



Minutes of 38th Annual General Meeting of the UK Irrigation Association (UKIA) held on Tuesday 26th November 2019 at Welney Wetland Centre, Welney PE14 9TN

Thanks to Bill Basford for recording the minutes on behalf of the Hon Sec

1 Present and Apologies

There were 28 members present. Apologies were received from Jerry Knox.

2 Minutes of the 37th UKIA AGM

Minutes of the 37th AGM held on 18th January 2019 at Cotterstock Village Hall, Cotterstock, Peterborough PE8 5HD were approved. Proposed by Trevor Fuller and seconded by Tim Darby

3 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Chairman's Report

The Chairman presented his report on the various activities the Association had organised during the year. He reminded members of our UKIA Floodex shared venture – whilst he was not totally of the benefit to the Association it was worth trying but suggested that more integration was needed. He outlined the plans made to stage our normal conference on 5th March 2020 and Melvyn would outline the planned speakers later, but plans were well in hand. Reflecting on a dry growing period in 2019 which then changed to a very wet root harvest Anthony suggested that even more collective industry effort was needed to make sure sufficient water is available for irrigation needs and we must also pursue more efficient use. He also raised concerns that validation of evidence for HoF conditions to stop pumping needed to be sought.

Anthony also discussed the potential for long term improvements in water resource allocation through raising of flood banks to better integrate our irrigation needs with flood control. He also suggested that the recent UKIA irrigation field trip to Cyprus was really worthwhile particularly noting the use of 'grey' water that is recycled back into agriculture and horticulture through both dam storage and aquifer recharge. This is an innovation that is not currently practiced in UK.

He also welcomed our speakers to the AGM who would later in the technical meeting including Robin Upton who would speak on sandlands farming and Rebecca Haw, one of the JWMT sponsored guests on the Cyprus trip.

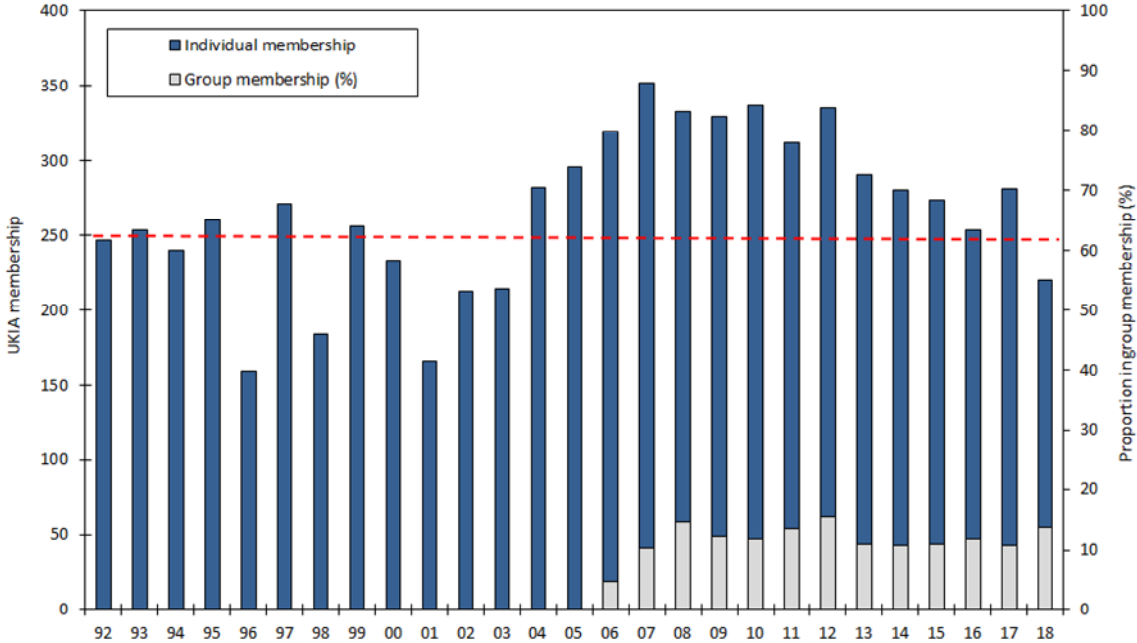
Finally, Anthony thanked Melvyn Kay for his continued support to the Association, and Bill Basford for his efforts to finalise transition of the UKIA accounts to Colin Wilks and Co Ltd.

5 Executive Secretary Report

Melvyn Kay reported on the activities of the Association over the last year, including the annual conference, field trips, technical meetings and representation at various national water forums. These included the editing and publishing of the UKIA Irrigator's Handbook which had been distributed to all members with copies now available for sale; the 2019 UKIA Annual Conference was reconfigured as part of Floodex-Irrigex at Peterborough Arena (27-28th Feb). The theme was on the future of water management and although in a different format still attracted 120 participants. Field trips were also organised to see drip irrigation on potatoes in Spalding (Lincs) and a farm visit kindly hosted by Richard Solari in Shifnal (Shropshire).

Melvyn also organised an overseas irrigation trip to Cyprus which was very well attended with 20 participants. He also provided an update on membership and plans for 2020. He reported that membership in 2019 was 220, and showing a gradual decline in recent years, although what is underlying this trend is not entirely clear (Figure 1). A summary of annual membership between 1992 and 2019 is given in Figure 1.

Figure 1 UKIA membership between 1992 and 2019.



6 Honorary Treasurer's Report

Bill Basford provided an update on the Association’s finances and circulated copies of the draft finances for 2018-19. A summary of the audited accounts for the year ending 30 September 2019 is shown in Table 1, with previous years for comparison.

Table 1 Summary of UKIA finances from 2010 to 2019.

Item	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Turnover (sales)	21937	19950	24406	21879	17580	18341	20629	21082	22201	22605
Net interest	779	792	737	553	177	646	8	170	-	2
Profit(loss)	1707	(3431)	5017	2859	(7118)	(2410)	(6688)	684	3897	(5264)
Net assets	50580	47948	52927	55771	48668	46250	39570	40254	44151	38887

Bill Basford described the current state of the UKIA accounts. Bill stressed that the financial position of the UKIA was satisfactory, but showing reduced assets given that the UKIA handbooks were currently an asset but yet to be sold. Bill suggested this venture should break even as more books are sold. The receipt of £6K from our involvement in Floodex was in line with the agreed income for that venture. Future reporting of the financial statement for UKIA should be more straightforward given that Colin Wilks now that the links between the Treasurer and the accountant are all established and working well. Bill recommended that Colin Wilks & Co should be retained as the company Accountants.

The 2018-19 accounts were approved. Proposed by Bill Basford and seconded by Robin Upton.

7 Election of Officers

The following Officers were elected unopposed:

Position	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Anthony Hopkins	Henry Head	Peter Bennett
Deputy Chairman	vacant		
Hon. Treasurer	Bill Basford		
Hon. Secretary	Jerry Knox		

8 Election of Two Ordinary Members of the Executive Council

The following two Ordinary Members were elected:

Nominee	Proposed	Seconded
Tim Darby	-	-
Tim Jolly		

9 Election of Accountant

The Company accountant Colin Wilks and Co Ltd were elected.

Nominee	Proposed	Seconded
Colin Wilks and Co	Bill Basford	Tim Darby

10 Planned Activities for 2019-20

The programme of events planned for 2019-20 were presented by the Executive Secretary (Melvyn Kay) in his summary report (Item 5).

11 Any Other Business

Two points were raised, (i) the strap line for the conference title and (ii) how do we survive if it the conference doesn't?

Signed.....

Anthony Hopkins

Chairman UK Irrigation Association

Date: 27th Nov 2019