

HOLT & DISTRICT FARMERS' CLUB

FOUNDED 1948

President: Bill Poortvliet

Chairman: Jimmy Fowell

Vice-Chairman: Pat Cubitt

CLUB MATTERS

November 2016

An iguana - this was the answer to my musing in the last circular as to what **Peter Perry Warnes** is poking at the end of a stick on his Facebook homepage. He was in good form at his valedictory AGM last month at which he confessed how much he had enjoyed his time as chairman. That feeling was reciprocated by both **Jimmy Fowell** who succeeds him and by **Mike Attew** who was standing in for President **Bill Poortvliet**. The meeting started with a minute's silence for John Ross and it was odd not to have him as a proposer for votes on club business. As it was **Colin Ross** acted in this capacity when approving the adoption of the accounts. **Tony Williams** reported on another financially prudent year for the club and thanked Larking Gowen for their perennial generosity in doing the audit.

We have an unusual situation whereby our President, back on form after the operation that prevented him coming on our trip to Hampshire, continues on our committee. **Bill** was up for re-election along with **Stuart Ross** and, with there being no other candidates, both were returned. Our next trip is due to be abroad and for several years we have toyed with the idea of *Texas*. This is ambitious but **Mike Attew** has been visiting the Lone Star state for a long time and has established good contacts out there. The cost for six or so days might be between £1200 and £1500 and there was a fair proportion of the members at the AGM who expressed initial interest when the Chairman put the idea to them. It would be helpful if anyone also interested could indicate to **Jimmy Fowell** at Tuesday's meeting or privately if you are interested. Alternatively we would be delighted to hear from anyone with a closer European venue in mind.

Another familiar face missing from the AGM was **Bob King** from Crisp Group. In his absence **Chis Borrett** did a grand job in adding his comments on the grain market to his role as presenter of the malting barley prizes. In the spring section the amazing longevity of Maris Otter was evident from all three of the winners including runners up **William Youngs** and **Richard Harrison**. In the winter section **William Mack** and **Martin Fisher** were the runners up with both growing Propino. Interestingly **Bruce Lockhart** also grows Propino and Odyssey for **Melton Harrold's** G W Harrold Farms but it was their sample of Husky that took the Hammond Cup. For the first time, I believe, the winter section and the Mott-Radclyffe Tankard was also won by **Melton** with **Bruce** looking on in support - well done to both of them. **Chris** acknowledged that it had been a difficult season, especially for winter barley on heavier soils. Nevertheless there were reasons for optimism with the growth of the cask ale sector and the Japanese market. He thanked **Brian Last**, **Ian Ross** and **Billy Hammond** for their help and all those who entered while hoping more might do so next year.