

Sims Hill Shared Harvest AGM February 23, 2016

A quorum of members was present.

AGM – Board election

We began with the Board election, for which Chris explained the rules about how many members of each different type can be on the Board. We needed to run an election as we can only have 3 more veg share members of the Board and 4 veg shares were standing.

Each veg share member who is standing for the Board and was present introduced themselves briefly. Steve Hobbs was unable to be here this evening. Members voted in a secret ballot.

Damian Phillips, Amelia Lake and Stephen Hobbs were duly elected. Miriam Schoen was elected to the Board as a grower member and Chris Sunderland was also elected as a supporter member and is serving as the current Chair. The remaining Board members Kristin Sponsler the current Secretary, and Simone Osborn are continuing as veg share members, and Martin Campodonic is continuing as a grower member. Chris thanked everyone who stood for the Board.

Roberta Sunderland stood down as Treasurer and has yet to be replaced. We will need to co-opt the next Treasurer to the Board. Mike Lloyd-Jones also stood down from the Board at the AGM. We want to thank Roberta and Mike for their past service to the Board and to the wider Sims Hill community.

Welcome to our Farm Manager Miriam

Miriam Schoen introduced herself to the members and explained about her background in biodynamic growing and the types of jobs and experience that she has had.

Grower's report

Martin gave us a report about the last year. Feed Bristol crops did fairly well, but we had a major struggle getting crops in at the Sims Hill field. We had good workshares but had difficulty getting continuity with some people. We are reviewing the structure for that. We have created some good infrastructure and some good contacts in the city. Our plan for growth last year was probably too ambitious. We had difficulties with cash crops with pests in the polytunnels and not also not having clear agreements with wholesalers. Sharing our cropping difficulties helped to bring all the members together. Martin thinks this year should be a very positive year.

Bruce felt that it was a year of transition and several things did not go to plan, but several bits of infrastructure have got put in place and he is looking forward to the year ahead. The first work day of the 2016 was a great success.

Sim brought up that potato growing has been a big energy drain, and David Bavistock suggested that we should grow the potatoes in a more mechanised fashion.

Chris brought up the idea of us buying our own tractor which would cost about £5000 and asked members to consider whether they might be interested in buying a share in a second-hand tractor. David Bavistock offered the use of one of his tractors as an interim measure. He would be happy for us to keep it on the site at Feed Bristol in a container.

Financial Report

Please go to the Financial Presentation [here](#) to see the figures presented for the Financial Report.

Member discussions

Carol asked if it would help if members would be willing to not have certain bought-in veg if that would help with the finances. This is an issue that could be sent out to members during a future survey.

Chris then asked if people want to move into groups to discuss various topics as in what kind of veg they like, or tightening up the workshare programme, or ideas about things that members can do to help strengthen Sims, and David would lead a conversation about tractors and equipment.