

Chairman's Report – Peter Godwin

The Chairman reported on the changes that had occurred during the year following the AGM and said there had been various issues related to the formation of the new and Independent FFA. Some of these issues concerning Kelsey Publishing were still on-going and unresolved. Following the resignation of the Chairman, David Caley and President Nick Battelle, Peter Godwin agreed, albeit very reluctantly, to act as Chairman for a further year. He admitted that it has initially been a very challenging beginning to the year, but with the help of the new co-opted Committee members they had began to resolve some of the issues, particularly the financial affairs, thanks mainly to Bob Duke, the set up of the website and organisation of the FFA merchandise, thanks mainly to Graeme Clark (Ernie). The Chairman described the committee as very capable and enthusiastic and all present gave the Committee warm applause for their efforts. The Chairman reminded the members that the Committee members were all unpaid but that there was still some debate on expenses that might need to be resolved in the future.

The Chairman again referred to the non-appearance of the Accounts at last year's AGM and said he had felt let down by the publishers on this issue. He was delighted that Bob Duke had been prepared to come forward and be co-opted as Business Manager / Treasurer. He was very pleased with the way he had put the FFA's Accounts 'house in order'. We look forward to hearing from Bob Duke later in the meeting.

The Chairman reported that Kelsey Publishing still produces our 'club magazine' **Ford & Fordson Tractors** which he regarded as the best Ford & Fordson magazine thanks to the Editor Peter Love. This received agreement and warm applause from all those present.

Although the FFA is independent of Kelsey Publishing it was still one of our main sponsors together with Russell's New Holland dealer and Cheffins Auctions. The Chairman appealed to members to find more sponsors, especially for the website, which was currently being supported by Graeme Clark's Overland Solutions company.

The Chairman reported on the many activities that the FFA had taken part in this year including Tractor World, Malvern, The Great Dorset Steam Fair, The Mid Shropshire Rally, Newby Hall & Garden Rally, The EXPO VII – Isle of Anglesey, SE Davis's Astwood Bank Rally, the Long Melford Show, The British Ploughing Championship in Somerset and The Newark Vintage Tractor & Heritage Show in a weeks time. All this in addition the many local rallies where our area reps, like Andrew Green, The Ford brothers and Nick & Pat Bryne had FFA displays.

The Chairman praised the work of FFA Director of Ploughing, Roger Ingham for organising the regional and national ploughing events and thanked him for getting sponsorship from Russell's and Cheffins for the prize money. Warm applause was given by the members for Roger Ingham.

The Chairman also singled out Margaret & Derek Badham for special praise in supporting the FFA at many rallies up and down the country. Warm applause was given by the members for Margaret & Derek. He also said the Association should recognise the huge contribution made by the Secretary over many years. A warm applause was given by the members for Rob Rushen-Smith.

Peter Godwin finished by saying he would support the Chairman elect and although he had enjoyed his time as Chairman he assured the members he would not be Chairman any more after today.