

# HOLT & DISTRICT FARMERS' CLUB

FOUNDED 1948

*President:* Richard Brooks

*Chairman:* Pat Cubitt

*Vice-Chairman:* Andrew Ross

[www.holtfarmers.club](http://www.holtfarmers.club)

## 72<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2022

No rain until the end of one reign since when we've had no end of rain under the new reign with another shower in charge – by which I mean the government but maybe not just them - your call. In spite of everything Holt Farmers have survived *covid-19*, drought, Putin etc and we're back. I formally invite all members to our 72<sup>nd</sup> A.G.M. as set out on the attached Agenda starting at 8 o'clock at Holt Rugby Club. As at Westminster there is a certain amount of change afoot starting with the fact that both our Chairman and Vice Chairman are up for re-election to the committee – voting them both off would certainly put the cat amongst the pigeons but that is your prerogative. **Pat Cubitt's** three year term has been blighted by *covid-19* and it was felt fair to allow him a further year when he can continue his efforts to get us back up to speed. Also **Andrew Ross** is still busy with his role on the NFU Sugar Beet Board and he feels he will be better placed to take over next year.

*Laurie Hill*

*Larking Gowen*



*Honorary Treasurer elect*

As always we are keen to recruit new blood onto the committee and anyone interested should register with me before the meeting. We have been most fortunate in having **Martin Jensen** on board as none of us could have predicted 12 months ago that his farm in The Ukraine would be at the centre of world events. He, his family and his workforce have shown great bravery and charity over the last eight months and his reports have been both fascinating and salutary. It is hugely welcome that Martin is going to give us an update on his activities after two mercy missions and tell us what more he has planned. **John Cragg**, our other committee member from the 2021 intake, has also done sterling work not least in pushing to recruit younger members. It was pleasing to see the likes of Bruce Poortvliet, Sam Clabon and Andrew Fisher attending meetings last season and we have high hopes of recruiting more of their generation as well as more female members. We might co-opt one or two onto the committee and any volunteers or ideas are always most welcome.

John Cragg has also continued his good work with **Bill Poortvliet** in extracting your malting barley samples. We have the famous double act of **Chris Borrett** and **Bob King** back in harness and the quality of the entries may have defied the climatic challenges. Early on the agenda is the Treasurer's Report and presentation of the accounts. **Tony Williams** has given us almost thirty years of first class service and gone beyond the call of duty. Unfortunately he has run into health problems although he still has hopes of making the meeting; if he can't then our friend and ally **David Cunningham** is ready to deputise. Larking Gowen have always audited our accounts and it is excellent news that **Laurie Hill**, an agricultural specialist in their Norwich office, is ready to take over from Tony in due course. Tony introduced him to the club last season and it seems we can work round the fact that Laurie normally has a prior engagement on Tuesdays and therefore cannot be present at the AGM.

*Kit Franklin*

*Harper Adams*



*Hands Free Farming*

**Richard Brooks** has slipped serenely into his role as President and made use of his brilliant contacts to fill out our forthcoming programme just as he has in recent years. This will start on **Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 p.m. with Tim Smith, General Manager of Fischer Farms from the Food Enterprise Park at Honingham, telling us about world's largest Vertical Farm** (hydroponics etc.). We have **Jane Kenny of ADAS** lined up after being postponed from last season and other possibilities include a dog training expert in December or the New Year. This will be confirmed shortly but there is a fine start to 2023 with **Kit Franklin from Harper Adams telling us about Hands Free Farming on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> January**. Kit is a Senior Engineering Fellow who has been the principal investigator in this revolutionary project since 2016. Richard will round off the meeting with a few words and I hope there is something here for most of you so that we start off on the right foot.

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