



BIFGA NEWSLETTER 153

August 2018

ELECTION OF OFFICE HOLDERS

At the July meeting of the BIFGA General Committee, office holders were re-elected as follows: Chairman - John Breach; Vice Chairman - Clive Edmed; Treasurer – David Budd.

Current members of the BIFGA Committee (in alphabetical order) are: John Breach; David Budd; Sam Barnes; Andy Bull; Colin Corfield; John Dench; Clive Edmed; Jon Hatch; John Higgs; Wendy Johnson; Peter Kedge; David Knight; Judith Perry; Richard Stogdon; Nick Swatland; Viv Tanna; Chris Tanton; and Charles Worsfold.

Whilst BIFGA is extremely well served by the present Committee, we would be very pleased to consider the co-optation of other members. If you are interested, please let the Secretary know.

30th BIFGA AGM – WEDNESDAY 27th JUNE 2018

The 30th BIFGA AGM was held at Headcorn Aerodrome by kind permission of Jamie Freeman and Andrew Boxall. The AGM was held in the Scramble Hut, which had recently been erected, and the “airfield theme” was enhanced due to a Dakota being parked just outside the building. BIFGA wishes to acknowledge the very generous support given towards this event by:

Agrovista UK Ltd., Rutherford House, Nottingham Science and Technology Park, University Boulevard, Nottingham NG7 2PZ Tel: 0115 939 0202 Contact: Alex Radu. Email: enquires@agrovista.co.uk Website: www.agrovista.co.uk.

The AGM was followed by a presentation from Paul Bennett, Technical Head of Fruit, Agrovista, on Product Management within Fungicide Spray Programs. The presentation was followed by Ms Ali Capper of English Apples and Pears Ltd, who gave an informative update on her work with EAP Ltd.; also, her work with the NFU where she is Chairman of the Horticulture and Potatoes Board. Nick Swatland, a BIFGA Committee member then led an open discussion on the crop prospects for the coming season.

This was followed by a tour of the Lashenden Air Warfare Museum, which features exhibits from both World Wars, Vietnam War, Falklands War and both Gulf Wars. A delicious barbecue, rounded off with a 30th Anniversary Cake, donated by John and Anne Tobutt, brought the highly enjoyable meeting to a close.

GROCERIES CODE ADJUDICATOR (GCA) – UPDATE ON CONFERENCE AND SUPPLIER TRAINING

The fourth Groceries Code Adjudicator Conference was held in London on Monday 25th June 2018. It was a well-attended meeting, but, unfortunately, there did not appear to be many representing suppliers from the top fruit sector. This is a pity, especially as the Adjudicator (Ms Christine Tacon) and her team are most approachable. They are also willing to discuss the operation of the Code with individuals on a one-to-one basis. They can be contacted on 0203 738 6537 or email: enquiries@gca.gsi.gov.uk. A full report about the meeting can be found on the GCA website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/groceries-code-adjudicator.

INTERIM REPORT ON FARM INSPECTION AND REGULATION REVIEW

Dame Glenys Stacey has published her interim report on the Farm Inspection and Regulation Review. It is a lengthy document, but there is an executive summary which covers the main points. It can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/farm-inspection-and-regulation-review>

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NATIONAL FRUIT SHOW – WED 24th /THURS 25th OCTOBER 2018

As usual, BIFGA will be having a stand at the National Fruit Show. Please feel free to visit the stand for light refreshments, and to meet up with friends old and new. Please also consider entering some fruit in the show classes. The Competition Schedule and entry form can be downloaded from: www.nationalfruitshow.org.uk, or telephone 01732 874564. The deadline for the apple and pear classes is: **Monday 8th October**; soft fruit **Friday 19th October**; nuts **Friday 12th October**, and heaviest apple/pear **Wednesday 17th October**.

BIFGA QUIZ - SATURDAY 24th NOVEMBER 2018

Please make a note of the date (harvest will be long over!), and think about getting a team together. The event will be again held at the Staplehurst Village Centre, High Street, Staplehurst, Kent TN12 0BJ. As usual, we would be most grateful to receive donations of raffle prizes. Tables can be booked for up to 8 people, but individuals or couples can join other tables on the night.

BIFGA TECHNICAL DAY – WEDNESDAY 30TH JANUARY 2019

The BIFGA Technical Day will be held on Wednesday 30th January 2019 at the Dale Hill Conference Centre, Ticehurst, Wadhurst, East Sussex TN5 7DQ.

MAJOR SPONSORS

Over the years, BIFGA has been very fortunate in attracting major sponsorship from some of its Associate Members. Please find attached a list covering the last fifteen years, which shows the wide-range of companies involved; also, how some have been generous enough to support us on more than one occasion – please reciprocate by supporting these companies whenever possible.

We would, of course, always be pleased to welcome new sponsors, and we would also like to remind all Associate Members that there are other opportunities to bring their products and services to the attention of our grower-members, such as by sponsoring a Newsletter, or by having a table/pitch at one of our events.

We are now looking for major sponsors for next year's events, please contact the BIFGA Secretary, Judi Perry for further information.

CIRCULAR EMAILS SENT TO MEMBERS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

- 26.04.18 – BIFGA response to Government Consultation on Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit
- 01.05.18 – Reminder to reply to Government Consultation
- 31.05.18 – BIFGA AGM Programme and Agenda
- 12.06.18 – GCA Annual Conference
- 15.06.18 – Blue Mountain Recruitment
- 04.07.18 – GCA Newsletter 16th Edition
- 13.07.18 – Operation Stack
- 20.07.18 – Interim Report on Farm Inspection and Regulation Review

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Annual subscriptions are now due, and if you have not already paid, please do so as soon as possible to help keep down administration costs.

J R Breach, Chairman

BRITISH INDEPENDENT FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

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