

NZDFA

New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association



DRAFT UNTIL AGREED BY NZDFA MEMBERS
AT NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Minutes of the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association 33rd Annual General Meeting,
held at the Ascot Park Hotel, Invercargill
Wednesday, 14 May 2008, 2:25pm – 5:05pm**

The NZDFA Chairman Bill Taylor called the 33rd AGM to order at 2:25pm and welcomed approximately 145 members and interested friends of the industry and called for apologies to be notified. The Producer Manager advised that the meeting was represented also through 49 proxies from members.

1. APOLOGIES

Branch Chairmen

Pip Rutland, Ken Ferguson, Mark Bowen, Rex Cowley (represented by Tom Loveridge), John Carter.

Life members

Mike Pattison, Helen Parkes, Jenny Pinney, Jeff & Trish Pearse, Lady Fiona Elworthy, John Burrowes, Hester Ford, Don Gregson.

Members

Graham and Leslie Hunter, Noel Beatson, Collier Isaacs, Thomas and Sophia Beuker, Eric Clark, Brian Marcroft, Paddy Boyd, David Morgan.

MOVED "That the apologies be sustained".

Moved: Rodney Dixon, **seconded:** Mike McCormick.

Carried.

2. SCRUTINEERS

The Chairman put the resolution ***"that Brian Duggan, Phil Stewart and Tony Cochrane be appointed as the scrutineers for the 33rd AGM of the NZDFA, 14 May 2008"***.

Moved: Bill Taylor, **seconded:** Harry Robinson.

Carried.

3. OBITUARIES AND REMEMBRANCE

Obituaries were recognised for David Yerex, Les Loveridge, Graham Cribb, Dick Valentine, Peter Ryan and Frances Gallagher. The meeting recognised the loss of these NZDFA members and industry participants with a minute of silence.

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4. CALL FOR FURTHER ITEMS OF GENERAL BUSINESS

The Chairman asked for notification of any further items of general business. No further items were advised.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA OF MEETING

Moved: Bill Taylor, **seconded:** Mike McCormick. **Carried.**

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 32ND AGM

It was agreed that the Minutes of the 32nd Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association held at the Kingsgate Hotel, Hamilton on Wednesday 24 May 2007, as published in the 2007/08 Annual Report, - *Deer Industry News* (issue 29, April 2008,) page 2-6, be taken as read.

Moved: Bill Taylor, **seconded:** Richard Broughton. **Carried.**

There was no discussion and no amendments to the minutes were advised by the meeting.

It was moved ***“that the Minutes of the 32nd NZDFA AGM be accepted as a true and accurate record”***.

Moved: Errol Croad, **seconded:** Edmund Noonan. **Carried.**

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There were no notified matters arising from the minutes.

8. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Bill Taylor presented his full report to the meeting. This report was published in the 2007/08 Annual Report, *Deer Industry News* (issue 29, April 2008), pages 12 – 13.

Bill Taylor formally moved the adoption of his report and called for a seconder.

Moved: Bill Taylor, **seconded:** Clive Jermy. **Carried.**

Clive Jermy, in seconding the adoption of the Chairman's report, acknowledged the Chair and congratulated the Executive Committee for a job well done. He raised concern at the potential and real impact of completing land use, and stated it was important for the viability of the deer industry to identify how we can compete.

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9. FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial statements were introduced by Tim Aitken, Executive Committee convenor, financial portfolio. The audited statements of financial performance for the year ending 31 March 2008 were presented. These statements had also been circulated in the 2007/08 Annual Report, *Deer Industry News* (Issue 29, April 2008), pages 15 – 18.

It was moved ***“that the 2006/07 financial report be taken as read”***.

Moved: Tim Aitken, **seconded:** Mark Hawkins.

FORMAL FINANCIAL MOTIONS

(Motion 1, Budget 2008 was deferred to follow Motion 3 pending passage of Executive Committee motions 2 and 3.)

Motion 2 – “That the Executive Committee honoraria for the 2008/09 financial year be fixed at \$9,000 for the elected Chairman, and \$6,000 for each other Executive Committee member”.

Moved: Tim Aitken, **seconded:** Mark Hawkins. **Carried.**

Motion 3 – “That Deloitte be appointed as NZDFA auditors for the ensuing year 2008/09”.

Moved: Tim Aitken, **seconded:** Bill Taylor. **Carried.**

Motion 1 – BUDGET TO YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2009

“That the NZDFA budget of expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2008 be approved”.

Key points raised were that the budget included:

Break-even target with Subscriptions set at \$65 + GST and estimated at a 2.5% increase 1950 subscriptions target;

Branch capitation fee would be maintained at \$20 with an equivalent running costs to 2007/08;

The Reserves accounts were aimed to maintain a minimum of \$100,000;

Audit fees confirmed as \$2,400 + GST on a quote from Deloitte.

BUDGET 2008/09 APPROVAL

“That the NZDFA budget of income and expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2009 be approved”.

Moved: Tim Aitken, **seconded:** Mark Hawkins. **Carried.**

10. CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

The AGM decision of 2007 to allow the Commodity Levy (deer products 2001) to lapse created need for clean up of definitions and implications of ceasing that levy in the constitution. Amendments and detailed explanation had been advised by way of formal motion in the Annual Report, DIN April 2008. The meeting proceeded formally through the motions. Discussion where made is recorded below.

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NZDFA NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

Motion 4 – Clarification and updating of definitions, CLAUSE 2.1 Definitions

DELETE: “**Commodity Levy**” means a commodity levy payable pursuant to the provisions of the Commodity Levies Order.

DELETE: “**Commodity Levies Order**” means the Commodity Levies (Farmed Deer Products) Order 2001.

DELETE: “**GIB**” means the NZ Game Industry Board constituted pursuant to the GIB Regulations.

DELETE: “**GIB Regulations**” means the Game Industry Board Regulations 1985 (Replaced by Deer Industry New Zealand Regulations, 2004).

DELETE: “**Interim Period**” means the period from the conclusion of the 2002 Annual General Meeting of the Association to a date being 120 days before the date fixed for the 2003 Annual General Meeting, or the date on which the President and two members of the Executive Committee have resigned pursuant to Rule 12.6 whichever date first occurs;

“**Stagline**” means the newsletter published under that name by the Association (under whatever name it may later be published).

DELETE, and, where that publication ceases to be published, means the publication specified by the Minister of Agriculture by notice in the New Zealand Gazette pursuant to the Commodity Levies Order.

Moved: Tim Aitken, **seconded:** Mark Hawkins. **Carried.**

Motion 5 – CLAUSE 5.1 Membership Classes

AMEND to mean **Deer Industry New Zealand levy payers:**

“**Levy Paying Members**”: all levy paying persons who are recorded on the Register of Deer Industry New Zealand and persons who have proven, to the satisfaction of the Executive Committee and DINZ that they have paid DINZ current or the previous financial year any Statutory levy due to DINZ Such persons shall be deemed to be Levy Paying Members unless and until either they notify the Executive Committee of their wish not to be a member or their membership is terminated pursuant to Rule 9”.

Moved: Tim Aitken, **seconded:** Sharon Love. **Carried.**

Mike McCormick requested clarification of the word change “levy paying member”. The Chairman confirmed a “levy paying member” is currently someone who would’ve paid the commodity levy when it was in place, however given the commodity levy is no longer relevant the Association is now amending the definition of a “levy paying member” to be somebody who pays a DINZ levy.

Motion 6 – CLAUSE 5.2 Membership Entitlements

ADDITION: “**A Levy Paying Member shall be entitled to:**

1) Seek and accept nomination and/or election for any office, position or committee of the Association and that member’s Branch and for any organisation in respect of which the Association has the right to appoint, elect or nominate a representative **provided however** that if the member’s nomination or election to any such office, position or committee is

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successful then the member shall be required to become a Full Member of the Association as a condition precedent to accepting such nomination or election;

2) Vote on all motions and resolutions of members in all meetings, postal ballots and referenda of the Association and that member's Branch; and

3) Attend all meetings of the Association and that member's Branch.

ADDITION: A Levy Paying member shall NOT be entitled to:

Nominate any person for election to the NZDFA Executive Committee or NZDFA Selection and Appointments Panel unless the levy payer becomes a full financial member of the Association prior to making that nomination.

Edmund Noonan: Inconsistency in terms of a levy paying member not being able to nominate a candidate for election to the Executive Committee or SAP, yet having the right to vote. Believes a levy paying member should be able to nominate and vote as a consistency.

Mike McCormick: Holds the opposite view. Believes that if a member does not pay a subscription, they should not get to vote. This privilege should be for financial members of the Association only.

The motion was put by the Chairman Bill Taylor who called for a voice vote. Mike McCormick was the only delegate voting against this motion and wished that recorded.

Moved: Tim Aitken, **seconded:** Mark Hawkins. **Carried.**

Motion 7 – CLAUSE 8.2 Proof of Qualification

AMEND levy definition from **Commodity Levy** to **Deer Industry New Zealand levy**.

"A member or prospective member may be required to submit to the Executive Committee such evidence as the Executive Committee may require to satisfy it that the member or prospective member is the owner of deer or has paid a Deer Industry New Zealand Levy (if payable) during the relevant period (as the case may be)".

Moved: Mark Hawkins, **seconded:** Tim Aitken. **Carried.**

Motion 8 – CLAUSE 9.4 Qualification Criteria

AMEND: Levy definition from Commodity Levy to Deer Industry New Zealand levy.

"Any Full Member who fails to satisfy the Executive Committee, after being requested to do so, that he or she owns deer and any Levy Paying Member (as defined in clause 5.1) who fails to satisfy the Executive Committee, after being requested to do so, that he or she has paid the Deer Industry New Zealand levy during the relevant period (if payable) shall, upon notice from the Executive Committee, cease to be such a member".

Moved: Sharon Love, **seconded:** Tim Aitken. **Carried.**

Motion 9 – VARIOUS CLAUSES, Definition clarification (redundant terminology)

CLAUSE 12.6

DELETE reference to Interim period.

CLAUSE 13.1

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AMEND and remove reference to Interim period.

CLAUSE 13.2

DELETE clause with reference to Interim period.

CLAUSE 17

DELETE Vice President.

Moved: Tim Aitken, **seconded:** Errol Croad.

Carried.

Motion 10 – CLAUSE 23 Local Organisation

DELETE reference to Levy Payer being able to form a branch.

CLAUSE 23.1 Branches

Any regional group of Full Members of the Association may, with the consent of the Executive Committee, form a Branch which shall adopt, to regulate the conduct of branch business, the Branch constitution and rules promulgated or accepted by the Executive Committee.

AMMEND: Delete the term Levy Payers as a description of any regional group.

Moved: Tim Aitken, **seconded:** Mark Hawkins.

Carried.

Motion 11 - CLAUSE 37.3 Nomination of Selection Panel Members

The Returning Officer shall call for written nominations for the non-Executive Committee members of the Selection and Appointment.

Panel at least 21 days before the date on which nominations close. Nominations for the Selection and Appointment Panel shall be:

(a) in writing and be nominated and seconded by two other Full Members or Elected Members; and

(b) signed by the nominee.

DELETE: Reference to levy payers

Moved: Tim Aitken, **seconded:** Sharon Love.

Carried.

Following changes made to the national constitution the Producer Manager advised that the NZDFA Branch constitution documents had recently surfaced and had not been updated since the late 1980's. The updated version with appropriate motions for suggested changes and modernisation were required to be passed at the AGM, and had been publicised in the 2007/08 Annual Report and circulated in the April 2008 Deer Industry News.

NZDFA BRANCH CONSTITUTION

Motion 12 – CLAUSE 3 Membership

Action: Define appropriate membership classes that would exclude levy payer by definition (accepting that the levy payer definition is amended nationally to mean Deer Industry New Zealand statutory levy payers.)

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Membership classes: Change to: **To Full, Elected, Associate, Honorary and Life Members of the NZDFA (INC).**

Moved: Mark Hawkins, **seconded:** Sharon Love.

Carried.

Motion 13 – CLAUSE 4 New Members: Definition and actions

Any person entitled to become a member of the branch shall become a member upon completion of **a written standard form of application, a copy of which shall be sent to the NZDFA National office to update the Registrar of Members**, following its acceptance by the Committee and on satisfying the requirements of:

(i): Current financial membership of the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association Inc.

(ii) Agreement to abide by the Constitution and Rules of the Branch.

Moved: Mark Hawkins, **seconded:** Sharon Love.

Carried.

Motion 14 – CLAUSE 5 Membership Register

(i) A register of Branch members shall be **AMMENDED TO** “*maintained by the New Zealand Deer Farmers Association Inc, a copy of which shall be supplied to the Branch secretary as required from time to time.*”

(ii) The register shall show the NZDFA membership number, name and current address of every branch member.

Moved: Mark Hawkins, **seconded:** Tim Aitken.

Carried.

Motion 15 – CLAUSE 8 Alteration of Rules

Intent: For consistency and expediency it is proposed “that the period of notification for rule change to be considered at the AGM is changed **to 21 days**” **not 42 as defined.**

Moved: Mark Hawkins, **seconded:** Sharon Love.

Carried.

Motion 16 – CLAUSE 9 Committee

Update in wording required, **CHANGE** President and Vice President **TO** (Branch) Chairman and Vice (Branch) Chairman.

DELETE restriction on committee size as limited to 10. *Quorum of Committee.* **PROPOSED CHANGE:** to accommodate the added open ended size of the committee to be “not less than 5 members present” and to accommodate small committees define “that quorum as being not less than half the total number being present”.

(i) The Committee shall be elected from amongst the members of the Branch.

(ii) The Annual General Meeting will elect the following officers:

President, (DELETE and REPLACE with Branch Chairman)

Secretary/Treasurer and not less than three additional committee men;

If desired the meeting may also elect a **Vice-President (REPLACE with Vice Chairman),**

separate the offices of Secretary and Treasurer, and elect additional committee members **(DELETE number restriction clause)** and provided that the office of **President (DELETE**

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and REPLACE with Branch Chairman) may only be held by New Zealand full members of the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association Inc.

(iii) The quorum of the committee **shall be not less than 5 members or if the committee comprises less than 10 members**, a quorum shall be not less than half of its total number.

Discussion. Campbell Clarke: Would like to see a level for quorum set to prevent as few as two people from making decisions.

Tony Pearse: Advised that a minimum quorum was established as part of the motion (not less than half of its total number and gave that protection).

Moved: Mark Hawkins, **seconded:** Tim Aitken. **Carried.**

Motion 17 – CLAUSE 10 Functions of the Branch

Intent: To be consistent with NZDFA National Constitution delete present wording and adopt Clause 24 of National Constitution that defines the functions of the NZDFA Branches.

Moved: Sharon Love, **seconded:** Mark Hawkins. **Carried.**

Motion 18 – CLAUSE 13 Notice of Business

Intent: To accommodate branch membership in smaller branches CHANGE: Quorum Definition to cater for smaller branches (less than 45 members).

To Read: "the quorum shall be 15 members, personally present (and **ADD**) or if the total branch membership is less than 45, a quorum shall comprise one third of the total branch membership.

Moved: Tim Aitken, **seconded:** Sharon Love. **Carried.**

Motion 19 – CLAUSE 14 Procedure at Meetings

INTENT: Definition clarification:

Terminology update:

REPLACE President with **Branch Chairman**

REPLACE Telex or telegram with **facsimile**

Moved: Tim Aitken, **seconded:** Mark Hawkins. **Carried.**

Motion 20 – CLAUSE 15 Financing

INTENT: Clarify definitions

Terminology update:

Sub clause (iv) for signatories **REPLACE** President with **Branch Chairman** and **Vice Chairman**.

Further define Clause (vi) to include the same appropriate provisions for investment and application of funds as the National Constitution (replacing the word **Association** with **Branch** as required).

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vi) The committee is entitled to invest such money of the Branch as is from time to time available for investment, or alternatively to transfer such money to the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association Inc. who shall apply it solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Association.

The following provisions shall apply to the Branch's finances:

(i) The income of the Branch from whatever source derived shall be applied towards the promotion of the objects of the Branch and in accordance with these Rules and **no portion of the funds shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly to members of the Branch unless in return for any service actually rendered to the Branch or in reimbursement of expenses or payments properly made on the Branch's behalf; and:**

(f) The Branch is entitled to invest such money of the Branch that is from time to time available for investment:

(i) on deposit with any Bank registered in New Zealand;

(ii) in New Zealand Government stock; or

(iii) in secured debentures or stock (other than shares) of any company or organisation provide that the debenture or stock issue is rated AA or higher by an international credit agency.

Moved: Mark Hawkins, **seconded:** Tim Aitken. **Carried.**

Motion 21 – Any other clauses

Proposal Introduce new membership class: Branch life member.

Proposal: Add a sub-clause to Clause 4: Membership

4(iii) Membership categories – Life member of the Branch: Persons who, on the recommendation of the Branch Committee, are elected by the members of the Branch at a General Meeting as Life Members of the Branch.

Moved: Sharon Love, **seconded:** Tim Aitken. **Carried.**

4(iv) Entitlements of Branch Life Members. Such a member shall be entitled to an annual subscription to the NZDFA to be payable by the Branch.

Moved: Mark Hawkins, **seconded:** Sharon Love. **Carried.**

11. BRANCH REMITS

REMIT 1: SCNO: NVSB processes.

“The South Canterbury - North Otago Branch requests that DINZ undertakes, within the next two months, an independent review of the NVSB's velveting regulations”.

The Annual General Meeting were advised this remit has been *withdrawn* and referred to the NVSB for further comment. The NVSB had made a full response and its comments and advice in lieu of this remit proceeding will be published in Deer Industry News.

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REMIT 2: SCNO: Standardising hard antler measurements.

“That the NZDFA standardise the measurements recorded in NZDFA competitions under the modified SCI hard antler scoring systems so that all local and national NZDFA events score and record the same series of dimensions to bring consistency to the result and public recording of hard antler scores”.

Discussion. John Acland: Believes standardisation throughout industry velvet competitions. Would like to see a working group established with interested parties and sub – committees to see this concept progress.

Moved: John Acland, **seconded:** Murray Coutts.

Carried.

James Guild: Believes an amendment to the remit is necessary to include amendment/review of all publicity of SCI scores. SCI relates to game estates and trophy hunting, and concern has been raised that this scoring system is being over and incorrectly used/publicised. It was suggested the remit be amended to include the scoring of antlers including live animals.

AMENDMENT: ADD: “And on any live animal” to be placed after the description of local and national NZDFA events.

Moved: James Guild, **seconded:** Campbell Clarke.

Carried.

The Chair opened the amendment for discussion.

Murray Coutts: Although Murray agreed with James’ comments, it was enforced the remit was put up to standardise competitions and this latter issue of publicity could be appropriately addressed within the proposed sub-committee which is to be set up.

Tony Pearce: Advised a seminar on the judging and scoring of hard antler was held yesterday pre-conference.

Peter Allan: Agrees there is a need to standardise the publicity and judging of hard antler, however sees an issue with it. Peter noted that everyone wants to see consistency in competitions, however the scoring of antler on the head of a live animal and incorrect publicity is another issue which may need to be dealt with separately.

Andrew Peters: Believes the live animal side of hard antler scoring is different to the competition side of things. His point being, in competitions antlers are not necessarily on skulls, and therefore the width, etc, cannot be measured.

Mike McCormick: Agrees with Andrew’s previous comment. The scoring of antlers in general is not a responsibility of the NZDFA, and the Association can therefore not enforce this on people.

With the knowledge that a working group has already been established to address these issues, Murray Coutts proposed that the motion be passed without the proposed amendment.

Following the discussion and comfortable with the concept of a working group having this on their agenda, James Guild, in his right of reply, asked the leave of the meeting to withdraw the amendment.

There was no further discussion regarding this remit.

The Chairman then put the motion which was CARRIED without dissent.

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The Chairman asked the meeting for leave to bring Remit 8 forward to allow AHB CEO William McCook to comment prior to him leaving the conference. Leave to do this was granted.

REMIT 8: Waipa: NAIT Database.

“That the NZDFA encourage the AHB to take control of the NAIT database”.

William McCook emphasised the AHB is a not-for-profit, farmer based organisation, however it is important to recognise the AHB database is used for all bovine Tb activity and is therefore specialised in this area.

William commented the scale of NAIT is an important consideration. William stated the AHB could potentially manage an identification system based on the NAIT structure, however it would require amendment to the AHB constitution and stakeholder bodies would need to be advised, with discussion allowed for at that level.

Moved: Brian Wellington, **seconded:** Campbell Clarke.

As mover of the remit and Branch Chairman of the Waipa branch, Brian Wellington was invited to comment on the remit. And stated he believes that as a stakeholder body [the deer industry], the AHB should be able to run the database on a cost-neutral basis. There was no further discussion.

The remit was put and carried unanimously.

The Annual General Meeting then resumed its scheduled format, and the meeting addressed remit 3 from Tongariro.

REMIT 3: Tongariro: NVSB Supervisory visits.

Velvetting certification using local + physical restraint.

NVSB Certification currently requires an annual Supervising Veterinarian visit.

“We propose...that after 2 years of certification, a supervising vet visit every second year is sufficient on approval of the supervisory veterinarian, based on their satisfaction of client performance, experience and standards”.

The Tongariro Branch Chairman Richard Denley was invited to speak on this remit.

Richard Denley: Since the remit was proposed, a lot of discussion has taken place. After receiving a very good/useful letter from the NVSB, the branch has chosen to ***withdraw*** this remit. The Branch recognises the privilege they have in being able to velvet their own stags and do not want to lose this. It was suggested this letter be published as constructive commentary in one of the industry publications (*Deer Industry News* or *Stagline-online*).

REMIT 4: Southland: Emissions Trading Scheme (Carbon Credits and Government Policy).

“That the NZDFA continue to use every reasonable resource available to reverse government policy on animal emissions within Climate Change and the Emissions Trading Scheme (Emissions Trading and Renewable Preference Bill)”.

Moved: Peter Allan, **seconded:** Brian Russell.

Peter Allan: strongly moved this remit, saying the message needed to be blunt and unequivocal and the impact of the scheme on farmers needed to be addressed.

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Brian Russell: recalled the eye-opener message on costs that had been delivered by MAF ETS commentator Ms. Julie Collins, and suggested it would not only be this generation of farmers crippled, but also the next generations.

Edmund Noonan and current EC member, **Sharon Love** accepted the policy is here to stay, but agreed it must be moderated to minimise the impact on farmers. An Amendment was proposed:

AMENDMENT: That words “reverse current government policy” be replaced with “moderate government policy and ensure outcomes are science based and economically viable”.

Moved: Edmund Noonan, **seconded:** Earle Wells.

The amendment was opened for discussion.

Andrew Peters (Taihape) spoke for many when he described any attempt to moderate the remit as “waffly PC nonsense”. Expressing industry views should be like street fighting, he said “the first hit has to count”.

Tom Williams (Wairarapa) stated “[the emissions trading scheme] is the biggest rort since World War Two, and that a decent clear message needs to go to government”.

Tim Aitken (Hawke’s Bay) believed we should “kick it out and kick it hard, and when it’s down, kick it again”.

Chris Hughes (Te Anau) argued we should be even blunter and took a similar hard line.

Sharon Love urged farmers to take a balanced approach and not simply turn their backs on the scheme. She said the next generation was keen to see the environment fixed and farmers needed to acknowledge and engage with that process.

The amendment was put and roundly defeated on a voice vote; the original motion was put and CARRIED decisively.

REMIT 5: Waikato: Direct elections for DINZ Board.

“That Direct Elections replace the SAP process for selecting farmer representatives to the DINZ Board”.

Moved: Steve Borland, **seconded:** Rodney Dixon.

Steve Borland spoke for the remit and reinforced that although the same remit had been thrown out in 2007, the branch was passionate that that is an area for radical change and an improvement in process.

Rodney Dixon emphasised the branch’s feelings that this direction allowed all candidates to be equally and fairly judged by their peers; and that such systems would be clear cut, cost effective and remove any opportunity for backroom whispering and unnecessary expense.

James Guild – who had been both elected to and removed from the former Game Industry Board by an electoral college – strongly supported the current system. He said the SAP system gives a fair chance to strong candidates who don’t necessarily have the high profile to garner popular support through a direct election.

Ponty von Dadelszen spoke against the remit and added that in his view, the electoral process in the meat and wool industries had not been served as well since direct elections were introduced. He believed it was important that an SAP could take into account all relevant

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skills and assessment of Board needs and directions. Recent criticisms were a slight in the integrity of the SAP and its operating code and he urged the meeting to strongly oppose.

Campbell Clarke agreed, stating that he doesn't believe a candidate who runs the best campaign should get the job just on that basis.

Mike McCormick and **Chris Hughes** also agreed with von Dadelszen's strong statement.

Steve Borland in response argued that the industry was a lot smaller than previously, and moving to direct elections could expect approximately 260-300 informed, passionate, dedicated farmers to vote annually for the people who make up the SAP. He commented the \$6,000 cost of running the SAP and the elections of \$4,000 would be far greater than a direct election for important Board positions. The branch remained concerned about the lack of transparency on the SAP.

Rodney Dixon further endorsed the comments. He believed that there were significant numbers of levy payers who chose not to be involved with the DFA system and would support this remit.

The Chairman put the motion.

At that point the Mover Borland recognised that in this forum, he could see that the remit would not be supported as he'd hoped and having had further earlier discussion with the chair, this was in order. He asked that the remit be withdrawn and lie on the table for consideration in 2009. The Chairman confirmed to the meeting that this had been discussed following the sentiments expressed at the BC meeting, and ruled that remit be withdrawn. On a point of order raised by James Guild, it was confirmed that as the Chairman had formally put the motion prior to the request to withdraw, the meeting had no choice but to respond to that directive.

The Chair apologised for the error and put the motion which was lost resoundingly on a voice vote. Borland and Dixon requested that they be recorded as opposing.

REMIT 6: Canterbury: Lower tyne removal.

"That in the absence of an accepted velvet marketing restructuring, the NZDFA request DINZ to ensure that NZFSA (New Zealand Food Safety Authority) requires removal [of] lower tyne from velvet antler (frozen or dried) destined for the Korean market, in accordance with Overseas Market Access Requirements (OMAR). The NZDFA requests DINZ to report conclusions and progress by beginning of 2008/09 selling season".

This remit was carried over into general business on request. It had been left on the table from 2006 and 2007. Edmund Noonan (Canterbury) had been invited to discuss the issue with the Velvet Processors Association (VPA) in early May. At that meeting the VPA asked DINZ to look at the market implications and issues surrounding the proposal and report back. Edmund was satisfied that progress had been made, and the remit was not put forward as a motion and remains live on the table.

REMIT 7: Otago: NAIT and tag suitability.

"That the NZDFA request DINZ to support further research and evaluation of RFID technology (including ultra high frequency systems) to allow a recommendation to industry of the most accurate, functional and cost effective RFID systems that will meet deer management and future NAIT deer traceability requirements".

Moved: Udo Fuehrer, **seconded:** Craig North.

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The Producer Manager Tony Pearse reported that a limited early evaluation with ultra high-frequency tags had been very promising. Early problems with interference from moisture and steelwork seemed to have been overcome with the latest generation of chips and antennae for HF and UHF tags/readers. The tags could be around \$1 each – cheaper than the low-frequency tags proposed under NAIT. Low-frequency tags were also not entirely suitable to the movement of deer, but with an agreement from NAIT were also to undergo further evaluation as well.

The DINZ CEO urged some caution be considered on the prospects of a very early pilot trial, especially in the areas of tag costs and robust application and use as no commercial tag model was yet available.

The motion was put and was CARRIED.

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Branch registration as an Incorporated Society

Rodney Dixon (Waikato) requested clarification on the process and timing for a branch to register as an Incorporated Society. The Producer Manager confirmed the procedure required in registering a branch as an Incorporated Society and stated that based upon advice from the Association's lawyer (Terry Nowland), branches are able to register as not-for-profit organisations however interest monies will still get taxed, just not to the same extent as profit organisations.

2. Lower tyne removal (Canterbury Branch remit)

Edmund Noonan invited Mark O'Connor (DINZ CEO) to report on the velvet review process with regards to the removal of lower tynes. M O'Connor advised it was not DINZ itself conducting the review, but DINZ conducting a review through the VPA of what their positions are. There appeared to be some concern and differing views as to the ramifications of lower tyne removal as time and circumstances have changed since the original remit. M O'Connor assured the meeting that a watching brief and continued discussions with exporters will continue, and invited the Branch to stay in touch.

3. Rumpole Cup

The Rumpole Cup in recognition of the best Branch or Associated Society newsletter was this year awarded to the Elk and Wapiti Society of NZ. In her judging comments, Words & Pictures' Leonie Adeane commended the Society for "a good clear layout, which makes for easy reading. Images are minimal but well-placed. The writing is friendly, warm and accessible. Important council news is placed at the back a witty joke, well placed on the back page, gives a humorous send-off to the reader".

Tommy May accepted the award on behalf of the Society. Runners up in the Competition were the Waikato and Central Regions branches.

4. Selection and Appointments Panel: Election of North Island representative

An election was required this year for the single vacancy created by the retirement by rotation of Mike Holdaway, who sought re-election.

Results of the election, announced at the AGM, were:

Campbell Clarke, Waipa: 82

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Mike Holdaway, Apiti: 248

Informal 14

Mike Holdaway was declared elected.

5. Selection and Appointments Panel: Election of South Island representative

The single vacancy created by the retirement of Bob Kingscote was filled by **Mark Hawkins**, who was declared elected unopposed.

6. Executive Committee and Selection and Appointments Panel appointments and retirements

NZDFA Executive Committee retirements by rotation were Tim Aitken and Mark Hawkins. Neither sought re-election. **Earle Wells** (Coastal Bay of Plenty) and **Edmund Noonan** (Canterbury) were declared elected unopposed to fill the vacancies.

After the traditional presentations and thanks to two retiring members, each made a short valedictory address.

There being no further items of General Business, the Chairman put a motion to the meeting **“that ballot papers be destroyed”**.

Moved: Mike McCormick, **seconded:** Richard Broughton.

The meeting closed at 5:05pm.

Confirmed as a true and accurate record

Signed

Date