

HOLT & DISTRICT FARMERS' CLUB

FOUNDED 1948

President: Richard Brooks

Chairman: Pat Cubitt

Vice-Chairman: Andrew Ross

www.holtfarmers.club

CLUB MATTERS Midsummer 2022

An emotional end to the rugby Premiership final with Leicester Tigers beating Saracens through a last minute drop goal reminiscent of Jonny Wilkinson's to win the World Cup in 2003. Last month I speculated that Jack van Poortvliet might come off the bench to clinch victory whereas it was Ben Youngs who came on to tee up the crucial kick. Tom helped lift the cup and there will be a Commemorative Service for Tiffany at Happisburgh in a fortnight's time with donations going to Blood Cancer UK.

Many Holt and Stalham members will be attending Hugh Alston's funeral at Bradfield on Wednesday after he with his family fought multiple sclerosis for the best part of two decades. Our thoughts are with the Alston, Youngs and Sands families. Unfortunately the funeral clashes with *our trip to Shropshire's* in our frustrating quest for the G's spot. It is hoped that those of you who were concerned about not being back in time for Banham's bash on Thursday will now be able to join us. There are still places for WAGs, husbands, significant others and insignificant ones even. **Jimmy Fowell** has commissioned a Sanders coach for the 8.30 pick up at **Stuart Ross's** Holt farm NR25 6SY and 9 o'clock at **Alastair Wagg's** Tattersett farm PE318RS. John Shropshire's schedule is attached along with directions for those arriving by car and he can arrange transport for anyone who needs to get back to their car in order to make a quick getaway. He is 'pushing the boat out' for us involving his family and staff and it looks like an excellent tour. Jimmy was going to ask our Derbyshire friend **Bill Dilks** if he can join us and it is good to see that Bill is doing good work with RABI amongst his many other roles including organic dairy farmer.

Derbyshire RABI chair,

Bill Dilks



It was a coincidence that the Barnwell Brothers from Dunkirk, Aylsham would reveal their sunken treasure after my reference to the Battle of Sole Bay. The HMS Gloucester sank ten years later in 1682 when Prince James (the future James II) overruled the captain and pilots in not giving the sandbanks 28 miles off Yarmouth sufficient berth. Samuel Pepys was again in attendance on what seems to be the seventeenth century equivalent of a boozier cruiser. It is surprising that it has been 15 years before the stationery brothers could reveal their find but I gather there are plans afoot for a proper museum display.



The diarist Samuel Pepys witnessed the disaster

The Duke of York, later King James II, was travelling to Scotland when the Gloucester sank off Norfolk

The Heydon poultry proposal rumbles on and I'm grateful to local members **Matt Skinner** and **Mark Cook** for their insights. I have perhaps been overly cynical about this application in giving greater consideration to NIMBYism than rural enterprise. Both have overcome hiccups in their careers through the vicissitudes of the pig trade and this attempt by a youngish family from Cawston should not be denigrated. I attach a rough location plan showing how the proposal sits in relation to Church Farm, Oulton that is currently on the market and other places I have been referring to.

There are some good looking crops around our district so don't forget to enter our Malting Barley Competition. Meanwhile out in The Ukraine I gather that most of the farmers in unoccupied territories, **Martin** included I trust, have planted more or less fully the same acreage as last year and expect a good crop. Even on the black earth (chernozem) fertilisers are a worry, especially potash, although they hope the soil can stand a year without it. The main issue will be getting the grain out.

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