



**Minutes of the AGM of the Traditional Cornmillers Guild
held via Zoom on Wednesday 26th October 2022.**

	<i>Action by</i>
<p>Welcome</p> <p>Present: Jonathan Cook (JC) – Fosters Mill - Chair Simon Dodd (SD) – Worsborough Mill – Hon Treasurer Lesley Jones (LJ) – Holgate Windmill- Secretary</p> <p>Alan Gifford (AG)-Heage Windmill Barry Flannaghan (BF) -- Burton Mill Anne Parry (AP) - Felin Ganol Watermill Bob Price (BP)- Acorn Bank Watermill Graham Brooks (GB) – Warwick Bridge John Ward (JW) – Heage Windmill Lionel Green (LG) – Crakehall Watermill Lisa Harris (LH) - Food Museum (Alton Watermill) Michael Skoda (MS) - Avoncroft Museum/ Danzey Green windmill Mildred Cookson (MC) - Honorary Life Member Nick Jones (NJ) - Honorary Life Member Paul Wyman (PW) – Tuxford Windmill Sally Craven (SC) – Claybrooke Mill</p> <p>Apologies Alex Popovic – Mill Green Museum and Mill Chris Wright - Otterton Mill David Howell – Offley Mill Emma Williams - Y Felin James Waterfield – Maud Foster Windmill John Beddington - Honorary Life Member Karl Grevatt – Charlecote Watermill Mandy James – Redbournbury Watermill Michelle Thurlow - Letheringsett Watermill Mike Lovatt – Stanway Watermill Peter Stobbart - Pakenham Watermill Sandra Harte - Alderholt Watermill</p> <p>JC Richard Harte from Alderholt passed away on 10th October and the Guild have passed condolences onto his family.</p>	

Matters Arising

All outstanding items covered in Agenda

TCMG Chair's Report - Presented by JC

The six months since taking up the Chairman's role have been challenging for us all in multiple ways:

- Dealing with the incredible weather
- Dealing with pests and problems storing grain in such hot conditions
- An unpredictable customer markets
- An emerging recession which has impacted all parts of our value chain, from farmers to bakers and end customers
- Unbelievable price increases and total uncertainty as to how long such prices will sustain

However, at the same time, Guild members have come together and supported each other. We've collaborated around:

- A social media group led by Lesley
- A grain forum to discuss issues around wheat supply
- Continued collaboration relating to folic acid
- Work to address the changes to abstraction licences undertaken by the Environment Agency
- Finalising the Guild Constitution and I hope at this meeting, moving forward our process to inspect mills.

Your committee has worked hard to move all these elements forward and I would like to thank Lesley, Dave and Simon for all their hard work. I would also like to thank Dave Harris-Jones for his service to the Guild, most recently in his role as Vice Chairman which he has now had to resign from given his other commitments.

One item which I am sorry has not had the attention I had planned is the training programme. Due to unexpected family issues, more time than I had expected has had to be devoted to family over the last few months and this has prevented me making progress on a number of fronts, for the Guild that has resulted in no progress on the training project.

I am hoping that after November, things will calm down for me in other areas of my life and as a result, I can move ahead with colleagues in the Guild and beyond to get the structure of the training programme finalised, shared and consulted around such that we can collectively move forward and begin design and running the training sessions.

The next 6 to 12 months are clearly going to continue to be challenging in many ways and, as has happened before, my aspiration is that the Guild will continue to be a great source of support and encouragement for all, Associates, Members and Life Members.

<p>TCMG Treasurer's Report October 2022 - Presented by SD It's been a relatively straightforward year in terms of the Guild's finances. The majority of members are up to date with their annual subscriptions and apologies to those who have sent cheques to cover your subscription; I have yet to make it to the bank to pay these in. If you know that your subscription is yet to be paid, please check your email for the invoice I sent in June or, as I will be resending these in the coming weeks, wait for a second email to appear in your Inbox – it might also be worth checking your Junk Mail folder.</p> <p>Just a reminder that TCMG hessian bags and recipe books are still available. These are now with me at Worsbrough. If you want details of prices, including delivery, then please get in touch with me.</p> <p>I think that's everything but please feel free to contact me at tcmgtreasurer@gmail.com if you have any questions.</p> <p>Thanks again Simon</p> <p>AG Asked if there was a minimum amount of money we needed to keep in the account? JC We might need to pay for reprinting/redesign recipe books, to buy more hessian bags, expenses in setting up training scheme so we are keen to keep a healthy balance to expand/build on activities in the future.</p> <p>NJ Asked if we should continue with the subscription to Food and Health Forum? JC We now have built up contacts with DEFRA and other stakeholders so not as useful. LG Asked and JC agreed that we could renew subscription in the future, if relevant. A vote was taken and it was agreed that this subscription would not be renewed.</p> <p>JC Members Subscriptions to be maintained at current level.</p> <p>AG Proposed that we agree accounts. Seconded by MC</p>	<p><i>FHF Subscription not to be renewed</i></p>
<p>TCMG Secretary's Report Presented by LJ We have had an enquiry from Town Mill, Lyme Regis about Associate Membership. They are going back to their trustees but did say it might be some time before we hear from them.</p> <p>As requested, I will include change of contacts at each set of minutes and as far as I know only been two changes: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graham Brooks is now the contact at Warwick Bridge Corn Mill. • David Harte at Alderholt, Richard and Sandra's son had taken over the running of the mill during lockdown. 	

<p>We were sad to receive an email from Michael Shaw at Golspie Mill to say he has ceased trading as he has been offered a position in Forest and Land Scotland. He said that he will continue to live in the mill house but doesn't know what will become of the mill. It's owned by Sutherland Estates and leased by Fergus Morrison who restored it in the early/mid 90s and he has sublet to Michael since 2001.</p> <p>David Howell from Offley Mill is only running his mill 2 days a week (see Mill Report)</p> <p>As always, I want to thank everyone who responds to my queries from diverse issues such as can you mill broad beans, to someone who had made a Lego windmill, to problems with grain weevil to a trainee millwright who wanted more experience. It is always reassuring to know that you are all there to offer support and advice to each other. Thank you.</p>	
<p>Appointment of Officers for the next year</p> <p>Chair Jonathan Cook – Proposed by LJ Seconded by PW</p> <p>Treasurer Simon Dodd - Proposed by LG Seconded by BP</p> <p>Secretary Lesley Jones -Proposed by AP Seconded by NJ</p> <p>Vice Chair Anne Parry agreed to stand as Vice Chair. Proposed by PW Seconded by LJ</p> <p>NJ Asked if Mill Reports could be included in the minutes - useful for members to read how other mills are getting on. Other members agreed.</p>	<p><i>LJ to ask mills to write a report to include in the minutes and Mill Reports to be included with future minutes</i></p>
<p>Remainder of the Meeting</p>	
<p>Constitution</p> <p>Revised constitution has been sent out to all members which incorporates the changes (as highlighted in red) The main amendments were Mill Membership and how Guild inspections were to be carried out using the agreed assessment criteria.</p> <p>MC Asked how 6 months was arrived at i.e., time between a new miller taking over and the inspection.</p> <p>JC Gives the new miller/owner time to settle and to make sure standards are being upheld.</p> <p>PW Disagreed with revised Constitution. A Guild should be an association of craftsman not buildings. During an inspection it is the miller we are assessing. Questioned what would happen if a new miller/owner was in place. Could they come to the meeting? Is it right they should they have a voice at meetings? Mills should be represented by the Lead Miller or Owner.</p> <p>JC Explained that he views the structure defined in the updated constitution as a workable way of assessing the competence of mills and their Lead Miller as they join the Guild in 2022. His vision is that there will be a medium-term transition from these provisions to a point</p>	

<p>where more and more mills will have representatives who have trained as professional millers, complimenting many of our existing Lead Millers / owners who are qualified by experience. The long-term aim is therefore that we will become a Guild of Master Millers trained either by experience or through the training scheme, hence this constitution is something we can work with in the interim period.</p> <p>BP Could we require that the Lead Miller represents a mill at the meetings? SD Advisable but someone else could step in if the Lead Miller was unavailable however the Lead Miller is the person who must be present at inspections.</p> <p>MC Lead Millers should be present at TCMG meetings so relevant milling issues could be discussed.</p> <p>JC Wording in invitations to meetings could be to “encourage” (rather than require) the Lead Miller to attend meetings.</p> <p>LJ All mills will be asked to identify their Lead Miller and that person will be in main contact and will be the main person invited to the meetings.</p> <p>PW Asked about mills that had a new Lead Miller or were currently being restored but had previously been members. JC Will be due a reinspection and if they don’t meet the standards for full membership, would revert to Associate Membership. SD Suggest we write to Sibsey JC Sibsey needs to come off membership, as not currently milling, until a new miller is appointed once the mill is leased once repaired.</p> <p>PW Made the point that if a miller leaves a mill and if it was the miller who was the member of the Guild, we could maintain contact with that person.</p> <p>Voted and agreed to adopt new Constitution including Assessment Criteria 12 Votes in Agreement, 1 Abstention</p>	<p><i>LJ to ask all mills to identify Lead Miller</i></p> <p><i>LJ to liaise with SD and write to English Heritage re Sibsey to invite them to become members again when mill becomes operational and a Lead Miller appointed</i></p> <p><i>LJ to issue agreed dated constitution</i></p>
<p>Inspections and Inspection Team</p> <p>Committee propose a charge of £150 is made for inspections paid directly to Inspector by the mill. This is in recompense for time/fuel etc.</p> <p>JC Has approached a number of members to be part of an Inspection Team and 3 members have agreed to date. Awaiting to hear from others. The Assessment Criteria will be clear and paperwork will be kept to a minimum.</p> <p>LG Asked if other members could shadow Inspectors (as a silent observer).</p> <p>After some discussion it was suggested that it would be better to run sessions to discuss issues rather than distract from the Inspection.</p>	<p><i>JC to contact members who have not replied to build an Inspection Team</i></p>

<p>Members agreed unanimously to adopt the new Inspection approach.</p>	
<p>Folic Acid Update</p> <p>JC Sent out an email to encourage everyone to give their views on the consultation document. It is important to get as many views as we can to get exemption. JC asked all mills to encourage as many people as possible to take part in consultation. Small mills exemption is important for all our members.</p> <p>Deadline 23rd November</p> <p>JC Please respond as individuals if you can/don't want to respond as a mill.</p> <p>PW Asked if the exemption covers all small mills including traditional mills. JC confirmed this was the case.</p>	
<p>EA's Permitting and Licensing Charging Scheme 2022 Update</p> <p>NJ A lot of other organisations are very concerned about the scheme from an environmental/conservation point of view. Could strengthen our case by: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having an audit of the environmental benefits. • Work with an academic intuition who would fund a piece of research. <p>If we do need legal advice, we might need to find a lawyer who could help us but could be very expensive</p> <p>BF Historic England have commissioned a research project on historic locations for hydro. Burton Mill is taking part. They are looking at the full potential of historic sites. Result expected at the end of next year and will include environmental benefits.</p> <p>He has also received a thesis from a university student looking at hydro in Wiltshire in historic mill sites which also covered environmental benefits.</p> <p>Steve Temple (from SPAB) raised the issue with the Joint Committee of National Amenity Societies</p>	
<p>Social Media and Website Update – presented by LJ</p> <p>At the last meeting we agreed that we would set up a Media working group to look at social media and the website and thank you to Anne, Alan and Sally for being part of that group.</p> <p>Firstly, we set up a members Facebook group which many of you have joined so we can communicate directly with each other.</p> <p>We then talked about social media but decided before we could tackle this, we needed to refresh the website. We have tried to make sure all</p>	

<p>the links are working, anything that was obviously not relevant was removed and the layout was changed.</p> <p>A TCMG Instagram and Twitter accounts have been set up.</p> <p>The group were not sure what else the members wanted, i.e. Did they want a WhatsApp group, should there be a Mills Facebook account etc so we sent out a questionnaire on survey monkey which some people have replied to be sent out again in case there are any further responses.</p> <p>The next stage is to look at the content on the website especially the members section so we will be asking for opinions on different pages and if they are relevant.</p> <p>Things the members can do: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send us any suggestions/improvements to the website (part of survey) • Give us permission to share Instagram posts • Use #tradcornmillersguild on all your Instagram posts • Any feedback on the content in the member's section and suggestions on what you would find useful to be included in this section. 	<p><i>LJ to resend survey to members to get more responses</i></p> <p><i>Working Group to look at the member's section</i></p> <p><i>LJ to send requests/reminders out to members</i></p>
<p>Grain Suppliers including Pro Organica</p> <p>LJ Pro Organica, a company that import grain from Ukraine, regularly email us. Just asking if anyone had used their flour/quality etc</p> <p>PW Greens Mill in Nottingham are using Ukrainian wheat and he will try to find out more information.</p> <p>No other members present used Ukrainian wheat</p> <p>Jonathan Wheeler will have some Squarehead Master grain for sale and will contact LJ with details when it is ready.</p> <p>LG asked about a black wheat. PW Tuxford have milled Blacksmith Wheat which produced a lot of interest but not many sales. BP Acorn Bank have milled about half a tonne and said very popular.</p>	<p><i>LJ to circulate details when received</i></p>
<p>AOB</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. JC Miller Training Scheme to be discussed at next meeting 2. LG Had an enquiry to supply Malted Barley Flour – will send details to LJ to circulate. 3. PW Involved in various Grain Alliances. Feels that the Guild needs to be more high profile within these Alliances. <p>SD Charlotte (Worsborough Assistant Miller) went to the Yorkshire Grain Alliance meeting last week, as an individual, not as a representative of the mill, and was concerned as Master Bakers seem</p>	<p><i>On next agenda</i></p> <p><i>LG to email LJ to circulate request.</i></p>

to be driving the Alliance. They want the grain but reluctant to commit to the volume plus seem happy to get flour milled on a farm or by using a mock mill. Charlotte has decided to pull out of the Yorkshire Grain Alliance. Worsbrough already withdrawn as commercially they felt they could not support the small quantities and bakers did not have the commitment to buy the flour.

AP Felt the Alliances could be ephemeral, depends on who is running the group. The Welsh Grain Forum use it as a way of sharing information so it is mainly a network of addresses

PW Makes sense for mills to be involved with farmers and maybe help lead some of the Alliances.

JC suggested key points we need to do: -

1. Identify key contacts at each Alliance
2. Promote ourselves as a Guild
3. Individual mills need to be engaged in local forums
4. Maybe invite members of the forums to mills to see how flour is produced.

AP Map has been produced by Andy Forbes of Brockwell Bake of all Grain Alliances

AP Suggested any courses run by mills would be really useful so people understand about buying grain, providence of the wheat etc

JC Thanked everyone for attending the meeting. It is important we are all there to support each other.

Next Meeting will be via Zoom

Set up a Group to look at Alliances

AP to send link to LJ to circulate

LJ to make sure next meeting is not in the school holidays