

# HOLT & DISTRICT FARMERS' CLUB

FOUNDED 1948

*President:* Richard Brooks

*Chairman:* Martin Jensen

*Vice-Chairman:* Andrew Ross

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

## 73<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2023

Our AGM is next Tuesday and I hereby formally invite all members to Holt Rugby Club at 8 p.m. on 10th October. This marks a significant juncture for our club with **Martin Jensen** having succeeded **Pat Cubitt** as Chairman over the summer. I trust this news reached you promptly through my emailed and more or less monthly newsletters which are posted on our website <http://holtfarmers.club> where the circumstances behind Pat's resignation are set out in the August issue. Pat now also wishes to take a break from serving on the committee although he will still be on hand with his IT skills. Could anyone not receiving emails let me have your address together with confirmation of your home and telephone numbers ? Proudly **Bill Poortvliet** has volunteered to fill the vacancy just two years after retiring from the Presidency. In practice he has maintained his keen involvement in our affairs and, with his venerable co-collector **John Cragg**, has kept putting the squeeze on you barley barons to extricate your samples. This year we have gained a new King at the Coronation but lost another **King** by the name of **Bob**. Richardsons International, Canada's biggest grain merchant, has acquired Crisp Malt as part of Anglia Maltings Holdings with Stuart Sands, a native Irishman, as CEO. Under **Chris Borrett's** legendary co-ordination Stuart is judging this year's competition and will put us in the grainy picture in succession to Bob who performed these tasks generously and informatively for many years.

Stuart Sands

CEO Crisp Malt



Michael Sly MBE

Chairman of NFU  
Sugar Board  
and  
Chairman of English  
Mustard Growers



**Peter Perry-Warnes** and **Mark Cook** are up for re-election to the committee and any other member is welcome to join them in standing by using the form at the bottom of the agenda. It may not happen this year but I look forward to when we get to elect our first female member along with more of the younger generation. Afterwards **Martin Jensen**, our first Finnish and foreign born frontman, will give us another resume of his fantastic work in Ukraine and report on how our donations are helping towards relieving the suffering of that beleaguered nation. As Chairman he is focusing on literally getting our club on the road again with a *trip to Sweden* that is planned for *Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June next year*. In this he will be aided by Peter Perry-Warnes one of whose daughters is living out there and please register with me if you are interested in coming as early booking will greatly help to keep the cost down. Meantimes Vice Chairman **Andrew Ross** has lined up 'All Things Sugar & Spice' from **Michael Sly MBE**, his colleague on the NFU Sugar Beet Board, as our first speaker on *Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> November*. However, saving the best till last, our *75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner* is due to be held at *Gresham's School on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> December*. **William Youngs** and **Stuart Ross** are devising an appropriate commemoration of our history and Tom Townshend, **Viscount Raynham** and son of the current 8<sup>th</sup> Marquess, is lined up as our Guest of Honour. Again it will be helpful if members could register their interest in attending and no, this doesn't necessarily mean that turnips will be on the menu.

**VISCOUNT RAYNHAM**

Lord Thomas Charles Townshend, styled Viscount Raynham, is the son of the 8th Marquess and his first wife, the late Hermione Ponsonby.

Tom qualified as a Chartered Surveyor in 2005 with Bidwells LLP and went on to work for Knight Frank in their Farms and Estates team, buying and selling Investment Farms to private and institutional investors.

Tom returned to take on the role of CEO of the Raynham Estate in 2016 and is driving forward diversification and sustainable growth to guide the estate and family into a new era of innovation.



Hon. Secretary:  **Tim Nicholson** 7 Great Yard, The Street, Saxthorpe, Norwich, NR11 7AH 07464 991741  
[tim\\_nicholson@ymail.com](mailto:tim_nicholson@ymail.com)

Hon. Treasurer: **Laurie Hill** Summerhill House, 1 Sculthorpe Road, Fakenham, NR21 9HA 07811 034215  
[laurie.hill@larking-gowen.co.uk](mailto:laurie.hill@larking-gowen.co.uk)