C/40/2022 AGENDA ITEMS AND DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

If face-to-face meetings resume, it will be held on 22nd January at the Royal Welsh Showground before the Wales YFC Council meeting.

If it will need to be held on Zoom the date will be 11th January at 7pm.

Agenda items should include:

- Eisteddfod 2022
- Winter Fair 2022
- Royal Welsh 2023

C/41/2022 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Hosting Rota - The hosting rota was shared on the screen for the committee to see.

The committee were happy with the rota.

Counties shared concerns from their members regarding the upcoming Pantomime competition. It was agreed that the final decision on this competition will be done at the January meeting.

There were no further matters and Sian thanked everyone for their time and input and declared the meeting closed at 21:09.

| ACTION | COMMENT |
|--|---------------------------|
| Action Point 1: Wales YFC to send certificates to successful members in the Virtual and Agri Day competitions. | Awaiting Council Approval |
| Action Point 2: Chairman to produce letter to respond to the member regarding the Prime Lamb Competition | Completed |
| Action Point 3: Wales YFC to circulate Prime Lamb and Baby Beef questionnaires to get feedback on the competitions. | Completed |
| Action Point 4: Wales YFC to speak with the Winter Fair committee with regards to the Prime Lamb competition. | Ongoing |
| Action Point 5: Wales YFC to include an under 21 section to the Athletics competitions and to circulate the confirmed rules. | Completed |