



County Chair's Chatter.....

Hello Everyone,

Well, the past few months have been a bit different to normal, but unfortunately, I think we are all used to Zoom and online meetings. Every club has taken to doing different activities online showing that there is still loads to do from the comfort of your own home. It's great to show how resilient we all are. BUT Boris has relaxed it so we have been able to have the first few meetings in person with sports being a great activity as it's easier to maintain social distancing. But I'm sure it's good to see your friends again!!

We have recently received further updates from National that the under 18s can have more relaxed and bigger groups for activities but the over 18s are not allowed to meet again. I know this is a shame as I for one was wanting to see more of people and hopefully see you at your club meetings, HOWEVER if you are feeling vulnerable due to social isolation please do speak up, as we can arrange a meeting and help with any mental health issues if you would like. My phone is always on!! 07789775255!

With the weather warming up I'm sure everyone will take advantage of the longer days and socially meet people! Especially in the pubs when they open!! And by the time you read this they will be!!!

I am looking forward to the stock judging that will be happening on Sunday the 25th April, via Zoom, please see emails from the office regarding further information.

Also, just a reminder that the office is still very much active and if you have any questions, Suzi loves

County President's Proposal.....

Well done to Bradfield on starting their Welly challenge and those members who took part in the Spring Comps, also to those who put it all together under these difficult times.

Hoping that the present lockdown is coming to an end, I'm looking forward to getting my hair cut and even going to the dentist again. Some of you will be longing to go to the pub, having a meal out, meeting friends and

hearing from everyone and I encourage everyone to reply to her emails as it helps everything run smoother.

South East Area saw lots of entries for the Spring comps and I was proud to be part of Berkshire with many of our teams winning and heading though to the National finals.

Hopefully there are plenty more competitions coming and I hope we do just as well, so the more people who enter, the better chance we have to beat Oxfordshire to the highest points cup which we were so close behind them last year.

We are starting to put additional events in the calendar with the Agricultural industry leaders and will be exclusive to Berkshire members so please watch this space and I encourage everyone to attend, of course, COVID dependant (I can't wait to stop saying that)!

The Berkshire Ball is BACK on the 16th October!!! 3rd time lucky!!, everyone is welcome, please contact myself, Hannah Walters or Suzi in the office regarding tickets.

Don't forget to help your club complete the 'Give it Some Welly challenge' and tell your friends and family all about it, to raise funds along the way www.justgiving.com/fundraising/berkshire-yfc

I hope everyone stays safe and just remember the more you put into something the more you can get out of it.

Henry Graham (Berks Chairman)

getting back to the life you had before. Please take care and treat our new found freedom with caution. When I retired, I thought I would have all the time in the world, then we had lockdowns, how perfect to do all those tasks around the home - what a mistake - others thought I had time on my hands, "can you just do this for me" seemed to come from all ways. Not easy to say no if you want an easy life, don't get me wrong I enjoy being busy, but these days it takes twice as long to do half of what I was able to do a few years ago.



My advice therefore is don't hesitate, if you want to do something get on and do it, tomorrow may be too late. How about signing up for a course in a subject completely different from what you are used to, perhaps welding, pottery, car maintenance or flower arranging?

Keep safe.

Andrew Kimber (Berks President)

News From National



- Nine of the National competition's finals will be held online this year due to the difficulties for County Federations & Areas holding competition rounds, caused by the restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- NFYFC's Annual General Meeting 2021 is Thursday 29th April, 7.30pm, to be held online

Dates for Your Diary.....

- **25th April Pre Show** – Stockjudging, which will take place virtually & hopefully the rest later in the year when Covid allows by Shefford YFC
- **16th October County Ball** – If you would like tickets, please contact Hannah 07501 460 051, Henry 07789 775 255 or County Office 07884 393 524

200 Club for BFYFC

The 200 club raises money for Berkshire Federation of Young Farmers Clubs. The money goes towards funding the office.

You and/or your family can enter 6 draws a year – with a main prize of £100 plus many more monetary prizes for just £20 a year.

Congratulations to the 2021 winners so far.

1st Draw – R Cowan, D.W Bruce, S Gore

2nd Draw – R Bracey, C D'Olley, B Smith

If you would like to join, please contact a 200 Club representative; Heather Cantlay, Alethea Snelling, Sharon Stanley & Mark Hathaway.

County Competitions Communique

February and March saw many of our members competing in both the County and South East Area Public Speaking Competitions. All of these were held over Zoom reflecting the new virtual world and it was certainly very different to how we have ever run competitions before.

The Berkshire rounds were held mid-February over 3 days and evenings. There were entries in Junior Reading, Junior Public Speaking, Intermediate Braintrust, Senior Debating, Junior Member of the Year and Senior Member of the Year. Which meant that once the Berkshire County rounds were complete, we had some very high quality ahead of the South East Area Rounds. Well done to all members who competed in these competitions.

It was evident that everyone who competed had put in a lot of hard work and practice, in addition everyone faced the challenge of adapting to the new remote running of the event, a big thank and well done to everyone. In addition, as always, a thank you to all of our knowledgeable and experienced judges who helped over the three days and made the competitions a success.

Three weeks later and it was on to the South East Area Rounds, this year Berkshire and Hampshire were responsible for running the weekend, this took a huge amount of planning and a great number of very late nights in the run up to this competition, thanks to an excellent support team we did it together. As with everything new, it was never going to go without a few hiccups but thank you to everyone for being patient and understanding while we fixed these issues!

The weekend was very successful for Berkshire; we had members involved in every competition, finishing with some impressive scores and results, which were as follows:

4th Junior Reading



- 1st Junior Speaking
- 1st Senior Debating
- 1st Situations Vacant
- 2nd Junior Member of the Year
- 1st Senior Member of the Year

A huge congratulations to everyone who competed, Berkshire certainly defended our Public Speaking Champions titles!

Hopefully, these were our first and last Zoom Public Speaking Competitions, it was a great learning curve for all aspects of the competition; whether organising, competing or judging but something we hope we won't have to do again next year.

Unfortunately, due to the circumstances, we were unable to run the sports competitions, but it is something we are hoping to do when restrictions allow.

Hannah Walters (Berks YFC Comps Chairman)

'Give it Some YFC Welly Relay'

NFYFC has launched a campaign to raise funds for YFC and is developing fundraising activities throughout the year.

To kick things off, the first activity started in October 2020 to give YFC members the chance to help secure their club and county's future with the Give it Some YFC Welly Relay.

The clubs are challenged to 'travel the distance' between each of the clubs in their county to pass a 'virtual' welly from one club to the next, raising funds along the way.

Each club in Berkshire is encouraging their members to all help towards achieving the clubs 30 miles over the next few months. This can be achieved by walking, running, scooting, bike or horse riding. The club will use social media to document their achievements, so please keep an eye on the club's social media pages to see how they are getting on and give a little support with a thumbs up at least!

Club Communication

Bradfield's Broadcast....

It was a slow and slightly reluctant start to 2021 with a feeling of *Deja-Vu* as we returned to virtual Club meetings for the New Year, but after a Scavenger Hunt and catch-up meeting for the members to drop into we got our momentum going. A successful Public Speaking evening saw good take up from the members for all competitions and we were off on a roller coaster ride which saw PS practices pretty much every night of the week as the Reading teams practiced with their text "A kestrel for a Knave". The Speaking teams honed their introductions and speeches, the Brainstrust team were interrogated over their knowledge and opinions of current affairs and the debate team readied themselves across two motions. Before the County Public Speaking competition took place, we celebrated Chinese New Year with a stir fry evening...





Berks YFC Chit Chat

April 2021

The County Public Speaking and Member of the Year Competitions were held virtually across an afternoon and several evenings, there will be an in-depth report elsewhere I'm sure, but we were very proud of all our members and their successes, as well as our added personnel – Jess Elliman and Flo Waite from Newbury who, although new to the Public Speaking comps, excelled themselves and will no doubt bring extra competition next year. Henry Graham joined several Bradfield old timers to provide a proper debate competition. Individually Seb and Josh fought it out for JMOY, and Hannah took SMOY, all the members duly impressing the judges with their knowledge and activities despite lockdown restrictions.

The practices and preparation paid off with our teams qualifying for the Area rounds, but this also meant the practices continued almost daily and a very great commitment was shown by all concerned in readiness for the Area comps.

Pancake evening has become a traditional must-have YFC evening for the club and this year was no different. The members being in their own homes and kitchens did mean none of the traditional tidying up afterwards! We launched our 2021 lockdown challenges, which would this year include a carrot growing challenge. Seeds were distributed to all the members for them to plant and we will be looking for the longest, heaviest and most comedy shaped carrots that the members can propagate. We are following another photography challenge, and this will run throughout the year with the best seasonal photo for each month being chosen for a 2022 Club calendar.

The inclement weather certainly got us off to a good start and we look forward to further entries as the year brightens up.



Like several YFC's up and down the country, members joined the live JCB presentation on their Fastest Tractor in the World, which was a very technical and interesting talk about their world record attempt with Guy Martin. Unfortunately, Guy was not part of the talk, but it was certainly insightful.



Before we knew it Spring Comps was upon us and multiple Zoom accounts, meetings and breakout rooms were in full swing. Like the County round this was a first for Area comps and as an interested party trying to view multiple competitions it was not the easiest, but it was successful for the members taking part and Berkshire members certainly seemed better prepared for the format, even down to their virtual YFC backgrounds – well done to the very small Berkshire team for pulling it together. It was a competitively successful event for the Bradfield and Berkshire teams, wins in the Speaking (Zoe, Stephen and Aine), Debating (Hannah, Michael, Summer, Henry, and Jess), Senior Member of the Year (Hannah) and Situations Vacant (Jess), second in JMOY (Josh) and a disappointing fourth albeit with an amazing performance from the Reading Team (Alice, Marnie and Trixie). National Finals await – virtually for these too!





We have continued to meet virtually with a brilliant Pictionary evening – did you know about the whiteboard function on Zoom? It is well worth a try. We launched our effort for the Welly Relay and although we are waiting for a couple more submissions, we have managed some additions and donations to the Just Giving Page for County. As we got towards Easter an Egg-blowing and decorating evening was the name of the game – apparently most our members have not done this before, so it was quite entertaining, there was certainly a surplus of liquid egg available for omelettes and scrambled egg – thanks Alice and Marnie for running this at short notice.

Members have started preparing for the Stock Judging, which, again on Zoom, will be a new and different experience, but we are sure they will rise to the challenge. We look forward to getting back to face-to-face meetings with the members.

Gordon Fletcher (Bradfield YFC)

Newbury's News....

What we have been up to since the last update?

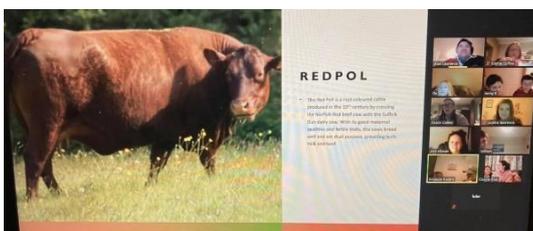
Major excitement since our last update, we were able to have our first face to face meeting since February 2020! Members spent the evening making Christmas table decoration at Little Wyford Farm. Huge thank you to the Englefield family for allowing us to use the barn. An added bonus for the evening was that we made £70 towards our charity fundraising for Time2Talk.



Our excitement was short-lived as the country was plunged into lockdown again, and we had to go back to virtual meetings. Whilst not everyone's favourite thing, what a turnout we have had. Nearly 100% of our membership at every meeting and we've had a lot of fun along the way.

In January we held a virtual Quiz with rounds on Livestock, Wildlife, Sport, Books, Random and a bonus round! Thank you, Carli, for hosting.

February was a busy month, with two meetings and a county competition. Alan prepared a great Animal identification evening on cattle and sheep. Members were shown a picture and they had to shout out what breed they thought it was. They then discussed where originated from, what it is used for etc. We weren't too bad with the cattle, but the sheep left us a bit stumped! Collectively we have a lot to learn and will do some more. Next time, we plan to do pigs and horses.





As we couldn't field a full team, Flo and Jess took part with Bradfield in the Public Speaking and Debating county competitions. Both did well, but they weren't in the winning teams so didn't go through to the next round. Great experience however, and we hope more members will want to take part next year.

Back by popular demand, we held another virtual scavenger hunt, this time organised by Carli. Judging by the screams of laughter and crashing around, a fun evening was had by all.

March saw the last of the virtual meetings, hopefully for a long time! Jess and Fiona hosted an informative evening talking about Stockjudging, giving members all the tip and tricks required to be successful at Stockjudging. It is amazing to hear how many points can be gained by the right attire and addressing the judge in the correct manner! We hope this will inspire some of our members to take part in the Pre-Show Stockjudging.

True Facts was an idea we got from NFYFC. Members submitted a fact in secret which were read out and everyone had to guess who the fact belonged to. There were some interesting ones from being able to stand in their head for an extraordinary amount of time; losing a welly and having to walk miles home bare foot; met Valegro, an Olympic gold-medal winning horse; prize winner at the local ploughing match hay competitions; losing a toenail at a YFC meeting and even someone who is terrified of cows! We had 11 facts in all. Well done to Flo and Grace for guessing the most right.

What's coming up!

Not a computer in sight, we have the following planned:

April - Sheep Stockjudging and making scarecrows out of Recycled materials

May - Sports evening at Kingsclere Rec and Police Dog Training at Little Wyford Farm

June - Novelty Assault Course and a visit to Malshanger Lavender Farm

July - Yomp and sausage sizzle and end of year Family BBQ & Rounders evening

Emma Collins (Newbury YFC Club Leader)

Shefford's Summary...

Shefford YFC have been keeping very busy over the past few months, counting down the days until we can meet again in person. We kicked off 2021 with a virtual scavenger hunt over zoom, public speaking practise with a few rounds of 'Call My Bluff', where members had to separate the true definitions of words from the bluffs along with other games and a quiz.

We timed our first February meeting around Shrove Tuesday and had our members cooking up a storm in their kitchens with a pancake meeting – measuring who could flip their pancake the highest was a little more challenging over zoom than in the hall, but we persevered and a great time was had by all. Aside from our meetings, we also had a Shefford team enter the county junior reading competition made up of Georgia Pilditch, Louisa Hayward and Annabelle Hudson. It was the first public speaking competition for all of them and, despite the age difference between them and other teams entered, they represented Shefford brilliantly.

In lieu of our usual lambing meeting, we opted for a video taken by one of our club leaders, Milly, of a lambing that happened previously with their sheep. We decided that again, while we were still restricted to virtual meetings only, this meeting had the added benefit of a guaranteed lamb and was a lot warmer! Milly and Andrew West then answered any questions from the members about lambing. This meeting was then followed by a meeting featuring a video of Sam Bracey and her 'pet cow', talking us through the basics of stockjudging and tips and tricks when judging cattle. The members then showed us their own pets and had a go at describing them using the



stockjudging terms. This was great to introduce stockjudging to some members who might not have heard of it before and encourage members to enter the competition.

We then bravely ventured back into the kitchen for another baking meeting, this time it was chocolate easter nests and easter egg cheesecakes. Lots of chocolate eaten before and after the baking, but everyone enjoyed it.

Our next meeting is our first in person meeting in over a year, so everyone is really looking forward to the game of rounders we have planned this week.

Milly West (Shefford YFC)



Windsor & Maidenhead's Words...

Since our last update we have had many more exciting zoom meetings.

We have had 2 quiz nights, one hosted and created by Daniel Murray and Emma Freeman.

We have had a guess the object night which is played like guess who Only with objects from a member's house. Everyone had a turn at picking an object and letting everyone guess what it was.



We had another riddle scavenger hunt, which was great fun for everyone. I'd say it's one of our best meetings for everyone getting stuck in and having a go.

We have also managed to get in a bit of competition practice, with virtual stock judging. I'd like to say well done to everyone who took part as I think they all did fantastic as it is especially difficult to place the order of the animals from a picture on zoom.



Another thing we have recently started is Instagram takeovers. Please go and have a little look at our Instagram it's @windsor_maidenhead_yfc. For the first one we had our chairman Richard Dent show us around the farm. The second week we had Daniel Murray our health & safety officer, show us what he gets up to in his job at a school. And our most recent one was with Tia Thwaite with a very eventful day at the horse yard.



Berks YFC Chit Chat

April 2021



A massive thank you to Charlotte Costard our secretary for arranging the Instagram takeovers and for setting up all of the zoom links.

Ellie Smith (Windsor & Maidenhead Club Leader)