



UK Weighing Federation

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Thursday 18th April 2024

Principal York Hotel, York, UK

Minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting of the UK Weighing Federation Ltd (106th for the Federation) held on Thursday, 18th April 2024 at the Principal Hotel, York at 14:00.

Present:

Kevin	Cartwright	Avery Berkel
Samantha	Wright	Avery Berkel
Jim	Cameron	Avery Weigh-Tronix
Graham	Spink	AWM Ltd
Keith	Gresham	Axle Weight Technology Ltd (AXTEC)
Jag	Basra	Bizerba
John	Holness	Bizerba
Owen	Whittle	Bizerba
Gavin	Millar	D Brash & Sons Ltd
Julian	Hope	Herbert Group Ltd
Richard	Herbert	Herbert Group Ltd
Ian	Hodgson	Ishida Europe Ltd
Brian	Onuonga	John White & Son (Weighing Machines) Ltd
Sam	Stewart	John White & Son (Weighing Machines) Ltd
Steve	Milling	Marco Ltd
Melvin	Crane	MK Scales Ltd
Sam	Jones	OHAUS Europe
Tim	Watson	OHAUS Europe
Derek	Johnson	Precia-Molen UK Ltd
Jamie	Anderson	Precia-Molen UK Ltd
Lee	Fisher	Precia-Molen UK Ltd
Gary	Harris	UKIS
Jake	Taylor	Vandome & Hart
Roy	Taylor	Vandome & Hart
Darren	Jones	Weightron Bilanciai Ltd
Nick	Catt	Weightron Bilanciai Ltd
Nick	Burley	Weightron Bilanciai Ltd
Dave	Clark	Weightron Bilanciai Ltd
Tom	Marren	WOMAG
Daniel	Egan-Sheath	WOMAG

Guests and Speakers

Chris	Goodacre	UKWF Admin
Katie	Begg	UKWF Comms
Ian	Turner	UKWF Technical

Graham Spink welcomed everyone to the Principal York Hotel, York and went through some general housekeeping points.

Annual General Meeting

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Mark Clifford, Director of UKWF and the following companies sent their apologies:

County Scales

2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 23rd Annual General Meeting held on 30th March 2023 had previously been distributed.

There were no other amendments, and the minutes were proposed and seconded and unanimously approved by the members. They were formally signed by the President.

3. Chairman's Report

Graham gave his report as follows:

As many of you will know, Charles Pullen had to curtail his term as President of the Federation in February this year. Charles has decided to take on a new and exciting role outside of the weighing industry, and in those circumstances, he was unfortunately unable to continue leading our organisation. I'd like to express my personal thanks, and those of the Board, to Charles for his dedicated service to the Federation and to our sector over the years.

And so I am back again to deliver the President's Report on the past year's activities in my role as Vice-President. And what a year it has been. When my term as President ended this time last year, my report reflected on a significant progress that the Federation had made over the three preceding years. This year, I feel, has surpassed our expectations, and continued our new tradition of delivering bold and exciting new initiatives for our industry.

This past year, with the invaluable support of our Technical Officer, Ian Turner, we have continued to support members to understand the continuing impact of the UK's exit from the EU. This is often a difficult and complicated task, particularly given the lack of consistency from the UK Government on post-Brexit requirements. We believe we finally understand the implications of decision-making around the UKCA and CE marking requirements – but of course we're still waiting for the legislation to be published.

While we're talking about legislation, I was also very pleased to see the Government decide not to change back to a system of Imperial units in the UK. In our submission to that consultation and subsequent representations directly to the Department for Business and Trade, we were very clear in our rejection of a return to imperial measures. While it's been incredibly frustrating and disappointing to see Government resources focused on this issue, we're pleased that the right outcome was reached.

On a more positive note, this past year has seen the delivery of some of the UKWF's flagship initiatives. We launched our training partnership for trading standards officers with the CTSI, which has seen numerous member companies deliver training open days in recent months. The feedback we've received from trainees for these days has been resoundingly positive. We're very keen to continue them for the coming year and urge all members to consider offering their premises for an open day.

We've also moved full steam ahead with our own legal metrology training initiative. Two Legal Metrology Training Certificate courses have been run so far, with two more planned for this year. I won't spoil Kevin's presentation at the Regional Meeting, which will give all the detail on the courses, but suffice to say it's been very rewarding to see the years of thought and planning that have gone into this initiative pay off. We've delivered a valuable training and skills asset for our industry, and I'm glad so many of our member companies have taken up this opportunity. At the Regional Meeting, we'll also be getting your input into how we finalise our plans for the apprenticeship scheme – which will provide yet another excellent skills offer for those starting their careers within our member companies.

Another exciting development this year has been the extension of the Federation's international reach. We've been approached by counterparts in a number of countries who are interested in working more closely with us, and The Weighing Industry Association of Australia have joined us as affiliate members. We're excited to see what this kind of partnership can bring. This new kind of international approach compliments perfectly our continuing relationship with CECIP. CECIP is an important source of networking, information and support for the UKWF, and we have spent a lot of time recently building a strong working relationship with their new staff.

I'd like to finish by saying some thank you's. First, to our fantastic staff team at the UKWF. Chris, Katie and Ian work very hard to support our members and our Federation, and I hope you'll agree that the impact of their work continues to grow, seeing the Federation deliver more in every year. I'd also like to thank you all, our members. None of what we do at the UKWF would be possible without a strong and committed membership, and we are very grateful for your continued support.

Kevin Cartwright of Avery Berkel proposed, and Jim Cameron of Avery Weightronix seconded that the Chairman's Report be formally adopted; this was unanimously agreed.

4. Treasurer's Report

Richard gave the following report:

A link to the Annual accounts for 2023 was circulated to all members with the calling notice for the AGM.

Income at £141,00 showed lower than 2022, but in fact our core income has increased substantially. Subscriptions were up by nearly £14,000, and we had over £10,000 of income from the new training courses.

In 2022 the income of £30,000 from the CECIP General Assembly was included, something that only occurs about every 10 years.

This CECIP GA also increased our expenses by £32,000, so without them our expenses would have increased by £19,700.

Training was £10,000 of this, as there were quite a few one-off up front costs in setting the course up. As a result only a small profit on the training in 2023, but future years will benefit.

As we recovered from Covid, a full year of meeting expenses, an increase of £6000. And a full year with our Comms Officer Katie, so £3400 there

The balance sheet remains healthy, at year end we had invested £147,000 in UKMB Ltd. This will now take longer to return a profit, as the UK Government did a complete U-turn on UKCA marking, allowing CE marks to be continued indefinitely, thus more than halving UKMB's potential client base. This shocking decision was slipped out on 27th December 2023, a tricky move to avoid scrutiny.

2024 has started well financially, but inflation will cause our expenses to increase by much more than the last 10 years or so.

There were no questions

Richard therefore proposed that the Annual Accounts and Accountants Report for the year to 31st December 2023 be adopted this was seconded and was unanimously agreed

5. Officers and Board of Directors elections

According to the Memorandum and Articles of Association, at each Annual General Meeting three Directors shall retire from office by rotation but are eligible for re-election. These are:

Mark Clifford	Minebea Intec
Richard Herbert	Herbert Group
Charles Pullen	AWM

Charles is ineligible to continue to serve and has resigned. Mark Clifford and Richard Herbert are seeking re-election.

In addition we received 4 new nominations for election to serve on the Board of Directors:

Andrew Goddard of Marel who was proposed by Graham Spink of AWM and seconded by Kevin Cartwright of Avery Berkel.

Gary Harris of UK Inspection Systems who was proposed by Tom Marren of WOMAG Weighing and seconded by Peter Walker of Minebea Intec UK

Sam Jones, of Ohaus who was proposed by Tom Marren of WOMAG Weighing and seconded by Graham Spink of AWM

Steve Milling, of Marco who was proposed by Graham Spink of AWM and seconded by John Gannon of Weighing Scales Ltd

There were 4 vacancies on the board and 6 people nominated for election or re-election, so a ballot was held.

The ballot confirmed the election of:

Andrew Goddard of Marel
Richard Herbert of Herbert Group
Sam Jones, of Ohaus
Steve Milling, of Marco

Graham advised that the federation is a member led organisation and it cannot function without members volunteering to serve on the board. He thanked all members who were nominated, and

welcomed Andrew, Sam and Steve, onto the board. He thanked Mark Clifford for his service on the board over the past 2 years.

The Officers are recommended for election at the AGM by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors have duly nominated for election Tom Marren as President. The nomination was seconded and was unanimously agreed.

For the post of Vice President, the Board have nominated Marina Campbell for election. The nomination was seconded and was unanimously agreed.

The board have confirmed Richard Herbert has been nominated for re-election The nomination was seconded and was unanimously agreed.

Graham congratulated Tom and invited him to come up and say a few words and take over the running of the meeting.

Tom advised: I would like to thank all of our members for electing me as President of the UKWF. It's a real honour to take on this role and representing our Federation and our industry.

As Graham has outlined today, it's been an incredibly busy year for the Federation and I hope you will all agree that we have seen many of our longer term projects and ambitions finally realised.

I am taking over the Presidency from Charles Pullen. Charles' term was shorter than it should have been, as in February he took the decision to pursue the next step in his career outside of our industry. I want to take a moment to reflect on Charles significant contribution to the Federation, both as President but also as a Board member. It was a real pleasure working with him, and his enthusiasm for the initiatives taken forward by the Board and Federation were very important to sustaining the progress we've made over the past year in particular. We'll miss his insight and input at the Board, and of course, wish him all the best for the future.

So, while I wasn't expecting that I would be in a position to be elected President of the Federation at this AGM, I am absolutely delighted that I have been! I'm equally delighted that Marina Campbell has been elected as Vice President of the Federation. The level of knowledge and expertise Marina brings to this role is phenomenal. She is a passionate advocate for the weighing industry. I'm very pleased to be working alongside her as we deliver our current projects and build new initiatives to support our industry. Marina will also be joining the Board at CECIP, representing the UKWF on a European level and ensuring we remain a strong voice in that organisation.

I'd also like to welcome our new UKWF Board members Andrew, Sam and Steve. I know they're going to make a great contribution. It was really pleasing to see so many member representatives putting themselves forward for election to the Board this year – it feels like a great endorsement of the Federation and our work.

I also wanted to take a moment to thank Graham for once again stepping up to look after the Federation for the past couple of months, in Charles absence. He's always willing to help and support where he can – and its hugely appreciated.

As I begin my term, our Federation is stronger than ever. We have delivered real change in the past year. Our new training offer of course demonstrates our deep commitment to developing skills and knowledge in the sector. But I think it also demonstrates that we're looking to the future, to encourage young people to join the weighing industry by offering them training to develop expertise

and skills they need to build a long-term, sustainable career. I'm really looking forward to taking our offer to the next level by ensuring the Apprenticeship Scheme is delivered within this year – marking the realisation of one of the UKWF's leading ambitions.

I'm also genuinely excited by the potential that our new international partnership work could bring. The more we communicate about our activity, particularly on our social media channels, the more enquiries we get from overseas about meeting with us and working with us. Our training programme in particular is attracting a lot of international interest, and we have received compliments from colleagues overseas on the accuracy and clarity of our communications around regulatory updates. I'm incredibly proud that the UK Weighing Federation is becoming known as setting a global gold standard for industry associations.

And talking of our regulatory updates, I'd like to take a moment to thank Ian for his tireless efforts to ensure we're providing the most up to date and accurate analysis of any changes and developments on that front. It's a core part of our service to members and we're grateful to him for his diligence and commitment.

Our offer to our members is also front of my mind. In our round table sessions at the Regional Meeting shortly, we will be focusing in on what more members would like to see from the Federation and what else you might like to see us do, to help us develop new ambitions and objectives that support our industry. I intend to use the early months of my term as President to reflect on that feedback, and ensure we have solid plans for moving the Federation forward while continuing to offer the services that our member value most.

I view it as my job as President to serve our members and to continue to drive progress and excellence within the Federation. I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to do that. We are stronger together, and I look forward to working closely with you all over the coming two years as we develop and deliver an ambitious, inspiring new work programme.

6. Re-appointment of Auditors

Tom proposed that DNG Dove Naish Chartered Accountants of Eagle House, 28 Billing Road Northampton be re-appointed as Accountants to the Federation for the coming year. The proposal was seconded and unanimously agreed.

Tom declared the AGM closed and opened the Regional Meeting.