

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE HACKNEY HORSE SOCIETY HELD ON 18th February 2014, AT ROYAL MEWS AT 12.30 P.M.

Present: R Bass (Chairman), Mrs B Stockton (Treasurer), Ms S Barraclough, R Carter, J Chicken, Mrs J Clough, M. Cooper, J Cresswell, G Docking, M. Hardy, R James, A McNinch, R Robertson, E Ward, A Ward, Miss S Wormald, Mrs D Hicketts (Secretary)

Mrs Hicketts informed the meeting the due to personal reasons Mr Peters had to resign. The Chairman welcomed Mr Hardy onto Council.

1. Apologies: Mrs V Gill, Mr M Neachell, Mrs G Turner
2. MINUTES of the last meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> November 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman proposed by Mr James, seconded by Mr Docking, unanimous.
3. Matters Arising
  - i. DEFRA/PIO Situation  
Mrs Hicketts asked Council if they had any questions as to the information that had been sent out regarding the new legislation that was required by DEFRA for PIO's. Mr James said how a lot of work had gone into preparing the information by the Secretary and the only ones to benefit would be DEFRA. Council were very happy to accept the new policy manual, owner rules.
  - ii. New Society Leaflet  
A draft copy was distributed to Council. Mr James said he had tried to cover the Hackneys main avenues and had good photos of all disciplines apart from a good show jumping picture, it was suggested he tried the Bamfords or the Beales as both do use their Hackneys for jumping. The logo will be put on the front page and there was to be a couple of changes on the wording which was change from sister societies to similar Societies around the world, and where it says about the president put was honoured to have HRH Prince of Wales for 2013/2014 this then means they will be relevant after his presidency. Council asked how much and how many were required. Mr James said at this moment no quotes had been obtained as he did not know what amount was required. Council felt 1,000 would be a good number to start with and it was suggested the Secretary obtain quotes and then to proceed with the best value for money quote. A vote of thanks for was given Richard James for all his work in preparing the leaflet.
  - iii. Judge Guidelines  
Mrs Stockton informed the meeting that all the instructions per the last meeting were adhered to and the revised judge's information was sent out to all judges
4. Approval of Accounts  
Mrs Stockton confirmed with Council they had had a chance to look through the accounts for the year beginning 30th September, 2012 and ending 30th September 2013. She said how they did not make very comfortable reading, as there was operating loss showing on income and expenditure of £5,387. When you couple that with the fact that at September 2012 there was an income and expenditure figure of £5,793 in the black you will realise the seriousness of the situation in real terms they are down £11,180.  
  
Mrs Stockton said how the drop of £3,438 in donations and legacies was very worrying. There is also a reduction shown in the HBLB Grant of £4,740. This is due to the complicated way the grant works with their financial year being December to December which means that monies allocated for 2014 registrations falls outside of our accounting period and the fact that monies £3,140 set aside in the grant for forecasted registrations, prefixes, DNA etc., in 2012/13 was not utilised as all of these were down. Mrs Stockton said the Society did not have to hand that money back but it had to be utilised in the following year and shows as a lack of income in these accounts. There are other worrying factors, a reduction of £1,164 in the monies raised by our raffles and charity auction, the drop in subscriptions. All of these things point to difficult times ahead.  
  
The Treasurer said to sum up, our problem is income based and this is where we are going to have to look to try and address the issues. Mrs Stockton said she had some suggestions to make to increase revenue which she would cover under Price Increases. There were no questions raised on the accounts so the Treasurer proposed the accounts were accepted, seconded by Mr Docking, unanimous.
5. Annual National Breed Show Timetable  
Council were happy to keep the timetable for 2014 as per 2013.  
**Action Secretary to repeat in Show Schedule**
6. Judges For Breed Show/Championship Show

Mr Ward asked for clarification as to whether the same judges that judged the previous year at the Annual National Breed Show would be able to judge again this year. Mr Cresswell thought it would not be a problem as there were going to be the three judges. Mrs Stockton suggested from this year forward the judges picked in the previous year would not be allowed to come forward. Council felt they would see if there were enough judges to choose from without using the judges from the previous year.

#### Championship Show

It was decided that the judges at the Championship show should be different to the Breed Show.

Mr Ward proposed Mr Cooper, Mr Docking and Mr McNinch for the Championship show, seconded by Mr A Ward. Mr Cresswell proposed Mr Cooper Mr Docking and Mr Connolly, for the Championship Show, seconded by Ms Barraclough, with 4 votes in favour of Mr Wards proposal and 6 in favour of Mr Cresswell's proposal it was carried that Mr Cresswell's proposal of Mr Cooper, Mr Docking and Mr Connolly would be the judges for the Championship show.

#### Breed Show

Mr Chicken proposed Mr Henson, Mr Hazlett and Mr Gray, for the Annual National Breed Show, seconded by Mr A Ward, Mr Connolly proposed Mr R Bamford, Mr Hazlett and Mr Gray for the Annual National Breed Show seconded by Mr Carter with 3 votes in favour of Mr Chicken's proposal and 8 in favour of Mr Connolly's proposal it was carried that Mr Connolly's proposal for Mr Bamford, Mr Hazlett and Mr Gray. Mr Docking, Mr Connolly and Mrs Stockton would stand in if required. Council felt it would be prudent to have a judges and stewards meeting prior to the start of the show to make sure everyone was up to speed on the rules, regulations and procedure and as Mrs Stockton had revised the judges guidelines it was felt she would be the best person to do this. Mrs Stockton agreed to hold a Judges and stewards briefing at 9.00 a.m. on the Monday morning. Ms Barraclough asked who usually chose the judges for each class, Council felt this would be the stewards and judge's decision.

**Action Secretary to inform members via the newsletter**

Council recommended that the judges for the Annual National Breed Show attend a briefing at 9.00am on the Monday morning of the show. Mrs. Stockton agreed to oversee this.

**Action Secretary to inform judges prior to show, Mrs Stockton to hold the briefing**

#### 7. Breed Show/Championship Show – Stewards, Stable Manager, Risk Assessment

##### Annual National Breed Show

Mrs Hicketts said how the Society's insurance now required a written risk assessment to be completed otherwise the cover would be invalid, Mr Connolly said he would make sure one was completed. Mr Connolly confirmed he would continue to be Stable Manager and would help steward. Mr Hardy said he would also help steward when not showing. Mr Cooper said he would help Mr Connolly with the Parking and Stables. Mr Robertson confirmed he would continue as Chief Steward.

Mr Docking informed the meeting he would organise and run the auction together with the "two Sues". He said how the organisation required to be tightened with much more policing so lots cannot go astray. There must be sensible reserves and the goods to be of auctionable quality. Mr Docking said he felt the commission should be increased to 20% which Council agreed to and a charge would be made for the bidding cards. Mr Docking asked for something to go into the newsletter explaining the changes. Mr Docking said the two Sues would be willing to help out in the tent again this year.

**Action Mrs Hicketts to inform members via newsletter**

#### Championship

Mr Connolly said he would complete the Risk assessment for the Championship Show/Rare Breed Show Mr Robertson confirmed he would continue as Chief Steward and both Mr Hardy and Mr Connolly would help steward.

#### 8. Championship Show – Hackney Classes – Preliminary

Mr James said as this year the show will be a one day show there was a need to condense the classes and would like to drop the preliminary classes. Council felt it would be a good idea to not hold preliminary classes for the open classes. Council confirmed there would be 2 open, 2 novice, 2 international, junior whip and private drive. Council suggested if time permitted to hold a mixed Amateur class and/or ridden class. Mr James reported for 2015 he will be heavily involved in the re-enactment of Waterloo and therefore will not be able to give the time to the show as would be required. Mr James asked if someone could be appointed to be his understudy so they could take over in 2015. Mr Docking and Mr Connolly said they would help in 2014 and will take over the organisation of the show in 2015. Mr James said how he was very disappointed that members more or less had a vote of no confidence without first of all speaking with him. Mr Bass gave a vote of thanks to Mr James for all he has done in organising the show to date.

**Action Mr James to include classes as space allows**

9. Price Increases

Mr James said how the Society was about £5000 short on income and he had a few suggestions. He said for the show schedule and entry form to be on line only, this would give an approximate saving of £300, a publicity and sponsorship group to be formed and for them to have a target to raise £2000, someone to run a 100 club which could raise approx £1000 and finally no food at the meeting which could save approximately £350. Miss Wormald volunteered to run the 100 club, and Mr Connolly and Mr Hardy would form the publicity and sponsorship group. Mr James proposed to only have the schedules and entry forms on line, no food at the meeting, to form a publicity and sponsorship group and to run a 100 club, seconded by Mr Docking, all in favour.

**Action Miss Wormald to organise the 100 club**

Mrs Stockton said how although the Society was adrift this year by £5000 when you taken into account the £5,000 positive figure the year previous it is a shortfall of £10,000. She said how she did not want to see the Society in this situation again and Council needed to think seriously and needed to guarantee more income. She said at the last meeting it was decided the caravan and lived in horse passes to be charged £75 only with no refund. Mrs Stockton said if the passes were increased to £100 it would still seem a saving anyone not showing will be charged £175, this would bring in approx £1500.

Mrs Stockton said most of the Society's administration cost goes onto the exhibitors, and suggested a one off showing registration fee of £25 per year which again would bring in approximately £1500. Council were very much of the opinion that this would not be suitable as showing numbers were down, some people only show one or two times a year and with entry fees etc it would be too expensive.

Mrs Stockton asked Council for suggestions from the floor as to how the Society could raise the extra £1500 as they were not interested in accepting the proposal regarding the exhibitors pass. No recommendations were forthcoming and both Mrs Stockton and Mrs Hicketts expressed concern as to the lack of increases levied to alleviate the shortfall the Society has found themselves in.

Mrs Stockton proposed to increase living passes to £100 seconded by Mr Docking all in favour.

**Action Mrs Hicketts to alter entry form and to inform members via newsletter**

Mr Docking proposed for each Council member to either sponsor the Society £100 or acquire sponsorship for £100 seconded by Mr James 4 in favour 8 against not carried.

10. New Members and Prefixes

Council agreed to the following new members:

Ms C Elliott, Congleton, Cheshire – Mr A Furger, Oltingue, France – Mrs M Handley, Stoke on Trent – Ms R Lancaster, Cheshire -Mrs H Moonan

All the following from Holland:

Mr R Arends, Mr A Biesot, Mr J Deckers, Mr A van Duyvenvoorde, Mr C Emmen, Mr Heinhuis, Mr Kempkens, Mr Kulk, Mr M Mom, Mr A Schalkers, Mr R Sluis, Mr B Smith, Mr H Welling, Mr N Zwaan

There were no new prefixes

11. Any Other Business

Mrs Hicketts informed council that Mr Walsh Snr has asked to be considered as a probationary judge. Council were of the opinion that at the moment the Society had enough judges and would not be interested in accepting anymore probationary judges at the moment and for Mr Walsh Snr to apply in the future.

Mrs Hicketts informed the meeting that the Hackney Horse and Pony was still listed as Critical on the RBST watch list. Mrs Stockton asked how many horses and ponies were registered in 2012, the Secretary confirmed there were only 41 registered.

Mrs Hicketts said she was struggling to obtain Mr Vyse's signature on some transfers and asked Council for their agreement for her to process any applications as long as a letter had been sent to him with the necessary transfers etc. Council confirmed they would be happy for the Secretary to proceed in this way.

Mrs Hicketts informed Council the Royal Welsh had written to the Society explaining how they had banned Mr Allen from showing and due to this and the lack of entries would no longer affiliate the show to the Society. Council were very disappointed with this and asked as it was a qualifying show would there be another show given qualifying status. Mrs Hicketts informed Council how Mr Bass and Mr Cresswell had already given the Royal County of Berkshire Show qualifying status.

Mr Docking reported there had been an upsurge in Hackneys in Private Drive which was obviously a positive for the breed.

Mr Bass said how the people on the top table had not been idle over the last few months. There had been communications with HRH The Prince of Wales Private Secretary and his Royal Highness had kindly invited 100 people to attend Highgrove on 7<sup>th</sup> April with a chance to go around the gardens. Mr Bass and Mrs Hicketts attended a meeting at Highgrove where it was confirmed that anyone attending and wanting to tour the gardens would need to be there at 10.30, anyone not interested in the gardens would need to arrive at 12.00. Council were most appreciative to His Royal Highness for this wonderful gesture. Mr Bass said the brochure which the Society has for sponsorship he has asked permission for the photo to be put into the brochure on the inside cover and then would send it to various people to hopefully raise some funds.

Mrs Stockton asked for anyone with information on animals that are being brought out for this season to get in touch with her so that she can put something in the next issue of Carriage Driving.

Meeting after AGM 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014.

Meeting closed 2.40 p.m.