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Deadline for next mailing is
10th February 2009

Berkshire Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs

Registered Charity No. 300104

News & You

January 2009

Dates for your Diary

January

- 11th Public Speaking &
Member of the year
- 19th Management Meeting
- 26th Executive Meeting
- 30th Senior Meeting
Bowling, Reading

February

- 8th SEA competitions
- 10th Newsletter Deadline
- 18th & Staff Conference
- 19th Ronnie out of office
- 27th Senior Meeting
Talk, TBC

March

- 1st 5 a-side Football
- 22nd SEA Public Speaking
- 23rd Executive Meeting
- 28th Senior Meeting
Stockjudging Practice

**If you would like to promote
any of your Club's activities in
the Diary column, please email
your information to county on
berksyfc@btopenworld.com**

5 A SIDE FOOTBALL

Sunday 1st March 2008

The Clere School, Burghclere. RG20 9HP



The Efficiency Judges require your Club's Information

Mr Tom Mitchell
76 Woodlands Road
Baughurst, Tadley
Hampshire
RG26 5NP



Miss Lorna Bendall
11 Ashman Road
Thatcham
Berkshire
RG19 4WD

Welcome from your new County Chairman

For those of you that know me, Hi and for those who don't know me, let me introduce myself. My name is Tom Watts and I have been a member of Young Farmers for 15 years. I joined Bracknell YFC at the age of 10 and I'm now a current member of Reading, so yes you can probably tell I'm getting on a bit, although not looking it, is a great advantage. When I first joined I had no idea what young farmers was about, my dad and my uncle were members of Bracknell YFC back in the day, so I was following in their footsteps and keeping the Watts clan pretty much involved in the YFC Movement. I went from being a shy and not a very confident boy to well... Let's just say one of the lively members in the Berkshire County!!



I am grateful and proud to be a member of young farmers. It has given me so many opportunities throughout the years starting from becoming Bracknell's club vice chairman one year to club chairman the next and gradually working my way up to county level, firstly taking on social chairman then to competition chairman and now County chairman.

In January 2003 I was privileged enough to act as an ambassador for National YFC by going on an educational exchange to Zambia for 3 months, with the Discovery programme. In those 3 months I worked in a small school, which was set up for all the European and America children whose parents were farming in the African country. The school was based on a game reserve and the experiences I encountered whilst I was out there were fantastic.

I have competed in various competitions at County, South East Area and National level, my proudest moment was when I took part in the national public speaking finals a couple of years ago. I thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the competition and never had thought about competing if it wasn't due to a bit of gentle persuasion. So, I hear you say.... 'What do you think Young Farmers is about?'

Personally I feel that Young Farmers is an organisation to share your passion and experiences with people who are interested in farming and rural life, it is a great way to make loads of new friends and those friends you make are friends for life.

There are so many opportunities you can gain from being a member. I have gained a lot and its now my time to give a bit back to you, the members of Berkshire Young Farmers.

My Motto for this year is to have **fun**

And my aim is to get Berkshire YFC **noticed!!**

I hope you can all help me with this aim! As members you are entitled to your say! And any ideas will be welcomed.

It just leaves me to say that I hope you all have a fantastic year and I look forward to meeting you all in 2009!

Tom

Discovery Programme

One space has opened up for the Switzerland exchange which will take place in June/July 2009. The exchangee can arrive anytime between June 22nd and 28th 2009 and then stay for six weeks.

Members should be aged 18 or over on 1 January 2009. Please encourage anybody who you think would be suitable and that would make a good ambassador for YFC. Applications should be received by Friday 16th January 2009. Interviews will take place at January Council weekend.

Discovery Programme

Two spaces remain for the Canada 4H under 21s exchange which will take place in October 2009. The exchange is for 5 weeks and the member will be hosted by one state before flying to Toronto to meet the other delegates at the 4H conference. The member must be willing to host their Canadian 'twin' in July; they will then spend their first week with them in Canada.

Members should be aged over 18 but under 21 on 1 January 2009. Please encourage anybody who you think would be suitable and that would make a good ambassador for YFC. Applications should be received by Friday 16th January 2009. Interviews will take place at January Council weekend.

Discovery Programme

There are 9 spaces remaining on u18s Nordic 4H Youth Camp. The camp will take place between the 22nd – 29th July 2009 in Breim, Norway. The theme for the camp is "Right for U" and will include:

- # Wild nature
- # Coast, fjords and mountains
- # Great cultural experiences
- # International friendship

Members should be aged 18 or under on 1 January 2009. Please encourage anybody who you think would be suitable. Applications should be received by Friday 16th January 2009 – NO INTERVIEW, if over subscribed selection will be done by age.

Club Exchange

Cutnall Green YFC in Worcestershire are looking to do an exchange with a club in July around 150 - 200 miles away. Cutnall Green YFC has around 70 members of all ages, many of our members are very active within both club and county. Cutnall Green YFC has a wide range of members with many different interests. If any clubs are interested in doing an exchange, please contact Joce on 07917805862 or joceyfc@yahoo.co.uk

A Message to you all from Chris Lloyd, Acting Chairman, Board of Management

"At the meeting of the Board of Management on 16 November 2008, I had the honour of being elected its acting chairman and I must firstly thank and pay tribute to Hugh Richards for all the work he has done as chairman.

This is both an honour and a big challenge. As many of you will know, James Eckley has been ill and we have a very stretched staff team at NFYFC at the present time. I know that you will all join me in sending good wishes to James for a speedy recovery and I hope that you will work with the NFYFC staff during this time as I will be. We are working towards getting the staff team up to its full strength but this will take some time, because we want to get the right people for the roles that we have to fill.

I want to thank the NFYFC officers and President for stepping into the breach to keep the show on the road - Lionel in particular has spent many hours to make things happen in the last three weeks.

There is a great deal of work to do but there are great opportunities for YFC. Dealing with the work and taking the opportunities can only really happen if everyone in the YFC movement works together.

Communication is so important to YFC and to me in particular, so please get in touch with me through NFYFC if you want to talk to me about anything at all."

I look forward to working with you.

Chris Lloyd
Acting Chairman
Board of Management

BERKSHIRE YFC PUBLIC SPEAKING/ MOY COMPS REPORT 2009

In the best tradition of Berkshire Federation of Young Farmers' Public Speaking it was "welcome to Bradfield Primary School on a cold and grey winters' afternoon". Teams and Individuals from Bradfield, Newbury and Shefford fought it out for the County Public Speaking and Member of the Year titles.

The assembled audience of parents, members and friends along with President Evelyn Bracey and James Monaghan as Judges were treated to informative and interesting Junior talks on Fishing, Harlequins Rugby Club and the British Honey Bee. The Senior Brainstrust competition with a sole team from Bradfield YFC, covered topics from Tourism in British Agriculture, Agriculture's role in combating climate change to National ID cards and a DNA Database. This team had some excellent points to make and some interesting points of view, but will need to produce some spark and zest to their discussion and performance before the next round at SEA. A young team from Shefford YFC entertained in the reading competition with extracts from Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone; a number of the audience would have quite happily been read to for the rest of the afternoon – commendation indeed for these new members! Meanwhile Andrew Kimber had his work cut out trying to separate William and Andrew in Junior Member of the Year and Hannah, Edward and Stephen in Senior Member of the Year, with only three points between all three senior competitors and four points in the Junior competition it was a close run thing – congratulations to William Smith and Hannah Fisher who will now go forward to SEA to represent Berkshire.

Back with the Junior Public Speaking and it couldn't have been any closer here either! With only one point separating all three teams! With no time penalties coming into play, the result was a nail-biting tie between Bradfield and Shefford in second place and Newbury the winners by only one mark!

My thanks to the Judges for their time and input to the competitions, these things can't run without them, to County Chair, Tom for controlling the stopwatch and to County Administrator, Ronnie for help with the teas. But mainly thank you to the competitors who performed and competed with good manners and integrity and who should ALL be congratulated for their efforts.

Results;	1st	2nd	3rd
Junior Reading	Shefford		
Junior Public Speaking	Newbury 69	= Shefford/ Bradfield 68	
Intermediate Call My Bluff	<i>NO ENTRY</i>		
Senior Brainstrust	Bradfield		
Junior Member of the Year	William Smith Shefford 79	Andrew Findlay Newbury 75	
Senior Member of the Year	Hannah Fisher Newbury 77	Edward Leach Bradfield 76	Stephen Waters Bradfield 74

Gordon

Shefford YFC

We have had a very busy few months at Shefford Young Farmers Club. On the 12th November the club went to visit RAF Welford. John Stevens took us on a tour around the museum. He gave a talk on the history of Welford and how the base first started up. We then got a chance to look round at all the memorabilia and artefacts that are in the museum. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed looking around. We are hoping to go back in the Spring to try some of the hands on activities in the museum and look around outside.

On the 15th September Shefford YFC had their Late Summer Ball. The evening started off with a two course meal and then the dancing began to band Target. With dancing well into the night and a lot of alcohol consumed we raised a lot of money for charity. I think everyone who went will say it was a brilliant night and I certainly cannot wait for next years.

On the 26th November Caroline Graham bravely came to teach us all how to pluck and dress a pheasant. Members were very enthusiastic and all proudly took home their bird at the end of the evening.

On the 17th December we went carol singing. All the money raised from this will go to the charities that we support chosen by our president, Stella Cowan.

We hope all our members had a Happy Christmas! and New Year.

Newbury YFC

December was a busy one for us. We started off with a talk by a heart specialist who came and did a talk about his work fitting heart stents. This was a brilliant evening which was enjoyed by all the members. We have also had a Christmas craft night where we made Christmas wreaths and snowmen out of sweets. We also did a cake sale as St Barts School where we raised £198.

November included the county AGM which saw us winning the Efficiency cup, Country Spotters cup, Andrew Findlay winning the Junior Newbury Show Cup and Hapley Eyres winning the Jesse Mathews competition. We also won lots of other certificates and we are really proud of our achievements this year.

Leading up to Christmas we took part in lots of fundraising and charity events. At the switching on of the Christmas lights in Thatcham we raised £75. We also helped out with the Newbury Weekly News' over 80's Christmas parcels delivery and organised refreshments at the Hungerford Victorian Extravaganza. We also went to see Aladdin at the Corn Exchange in Newbury and had a great Christmas party.

Can I take this opportunity on behalf of the club to wish you all a Happy New Year and we look forward to seeing you all in 2009!

Hannah Fisher

Bradfield YFC

Seems many meetings ago since the last report, these have included a fascinating and entertaining talk on Police Dog Handling, despite the appeal of these working dogs many of the juniors seemed more interested in "playing" with the lights on the dog van and dressing in uniform! We've played sport and even laid a new carpet in Milehouse (finally!) – our thanks to Jimmy Balsdon and Pete Waters for making this happen. As we neared Christmas our meetings took on a more festive theme, with the Mistletoe Ball – not greatly supported unfortunately, but those that came had a good evening and even helped Nigel celebrate his Birthday, again thank you to those that made this happen. The juniors enjoyed their annual Christmas Party thanks to the imagination and efforts of Nicole and Becky (although perhaps we should've laid the carpet after this meeting!). Then it was quickly on to the Panto, Aladdin in Newbury – much fun had by all – as you'd expect "Oh yes it was".

We visited Yattendon Estates' Christmas Tree operation to hear about the different types of trees, how the trees get from the Estate into retail outlets like Homebase and the part they play on the Estate. A last minute addition to the Calendar saw Olly Morris organize Carol Singing on Christmas Eve and members joined his merry band and raised nearly £200 for the Air Ambulance and MacMillan Cancer Support. Nice one guys.

We welcome new members Beth, Tom, Mike, Simon and Jake to the Club and hope they'll enjoy the forthcoming meetings of Ice Skating, Venison preparation and Football. The Club would like to wish a Happy and successful New Year to all members.