

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear Members,

I trust this finds you all well and as busy as ever!

Firstly, may I start by thanking you all for your continued support of BIAC. As you know we are a members organisation and therefore we depend greatly upon your support and involvement, in order to grow and thrive as a body.

What's a 12 months it has been! It is just over a year since Russia invaded parts of Ukraine, no one could have predicted, not only the terrible impact that this has had on the lives of the residents of Ukrainians, but the wider, far reaching, seismic impact on energy, fuel and commodity prices, particularly across Europe. This has directly affected all parts of UK Agriculture Plc and more importantly to our members, how this has directly affected their client's rural businesses. Yet again these external pressures, combined with the removal of direct subsidy and the ever changing direction of the Sustainable Farming Incentive, quite clearly demonstrate the need for considered and honest professional advice that is delivered so well by BIAC members.

One of my aims as Chairman is to promote the credibility of BIAC, as a body of professional members and to highlight the diverse skill set that we all have in order that we are viewed as the "go to" body if someone requires a rural business or planning consultant. As part of this process, we are undertaking a strategic review as it has been 10 years since are last. The first stage of this review is a questionnaire to our members to understand how BIAC is performing as a member organisation and what we could do better. This questionnaire will be coming out to our members in the next few months and I would greatly encourage you to complete it and if you feel helpful get in contact with us directly.

We have been incredibly successful at delivering, yet again, our rural planning and business management conferences. Last year we had a record attendance for our Foundation 1 and 2 courses and this coming year is set to be the same. These courses are incredibly important to are younger and new members and it has become clear to us that a number of national firms are using our courses as a benchmarking requirement. On the back of our success in delivering these courses over a long period of time, it has been decided to deliver an executive training course aimed directly at director/partner level, we hope to deliver this later in the year and I hope that you will be hearing about it shortly. May I take this opportunity to thank everybody that has been involved with any of these events this year.

We have a number of retirements from council this year and would welcome any members that have the time and energy and would like to join council, please contact Victoria directly.

As I am sure you would agree, none of the above would have been possible without the expert input from our Chief Executive, Mike Greatham, and all of the members of Council, who I would like to thank personally.

Finally I would like to thank Victoria, Alex and Carrie at the BIAC office, for without them we definitely could not function!

Very much looking forward to seeing some of you at the business management conference and hopefully at our AGM.

With best wishes

Simon