

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE HACKNEY HORSE SOCIETY HELD ON 16th September 2014, AT ROYAL MEWS AT 1.00 P.M.

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

1. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Turner and Mr Carter
2. Minutes of the last meeting were held on 2nd June 2014. Mr Bass reported he himself had changed the last paragraph from how the Secretary had recorded them. He was not happy to accept Mrs Stockton's words reporting the sponsorship from RBST and HBLB being for the Rare Breeds of the Year show. Council felt this was not appropriate as the minutes were a factual record of what was actually said at the meeting and not just how someone wanted them written. Mrs Stockton would not accept the minutes as distributed. Mrs Stockton said the minutes had to be changed to her original words which were the money was given for the Rare Breeds of the Year Show. With this change the minutes were proposed by Mr Neachell seconded by Miss Wormald and unanimously agreed for the Chairman to sign them.
3. Matters Arising

- i. New Society Leaflet

Mrs Hicketts distributed a sample of the leaflet and reported a photo was required of a Hackney show jumping before it could be produced. She asked Council if they had any comments, Mrs Gill felt the photograph on the Elegance and Versatility could do with being altered and it was felt the one of Brookeborough Flash Jack should be moved to replace it. Mr A Ward asked whether it would be better to use more recent animals but it was felt this may cause difficulties.

Action Mrs Stockton and Mr James to alter photos.

4. Championship Show

Mr Bass informed Council that a bank account had been opened by Mr James in the name of the Rare Breed of the Year Show without his or Council's knowledge and he was not happy and wanted to put in motion that the account was changed as it was an unauthorised account. Mrs Stockton explained to Council how all the Rare Breeds had democratically agreed in 2013 for the account to be set up and for Mr James to be a signatory. Mrs Hicketts informed Council the money from both HBLB and RBST was only paid to the Hackney Horse Society because the Hackney, not the Show, was a Charity but originally they wanted to pay it directly into the Show account. Mrs Stockton said The Rare Breeds at their last meeting agreed for her to be appointed the Rare Breeds of the Year show treasurer which automatically would include her as a signatory and Mrs Hicketts is also signatory. Council asked various questions as to the running of the account, how and why it was set up, on whose authority and understood that the Rare Breeds committee, of which all of the Rare Breeds have a representative, were the ones who authorised the setting up of the bank account. It was proposed by Mr Connolly and seconded by Mrs Clough that there is no alteration to the Rare Breeds of the Year Show account as it had been democratically set up by all the participating rare breeds and was to continue to receive all sponsorship and entry fees for the show, unanimously agreed.

Mr Cresswell asked Mr James for details of the Salisbury Bursary Fund. Mr James replied it had been going for 23 years, it was a Company Limited by Guarantee and he was a Director and there were two other Directors. There were assets of £180,000 and their remit was to help small businesses and training. £6000 had already been given to the Rare Breeds Show and a donation made to the Hackney Horse Society Judges training.

Mrs Hicketts said Mr Bass had stated how he would not allow the HHS to confirm the structure of the Rare Breeds of the Year Show at the last meeting of the Rare breeds until Council had agreed. Mrs Hicketts briefly went through the structure for anyone who could not remember from the information sent out by Mr Bass, the main points being Show Officials who were, Mr James, Show Director, Mrs Stockton, Show Treasurer and Mrs Hicketts Show Secretary. Show Committee made up of representatives from all the Breeds on the Watchlist and for each Breed to supply a steward to manage their particular classes. Show objective, to hold an annual show at minimal cost to Breed Societies. Finance, that income is derived from all Breed Societies

entry fees and sponsorship. Mr Docking proposed seconded by Mr Neachell and unanimously agreed to accept the structure of the Rare breed Of the Year Show.

Mrs Stockton said how the Rare Breeds had agreed for Mr James to run their show for 2014 and Council were asked to confirm they were happy for Mr James to continue to run the Hackney classes for 2014, unanimously agreed.

A unanimous vote of thanks was given to Mr James for all he had done to the setting up and the subsequent running of the show.

Concern was expressed that by joining with the BDS the Rare Breeds would not be included, Council were of the general opinion that with any negotiations with the BDS the Rare Breeds have to be included. Mr Cresswell felt the BDS would not be so interested in joining the HHS now they have Hackney classes at Addington. He asked what the result of the vote was to accept the affiliation. The secretary informed him there were 14 in favour, 3 against and 2 who did not reply. Mr Cresswell asked if the sponsorship from the HBLB, RBST and Salisbury Bursary Fund could be used for the BDS. The Treasurer reported that as the money is donated to the Rare Breeds of the Year Show to support the Equine Rare Breeds on the RBST Watchlist legally it could only be used that that purpose.

Council were in agreement for the HHS to try and negotiate a joint venture with the BDS which was to include not only the Hackney classes but the Rare Breeds of the Year Show itself. Mr McNinch felt Mr Cresswell would be most suitable to enter into negotiations with the BDS as strong minded people were required to be on the committee. Mr James proposed, seconded by Mrs Clough for Mr Connolly, Mr Cresswell, Mr Docking, Mr Hardy and Mr McNinch to form the committee to hold discussions with the BDS. Mr Docking asked if council were happy for him to report to the BDS at their meeting on 17th September 2014 that Council were happy to continue to look into the possibility of a joint venture, this Council agreed to.

Mr Chicken said how in future Mr James cannot take it on himself to make decisions to allow or not animals forward from the preliminary classes as he did in 2013. Mrs Stockton informed him and Council that it was totally her decision to not allow an animal forward into the open horse class and it had nothing to do with Mr James whatsoever. She said how she had told Mr James that only six could go forward as that was all that had been allowed from the pony class and as she was the most senior member of Council present at the time felt this was the correct way forward. She offered her apologies to Council if they felt she was not correct in making such a decision by herself.

Mr Cresswell asked if there were preliminary classes at this year's show as in the schedule it said there were. Mrs Hicketts said this was an error apologised and would change it.

Action Mrs Hicketts to change wording in the Schedule

Mrs Hicketts informed Council how Mr Cooper had written to the Society to apologise that he would be unable to judge at the Championships due to his health. She said she had spoken to Mr Bass and he agreed to contact Mr McNinch who had been Council's other choice to see if he would be available and he kindly agreed to stand in.

5. Review of Annual Breed Show

Mrs Barraclough asked if the timetable could be looked into as the Tuesday was a very heavy showing day with In hand in the morning and Novice in the afternoon. Mr Ward agreed that it was difficult if you wanted to show both In hand and Novice harness and often he decided to do one or the other It was suggested for the Secretary to send this year's timetable to Council for them to look at and make suggestions as to how the timetable could be altered by November. Mrs Hicketts to then send out the suggestions for Council to make a final decision at their February meeting.

Action Mrs Hicketts to forward timetable to Council

Miss Wormald informed Council she always supplied at her cost the tea coffee etc for the Hackney tent at the Breed Show. She said how she would be happy to supply more so that anyone coming into the tent could be offered a drink and biscuit as long as Council were happy with this and it did not affect the caterer. Mrs

Hicketts thought the Society did not have any loyalty to the new caterers especially as they had let the Society down two years running. Council thought this to be an excellent idea and thanked Miss Wormald.

Mr Cresswell said how he was very disappointed in the way the judges at this year's show conducted themselves with regard to park pace. He said he had never seen animals in the Snr Pony class have to walk so much, usually the handlers were exhausted as they have to run so much. A discussion took place on the fore and against of park pace and it was felt the judges should have an actual rule that allowed only a certain amount of park pace. It was agreed for Mrs Stockton to write a rule to be entered into the year book which clearly stated the amount of park pace allowed, this to be sent to Council for their consideration and comments which would be required by November and for it to be re-sent with any alterations to be finalised at the February meeting.

Action Mrs Stockton to include rule for Mrs Hicketts to forward to Council

Mr Ward said he did not think the idea of three judges worked and Mrs Hicketts said she had had a lot of exhibitors stating the same but as it was not put in writing could not officially bring it to Council. Council discussed whether three judges worked and if it caused problems regarding the length of time of park pace, people thought they were not being looked at because the judges had to have discussions and that it took a lot longer. It was decided to revert back to one judge but not as it used to be with one judge doing one section but for them to be mixed throughout. Mrs Hicketts said she would look at the classes and see how it could work with the judges alternating between the classes, she would send her suggestion out for Council to look into and make any comments by November. Any alterations to be re-sent for agreement at the February meeting.

Action Mrs Hicketts to forward suggestion

Miss Wormald said how in Holland there was an official commentators course and although this is not something which happened in UK perhaps the Society could look into how we could encourage some other commentators as when Mr Docking or Mrs Stockton were busy with other commitments there was no-one else to call on within UK.

Mrs Gill asked why Madges Last Wonder had not received an Open Qualifier when he was a Novice as she thought he would still have qualified. Mrs Hicketts was of the opinion one had been sent but would have to check and would reply to Mrs Gill as soon as she could after the meeting.

Action Mrs Hicketts to contact Mrs Gill

Mr Fitzpatrick was very annoyed that he had not qualified for the Novice Class at the Championships as he thought the season ran from the first show until the last and not Edenbridge one year through to Equifest the next. He said he had checked the rules and it did not state anywhere that this was the case. He entered both Orsett and Victoria Foods and has since gained a further 10 points which if it was the full showing year he would have qualified. Mr A Ward said he felt the Novice Champion should automatically qualify from the Breed show especially as they are removed from Novices if they do win the Championship. Council felt under the ruling as it appears in the year book it was not clear enough and Mr Fitzpatrick could bring Renvyle the Real Deal if he wished. Also for the Novice Horse and Pony of the Annual National Breed Show to automatically qualify even if they were not within the top 12 animals. Mrs Hicketts asked Mr Cresswell to mention this to Mr Carter in case he wished to bring his pony. The ruling to be changed to include the showing period and that the Champions qualify.

Action Mrs Hicketts to change rule in year book

6. Council Nominations

Mrs Hicketts informed Council Mrs Turner did not want to re-stand for council when her term of office ended this year.

Mrs Hicketts reported the following had been nominated:

Mr R Denness

Mr G Dudley

Mrs J Howell

Miss Peters

Miss Sparrowhawk

She said how she had received a late nomination from Mr Murrell but it was 6 days late so could not be put forward and she had informed him of this.

Mr Docking asked who had nominated Miss Sparrowhawk, Mrs Hicketts replied it was Ms Bloomfield, Mrs Bass and Mr Bass. Council were very surprised that Mr Bass had nominated Miss Sparrowhawk as he was fully aware she had resigned when the situation arose regarding Mr Stubbs and it was felt she had not been overly supportive of Council.

Action Mrs Hicketts to add nominees to voting paper and distribute

7. New Members/Prefixes

Council agreed to the following new members:

Mr & Mrs Athey, Hawick, Scotland – Miss J Hill, Alton Hampshire – Mr F Smith, Enfield, Hertfordshire – Mr W Willett, Sittingbourne, Kent – Mr R Wijthoef, The Netherlands

There were no new prefixes

8. Any Other Business

Mrs Hicketts said she had received a letter from Mr Peter Andrews re-applying to Council as they suggested to become a probationary judge. Miss Wormald proposed to accept Mr Andrews as a probationary judge, seconded by Mrs Gill, with 1 against the proposal was carried.

Action Mrs Hicketts to write to Mr Andrews informing of decision

Mrs Hicketts reported an application to register an animal had been received but the stallion did not hold a permit and although she had tried to locate its whereabouts was unable to. She asked Council if they wished to register the progeny as a pure bred if it parent tests without the stallion holding a permit and this Council were not in agreement to do.

Action Mrs Hicketts to register as part bred

Mrs Hicketts reported to Council that NFU Mutual were very happy with the amount of policies taken out by Hackney members. This was very good news for the Society as hopefully they will continue to supply the Hackney tent at the Breed Show.

Mrs Hicketts reported she had received an application for Mrs Rozendaal-Paulus to be able to use looped reins. As a decision was required before the Council meeting Mr Bass had given the authority. Mr Cooper asked if there was any need for exhibitors once they have applied for looped reins and had sent in a doctors certificate to keep applying. Council felt the rule should be changed to applying once with a doctors letter and there would be no need to re-apply.

Action Mrs Hicketts to change rule and inform via newsletter

Mrs Hicketts reported under the new legislation if a PIO knows of any animals that are not passported they have to inform the local trading standards. She said how Miss Vyse had sent DNA samples through to Newmarket and Newmarket had confirmed their parentage and sent reports back to the Society but Miss Vyse had never applied for the registration/passports. Mrs Hicketts said how she had written and spoken with Miss Vyse explaining the situation but had still had no registration forms in for them. Mr James proposed that as per legislation the Society must inform the local trading standards, seconded by Mr Connolly and unanimously agreed.

Action Letter to go to Trading Standards

Mrs Hicketts said more information had been sent from DEFRA which she had only received the day before and had not had too much time to look at it but would do so in the next few days and bring any comments to Council at the next meeting. One thing she did pick up was that at this stage a single PIO was not being discussed but a central database had to be introduced. What negative monetary connotations this would have for the Society she did not know.

Miss Wormald asked now that Mr Peters had resigned there was anyone taking over the role of Health and Safety at the Breed Show. She said she was a first aider and would be happy to take this role on. Mr Connolly said he would be happy to take on the role of Health and Safety at the Breed Show. Mrs Hicketts reminded him for insurance a risk assessment was required to be done each and every year.

Mrs Stockton asked if anyone at the meeting would be interested in purchasing tickets for the 100 club as Miss Wormald had only 37 tickets sold to date. She thanked Miss Wormald for all her hard work in the setting up of the 100 club.

Mr Bass said how he had been talking with a couple of past presidents to see if they could come up with someone to take over the role of President now HRH the Prince of Wales had finished his term. He said how he had mentioned a gentleman called Stanley Harris who was the principle of T Cribbs and Son the funeral directors and they were in agreement with his suggestion. Mr Bass said Mr Harris was thrilled to take on the role and had also agreed to sponsor the Ardingly ring each year for £1,000. Council were happy with the choice.

Mr Bass reported to Council that he had written to HRH The Prince of Wales to ask if he would become Patron of the Society once his Presidency had finished. He said how he was pleased to announce that HRH had agreed to become the Society's patron for a 5 year term from August of this year. Council were extremely pleased to have his Royal Highness as the Society's patron as it could only help raise the Hackney profile.

Mr Bass said how the Secretary had telephoned him the other night to point out within this month's Ostler it had been mentioned that HRH was our Patron. He said he had spoken to Stephanie Kill at Carriage Driving about the matter who gave him the Ostlers telephone number to discuss it. Mr Bass said how he found the Ostler to be a most arrogant and unhelpful person and he did not give any answers as to why he had mentioned HRH as the Society's Patron. Mr James proposed a letter should be sent to Stephanie Kill explaining the situation and asking for an apology but not for it to be published as the Society did not want further attention drawn to the error, this Council agreed to.

Action letter to go to Carriage Driving

Ms Barraclough asked if there was any chance on gaining a qualifier for the Cuddy In Hand Championships. Council felt this was something which could be pursued and asked Ms Barraclough to look into it.

Action Ms Barraclough to pursue Cuddy qualification

Mr Connolly said was there any chance to either get the Royal International or New Forest to change their Hackney class times as exhibitors were having to chose to attend one or the other show. Council felt this was not something which would be wise to pursue.

Date of next meeting February 2015

Meeting closed 3.45 p.m.