



NUFFIELD
Farming Scholarships

**2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NUFFIELD FARMING SCHOLARSHIPS TRUST AT THE ASSEMBLY
BUILDINGS, BELFAST
ON THURSDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 8.15 – 9.15 a.m.
AGENDA**

Serial	Resolution
1.	Welcome
2.	Apologies for Absence
3.	To remember Members who have died during the year
4.	Minutes of the 21st AGM of the Trust held on Thursday 16 November 2023 <i>The Minutes of the 21st Annual General Meeting of the Trust are attached to this agenda and displayed on the website. https://www.nuffieldscholar.org/2024-agm-papers</i>
5.	Matters arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting
6.	Chair's Report <i>The Chair will speak to his report which is published in the Annual Report and on the website.</i>
7.	To Receive the NFST Trustee Directors' Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 5 April 2024 <i>The Vice-Chair/Chair of the Finance Committee will speak to these accounts which were sent out with the AGM calling notice and are posted on the website (https://www.nuffieldscholar.org/2024-agm-papers).</i>
8.	To appoint Accountants for the Trust who will also act as Independent Auditors <i>The Trustee Board recommends that Albert Goodman, who have indicated their willingness to serve, be appointed as Accountants and Independent Auditors to the Trust.</i>
9.	To accept the Retirement of the following Trustee Board Members <i>The following Trustee Board members are due to retire at the AGM:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Wyn Owen NSch, on completion of two years as Chair and seven years as a Trustee Board Member.- David Gardner NSch, on completion of six years as a Trustee Board Member.
10.	To Elect a Chair of the Trust to succeed Wyn Owen NSch <i>The Trustee Board nominates Tom Rawson NSch, who has indicated his willingness to serve, to be confirmed as Chair of the Trust for a two year term.</i>
11.	To Elect a Vice-Chair of the Trust to succeed Tom Rawson NSch <i>The Trustee Board, following an election by its members, nominates Jim Baird NSch, who has indicated his willingness to serve, be confirmed as Vice-Chair of the Trust for a two year term.</i>
12.	To Elect Members to Serve as Trustees of the Trust <i>The Trustee Board wishes to balance the need for continuity and special expertise with the need for diversity and renewal on the Board, and therefore recommends that:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Jo Speed, having completed 5 years as a Trustee, be co-opted as a Trustee until the 2025 AGM in accordance with the Memorandum & Articles.- Extend Lucy Maclennan (2020 NSch) Anna Bowen (2021 NSch) and Chris Taylor (2022 NSch) as Returning Scholar Trustees to be co-opted for a second year to serve until the 2025 AGM.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Roisin Taylor (2023 NSch) having been chosen by an election of her year group will be co-opted as a Returning Scholar Trustee in accordance with the Memorandum & Articles.</i> - <i>To elect Three of the following as Board Members following a vote conducted during this meeting: Trevor Alcorn NSch, Olivia Champion NSch, Izak van Heerden NSch, Jamie McCoy NSch and Mary Munro NSch - each being invited to make a two minute presentation.</i>
13.	<p>To Elect Members of the Selection Committee to serve from 1st January 2024: <i>The Trustee Board, recommends the following who have indicated their willingness to serve:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Professor Jo Price (in place of Richard Soffe who retires at the end of his second term).</i>
14.	<p>To Award Honorary Scholarships <i>The Trustee Board has not nominated any individuals for the Award of an Honorary Nuffield Farming Scholarship.</i></p>
15.	<p>To Receive the Minutes of the 2024 Scholars Selection Committee</p>
16.	<p>Date and place of 2025 Annual General Meeting <i>Proposed Thursday 20 November 2025 at P&J Live in Aberdeen.</i></p>
17.	<p>Any other business <i>The Chair of the Trust has requested that Members wishing to raise any matter under Item 17 should give prior notice to the Director no later than <u>Thursday 14 November 2024</u> by which time any resolution for consideration must be submitted.</i></p> <p>Looking Forwards: <i>In 2025 new Trustee appointments will be made for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>One Non-Scholar External Advisor.</i> - <i>Up to four new Trustees (two trustees retiring, two current Trustees eligible for re-election).</i> - <i>One 2024 Returning Scholar Trustee.</i>



**THE TWENTY FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NUFFIELD FARMING
SCHOLARSHIPS TRUST HELD AT SANDY PARK CONFERENCE CENTRE, EXETER
ON THURSDAY 16th NOVEMBER 2023**

MINUTES

1.	Welcome. The Chair welcomed all attending.
2.	Apologies for Absence. It was noted that the Director had a long list of those unable to attend and for whom apologies were recorded.
3.	To remember Members who have died during the year. The Members of the Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust stood in silence to remember those who had died during the last year.
4.	Minutes of the Twentieth AGM of the Trust held on Thursday 24th November 2022 The Minutes of the Twentieth Annual General Meeting of the Trust were approved: Proposer – Chris Graf Grote; Seconder – Trevor Alcorn with a clear majority voting in favour.
5.	Matters arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting. It was noted that the following matters had been raised under ‘Any Other Business’: a. It had been proposed that nominations for new members of the Selection Committee should be invited from the wider alumni. b. Trustees had been encouraged to provide a summary of their meetings to keep the alumni well informed. c. The need to routinely change Auditors had been noted.
6.	Chairman’s Report The Chair spoke to his report as published in the Annual Report and posted on the website. He noted in particular that: a. He considered his key role was to oversee the transition of directors emphasising: - How Rupert Alers-Hankey had been selected following a thorough 3 stage process; - That Rupert had been working closely and collaboratively with Mike Vacher since January 2023. b. Mike would retire at the end of 2023 after long service: - The 2023 ‘Super’ Conference was a fitting climax with 30+ scholars presenting over 2 days. - During his 10 year tenure the Trust had grown and modernised with, especially, its finances strengthening and were now sound. - Poey’s contribution to all aspects of the Trust was commended. c. The core business of awarding scholarships had been especially successful in 2023: - With a record number of applications reflecting huge credit on the Groups, the Office Team and, especially, Charlotte Merson. - This had enabled Trustees to remove the ‘cap’ on awards and the number of scholarships left to the discretion of the Selection Committee subject to an adequate standard of applicants and sufficient sponsorship being available. d. Special mention should be given to: - The Finance Committee for overseeing the financial management of the Trust. - The Away Day held at Sandy Park which enabled Trustees to develop strategy and influence the planning of the 2023 Conference led by Tom Rawson and his Organising Committee. - Trustee Training conducted covering governance and diversity. - New Trustee Committee (task and finish) sub-groups created to take forward work on Sustainability and Alumni development. - Celebrations during the Conference of Year Groups commemorating the 5 th and 25 th anniversary of their scholarships being awarded. - The continued opportunity for scholars to gain accreditation of their study reports and the role played by Matty Spittle of IBERS, Aberystwyth University. - Nuffield International and the important and life-changing part played by the CSC at the beginning of the scholarship programme.

	<p>e. The following should receive special thanks for their contribution to Nuffield Farming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All our sponsors, noting especially the Elizabeth Creak Charitable Trust, the Trust’s title sponsors and AHDB the 2023 Conference Title Sponsor. - The Office Team of Charlotte Merson, Claire Bragg, Claire Laidler and Lindsay Woods. - The whole Nuffield Farming Family for their continued efforts to make everything better for everyone.
<p>7.</p>	<p>To Receive Accounts for 2022-23</p> <p>The Vice Chair presented the 2022-23 Trustees Report and Financial Statements noting that these had once again been prepared by Moore Scarrott LLP who had acted as Auditors and who were, again, very content with the Nuffield Farming accounting procedures and had commended these. He went on to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draw attention to the Director’s Financial Update and Explanation in the 2023 Annual Report. - Provide an overview for 2022-23, noting that whilst the overall financial state of the Trust was satisfactory, there had been a decline in the worth of the Trust for the first time in ten years. Total Net Assets now stood at £3,216,753 as at 5th April 2023 a decrease of £116,213 compared to the previous year. The 2022-23 financial statements showed an operating deficit of £36,963 compared to a deficit of £70,945 in the previous year. - Record explanatory comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This disappointing result was due, to the operational deficit continuing, once again, but, being compounded by the investment decline combined with fewer major donations. - Trustees were content to recommend this report and accounts for Adoption. However, in doing so, they recognised that the current situation may continue in which investments are performing poorly, there is higher inflation and an annual operating deficit. They were ensuring that this ongoing situation was closely monitored and they fully recognised that the fundamental challenge of the next 18 months was to demonstrate the ability to raise considerably more income or make substantial savings to our operations – or potentially a combination of the two. - During discussion a number of useful observations were made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There seemed to be two main issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A substantial increase in overheads; ▪ A poor return on investments. - Overheads needed to be scrutinised to identify those that are ‘must have’ and those ‘nice to have’ with only the former being funded. - Regarding investments, the acceptable level of risk should be regularly reviewed and if considered ‘medium’ or ‘low’ maybe increased in order to achieve better income. - Similarly, the increase in capital is less relevant than the level of income provided. - Care should be taken not to over-restrict the types of investments in order to maintain ethical investments. - There may be a role for an independent external financial/investment advisor. - Many charities were experiencing the same challenges with their investment managers obtaining similar results. - Whilst it was tempting to increase the annual donation, it seemed unreasonable to do so until a higher percentage of members were making an annual donation. - Members were encouraged to promote the opportunity to be a ‘Friend of Nuffield’ to their business contacts. - It was agreed that the above would be given due consideration. <p>The 2022-23 Trustees Report and Financial Statements were adopted: Proposer – Richard Hurst; Seconder – David Rose with a clear majority voting in favour.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>To Re-appoint Accountants for the Trust who will also act as Independent Auditors</p> <p>The meeting noted that the Trustee Board had recommended that Moore Scarrott Partnership LLP, who have indicated their willingness to serve, be re-appointed as Accountants and Auditors to the Trust. This recommendation was approved: Proposer – Ian Tremain; Seconder – Jim Baird with a clear majority voting in favour.</p>

9.	<p>To Elect Members to Serve as Trustees of the Trust</p> <p>The Meeting noted that the Trustee Board had recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tom MacMillan having been co-opted as a Trustee by the Trustee Board on 8th December 2022, be formally elected to serve as an External Trustee for an initial 3 year term. - Lucy MacLennan (2020 NSch) Anna Bowen (2021 NSch) and Chris Taylor (2022 NSch) having be chosen by an election of their year group be co-opted as Returning Scholar Trustees in accordance with the Memorandum & Articles. - Two of Jim Baird – eligible for re-election - David Rose – eligible for re-election – and Vicky Robinson NSch – having served as a Returning Scholar Trustee - each having been invited to make a two minute presentation, be elected/re-elected as Members/NSch Representatives following a paper vote conducted during this meeting. <p>These recommendations were approved: Proposer – Chris Graf Grote; Seconder – Bill Young with a clear majority voting in favour.</p> <p>Members proceeded to vote and re-elected: Jim Baird and David Rose.</p>
10.	<p>To Elect Members of the Selection Committee to serve from 1st January 2024:</p> <p>The Chairman noted that of the current Selection Committee (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Matthew Currie NSch, Christine Snell and Richard Soffe) Matthew was retiring at the end of 2023 with Christine Snell coming to the end of her first term and volunteering for a second term.</p> <p>The Chairman commended Matthew for his excellent contribution to the Selection process over six years during which he had been a great asset on the committee.</p> <p>He went on to explain the thorough process that had been conducted to choose a new Selector and recorded the recommendation of the Nominations Committee, as endorsed by the Trustee Board, that Christine Snell be re-elected for a further three year term and Diana Allen NSch as a new Selector for an initial three year term with effect from 1st January 2024. These recommendations were approved: Proposer – Campbell Tweed; Seconder – Guy Trehane and a clear majority voting in favour.</p>
11.	<p>To Receive the Minutes of the 2023 Scholars Selection Committee.</p> <p>The minutes of the 2023 Scholars Selection Committee proceedings were received and endorsed: Proposer – Andrew Scoley; Seconder – Vicky Robinson with a clear majority voting in favour.</p>
12.	<p>To Award Honorary Scholarships</p> <p>The Chair noted that The Trustee Board had nominated Mike Vacher for the Award of an Honorary Nuffield Farming Scholarship in recognition of his service as Director of the Trust over the last eleven years. This was approved: Proposer – Chris Graf Grote; Seconder – David Rose with a clear majority voting in favour.</p>
13.	<p>Date and place of 2024 Annual General Meeting</p> <p>Proposed Thursday 21st November 2024 at the Assembly Buildings in Belfast.</p>
14.	<p>Any other business</p> <p><u>During this item:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. It was requested that more efforts should be made to share the brilliant ideas contained in many scholar reports. Indeed, scholars should be encouraged to make a commitment to share and include proposals to do so in their report recommendations. b. Robbie Moore NSch MP the new Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at DEFRA was congratulated on his appointment and welcomed to the 2023 Conference. <p>Looking Forwards: In 2024 it was expected that new appointments will be made for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chair and Vice Chair - Two/Three new Trustees (one or two current Trustee eligible for re-election); - One 2023 Returning Scholar Trustee.



NUFFIELD
Farming Scholarships

Voting Procedures at General Meetings

Amendments:

Date	Action
16 Oct 2024	Amended

1. General.

- a. Only Members are entitled to vote.
 - i. In accordance with the Companies Act 2006, Articles of Association of the Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust incorporated on 4th June 2003, as amended by special resolution dated 23 November 2022. Clause 1.3.3; *is a Nuffield Scholar or an Honorary Nuffield Scholar or a member of the Trustee Board or the Selection Committee, in all cases who pays at least the Qualifying Donation to the Charity.*
 - ii. Membership for scholars yet to present, or due to present at the 2024 Conference is funded via their scholarship e.g. a 2024 or 2025 Nuffield Farming scholar is a Member funded by their scholarship.
- b. The normal method of NFST Voting at General Meetings will be by a 'show of hands' of those entitled to vote;
- c. Decision making by this method will be restricted to 'single option'/'yes – no' choices;
- d. Whenever practical business requiring a decision by vote will be sequenced into a number of 'yes – no' choices to allow voting by 'show of hands';
- e. When the Chair considers that there is unanimous approval of a resolution he/she may seek any dissension before announcing a decision by acclamation;
- f. When a 'multiple choice' vote is unavoidable (for example, on occasion when there are more than two members standing for an election for more than one vacancy on the Trust Board) then an e-vote or paper vote will be held.

2. Voting by 'Show of Hands':

- a. The Chair will state the resolution and seek a 'Proposer' and 'Secunder' whose names will be recorded;
- b. The Chair will then invite members to 'raise their hands' to, in turn:
 - i. Support the resolution, then;
 - ii. Oppose the resolution;
- c. 'Raised Hands' will be counted by the Director (or other nominated Trust Board Member) and also by 'Teller(s)' (who will normally be NFST Members at large). Numbers of votes counted will be agreed before moving onto the next 'show of hands';

- d. Decisions will be made by simple majority with the Chair of the Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust AGM, having a second or casting vote in the case of an equity of votes.
- e. The Chair will announce the decision of the meeting and record the numbers of votes 'for' and 'against' the resolution.

3. Holding an e-Vote: e-voting will be introduced at the 2024 AGM to elect Members to serve as Trustees of the Trust.

- a. Members will be sent the e-voting link with the formal calling notice for the AGM. The link will also be available to Members at the AGM.
- b. The e-voting link will include;
 - i. Statement of the resolution requiring a vote;
 - ii. List of those standing for election;
 - iii. Clear indication of the number of votes a Member is entitled to record (for 2024 this will be three (3));
 - iv. Clearly defined 'boxes' for recording the vote(s);
 - v. Space for recording the name of the Member and their email address – to enable checking of the entitlement to vote.
- c. Survey Monkey the e-voting platform automatically records the date and time of the vote.

4. Procedure for Election of Trustees. At each Annual General Meeting new trustees will be elected as follows:

- a. The recommendations of the Trustee Board are formally announced. This could be nominations for chair or vice-chair and co-opted Trustees;
- b. The new Returning Scholar Trustee elected by the year group is formally adopted by the Membership;
- c. The new Non-Scholar External Advisor(s) recommended by the Trustee Board are formally adopted by the Membership;
- d. An election of new Nuffield Scholar Trustees is held from all applicants:
 - i. The proposer and seconder of each applicant will be announced;
 - ii. Each applicant is given a 2 minute opportunity to promote their credentials to the Meeting;
 - iii. When the number of applicants is less than or equal to the number of vacancies on the Trustee Board each applicant will be voted for by a show of hands;
 - iv. When the number of applicants is more than the number of vacancies on the Trustee Board an e-vote, of paid-up Members will be held using an e-voting link sent to Members in advance;
 - v. The e-voting link will be available to Members attending the AGM;
 - vi. The result will be promulgated once votes have been checked.



NUFFIELD
Farming Scholarships

**E-VOTING FOR ELECTION OF NEW TRUSTEES TO THE BOARD
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
to be held on Thursday 20th November 2024**

The link for Members to vote to elect new Trustees to the Board is below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XY32FLZ>

Voting for the election of Trustees opens from 1200, 31 October 2024 until 0900, 21 November 2024. Any votes received outside these dates and times will be void.



Please **insert a total of 3 (Three) clear** *to vote for your preference of those volunteering to serve as trustees (more than Three such marks will invalidate this vote)*

You will be required to enter your full name and your email address.

By doing this you are confirming that you are a Member of the Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust and have made your personal donation of £120 between 1st December 2023 and 20th November 2024 for the previous 12 months. Note; Membership for scholars yet to present, or due to present at the 2024 Conference is funded via their scholarship e.g. a 2024 Nuffield Farming scholar is a Member funded by their scholarship.

For those that wish to pay their donation you can do so by;

- Contacting Lindsay Woods at accounts@nuffieldscholar.org
- Alternatively, scan the QR Code below. You will be asked to download the PayPal App which is the payment platform we use.



In accordance with the Companies Act 2006, Articles of Association of the Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust incorporated on 4th June 2003, as amended by special resolution dated 23 November 2022. Clause 1.3.3; A Member is a Nuffield Scholar or an Honorary Nuffield Scholar or a member of the Trustee Board or the Selection Committee, in all cases who pays at least the Qualifying Donation to the Charity.

The Chair of Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust AGM has a second or casting vote in the case of an equality of votes. In accordance with the Companies Act 2006, Articles of Association of the Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust incorporated on 4th June 2003, as amended by special resolution dated 23 November 2022.

Application for election as a Trustee of the Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust.

Trevor Alcorn – Northern Ireland Region



Growing up and working on my family dairy farm has helped to instil a strong work ethic and a passion for farming and the environment. My childhood on the farm inspired me to complete an HND in Agriculture at Greenmount College and a BAgr degree at Queens University Belfast.

I am a partner in the family business alongside my brother and parents milking 210 Holstein cows on a forage based system. We always strive to be innovative, efficient and run a sustainable and resilient farm business. In recognition of our efforts, we were one of the Governments “Focus Farms” and were used as an example for other farmers. We are currently part of the Beacon Farm Research Network which is focusing on how research can help farms become more environmentally sustainable.

Off Farm Work – Since graduating I have also worked off farm for CAFRE. Initially I lectured for 7 years in agriculture to full & part-time students at a local agricultural college. Since then, I have worked as a dairying adviser. I have set up and act as a facilitator to four very diverse dairy discussion groups, dealing with 80 dairy farm businesses. This challenging and rewarding role, which involves knowledge transfer, business/ succession planning and improving the financial and environmental sustainability of dairy farms. Through my role, I help many, young, new entrants get started into dairying and develop into profitable businesses. In 2019 I was honoured and delighted to have been nominated for and won the Farmers Weekly Livestock Adviser of the year award. A few examples of my community involvement: -

Camphill Community Clanabogan – a charity that helps mentally & physically handicapped people live & work on a small biodynamic farm. I have completed a nine-year term as trustee, closely involved in the governance, finance & tender assessment aspects of the charity.

Young Farmers Clubs - Clanabogan YFC President – my local club where I have served as president for 17 years. Before that, I held senior positions in office at club, county and national level. Through this role I represented the YFC in various European exchange programmes.

Tyrone Farming Society – Omagh Show - executive & development committee member, which successfully reinvigorated the show, by changing the layout, which resulted in increased attendances and improved profitability.

Blacksessiagh Farmers Group – founder member and secretary of a group of 40 mixed farmers, from the local area, providing educational/ social events, study tours and fund raising for charity. We are in our 22nd year!

Nuffield Scholarship – 2015 Scholar “Does the family dairy farm have a future?”. I gained so much from completing my scholarship, in terms of personal development, knowledge gained, opportunities, connections and friendships. As a result of this, I have been able to drive change, develop and improve efficiencies on the family farm. I’m also fortunate that I can also share this knowledge with my work colleagues and help drive efficiency and change on the many dairy businesses that I work with, to create more resilient family dairy farms.

Northern Ireland Region – Current Vice Chairman, part of a small, but dynamic team that have strived to reinvigorate the NI region after the lapse due to covid. We have focused on raising its profile in NI by running various events, farm walks, BBQ’s, show receptions and PR campaigns. My main focus for the last 18 months has been planning, and in particular fundraising for the 2024 Belfast Conference.

NI has not been represented by a trustee from the region since 2014 and I feel now is the time to make this change for the better of the NFST.

Dairy Group Study Tours - I have attended many tours over the years, and this gave me the inspiration to apply for a scholarship. While I was group Chairman in 2023 and with good assistance, organised a very successful 3 day study tour to the Netherlands.

‘Next Gen’ Scholarship – as dairy chair I was involved in this new initiative from the early stages, served as part of the selection panel and delighted to see how the three, young, NI scholars have flourished.

Business Group – member of NBG3, inspired by the range of business diversity, knowledge & passion of the members.

Mentoring – after receiving training, I have successfully mentored several scholars, a role which I find very rewarding.

What I offer as a potential Nuffield Trustee -

- Grass roots farmer, with practical, hands on, knowledge & experience of the industry
- Governance and business skills across a wide range of businesses and organisations
- Positive ‘can do’ attitude, with a passion for the industry and Nuffield
- Good communication and engagement skills with people – strong team player
- Passionate about helping young people to get a “leg on the ladder” & watch them flourish
- Integrity, discretion, and the ability to complete the task to a high standard
- Strong supporter of charities – wide range of experience in fundraising activities

Nuffield Farming scholarship Trustee application: November 2024

Dr Olivia Champion (SouthWest)



What I would bring to the trustee role and evidence supporting this:

- **Passion and enthusiasm** for the Trust: 2022 UK Nuffield Farming Scholar
- **Business and financial experience:** Company founder and insect farmer
- **Governance and leadership:** Chaired board of directors for two companies
- **Fundraising:** Entrepreneur in Residence for the Uni of Exeter and Bristol
- **Strong communication skills:** Published author and TedX speaker
- **Large network** in food safety and AgriTech from previous roles
- **Farming background:** Farming family. Uncle was chairman of the NZ meat board.
- **Negotiation skills:** Mother of three children, one of four sisters

Based in Devon in the SouthWest of England, I'm passionate about the Nuffield Farming scholarship Trust (NFST). I strongly believe in NFST's remit to deliver valuable insight into the challenges and opportunities of global agriculture, simultaneously encouraging personal development and leadership in its scholars. If elected as trustee I would be greatly honoured and would bring passion and enthusiasm to the board of trustees, as well as deep and broad experience of business, fund raising and communication.

My career has provided me with a range of experience and skills that I believe would be of value to the Nuffield board of trustees: My academic background in the UK and North America, gaining an MSc and PhD, has provided me with excellent analytical and communication skills. As CEO of an insect farming start up company I successfully raised investment, securing grants and managed investor relationships. In my role as Entrepreneur in Residence for Bristol and Exeter Universities I have supported scores of companies with successful fundraising rounds. My time working for the World Health Organisation and Health Protection Agency has provided me with a large network and an understanding of governance and process. Previously, I have chaired two company boards.

My 2022 Nuffield Farming scholarship provided me with an incredible opportunity to assess the commercial, environmental and social aspects of farming insects. I was privileged to meet an incredible group of people from around the world, with whom I've formed some wonderful friendships. My Nuffield sponsor was The Richard Lawes Foundation and I have been fortunate enough to get to know Bobby and Phyllida Lawes. Their love of NFST and ongoing support for scholars has really inspired me to get more involved with the organization. I would like to give something back to NFST and I believe that my attitude, skills and experience will be an asset to the Nuffield board of trustees. My motivation to become a NFST trustee is also to learn from the other trustees and benefit from their experience. If elected I'd take my responsibility to the Trust seriously and would work with the other trustees, and wider NFST team, to build upon and strengthen the important work of this organization. Please vote for me.

**Application for Trustee of the Nuffield Farming Scholarships Board:
Izak van Heerden South East**



Dear Fellow Scholars,

I want to share my strong motivation to serve as a Trustee of the Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust. Even though a recent Scholar, I have been deeply involved in various Nuffield organisational activities for some time now. This hands-on experience has not only strengthened my commitment to the Nuffield family but has also given me valuable insight into the inner workings of the organisation. I believe this will position me well to contribute effectively to the Trustee Board, allowing me to “hit the ground running” from the outset.

Sponsorship Management and Collaboration: As the key account manager between AHDB and Nuffield, I have managed Nuffield sponsorship on three fronts: Scholar -, Conference -, and AgDiversity sponsorship. AHDB has sponsored 17 Scholars since 2014, and I took over the liaison in 2020. I’ve worked to strengthen the relationship between AHDB and Nuffield, ensuring that Scholars (both AHDB sponsored and more recently all scholars via the pre-CSC) are fully aware of the benefits they can access through AHDB. Additionally, my work preparing and presenting a paper led to AHDB becoming the principal sponsor for the Exeter and Belfast Conferences, and I am currently in discussions for continued involvement in Aberdeen. AHDB has also contributed to the development of AgDiversity which falls into my key-account management.

Conference Organisation: I have actively contributed to the organising committees for the Exeter and Belfast conferences, drawing from my 10 years of experience organising the DairyLeader and AgriLeader conferences at AHDB. Since Exeter I’ve been developing a strategic plan to deepen collaboration between AHDB and Nuffield, a model that could serve as a blueprint for sponsors wanting to foster stronger sponsor-Scholar relationships. This strategy has the potential to enhance both sponsor experience and industry reach, an approach that I’m already exploring with other key industry partners such as NFU Mutual.

Nuffield International Engagement: Through my involvement in Nuffield International activities, (including facilitating the CSC in Brazil, hosting GFP in the UK, and participating in CSCs in Norfolk (as sponsor), Vancouver (my own), and discussion with Japan to facilitate their CSC), I have gained an extensive insight into the balance needed for a successful Nuffield UK -and International relationship. This experience will be invaluable in guiding the Board and supporting the Director to navigate the complexities of this relationship. My approach will focus on ensuring mutual benefit for both Nuffield UK and its International counterparts, which is key to fostering continued collaboration.

Regional and Community Engagement: Closer to home, I’ve worked with Camilla Haselden-Ashby to revive the South-East Nuffield group, which had been dormant for some time. We are planning the first meeting for Autumn 2024, demonstrating my commitment to enhancing Nuffield’s local engagement. I’ve also been supporting the setting up of the Nuffield "People" group, which is gaining momentum and proving to be a valuable initiative for fostering connections among Scholars.

Board Experience and Leadership Roles: I bring with me governance experience from my position on the Board of Governors at Heathfield Community College, where I contribute to the governance of resources as part of the finance committee and guiding the Head and Leadership team with their management of over 120 staff members and 1,200 students.

I am also Chair of the Eastbourne Fencing Club, where I have led recruitment efforts, particularly focusing on making fencing accessible to young people from underprivileged areas. Our club recently secured a National Lottery grant to fund subsidised places for girls on beginner courses, supporting inclusivity in the sport.

Why I Am Applying: Serving as a Trustee of the Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust would allow me to build on the work I’ve been doing and expand my contributions to the wider Nuffield community. I am passionate about the future of agriculture, and I believe my experience in sponsorship management, conference organisation, international engagement, and community leadership gives me a unique perspective and skill set to bring to the Board. I am eager to help Nuffield continue leading in agricultural innovation and leadership, while supporting the modernisation of Nuffield’s approach to remain relevant and impactful in a changing world. I sincerely appreciate your support and consideration. I hope you find my application reflects both my qualifications and dedication, and that you see me fit to serve as a Trustee of the Board.

Yours sincerely, Izak

Nuffield Farming scholarship Trustee application: November 2024

Jamie McCoy, Wales Region



Being brought up by Shepherd's with no farm for me to take on, an understanding that to get anywhere worthwhile may require some grit, and hard work was instilled in me. I studied Agriculture in Aberystwyth university, but my real-world education has taken place working on farms mainly in Wales and New Zealand, and then super-charged during my scholarship.

Since focusing on 'Opportunities for the family farm' in 2013, I continue to chase the concept of 'work smarter, not harder' and trying to continue learning. My 'can-do attitude' has always been an asset, with a tendency to just get stuck in. I focus on being outcome driven - hopefully a favourable characteristic to bring to the position of Nuffield Trustee.

I took an ever-increasing day to day role on the farm expanding to a 180 cow dairy unit, 300 ewes and establishing a number of diversifications and off farm businesses (from milk vending machines, to pumpkins and property), meanwhile continuing my off-farm career in farmer facilitation. This career has spanned HCC (Meat Promotion Wales), Farming Connect and now AHDB, where I currently work as a Senior Knowledge Exchange Manager in the Dairy team.

At work I use corporate understanding to bring perspective to my causes, but keep my boots firmly in the mud, championing the levy payer. I would approach the opportunity of Trustee similarly – advocating what I believe to be best for Nuffield and it's people (scholars, supporters, staff and sponsors), fielding and representing views of myself and others conscientiously, and feeding out justifications for decisions, holding the organisation accountable to promises and progress. My experience in supporting individuals and businesses through change could help the wider trust as it continues to evolve.

I'm proud to have been sponsored by the Beckett family, and take an active role in the Beckett Nuffield group, having chaired and hosted the group. I am also proud member and current Chairperson of Nuffield Cymru. Both groups have given me some experience of Nuffield 'workings' through supporting applicants, interviewing on behalf of sponsors, running mock interviews and regional events such as the annual Royal Welsh show reception. I was the first UK scholar to be awarded a place on the Global Focus Programme, made possible by Roger Mercer's generosity, and travelled with the 2014 group through India. I played a small role in the organisation of the highly successful Cardiff conference. I am also a Nuffield mentor, now supporting my third scholar.

I will offer the time, and some of the industry skills and perspective required to make a contribution as a Nuffield Trustee. I would use the position to advocate for Nuffield farming scholarships as an accessible opportunity to the practicing farmer, and allied agricultural community, contribute to the organisation as a charitable trust, and ensure that we deliver new industry leaders who affect positive change to global agriculture.

Application for Re-election as a Trustee: Mary Munro, Scotland



I have served three years on the Board of Trustees and wish to be considered for a further term. I am on the Communications Committee and act as the representative for the Agri-Leadership Group which is an on-line event organised as a collaboration with other organisations providing Leadership training and self-development courses, aimed predominantly at school-leavers as an introduction to the various options. I have recently completed Mentor Training to enable me to support new Scholars, and am the Year Group representative for the 1995 cohort.

I have been privileged to work with Rupert, the office staff, and the Trustees of the past three years, and I believe we have a very strong and united team.

I have been involved with the Scottish Nuffield Group ever since I became a Scholar, and have served as secretary, assisted with the organisation of Scottish conferences, and helped with mock interviews over the years.

My professional experience is in the field of agricultural consultancy which requires an enquiring mind and an ability to find solutions to financial, technical, and communication problems. I feel these are useful abilities to have as a Trustee.

Having recently set up my own business my time is more flexible than as an employee, and I would be glad of the opportunity to use my time in a second term of Trusteeship.

Why I want to be Elected

Over the last three years I have developed a greater understanding of the way the Trust works and have thoroughly enjoyed being closely involved in dealing with the issues of governance. I am keen to contribute more to the Board, especially in promoting Nuffield to a wide audience and encouraging potential Scholars.

What I Can Offer as a Trustee

Experience of the Board and its functions

Communication skills

Passionate support for Nuffield Farming Scholarships and the work of the Trust

A Scottish perspective



**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE
30 September to 2 October 2024, at Saffrey, London**

Present:		Wyn Owen NSch (WO) – Chair Tom Rawson NSch (TR) - Vice Chair Richard Soffe (RS) Christine Snell (CS) Diana Allen NSch (DA)	Apologies: Nil In attendance: Rupert Alers-Hankey (RAH) Director and Secretary Charlotte Merson (CM) – Programme Delivery Manager Claire Laidler (CL) - Office Manager Jim Baird NSch (JB) – Vice Chair/ Selector designate (for 1 and 2 Oct only) Jo Price (JP) – Selector designate (30 Sep only) Nick Green (NG) – for Frank Arden Leadership Interviews only																																																
Item	Topic																																																		
1	a.	Welcome and Apologies Chair welcomed the Committee, there were no apologies. He informed the Committee that Jo Price, selector designate would observe interviews on Monday 30 September and Jim Baird would observe interviews on Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 October 2024.																																																	
2	a.	Declarations of interest. Selectors had reviewed the list of applicants and there were no conflicts of interest.																																																	
3	a.	2025 Nuffield Farming Scholar Interviews – Pre-meeting. RAH outlined the interview and scoring process and went through the interview programme. There were 41 scholar interviews. He highlighted the 3 interviews that would be conducted by Zoom; from candidates working in China, South Africa and a candidate recovering from a medical procedure. Selector scores would be collated after each interview by CM. 25 Sponsor representatives, all observing a number of candidates would also be present during the interviews. CL registered and confirmed identity of candidates’ and received the sponsor representatives.																																																	
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Studley College Trust	Margaret Herbert, NSch
Royal Welsh Agricultural Society supported by the Era Francis Davies bursary	Aled Jones, NSch

C. The Committee awarded Nuffield Farming scholarships to the following 24 candidates, the list gives sponsor arrangements which were confirmed post meeting;

Name	Study Topic	Sponsor
Ben Andrews	Flooding and Diffuse Agricultural Pollution: Agriculture's role in the causes and solutions.	NFU Mutual Charitable Trust
Sam Brook	Biology based Agronomy: How can Horticulture grow in a more nature friendly way?	Worshipful Company of Gardeners and East Sussex NFU
Gregor Bruce	The last generation of Pig Farmers boosted Sow Productivity 50%. Can we do the same? And should we?	John Oldacre Foundation
Charlotte Cole	Preparing Pullets for the Future of the UK Egg Industry	BEMB Trust
Alex Crawley	Precision Ranching: How can new innovations support UK extensive grazing	McDonald's UK & Ireland
Sioned Davies	Scaling insect protein production from a range of substrates, including on-farm chicken litter	Royal Welsh Agricultural Society supported by the Eira Francis Davies Bursary
Laura Eden	Exploring the factors that contribute to improving the overall resilience of our dairy goats	Milking Goat Association and British Goat Society
Natasha Edwards	Farm Certifications for Farm Profitability & Promotion of Agroecological Practices	Studley College and Journal Horticulture, Science & Biotechnology
Edward Fane Trefusis	How can agricultural businesses manage risk in a risky operating environment?	AHDB
Awal Fuseini	Developing a resilient UK Halal meat production system for domestic and export markets	Central Region Farmers Trust and Three Counties Agricultural Society
Peter Green	The challenge of getting value from our farming story	Food Chain Scholarship
Mollie Gupta	How do we move British seaweed farming to commercial scale and reach its full potential?	Richard Lawes Foundation
Laura James	Pathways to Participation: Reducing Barriers for Farmers in Biodiversity Markets	Worshipful Company of Farmers with Savills
Ben Lowe	Closing the loop - Driving a circular farming system in a mixed Pig Farm.	McDonald's UK & Ireland
Sharon May	No farmer is an island - Supporting the Mental Health of Farm Families.	Farming Community Network / Lens Light
Tom McVeigh	A study of Nut production, propagation, processing and marketing in the UK	Beckett Award
Andy Moore	How has automation affected the dairy landscape and where do we go from here?	The Trehane Trust
Dave Oates	Stacking land uses for business & environmental sustainability.	CHK Foundation
Stuart Oates	Fossil Free Farming	Dartington Cattle Breeding Trust
Andrew Richardson	Young Professional Networks: Comparing Agriculture to Aquaculture, with a view to support growth	Elizabeth Creak Charitable Trust (a Clyde Higgs Scholarship)
Peter Roe	Aspen : A Hybridised Approach to Economic Forestry in the UK	MacRobert Trust
Archie Ruggles-Brise	Balancing the Books. Does Multifunctional productivity represent optimal land use?	Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association
Lucia Slack	Addressing Suicide in Agriculture: Supporting and Preventing the Biggest Hidden Danger Today.	Yorkshire Agricultural Society

		Ali Warren-Walker	Valorising waste/surplus streams from fruit and vegetable growing through encapsulation	The Alastair and Margaret Miller Charitable Trust	
	d.	The Bullock Award interviews took place on Wednesday 2 October 2024 at Saffrey.			
4	a.	Frank Arden Leadership Award Interviews The Selection Committee, with Nick Green NSch representing the Farmers Club Charitable Trust, held three interviews for the Frank Arden Leadership Award. Due to a conflict of interest, WO and TR stood down and the panel was chaired by RS with CS, DA and Nick Green. The winner is embargoed and will be announced on 21 November 2024 during the 2024 Nuffield Farming Conference Awards ceremony.			
5	a.	Any Other Business. The Selection Committee discussed how to improve the process; the application form will be simplified and the interview scoring sheet will be revised. All agreed that candidates interviewed by Zoom were at a disadvantage and should where possible be encouraged to attend interviews in person. Action: Revise application form and interview scoring sheet for Selection Committee.			RAH
	b.	The Chair thanked RS for his 6 years of service on the Selection Committee. RS thanked the Committee for the generous gift, a decanter and glasses, and that it was a privilege to be an external selector on the Committee.			
	c.	Date of the next meetings; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0900-1200 Wed 13 August 2025 – Shortlisting, by Zoom • Mon 29 September to Wed 1 October 2025 – 2026 Scholar interviews, at Saffrey 			

RAH

16 Oct 2024