

PRESS RELEASE

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WEST MID AGM - PRESS RELEASE

A record number of attendees at this week's AGM, heard from the Chairman, David Tudor that despite the weather and problems with animal disease affecting many shows in 2007, the West Mid had been extremely fortunate on both counts and had, for the first time for 10 years, reported a surplus of £45,000. Peter Cowdy, for Whittingham Riddell, The Society's Auditors, confirmed that whilst expenses for the Society had increased in line with inflation over recent years, the income of the Society had increased faster over the last three years and that this had produced a surplus during this last year.

The Chairman, in his report, said that the surplus had been achieved, in spite of considerable investment in improvements to the infrastructure of the show ground. He expressed the Society's appreciation in particular for the £70,000 grant from GKN towards complete refurbishment of the President's Pavilion, which had cost over £100,000. Henceforth this building would be known as the GKN OffHighway Pavilion. The Chairman added that these improvements to the show ground were vital to the increased income for use of the ground by other events too, a record number of which happened at the ground in 2007.

Mr Tudor paid tribute to the enthusiasm and commitment of the retiring President, Sir David Lees and thanked him for his support over the last twelve months. He introduced the new President of the Society, The Viscount Newport, Landowner of the Weston Park Estate. At 28, Lord Newport will be the youngest ever President of the Society. son of The Earl of Bradford, his Great Great Grandfather, Great Grandfather and Grandfather had all been Presidents before him, thus maintaining a tradition spanning 100 years. Lord Newport said that he was delighted and honoured to be the new President and looked forward with enthusiasm to the coming year and particularly to the two days of the West Mid Show on 21st and 22nd June. In closing the meeting, Lord Newport congratulated the Society on the progress it had made over the last few years.

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