



# European IFYE Alumni

## International Farm/4H Youth Exchange

### Minutes

65<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the European IFYE Alumni

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2025, Cumbria / England

**1. Welcome and Opening of the meeting.**

Sam Hawkes (NI) 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and acting chair, extended a warm welcome and thanks to everyone attending. A minute's silence was observed to honor those members who have recently passed away.

**2. Introduction of Office Bearers**

Sam introduced the Executive Committee; Christine Cooper (Eng), 2nd Vice-President, Kelly Renals (Eng), Newsletter editor, Marc Andre Zuber (Swi), Treasurer; Mari Kindsbekken (No), Secretary

**3. Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda was adopted with no amendments.

**4. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were recorded from Andreas Poelzl (Aut), President and best wishes extended to him from the meeting for a speedy recovery for him. In addition, Sam advised that the Apologies for Absence and greetings received from members were available for viewing on the conference notice board.

**5. Appointment of the Counters and the Establishment of the number of eligible voters**

Ellen Paine (USA) and Dale Yonker (USA) were appointed as the counters. There were 72 eligible voters.

**6. Approval of the Minutes of the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

The minutes which were circulated previously, available on [www.ifye.eu](http://www.ifye.eu) and on the conference notice board, were agreed without any amendments.

**7. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

No matters raised

**8. Reports on Past IFYE Activities**

**8.1. Report on the IFYE Conference in Germany, 2024**

The conference went well, they got very good feedback from the participants. The financials was good.

## 8.2. Executive Committee Report

The report was circulated to Contact Members with the papers for the conference, is displayed on the conference noticeboard and is available on the [www.ifye.eu](http://www.ifye.eu) website.

## 8.3. IFYE Coordinators Report (new this year)

## 8.4. (Country) Reports on Special or New Programs

Swiss: things go as usual, they have the same problems as other countries, getting the younger people involved. They have started up again with Luxembourg, this was very good. They have also a good exchange with Taiwan.

## 8.5. Report on European Rally, and greetings from RYE

No one attending from RYE. They had their Rally in Slovakia this year.

# 9. Financial Matters

## 9.1. Main Report 2024 – 2025

The actual financial year closes about CHF 7495.- better than the budget. The main reasons are:

The budgets of the accounts from the Executive Committee were used over CHF 6'000.- less: no hosting Rural Youth Europe, minus CHF 200.- , no extra conference reports, minus CHF 100.- about 850 CHF less for Pins and Certificates (they didn't deliver what we ordered), less costs for Gifts minus of 150 CHF, no travel cost to the AGM at the European Rally minus 200 CHF. Thanks to the Austrian donation for the new comers, the newcomer support resulted in a whopping plus of over 2'770.- CHF. The item 'other expenses' shows a plus of good 970.- CHF, as I booked there the deposit amount from Australia for the world conference in NZ. And finally, we used approximately 800CHF less for the Midterm meeting. Regarding bank charges and bank investments, we closed with a surplus of about 600 CHF thanks to the increase in the value of our investment fund and once a little higher interest rate.

- The annual and non-membership fees are close to 490 CHF higher than budgeted. As only one amount was transferred, I was unfortunately unable to allocate the non-member contributions to the Newcomer fund.

- The Tombola generated because of good sales additional income of about 440 CHF.

- This results in a plus of 7'495.18 CHF compared to the budget and an effective plus of 3'935.18 CHF .

So, unpredictable income and strict spending discipline produce this pleasing financial result.

As you can see, we have CHF 37'440.74 on our UBS accounts, and the UBS LUX strategy fund is worth CHF 21'773.74 .

The general account increased CHF 1'659.48 and is now at CHF 8'895.64 .

## 9.2. Lifetime Members' Fund Report

The lifetime member fund decreased despite three new lifetime members CHF 393.99 . The fund covers, according to the rules in the Blue booklet, the half costs for the midterm meeting. The fund is worth CHF 25'619.01

### 9.3. Development Fund Report

The development fund is at CHF 17244.38. Last year's tombola brought CHF 2'244.38. After the transfer of CHF 2'628.56 to the general account, according to the rules in the blue booklet, and there were no applications, the account close with the plus of CHF 2'244.38 from the tombola income. After this AGM the amount of this CHF 2'244.38 will be transferred to the general account, so we will be at the maximum limit of CHF 15'000.00.

As only one amount was transferred, I was unfortunately unable to allocate the non-member contributions to the Newcomer fund. We spend CHF 640.00 to support 4 newcomers IFYE's. But we received the big donation of 2'770.41 CHF from Austria. So the fund stands by CHF 6'091.25, an increase of CHF 2'130.41 .

This results in a balance sheet of total CHF 58'773.74 on 30th of June 2025. , and therefore an increase in fortune of CHF 3637.42. As we have CHF 923.43 in the special deposit for the World Conference in NZ, the equity capital amounts to 57'850.28 CHF, an increase of 3'011.72 CHF.

### 9.4. Auditor's Report

See attached

## 10. **Applications to the Development Fund**

Application from Northern Ireland.

Young Farmers' Ambassadors (Ulster) are applying for 1000.- CHF

Problems with members after Covid, the group 25-40 years old, never attended or just attended a few times. Run a workshop in October to show them what they do. The budget is 1,600 CHF, and applying for 1,000 CHF.

Approved, unanimously.

## 11. **Proposals from the Board**

### Update the blue booklet

The Blue booklet is written in a very complicated way, things like membership are written in several places. That makes it difficult to read and to make sure we update correctly and all places when there are changes. We suggest to the AGM to rewrite the Blue booklet to make it easier to understand.

Swiss society laws are the base of how the Blue booklet is written. To make sure we do it correctly, someone from Switzerland should be part of a group.

Andreas has sent out information with spring newsletter to all IFYE's asking to think about who can and want to do this. The ones that was elected at the AGM is Linda Steele (NI), Sabine Gallagher-Kobler (Aut), Elaine Meekle (Sco), Vilke Müller (Ger), Birgitte Løes (Nor). Marc-Andre Zuber can help with the financial part of the Blue Booklet. Linda Steele will be leading the group

## 12. Budget 2025/26

### 12.1. Annual Budget

<b>General expenses</b>		<b>Budget 25 - 26</b>
<b>Executive committee</b>		
Hosting Rural Youth Europe		-200,00
Extra conference report		-100,00
Silverpins/Certificates		-900,00
Gifts		-400,00
Newcomer IFYE Support		-160,00
Other Expenses (e.g. Postage, Fees)		-50,00
Travel costs to World conference		0,00
Travel Costs visiting AGM at European Rally		-200,00
Mid term meeting		-3 000,00
<b>Total</b>		<b>-5 010,00</b>
<b>Newsletter / website</b>		
Website, Webhosting, Layout		-150,00
Anniversary booklet		0,00
<b>Total</b>		<b>-150,00</b>
<b>Memberships</b>		
Annual members		900,00
Lifetime members		480,00
Non-Members for Newcomer Fund		200,00
<b>Total</b>		<b>1 580,00</b>
<b>Tombola</b>		
Income		1 000,00
Expences		0,00
<b>Total</b>		<b>1 000,00</b>
<b>Interests</b>		
Interests		100,00
Bank Charges		-150,00
Changing of LUX Strategy fund		0,00
<b>Total</b>		<b>-50,00</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>-2 630,00</b>
<b>Lifetime-member fund</b>		
Expenses		-1 500,00
New Lifetime-members		480,00
<b>Total Change of Lifetime-member fund</b>		<b>-1 020,00</b>
<b>Development fund</b>		
Future of IFYE program applications		0,00
others		-1 000,00
Income from Tombola		1 000,00
<b>Total Change of Development fund</b>		<b>0,00</b>
<b>Newcomer fund</b>		
Support for newcomer / predetermined sponsoring		-160,00
Non-Members fees for Newcomer fund		200,00
from Development fund		1 000,00
<b>Total Change of Newcomer fund</b>		<b>1 040,00</b>

160 CHF: Yes 32 No: 35

200 CHF Yes 32 No: 37

We will keep it as it is.

#### 12.2. Membership fees

Based on the situation today, we won't make any changes to the membership fees.

Annual member: 20 CHF Life Time Member: 240 CHF

### 13. Future IFYE Conferences

Estonia 2026

Switzerland 2027

Sweden 2028

Scotland 2029

2030 → open, applications are welcome.

### 14. Election of Office Bearers

President: Sam Hawkes (NI) Elected in 2025 for a two-year term.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President: Mari Kindsbekken (Nor) Elected in 2025 for a one-year term.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President: Kadri Toomingas (Est) Elected to represent Estonia.

Secretary: Jenna Jade-Pepita Järvenpää (Fin) Elected in 2025 for a two-year term.

Treasurer: Marc Andre Zuber (Swi) Elected in 2024 for a two-year term.

Newsletter Editor: Kelly Renals (Eng): Elected in 2024 for a two-year term.

Auditors from Estonia: Christna Kaska, Annika Kallasmaa

### 15. Any Other Business

Greetings from other organizations: USA IFYE family.

IFYE coordination meeting: Tone (Nor). There should be a contact from the board to coordinate the meeting. Try to have a digital meeting during the midterm meeting, to coordinate what has been happening in all the countries.

Handover Silver- and Golden Certificates for European IFYE's

Silver

Anette Nilson (Swe) New Zealand 2000

Christine Cooper (Eng) Finland 1983

Gold

Ann-Sofi Haraldsson (Swe) Luxembourg 1974

Hans Gfeller (Swi) Denmark 1970

President: Sam Hawkes \*

Date: 7-8-2025

Secretary: Mari Kindsbekken

Date: 7.8.25

Treasurer: M. K. Zuber

Date: 7-8-25 \*\*

\*The above signatory is authorised by the Executive Committee of EIFYEAA to revoke or endorse a new signatory as Treasurer, should it be required for a period of 12 months from this date.

\*\* The above signatory is authorised by the Executive Committee of the EIFYEAA to carry-out the financial duties of the organisation for a period of 18 months from this date.

Mari Kindsbekken (Nor)

Secretary

# AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Annual General Meeting of the European IFYE Alumni Association

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements 01.07.2024 – 30.06.2025.**

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the European IFYE Alumni Association for the year ended 30.06.25. The financial statements comprise the balance sheet, income statement, cash flow statement and notes.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the European IFYE Alumni Association's financial performance and financial position in accordance with Blue Booklet.


## Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with good auditing practice in United Kingdom. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements of the European IFYE Alumni Association have been properly prepared and are good order.

Grange-over-Sands, the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 2025

  
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, Auditor HELEN RAMSAY

  
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, Auditor ALASTAIR MCCORMACK.