

Minutes of the 94<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of  
The Agricultural Economics Society  
held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025 @ 09.00hrs  
at The University of Bordeaux, France

AES President, Deb Roberts opened the meeting at 09.00hrs and thanked everyone for attending.

1. Members who have passed away since the last AGM (President)  
Members stood for a minute in remembrance of Professor Emeritus John McNerney (Exeter, AES President 1996-97), and Professor Andrew Dorward (SOAS, London). Derek Shepherd delivered a short tribute on the life and work of John McNerney. An obituary will be published in the JAE in due course and a memorial service will be held in Devon on 10 May, with details posted on the website.
2. Minutes of 93<sup>rd</sup> AGM held at the University of Edinburgh, UK 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 (President)  
The minutes of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 were approved, proposed by Paul Wilson and seconded by Janet Dwyer.
3. Matters arising (President)  
There were no matters arising.
4. Election of Officers and Executive Committee (President)  
Brendan Bayley retires from the Executive having reached the end of his terms of office, while Alan Matthews becomes President-Elect. Wilfrid Legg and Derek Shepherd agreed to serve for a further year as Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, respectively. Paul Wilson becomes President (2024-25) following the AGM. Following retirements and changes in positions on the Executive there were no vacancies on the Executive, but Paul Caskie has been co-opted to negotiate the publisher contract renewal. Tim Lloyd (EAAE and IAAE Liaison Officer) and Neil Chalmers (Social Media Manager) remain in ex-officio roles. Jonathan Brooks and John Davis remain as Chief Editors of the JAE and EuroChoices, respectively.
5. Treasurer's Report and re-appointment of Handley Chartered Accountants (Derek Shepherd)  
Honorary Treasurer reported the Society's 2024 figures as follows:  
Subscriptions income £26,209  
Royalty income £78,217  
Other income £9,515  
Surplus on annual conference £7,234  
Surplus for the year £50,254  
Current market value of investments £186,745  
Current market value of Prize Essay fund £113,771  
Current savings account balance £251,593  
Current account balance £96,991

Plans to move funds from the savings account to earn a better return in the investment account (currently on hold) will be activated. The accounts and the reapproval of Handley's Accountants were approved and were proposed by Carmen Hubbard and seconded by David Stead. The signed accounts will be sent to Handley's for filing. The President thanked Derek

for his report and stewardship of the Society's accounts.

6. Report of Executive Committee (Steve Ramsden)

The Chair of the Executive delivered his report via a PowerPoint presentation, which will be made available on the AES website and annexed to the Minutes of this AGM.

Highlights:

Membership in 2024 was 663, an increase over 2023 and the highest for 20 years.

The Annual Conference in 2024 took place at The University of Edinburgh.

The joint AES-Defra one-day conference took place in London on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024, with the theme of 'Whole Farm Business Resilience'. The Chair thanked Lioba Wendling and colleagues for its smooth running at a new venue (Marsham Street).

The 2026 (Centenary) Annual Conference is planned for 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at Wadham College, Oxford University, where the first Conference was held in 1926.

The AES social media now has an increased emphasis on LinkedIn and Blog posts. David Blandford recommended Blue Sky particularly since they have a designated economics channel.

The Chief Editors' reports on the JAE and EuroChoices are annexed to these Minutes. In both cases, the journals are performing very well, and downloads of articles are increasing.

The AES Awards for Excellence were given to Dr Bethan Thompson (Outstanding Young Researcher), and Professor Steven Thomson (Lifetime Achievement in Public Policy, Industry, and the Society).

The Blandford and Hassapoyannes Prize Paper was awarded to Dr Luigi Biagini (University of Tuscia, Italy) for his article *The Unintended Consequences of Farm Insurance: A Causal Investigation on Income, Productivity and Input Dynamics*.

The poster prize was awarded to Thomas Kopp for his poster titled '*Reducing Negative Effects of Risk Aversion on Farming Outcomes: Evidence for Systematic External Selection into Profitable Contracts*'.

The Society funds travel awards and is working on other projects to spend financial surpluses, including funding PhD students.

The best Ph.D. presentation at the conference was awarded to Anna Massfeller (University of Bonn) for her paper on '*Algorithm Aversion in Farmers' Intention to Use Decision Support Tools in Crop Management*'.

The President thanked the Chair of the Executive Committee for preparing the report.

Transition to the 2026 annual Conference.

Wilfrid Legg will step down as Honorary Secretary in 2026 and David Stead (UCD) has been elected by the Executive as Honorary Secretary. Derek Shepherd will step down as Honorary Treasurer and Stephen Ramsden as Chair of the Executive. The AES website has further information; Society members interested in the latter two positions are invited to contact

the Chair or Katy Thorne (AES Administrator). All roles are subject to a shadowing period to ensure continuity.

7. Votes of Thanks (President)

The Chairman thanked the Chairman of the Executive Committee (Stephen Ramsden), Hon. Secretary (Wilfrid Legg), Hon. Treasurer (Derek Shepherd) the out-going members of the Executive (Brendan Bayley), the incoming president (Paul Wilson), Neil Chalmers for continuing the ex-officio role of Social Media Manager, the EAAE and IAAE Liaison Officer (Tim Lloyd) and the AES Administrator (Katy Thorne). He also thanked the Chief Editors of the Society's journals Jonathan Brooks (*JAE*) and John Davis (*EuroChoices*).

8. Any Other Business (President)

Items for the next AES Newsletter should be sent to Wilfrid Legg ([wilfrid\\_legg@hotmail.com](mailto:wilfrid_legg@hotmail.com)) by 8 July 2025.

The next (biennial) EAAE conference will be in Bonn on 26-29 August 2025, when it will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

9. Welcome to the incoming President (Paul Wilson) and invitation to deliver the Presidential Address.

The Chair closed the AGM at 9.45, welcoming the incoming President (Paul Wilson, University of Nottingham) and invited him to deliver his Presidential Address on **Obsessions with Farm Performance: A Cinderella Social Science?**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_