

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE HACKNEY HORSE SOCIETY HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013 AT ROYAL MEWS AT 12.30 P.M.

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

Mrs Stockton welcomed Mr Robertson to Council and the meeting

1. Apologies: R Bass, J Chicken, R Connolly, Mr A James

Mrs Stockton informed the meeting that Mr Alan James will now not be standing for re-election when his term of office finishes end of this year. She said he has had a heart operation which was successful but he had decided it would be better for him not to continue. Mrs Stockton said how Alan has been a very busy member of the Society and very supportive. Council wished to thank him for all his support and wished him a speedy recovery.

**Action Mrs Stockton to write to Mr James thanking him for all his support**

2. MINUTES of the last meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> May 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman proposed by Mr Docking, seconded by Mr Peters, unanimous.

3. Matters Arising

i. Championship Show

Mr James said the show was looking good and to date 112 entries had been received with the possibility of more to come and entries would be accepted on the day. There would be a mixture of all sorts from showing through to displays. Hackney entries were down slightly and this, he felt, was probably due to changing the day to Friday. Mr James said how he had always thought it would take three years to get the show right. Next year he thought the show should be able to be held on one day with an early start and late finish, this would save considerable costs. This year he reported how he had collected £8,000 in sponsorship but it could not be relied upon. Ms Barraclough said if it was on one day people would not enter the International class as it could jeopardise their open animals. Mr Cooper said it would be better if the Junior Whip class could be held on the Saturday because of children needing to take time off from school. Mr James said the Rare Breed of the Year Championship was a trial and he said how he had wanted celebrity judges but they were far too expensive. Therefore the judges would now be the owner of Bury Farm, Derek Ricketts and Sally Oltram.

ii. DEFRA PIO Situation

Mrs Hicketts reported how Defra was still looking at changing the PIO situation. She said they were saying how due to the meat scandal the EU wanted to have one database. At the moment it was not certain how it would go regarding the PIO status but hopefully as a Breed the Society would stay as a PIO. Mrs Hicketts informed the meeting DEFRA wanted to standardise the passports and not have any passports stapled together but binded and to use a specific paper. She said if this happened there would be a cost of anything from £3,000 to £5,000.

iii. New Society Leaflet

Mr James said he was putting together a Society leaflet with emphasis on elegance and versatility of the breed. He said he has some action pictures but would like some more especially one of a Hackney show jumping. He said he wanted to put photographs on of the show wagon, private drive, show jumping, hunting, dressage, polo, dressage etc, If anyone has an idea of where he can locate any action photos of the hackney in other disciplines to contact Mr James. Mr James said the brochure would hold all the relevant Society details.

iv. Probationary Judges

Mrs Stockton reported to Council that Mr Hendy was required to do another show as last year he had been seen by the same judge twice. Mrs Stockton said she took him at Ardingly and was happy to recommend him. She informed Council last year he was recommended to be put onto

the panel and therefore asked Council to take a vote as to whether they wished him to be included onto the panel. A vote was taken which was unanimous in favour of him being put onto the panel.

Mrs Stockton said how last year it had been suggested Mrs Neal completes another full probationary year as it was felt she required a few more shows. Mrs Stockton obtained reports from the judges who took her. Mr Gray reported he had some concern on her comments on the manners of the animal in ring but other than that he felt she would be an asset to the panel. Mr McNinch who also took her said how she was very smart, was on time, had a sound knowledge of horse and pony and would make suitable judge. Mrs Stockton said how she had taken her at Ardingly and she had good knowledge, was well presented and would be a good addition. Mrs Stockton said she had received an email from Ms Neal saying this year she had found it to be much more informative.

Mr Cresswell said how this year the only person he had seen around the ring from the new judges watching the classes was Mr Hendy, and he felt they were not interested in the breed. Mrs Stockton felt this was not the case. Mr E Ward felt the judge at the Essex Show did not know the correct procedure and his dress code was not suitable although he did a good job on the judging. Mrs Stockton felt the judges should be reminded each year of the guidelines. Mr A Ward said how Reverse order judging was not what the Hackneys expected and was not something which should happen in the future. Mr Neachell proposed a judge's ruling is included in the guidelines saying the final order must come in rosette order from 1<sup>st</sup> downward, seconded by Mr A Ward, unanimous. Mrs Stockton proposed a letter is sent annually reminding judges of procedure and dress code including the full guidelines, seconded by Mr John Cresswell, unanimous.

Mrs Stockton asked for a vote to be taken whether to include Mrs V Neal onto the judges panel, with only 2 against it was agreed for her to be included.

**Action Mrs Hicketts to inform the two judges. Mrs Stockton to write to the judges reminding of procedure etc.**

#### 4. Review of Annual National Breed Show

Mrs Hicketts read out a letter from Mr Wenham who wrote in complaining about the comments made from the judge where he was told he had made mistakes. Mr McNinch said how this was just a private conversation with Mr Wenham after the class and possibly even the next day where he was just making small talk. Mr McNinch said how there had been one or two comments on his judging and he was not happy when Mrs Stockton came into ring and publically reprimanded him for not judging down the line. He said how if this was procedure then it should be written down. When there are rosettes to sixth place and special rosettes after, normally judging would only go to sixth place. Mrs Stockton said she was sorry he felt she had dealt with it too strongly but agreed it should be written down that all animals are placed even though they only would receive a special rosette after sixth.

**Action Mrs Hicketts to include in show schedule**

Mr McNinch said felt he did not have any help from the stewards to which Mr Docking agreed. Council felt opinions from exhibitors on the judges was not relevant and only if procedure was not followed was it relevant. Mrs Stockton said she would write to Mr Wenham explaining if there was a breach of procedure then could he write in but if it was not then Council would not consider opinion. Council unanimously agreed to this.

**Action Mrs Stockton to write to Mr Wenham**

Mrs Hicketts read out a letter from Ms Wormald where she said what a splendid Breed Show it was this year. She did query a couple of points which was in the judging of the Amateur class an animal reared up but was allowed to repeat its stand show and also some animals were driven down the bar. She also commented on the noisiness of spectators in the novice classes. Mrs Stockton thanked Ms Wormald for her kind thoughts on the show. She asked what Council felt as to whether there should be more quiet around the ring. It was suggested the Chief Steward should monitor the noise around the ring particularly during the novice classes. Mr A Ward asked if there was a ruling in the Amateur class that an animal should not be allowed another chance if it got upset or messed about. It was felt it was the judge's decision to allow the animal another go or not and there was no specific ruling. Regarding being driven down the bar this was not correct procedure. Council felt when the letter was sent to the judges they are reminded of the Amateur rules.

**Action Mrs Stockton to include in letter to judges**

Mr Baker wrote in asking why he was asked to leave the ring when Miss Sparrowhawk whose animals bridle fell off was allowed to stay and he felt it was discrimination. He said he thought there was a small amount of time to make small adjustments. Mr Docking reported the animal did have a major kicking fit and in his opinion it was the correct decision by the Chief Steward to ask him to leave. Mrs Turner said she helped Mr Baker afterwards and the animal was not harnessed correctly. She said she then showed him how the animal should be harnessed correctly. Mrs Turner also felt the Chief Steward made the correct decision. Regarding Mr Baker comments on Miss Sparrowhawk's animals bridle falling off, Ms Barraclough said the animal was still under control and felt it was never a risk and the bridle had to be put on again before it could be moved, again in her opinion the Chief Steward was correct. Council said a letter to be sent to Mr Baker explaining his letter was read out and Council fully discussed the situation and Mrs Turner having helped harness the animal afterwards felt the Chief Steward had made the correct decision on asking him to leave the ring and regarding Miss Sparrowhawk's situation the bridle would have to be put back on and the animal was not causing any problems and again it was felt to be the correct decision by the Chief Steward.

**Action Mrs Stockton to write to Mr Baker**

5. Council Nominations

Mrs Hicketts informed Council she had received a council nomination but the person had put down names as nominating her who knew nothing about it, she felt possibly the person thought it was a voting paper for Council and would write to her explaining it was a nomination paper and had not been correctly completed. Mrs Hicketts informed Council that this year, due to Mr Alan James retiring, there were only 6 names to go forward for voting and as 7 were required to go onto Council a further name would be needed. Mrs Stockton said Mr Hardy narrowly missed being voted on last year and would be happy for his name to be put forward. Council unanimously agreed to include Mr Hardy on the voting paper.

**Action Mrs Hicketts to include on voting paper and to write to the nominee**

6. New members/Prefixes

Council agreed to the following new members:

Mr C Barnard, Oddington, Nr Stow on the Wold, Mr D J Beijerinck, Ophemert, Holland - Ms J Evered, Heywood, Lancashire – Mr C Hicks, Matamata, New Zealand – Mr A W Riley, Yaddlethorpe, Nr Scunthorpe - Ms R Turner, Flaunden, Hemel Hempstead

Re-application for Ms C Brown and Mr A Brown.

Council discussed the applications and were informed of an incident with the Brown family at Royal Welsh. It was proposed to decline both memberships in view of the Society's past experience, seconded, 3 abstentions, proposal carried.

**Action Mrs Stockton to write having confirmed with legal firm**

Council agreed to accept the Prefix Trevena for Mr Trevor Jones and Rhubens for Mr David Smith.

7. Any Other Business

Mrs Hicketts read out a letter from Mrs Loriston-Clarke who judged the Hackneys at Royal Welsh Show. She said how Mr Allen was extremely rude and abusive to the steward and he whipped his horse and drove towards both Mr Lilly, her steward and herself shouting abusive as he went. She also said as the Champion and Reserve were stood waiting to let the horse parade in he stopped beside them and was complaining and she believes he yanked on the reins of his horse which turned and came over the wagon of the Champion knocking the driver out and breaking the seat of the wagon. When he left the ring she believes he caused havoc with the mounted games ponies as he flew at them coming down the shute. She said how he was taking his evil temper out on his poor horse and everyone else. Mrs Loriston-Clarke felt Mr Allen has an abusive nature and appalling manners which is bringing the Hackney Society into disrepute. Mrs Hicketts read out the letter from Mr Lilley the steward who more or less reiterated what the judge had said in her letter. Finally a letter was read out which had been sent in from the main ring steward who said Mr Allen come out at what could only be described as high speed and with mounted games children coming in the opposite direction could of resulted in injury. They also said he came back down the horse walk shouting abuse at the other members from the championship who seemed to be very apprehensive with him. Ms Barraclough who was the driver

knocked out of the wagon by Mr Allen's horse reported Mrs Lorrison-Clarke had finished judging the Hackneys at the Royal Welsh Show and both herself and the reserve champion were asked to do their lap of honour. She said she was not aware at the time that he had already been asked to leave the ring and had ignored the stewards. On completing the lap of honour the stewards asked them to remain in the main ring by the gates as the in-hand parade was entering and there was not enough room in the horse walk for them to pass. Mr. Allen came up the side of her complaining how rude the stewards had been to him. She said Mr Allen was in a bit of a state and his horse was very agitated refusing to stand still, the horse then turned on to her knocking her wagon over and herself out of the wagon onto the floor doing considerable damage to her vehicle. She said luckily due to the quick thinking of the grooms the horses were unhurt and further chaos was avoided. Ms Barraclough stated Mr Allen apologised profusely to her and Craig and has offered to pay for any damage caused.

Mr Peters said Mr Allen at Orsett show cut Charlie up in the ring and was abusive to the judge and steward.

Mr James asked what the proper procedure was in these situations. Mrs Stockton said a letter would be required to go to Mr Allen asking for a report from him of the incident. She asked if Council wished it to be dealt with by the disciplinary committee and for them then to report to Council or for full council to deal with it. Council said to speak to the Society's legal firm confirming the best way forward and depending on the outcome for the disciplinary committee to deal in the first instance.

**Action Secretary to contact legal firm for letter to go to Mr Allen**

Mrs Hicketts read out an email which had been sent in by Miss Sparrowhawk complaining about a comment made by Mr Docking at the Kent County show. She said how disappointed she was when Mr Docking when presenting her rosette said her pony was "not his cup of tea or his hand writing". She felt the comments made were unnecessary and unprofessional. Mr Docking said how lucky he was to judge her animal and simply by way of chatting said to her "today he was not his cup of tea" and she was fine at the time. Council said a letter to go to her explaining her letter was read out at Council and it was discussed but Mr Docking stated he actually said not his cup of tea today with emphasis on today.

**Action letter to Miss Sparrowhawk**

Mrs Hicketts said Mr Bass asked if Council would consider any trivia being dealt with by him and not having to bring it to Council all the time. Council felt if anyone writes into the Society and it is either addressed to Council or asked to be read out at Council then it must be brought to Council.

Mrs Hicketts read out a letter from Mr Sayers. He said how he wished the judging system to be reverted to two out of three again. Mrs Stockton suggested there could be a middle way forward where there were more judges judging the sections for example, a judge judging the harness pony classes and another for the harness horse classes. Mrs Stockton asked Council to consider a way forward on the judging and for it to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

**Action Mrs Hicketts to include on Agenda and Mrs Stockton to reply to Mr Sayers**

Mrs Gill said how it was financially much more expensive to travel to the Mews for a 12.30 meeting and others agreed with this. Mrs Gill proposed in future the meetings at the Royal Mews have a start time of 1.00 p.m. due to the extra cost of the train tickets, seconded by Ms Wormald, unanimous.

Mr A Ward asked if anything happened regarding the incident in main ring with stones in a tin in Mr Lambertus sock. Mrs Hicketts reported it was dealt with by the steward at the time. She said how Mr Lambertus said it was Peppermints in tin in his sock and didn't realise it was not allowed. The steward asked him to remove it which he did. Mrs Hicketts said Mr Bass had sent him a letter regarding the situation stating it must not happen again. Ms Wormald asked if in these instances where a trainer has breached any rules the owner is informed. Council felt this would be a good idea but would want it checked out on the legal position as to whether we write to owner copying trainer with any issues.

**Action Mrs Hicketts to ask legal firm on position**

Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> February 2014 starting at 1.00.

Meeting closed 3.00