



## Update from the nabim convention in Bath

by nabim, UK

**R**epresentatives from the UK flour milling industry gathered in Bath on Friday May 17th, 2019, for the National Association of British & Irish Millers' annual convention; two days of meetings, talks and debate addressing the key issues facing the industry.

Updates on the areas of management development and the home baking sector were provided to the Heads of Member Companies by James Wright, Chairman of the industry's Development Group and Hannah Marriage, Chairman of the Pre-Packed Flour committee.

In his speech to the Annual General Meeting, President George Marriage acknowledged the detailed and diligent work undertaken by nabim Director-General Alex Waugh on the issue of Brexit, which is a major concern for the industry due to the volume of exports to the Irish republic.

The President made the point that sooner or later Brexit would be concluded in some form, so the convention's speaker programme had been designed to address other significant issues currently facing the industry, or those likely come in the future.

The convention heard about the subtleties of the Climate

Change Levy legislation from Mark Helsby from SLR Consulting. Abigail Hirshman, Head of Mental Health and Wellbeing for ACAS outlined co-operative and practical strategies for dealing with mental health issues at work.

The nation's nutrition was examined in detail by Professor Judy Buttriss, Director General of the British Nutrition Foundation, in her talk. The Eatwell guide was shown to indicate that carbohydrate foods are a key part of a healthy and balanced diet. Also, higher fibre breads were to be encouraged in the nation's diet.

The future for UK agriculture post-Brexit and the new Agriculture Bill with its environmental emphasis, was considered and debated. The discussion started with short speeches by the three panellists, Guy Smith, Deputy President of the NFU, Helen Browning OBE, Chief Executive of the Soil Association and Neil Parish MP, Chair of the Parliamentary Select Committee for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

A lively discussion ensued and the views on the usefulness of GM foods and various methods of farming and farm support. All the participants agreed that in the long-term business of farming a sudden change to the wheat and other markets, and farm support, arising from Brexit would be very undesirable.



**Left:** Professor Judy Buttriss delivering her presentation

**Right:** James Wright and Hannah Marriage

