

# HOLT & DISTRICT FARMERS' CLUB

FOUNDED 1948

*President:* Richard Brooks

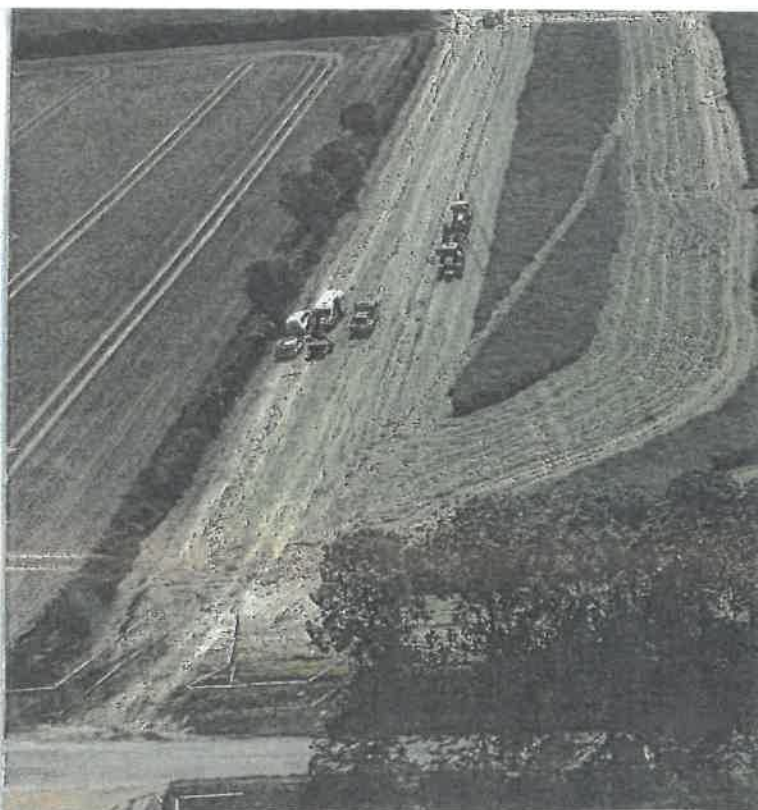
*Chairman:* Martin Jensen

*Vice-Chairman:* Andrew Ross

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

## CLUB MATTERS August 2023

Our little club was founded fully 75 years ago and we shall honour this landmark presently. In 1948 the country was still recovering three years after the end of the Second World War while we are reeling three years after the first *covid* lockdown as well as from the effects of the Russian intrusion into Ukraine. These did not appear out of a clear blue sky. In 2019 Brexit was still not a done deal and we were starting to be made unwelcome at The Feathers which we had thought was our permanent home. **Jimmy Fowell**, our outgoing Chairman, had led a successful trip to Liverpool and soundings were being made us to tour Austria in 2020 as well as to have a farm walk at Shropshire's in The Fens. Poor **Pat Cubitt** was then served the worst imaginable hospital pass as our new leader. Duncan Baker was the first speaker but, after Boris called a General Election, some thought we should have invited the candidates from the other parties. For the next month we were double booked with the local WI, after that there was further disquiet over a Bitcoin proponent and then the Norfolk Constabulary offered to send us a bobby on a bike rather than Simon Bailey, the Chief Constable. Pat stepped into the breach by showing us the 3D printing work he was busy with making face guards for the NHS but within a fortnight we were in lockdown and the subdued tone was set for the next three years.



It has not all been gloom and doom. Two years late we had an excellent time at Shropshire's and also at Snettisham seeing regenerative farming at Wild Ken Hill courtesy of Nick Padwick. As our IT guy Pat has pushed the technological side with speakers invited on vertical and hands free farming and scientific topics with an eye to also attracting younger members – a key concern of his Chairmanship and one which seems to be starting to bear fruit. Indeed Pat himself was a relative youngster when he was first co-opted onto the committee in 2006 and organised our Annual Dinners which in those days were called Ladies' Nights. In his poised and polite manner Pat has been a loyal servant of our club and, having overseen our successful move to Bridge Road, he feels now is the right time to hand over the reins. A prime factor in his decision is that he is no longer a practising farmer and, having discussed the matter with **President Richard Brooks** and others over recent months, he has forthwith resigned in favour of **Martin Jensen**. It is good news that Pat is ready to continue as a committee member and we thank him for everything he has done.

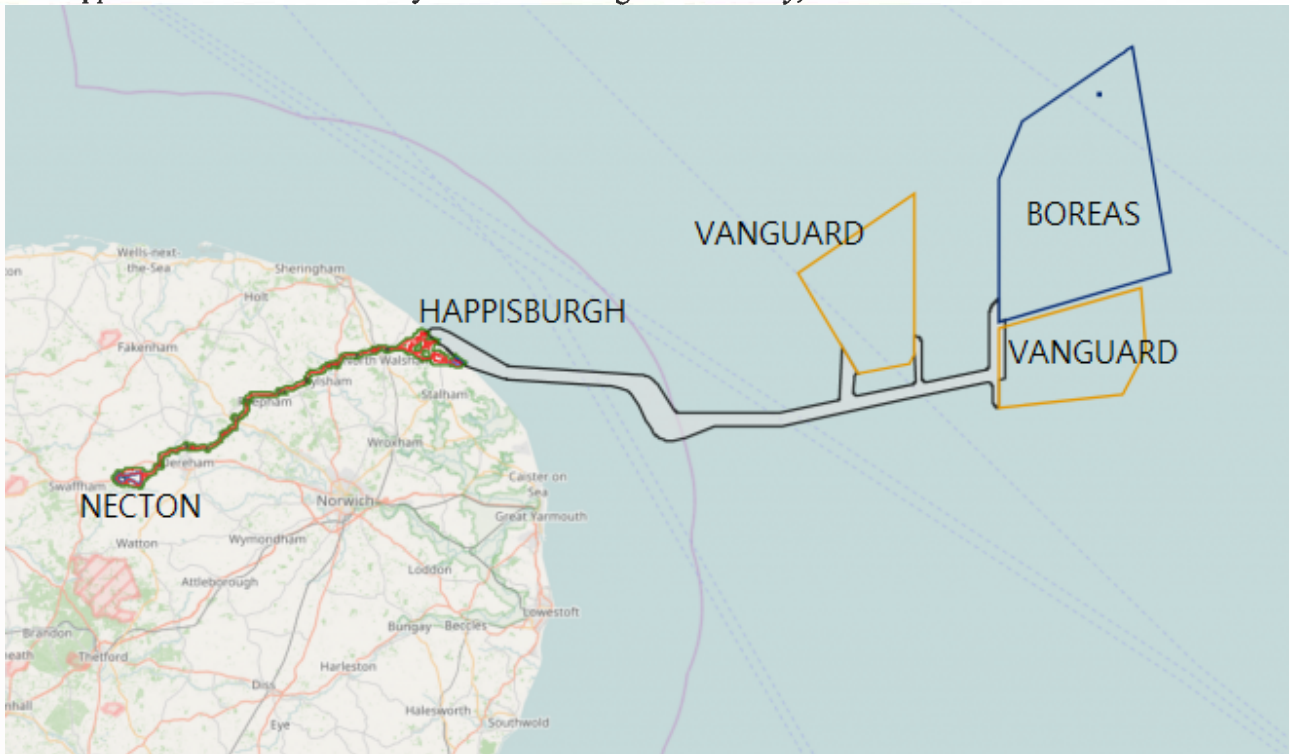
Pat had already served three years as Chairman which had become the norm but was 'holding over' as **Andrew Ross** was not ready to take over. He, along with **Kit Papworth**, is on the NFU Sugar Beet Board as Beet Reception Chair no less and has ongoing health issues that, together, still prevent him from feeling able to do this. One might have thought that Martin's involvement in the Ukraine, let alone all his farming and other commitments here and abroad, might have given him pause but the opposite is the case. Since his famous debut with our trip to his native Finland in 2011 we have come to admire and know him better over the last eighteen months. From his Guestwick base he is already plotting the coming season which starts as follows:-

**Tuesday, 10th October**     **73<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting – 8 o'clock at Holt Rugby Club**  
 Martin proposes to give another Ukraine update  
**Chris Borrett** is still in charge of the Malting Barley Competition

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November**     **Michael Sly OBE** in recognition of his service to agriculture in East Anglia  
**Chair of NFU Sugar Beet Board – 7.30 at Holt Rugby Club**

**Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> December**     **Talk from Leader of Holt Youth Project**  
**Stuart Ross's pet charity – 7.30 at Holt Rugby Club**

For 2024 we are lining up speakers for **Tuesdays on 9<sup>th</sup> January and 13<sup>th</sup> February** (its a Leap Year) and Stuart will approve that we intend to delay our final meeting to **Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March** to avoid a Carrow Road clash.



Martin's Master Plan is that we then resume our foreign sorties for the first time since Holland in 2018. **Sweden**, of which Finland was part until little over 200 years ago, is our target and **Peter Perry-Warnes** should also be at the helm with one of his daughters currently living there. I mentioned the Swedish firm Vattenfall in a recent newsletter and work is due to start on the cabling from Hoppisburgh to Necton in September. This is for the two Vanguard sections of their Norfolk Zone Wind Farm although they have put on hold the Boreas section on account of 'global inflationary pressure' with costs up by about 40%. Meanwhile the EDP has featured interesting aerial shots of the Hornsea 3 route cutting a swathe down the middle of Norfolk as though the Scandinavians are making the sign of the cross over our county. I have to again thank Hempstead (-by-Holt) local historian Jonathan Neville for this shot looking northwards between Strawberry Patch Nursery (Seaman) in Hempstead and Pitt Farm (Youngs) in Baconsthorpe.

*Tim*

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