

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE HACKNEY HORSE SOCIETY HELD ON 26th November 2013 AT STAPLEFORD FLYING CLUB AT 1.15 P.M.

Present: Mr R Bass (Chairman), Mrs B Stockton (Treasurer), Ms S Barraclough, R Carter, J Chicken, R. Connolly, M. Cooper, J Cresswell, G Docking, Mrs V Gill, Mr A McNinch, M. Neachell, J Peters, R Robertson, Mrs G Turner, E Ward, A Ward, Mrs D Hicketts (Secretary)

1. Apologies: Mrs J Clough, Miss S Wormald, Mr A James, Mr R James
2. MINUTES of the last meeting held 10th September 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman proposed by Mr Docking, seconded by Mr Cresswell, unanimous.

Mrs Hicketts reported to Council at this stage the fact that the voting paper would be required to be sent out again as the independent scrutineer noticed the previous voting paper had incorrectly included re-open nominations as three separate candidate and only one should have been put on as per the Articles of Association. Therefore new voting papers will be sent out to be completed and returned to the independent scrutineer by 10th December 2013.

3. Matters Arising

- i. New Society Leaflet – Mr R James
Mrs Stockton reported she had spoken to Mr James who said the leaflet was nearly ready but he was waiting for a couple of photos. Mrs Stockton said he was hoping to have it ready for the next meeting where Council could confirm if they were happy to proceed with it or not.
- ii. DEFRA PIO Situation – Mrs Hicketts
Mrs Hicketts said at the moment there was nothing more to report from DEFRA regarding the PIO situation. She said the new grassroots system, which is now the operational database for the Society, will be helping to produce the passports direct from their system which will hopefully help with some of the costs although at this stage no one is certain whether this is something DEFRA would accept.

The section of Miss Sparrowhawk's letter was read out regarding the issues the exhibitors raised at their meeting in relation to the Championship show as the next agenda item was to discuss the show. Mr Bass said he had sent a letter to Miss Sparrowhawk asking for the names of the attendees and the results of the voting on individual points but to date nothing had been received. Council asked how many were in attendance and the Secretary said Miss Sparrowhawk in her letter stated 29 were in attendance which worked out to be just 8% of the membership.

4. Championship Show

Main points raised from Miss Sparrowhawk's letter were:
Concern on security due to the fact the horses were let out of their stables
No facilities open on the Thursday night
Entrance to main ring is felt to be dangerous
Insufficient parking

It was the general opinion of the Council, that the facilities at Bury Farm had deteriorated from the year before and the manager was not as interested in the show as had been the case before and the Council also raised concern over the security regarding the animals. Comments were made as to whether there were any shows into which the Society could tie the Championships, the need to keep with the Rare Breeds, how the Society would be interested in opening negotiations with the BDS but a letter would be required from the BDS Chairman and Show Committee confirming they do wish to open negotiations before this could take place. Council discussed the possibility of moving the show again as they had this year to try and move away from the BDS show and it was agreed to move to the 4th October 2014 and hopefully for the BDS not to move their show as well as was the case in 2013. Mrs Stockton and Mr Bass informed Council there was an Equestrian centre near Cambridge called Houghton Hall Equestrian centre which had an indoor arena of 109m x 30m plus a further arena of 60 x 20 and all the necessary facilities the Society required as well as enough temporary stables and the 4th October 2014 was available and had been provisionally booked.

Council felt the way forward for the Championship show was to keep the involvement with the Rare Breeds but to change the name of the show to the Hackney Horse and Pony of the Year Championship incorporating the Rare Breeds of the Year Show, move to 4th October 2014 and to move the show to Houghton Hall if the facilities were good enough. Mr Bass and Mr Chicken said they would go to the venue to see if it was suitable and if they felt it was then Council were happy for them to book the facilities for 4th October 2014. Council felt the classes which would be included on the Hackney side would need further discussion and this would take place at the meeting in February. The Rare Breed involvement to be as it has been to date. Council felt it was positive that the exhibitors were getting together and discussing things but concern was raised as to whether they would try and force issues which this is something Council would never accept.

Mrs Turner asked if the ring was large enough, would preliminary classes still be required for the Open Horse and Pony of the Year, Council were of the opinion they were not necessary and this would be discussed at the next Council meeting. Mr Docking volunteered to help Mr James and Mrs Hicketts organise and run the Show.

Action Mr Bass and Mr Chicken to view and possibly book Houghton Hall. Mr Docking, Mr James and Mrs Hicketts to organise the show. Mrs Hicketts to put on the next agenda Hackney classes including Preliminary.

5. Breed Show

The Secretary asked if Council were happy with the Timetable for classes at the Breed show or did they wish to make any changes, Council were happy for it to continue in the same format. Council confirmed they would be happy for the Auction to continue. Mr Docking felt it must be made clear that only realistic reserve prices would be acceptable and to increase the commission from 10% to 15%. Also to go back to charging and issuing bidding numbers at a cost of £1. Mr Docking said both Sue Nebbling and Sue Smith would be happy to help with the auction and also in the tent as long as they were supplied a FOC caravan pass, this Council were more than happy to do. Mr Peters said Rachael Moore would also help with the running of the auction. Council felt the auction should start at 5.30 on the Wednesday evening. Council confirmed the AGM will be the same time as this year.

Mr Cresswell said there was a need to consider how the Council can encourage breed animals to show in the in-hand classes and for Members of Council to bring some ideas to the next meeting.

The Treasurer felt the situation where exhibitors have to pay double and then obtain a refund for the caravan/lorry pass was actually putting a lot of cost onto the exhibitors at the outset. Mrs Stockton proposed anyone exhibiting would be charged a single fee and for anyone not showing to be charged double. Anyone who enters an animal and does not show then they will be invoiced for the extra amount, seconded by Mrs Barraclough, all in favour.

Action Mrs Hicketts to change timing on Schedule for Auction and to alter the entry form regarding the caravan/lorry pass. Mrs Hicketts to include on agenda encouragement of showing

6. Way Forward for Judges at Breed and Championship Show

Mr Cresswell felt the system of judges at the show at the moment was not suitable and it was better when there were three judges and two at any one time in the ring, he said there could be just three judges to do the whole show so there would be no more judges required. Mrs Stockton said the sections could be split that judges only judge a few classes in each section but still have just the one judge in the ring. Mr Neachell felt the exhibitors would want to know which judge they were going under in each class. Mr E Ward thought if Council went to the suggestions of three judges then three different judges would be required in different sections, it was felt this would be far too expensive for the Society to maintain. Mr Cresswell proposed for three judges at both the Breed and Championship Show to do the complete show with two being picked at any one time, second by Mr Connolly with 11 for and 2 against the proposal was carried. Council felt this should be circulated to the membership. Mrs Hicketts confirmed she would write to all judges asking who is available for both the Breed and Championship Show and to bring to the February meeting so as Council can choose the judges. Mrs Turner asked if the list could be distributed prior to the meeting, Council felt this was an excellent idea.

Action Mrs Hicketts to inform members via newsletter and to write to all judges and then distribute list to Council members of who can judge prior to the next meeting

Mrs Stockton reported there were still four judges who had completed their probationary, were evaluated and had been put onto a "reserve" list. She asked whether Council now wished to include any of these onto the judges panel. Mr E Ward asked why more were required when only one of the new judges had been used. Council discussed the four which were on the reserve list and whether it was suitable to put them all forward at this stage, only some or none. It was felt that both Mr Hamilton-Rhodes and Mr Lanni should be put onto the panel for 2014. Mrs Hicketts pointed out the list had already gone to the affiliated shows for 2014 so they would be unlikely to be used until 2015. Mr Neachell proposed Mr Hamilton-Rhodes and Mr Lanni to be included on the judges panel, seconded by Mrs Turner, all in favour.

Action Mrs Hicketts to inform the two judges and include on judges panel.

7. New Members/Prefixes

Council agreed to the following new member:

Ms J Bennett, Pilning, Bristol

Prefix

Council agreed to accept the prefix Schumanns for Dr Volker Schumann and Messrs J & S Goulden

8. Any Other Business

Mrs Stockton read the out the reminder of the letter from Miss Sparrowhawk with the points from the exhibitors meeting. Council then discussed the points under the relevant headings.

Voting Papers

Miss Sparrowhawk's letter stated no-one understood the situation regarding the re-open nominations and clear instructions should be circulated on how this process works.

Council did not feel there was any need to change the voting paper.

Personal Accounts

Miss Sparrowhawk's letter said exhibitors should receive a statement of their account, grant money published and caravan/lorry passes refunded after the show.

Mrs Stockton informed Council at the AGM Miss Sparrowhawk put the subject of the issuing of statements to the meeting and it was agreed if anyone wished to receive one they would contact the Secretary, to date only one request had been received and this was from Miss Sparrowhawk herself. Council did not see the need to alter what had been agreed at the AGM and if a member wanted a statement of their account they could ask for one and it was obvious this information was not wanted as much as being stated in Miss Sparrowhawk's letter as there had only been one application to date.

Regarding the point on horsebox passes this was already a point of discussion under Breed Show.

Council felt due to the fact the HBLB insist the money can only be given to UK members it could cause problems to actually publish grant amounts.

Novice Points system

Miss Sparrowhawk's letter stated the current novice point system should be altered to 12 animals including 2 from Northern Ireland, the Novice Champion at the breed show to qualify and points being awarded down to 6th place. Council felt the system worked well as it was but they did feel there was a need to encourage the UK registered animals owned by the Dutch exhibitors to be able to qualify as they struggled to attend other affiliated shows and therefore however good their animals were it was most unlikely to qualify just from the Breed Show. Mrs Stockton proposed to have 12 animals from UK which would include 2 from Ireland and 2 top point scorers from the Dutch entries at Ardingly, seconded by Mr Cresswell with 3 abstentions the proposal was carried.

Dutch exhibitors

Miss Sparrowhawk's letter said more should be done to encourage the Dutch exhibitors.

Mrs Stockton said overseas visitors were invited to the lunch on the Wednesday but more could be done to advertise this. Council felt the Dutch themselves were not unhappy and it can be nearly as expensive for someone to come from Scotland or Ireland as from Holland and every exhibitor should be treated the same.

Council said a letter to go to Miss Sparrowhawk explaining what had been discussed

Action Mr Bass to send a letter to Miss Sparrowhawk

Mrs Stockton said at the AGM Miss Sparrowhawk made a proposal that the premium stallion list should only list animals that had been confirmed by their owner as available. To date only one

premium A and one premium B animal had been confirmed. Mrs Stockton said how she was worried if only two animals were listed the HBLB could query the funding of the use of premium animals. Also it could have an adverse affect to the variety of stallions being use. Mrs Stockton proposed to list all the premium animals (with a caveat that they were not confirmed as available) due to the concern over the lack of numbers coming forward as this could have a detrimental effect to the breeding programme and the possibility of the HBLB grant being questioned seconded by Mr Docking, all in favour. Mrs Turners suggested a letter is sent to Miss Sparrowhawk explaining Council's concern and that all the animals will be listed as only two had confirmed.

Action Mr Bass to write to Miss Sparrowhawk

Ms Barraclough asked what had happened with the disciplinary hearing.

Mr Bass said Mr Ron Allen came to the hearing and he apologised. He did say that he had made a complaint about the steward at the Royal Welsh and gave a copy of the letter to the meeting, although this could not be confirmed. He also said how sorry he was about the accident and that he was going to make sure Miss Wormald did not suffer any financial loss. Mr Bass said the committee considered all Mr Allen's comments and he would was sent a letter stating "further infringements of the Society's rules and regulations you will receive an automatic ban of a minimum of 12 months and it could be longer, with no right of appeal. They ask that he calm down and conduct himself better within the ring and he must write letters of apology to the judge and stewards."

Mr Bass reported there had been another disciplinary hearing before the Council meeting as there had been complaints regarding Mr Ernie Walsh Snr about missuse of whip. Mr Walsh attended the hearing and was extremely apologetic, he said how he had let his family down, himself and horse and that there was no excuse. Mr Walsh said how he would never do this again and it had caused untold upset at home. The hearing considered what Mr Walsh said and it was decided a letter was sent stating if there was any further missuse of the whip in the future disciplinary action will be taken, he also had to send letters of apology to the two complainants.

Ms Barraclough said during the incident with Mr Allen at the Royal Welsh Show Miss Wormald's vehicle was broken and Mr Allen had said he would pay the excess but too date it had not been paid despite trying to obtain it. Council on hearing this was disappointed as the disciplinary committee had taken into account the fact Mr Allen said he would pay any monies due and the fact Mr Allen was so upset about the accident when deciding on action to be taken and these were contributing factors as to the action taken by the disciplinary committee. Council felt as Mr Allen said he was dealing with the vehicle it was correct to send a letter demanding he pays otherwise he will be in breach of his conditions and disciplinary action will be enforced. They said payment must be received by the end of December 2013. Ms Barrclough to keep the Council informed as to when or if he pays.

Action Mr Bass to write to Mr Allen

Meeting closed 3.15 p.m.

Date of next Meeting 18th February 2014