



Friends of BOAT Autumn 2021

The Polaris Quad was presented to Mr Bill Valentine (centre) by David Wendover, Bill Vellacott, Mark Brazier, (producer of Profi magazine) and David Hodson-Whittle of Polaris.

Chairman's Message

As reported in our last Newsletter the pandemic still impacts our plans for UK residential training but good progress is being made in developing the delivery of in-country training programmes in conjunction with Bicton College particularly in Uganda and Kenya.

At our AGM in early November I stepped down as BOAT Chairman after 7 years and our Vice Chairman John Harris was elected. Both of us graduated in Agriculture from Reading University. John then gained a MSc from Makerere University, Uganda, before being appointed as ODA (now DFID) Livestock Production Adviser to the Malawi Government Extension Service in Southern Region, a position that I held at that

time in Central Region. So our early professional years were very similar. John then returned to the UK to run the family dairy farm followed by a number of appointments in the agricultural industry. Amongst other contributions to our Trust John is busy finalising the publication of "African Anecdotes", a BOAT fundraiser with contributions from a large number of international development practitioners who have worked in Africa. I hope that you buy a copy when it is on sale, enjoy the stories, and support BOAT.

Bill Vellacott MBE, BOAT founder 30 years ago, continues his marathon service to the trust as Deputy Chairman. I remain a trustee with



particular interest in helping BOAT Kenya as it becomes established. I wish John every success in his new role.

Thank you all for continuing to support BOAT.

David Wendover (Chairman)

BOAT joins the digital age

Readers will know that in 2020 BOAT was forced by the Covid lockdown to cancel our course in Institutional Management and Business planning. Covid was also responsible for our decision not to offer the course in 2021 or 2022. In the same way, Bicton's course in Agriculture was also badly affected. However, in response to this, Peter Reed, a BOAT Trustee and a Bicton staff member, began to examine the feasibility of teaching his courses "online", using Microsoft Teams as his preferred method of communication. In the last 12 months Peter has developed his teaching, using "webinars" that allow not only interactions between him and his students but also the involvement of participating farmers in New Zealand and Canada. This very successful initiative has allowed UK students to be exposed to systems of agriculture, and of farming

techniques, with which they are not familiar, and has been very enthusiastically received by them.

In recent conversations among BOAT trustees, it has become apparent that Peter's initiative could well be valuable in allowing BOAT to maintain and develop its existing links with organisations in East Africa with which it has collaborated in the past, and to once again offer an educational and training programme. In the first instance, as a pilot project, it is proposed that several "webinar" sessions will be developed that involve, in Uganda, staff members and farmers from Kulika Uganda, with whom BOAT has had a link for many years, and, in the UK, Bicton students taking Peter's course. It is hoped that the details of the programme will be discussed during a number of "online" sessions in November and December, with a view to being able to offer the first "webinar" at some time

during the Spring Term. BOAT will be looking to Kulika to identify areas of study that they would like to see included in the programme, but it is likely that the first session will be used to introduce the participants to each other, and to highlight some of the differences between systems of agriculture in Uganda and the UK.

We look forward to being able to report on progress in future Newsletters, and to expanding the programme to include other groups and other countries.

2021 Grand Draw

The Grand Draw took place on Tues 23rd Nov by the local Rotary and the overall winner of £1000 is Nigel Rouse and two other winners who bought tickets supporting BOAT are Sue Tidball and Luke Kitto.

The Trustees would like to thank Vapormatic for producing this newsletter and to thank all its sponsors for their generous help.



Contact BOAT

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Zambia Alumni Report from Dr. Christopher Kapembwa

The Zambian Institute of Agriculture (ZIA) was founded in 2007 by Dr. Christopher Pannet Kapembwa who is the TAA Coordinator for Zambia and Southern Africa Region and a BOAT associate. Currently the Institute has 27 students pursuing a diploma in general agriculture. The Institute was also appointed as major partner with the Ministry of General Education implementing agriculture production unit programs in primary and high schools throughout the country.

Vision:

Leading leaders into agriculture transformation.

Programs:

The institute has two major programs. The first one is community agriculture empowerment working with rural farmers through training on sustainable agriculture and farmer start-up support. The second is, offering of a two-year diploma in general agriculture affiliated to Monze College of Agriculture, a government college of agriculture.

Benefits from BOAT:

The Institute has several benefits from BOAT, which goes back to 2011 as an associate and friend of BOAT and also way back when the academic program was introduced in 2017. ZIA has connected with TAA through BOAT. Through TAA ZIA program advertised for volunteers to teach unfortunately the institute was at its inception and could not manage to travel teachers,

despite many willing to help at that time. Since then collaboration has continued with many of them.

The Institute continue to receive many technical books through BOAT. The partnership with Afrinspire is also a major benefit. Computers were received from Afrinspire, and two students are currently being sponsored by Afrinspire. Mr. Ian Sanderson the Director for Afrinspire is now the ZIA's UK contact. Dr. Ravindra C. Joshi, who is the TAA Coordinator for Pacific and currently Visiting Adjunct Professor at ZIA, was linked to ZIA through TAA and this as a result of BOAT connections. There are numerous benefits the ZIA has received from BOAT since its inception.

Future:

Currently, ZIA rents an operational centre, but have acquired land to build a centre using used shipping containers. The blueprint for the building has been prepared.

The Institute wants to continue engage BOAT members in teachings and other programs through virtual mode. It has embarked on a number of agriculture research programs under the academic program such as seed development of maize and tomato. This would be a great venture to partner with interested BOAT members, because BOAT has Africa recognized passion for agriculture development.

<https://zambianinstituteagriculture.wordpress.com/about-zia/>



Top: Students at the ZIA lecture hall. Above: Community attending ZIA programs.

New Donation Platform

Virgin Money Giving have withdrawn their giving platform, and BOAT has signed up with Evershare follow this QR code to make a donation or visit the BOAT Website and find the donation button/QR Code. Thank you.



New Chairman John Harris



John worked in East Africa before returning to run the family dairy farm in Somerset and then holding a variety of posts in the UK agricultural industry and countryside management. He is looking forward to the new challenges that faces BOAT.

Polaris Quad Winner



Mr Valentine with his new Polaris Quad bike.

Steve Wright CEO of Kelsey media, who ran the competition on behalf of BOAT made the draw and the winner is Mr Bill Valentine from Okehampton, Devon. Bill has been a long-term supporter of BOAT buying tickets at many shows over the years and we are very grateful for his kind £150 donation presented to David Wendover.

The presentation was made to Mr Valentine by David Wendover, Mark Brazier (Producer of profi magazine) and David Hodson-Whittle of Polaris.

Due to the pandemic cancelling so many shows and venues to which we and Kelsey normally attend we thank Steve Wright for the continued magazine support through which many people bought their tickets. BOAT's sincere thanks go to Steve and Kelsey's Tractor & Machinery magazine which has helped to raise over £200,000 over the past 20 years.

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Friend of **BOAT**

Apply to secretary@boatagtrust.co.uk for further details, or donate via the website www.boatagtrust.co.uk to continue to support the work of BOAT and receive the BOAT newsletters.