

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE HACKNEY HORSE SOCIETY HELD ON 24th February 2015, AT ROYAL MEWS AT 1.00 P.M.

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

1. Apologies: Mr R Bass, Mr R Carter, Mr J Chicken, Mr R Robertson

2. Election of Chairman

Mrs Stockton and Mr Connolly were asked to leave the room so a fair discussion could take place and therefore none of the candidates were in attendance before or when the vote took place. Due to the other candidates leaving the room prior to any discussion or information given Mr Chicken was not penalised for not being able to attend due to his ill health.

Mrs Hicketts informed Council that Mr Bass and Mr Chicken would not be able to attend as Mr Chicken was ill and he was driving Mr Bass. Mr Bass said that he wanted to have the election postponed. Mrs Hicketts said how she had raised concerns about this to Mr Bass as it was not within the rulings of the Society. When she informed the Vice-Chairman of the situation, Mrs Stockton asked her to contact the Society's legal firm to clarify the situation in case in the future the vote was brought into question as it was not within correct procedure. The response from the legal firm was that the election was to take place at this meeting and for Mrs Hicketts to try and contact Mr Chicken to inform him that the vote would be taking place and to ask if he had anything he wished to say. Mrs Hicketts informed Council that she had tried to contact Mr Chicken on his mobile a few times to no avail and she also tried the clubhouse but again was unable to contact him. Mr Ward wondered whether it was possible to postpone as Mr Chicken was such a long standing member of Council. It was eventually decided that as none of the candidates were going to give a resume of what they intended to do for the Society, none of the candidates were in attendance or had been from the very start of the proceedings and it was a silent vote it would make no difference to the vote whether one all or none were in attendance and therefore Mr Chicken would not be penalised for being unable to attend.

Voting papers were distributed and Mrs Hicketts collected and counted them and the result was as follows:

Mr Chicken	4 votes
Mr Connolly	2 votes
Mrs Stockton	9 votes

Mrs Stockton was duly elected as Chairman of the Society and her term of office to run from February 2015 until February 2018.

Mrs Stockton thanked everyone for their vote of confidence and she said how she hoped Council would move forward in a united front especially as the Society had large battles ahead just to keep the Society going. Mrs Stockton also recognised the dedication and effort Mr Bass the retiring Chairman had put into the role and wished him well and thanked him very much for all he had done for the Society over his years in office. Mrs Stockton said she was sorry to hear Mr Chicken was unwell and wished him a speedy recovery.

The Chairman welcomed the two new members to the meeting who were Pauline Peters and Geoff Dudley although Mr Dudley was a re-turning member.

Mrs Stockton said that she would not be able to continue with her other roles and therefore there was a need to consider who was to be the Vice Chairman and Treasurer. Mr Cooper proposed John Chicken for Vice Chairman, seconded by Michael Neachell. Mr Dudley proposed Roly Connolly for Vice Chairman seconded by Mr Docking. Mr Connolly was asked to leave the room so a fair discussion could take place. Council were very much of the opinion that Mr Chicken has been a long serving Council member and always fully supports the Society but there was a small concern that with his health it would be unfair to ask him to take on this role. Council felt Mr Connolly also helped the Society in many ways and was extremely supportive. A vote took place and the result was as follows: Mr Chicken 7 in favour and Mr Connolly 6 in favour. Mr Chicken was duly elected to the role of Vice-Chairman. Mrs Stockton felt Mr Chicken could offer a lot of support to her in her role as Chairman as he was such a long standing member of Council.

Acton Mrs Stockton to contact Mr Chicken to confirm he is happy to take on the role of Vice-Chairman

Mrs Stockton informed Mr Connolly that Mr Chicken was duly elected as Vice-Chairman. Mrs Stockton asked Mr Connolly if he was interested in taking on the role of Treasurer this Mr Connolly declined. Mrs Stockton asked if anyone wished to take the role on, no-one was interested. Mrs Stockton asked Mr Hardy if he would take it on and he said he would do so but on a trial basis, Mrs Stockton proposed Mr Hardy seconded by Miss Peters, unanimous.

3. MINUTES of the last meeting held 16th September 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman proposed by Mr Docking, seconded by Mr Cresswell, unanimous.

4. Matters Arising

i. DEFRA/PIO Situation

Mrs Hicketts asked Council if they had any questions on the information which had been previously distributed regarding the DEFRA information and the PIO Audit. Council had none. Mr James said the Secretary should be congratulated for achieving such a good result from the audit.

Mrs Hicketts said how with new legislation all change of ownership must be done within 30 days. She asked if it would be prudent to make the rule on transfers a little more stringent with the tear off slip informing of the change of owner having to be returned by the seller. This would mean the Society could fulfil the legislation of keeping true records as if the new owner did not inform the Society of their details they could be contacted and if necessary the relevant official department informed if they did not complete the transfer. This would also mean that the seller had also conformed to legislation. Council discussed whether this would be a suitable way forward and felt it would safeguard the Society. It was felt that it should also be put in the newsletter. Mrs Gill proposed including in the rule on transfers that the tear off slip must be returned to the Society by the previous owner seconded by Mr James, with 2 against proposal carried.

Action Mrs Hicketts to include in rules and in the newsletter

ii. New Society Leaflet

Mr James said the printing of the new leaflet had been delayed due to the change of photographs but it was now at the printers and would be available for distribution in the next couple of weeks. He showed Council a sample.

iii. Judge Guidelines

Mrs Stockton read out the ruling which had previously been distributed to Council regarding the ruling on park pace. The ruling was: Exhibitors should enter the ring a park pace on the right rein. Park pace should only be maintained long enough for all the exhibitors to have entered the ring and/or every competitor to have passed the judge once. NB Therefore if it is a large class some early exhibitors into the ring will pass the judge more than once as the steward waits for all animals to have entered the ring. She also read out the guideline which she felt would be required to be included into the judge's guideline: Judges should make their stewards aware of this ruling at any affiliated show so that the stewards can make the call to 'show your horses' at the appropriate time. Council had no questions regarding the suggestions and were happy for them to be included. Mrs Stockton proposed to change the ruling to the above including the guideline, seconded by Mr Docking, unanimous.

Action Mrs Hicketts to include in rules and guidelines and distribute to the judges

iv. Ms Barraclough said how she had managed to obtain the Cuddy qualification. It would take place at 3.15 at South of England Show. There would be no cost as the South of England Show would already be paying and HOYS do not want anything. Ms Barraclough said she would pass all the HOYS information to the Society's Secretary. Council asked if it was the Horse and Pony Supreme or just the Supreme Champion Animal to qualify for the Cuddy Championship. Ms Barraclough was uncertain and said she would ask for clarification. Council also asked Ms Barraclough to confirm which ring it would be taking place in. Council asked for a rule to be included in the schedule to state that the Supreme animal will be required to attend the Cuddy Championship. Council thanked Ms Barraclough for all her hard work in achieving this.

Action Ms Barraclough to confirm ring and what animals qualified also to send information to Mrs Hicketts. Mrs Hicketts to include information in schedule

v. Mrs Hicketts reminded Council of the proposed time-table that had previously been distributed. She reminded Council they had requested the timings were looked into to see if the Novice classes could be moved from the Tuesday. After a lengthy discussion as to the pros and cons of changing the time-table Council were of the opinion it was working well as it was and making any changes would not improve the situation. Mr Dudley proposed to keep the time-table as it was for 2014 seconded by Mr Cresswell, unanimous.

vi. Mrs Hicketts reminded Council of the sample, which had already been distributed, of how the judges could be worked if Council reverted back to one judge and to not have one judge per section. She reminded Council they had requested this at the last meeting. After a discussion as to whether to revert back to one judge, how this could penalise judges from judging, how this would actually improve the ability for judges to judge, how this could be better for the exhibitor if they did not like going under certain judges. Council felt the system should be trialled. Mr Cresswell propose first in foremost to revert back to one judge and for the new split of classes for judges instead of one per section be trialled seconded by Mr Docking with 1 against the proposal was carried.

vii. Mrs Hicketts informed Council that due to the new PIO legislation she has to inform Trading Standards of any animals she is aware of that do not hold a passport. She explained how Miss Vyse had DNA typed 7 animals but had never completed the registrations and although she had been contacted several times to explain the situation she would not complete the registrations and therefore there had been no alternative but to inform Enfield Trading Standards. Mrs Stockton said if Miss Vyse had registered on time then she

- should have received the grant but as they were so late she did not qualify. Mr Cresswell proposed to allow everyone to get the grant to encourage and help registrations, seconded by Mr Dudley, unanimous.
- viii. Mrs Stockton read the letter out from the Miss Sixsmith the new Chairman of the BDS which had already been distributed to the Championship Show Committee. In the letter it stated that the BDS was already committed to Addington, but Addington did have Sunday 26th September available if the Hackneys did wish to utilise their premises and the BDS have confirmed their approval of discussions continuing regarding the possibility of the two Societies coming together. Mrs Stockton informed Council she had a phone call from Ms Charlotte Lawson who said they would only join together if the show continued to be held at Addington. Mr Docking said how Mr Osborne would only continue with his sponsorship if the BDS was at Addington. Mrs Stockton informed Council at the meeting with the Rare Breeds Committee they wished to continue at Houghton Hall and wanted the 3rd October. Mr James informed Council £4000 sponsorship was already confirmed for the show and the show had reserves. A discussion took place and comments made were, site needed to be improved on the outside area and stabling. Neither show had the atmosphere of Towerlands although everyone was of the opinion this could never be replicated. Emphasis for the Society must be the Rare Breed part and many animals showing in the BDS show were also Rare Breeds and therefore classes could be included to draw these in. The Rare Breeds show cost the Society nothing at all, if the Society joined forces with the BDS then there would be a minimum cost implication of possibly £4,000. The BDS needed the Hackney classes for their atmosphere and a discussion needed to take place in case there was a chance of joining forces for 2016 onwards. Mr Cresswell who is the Chairman of the Championship Show Committee proposed to continue at Houghton Hall for 2015 but for him to organise talks with the BDS and the Championship Show Committee for a future joint venture but the financial implication to the Society must be taken into account at all times and the other Rare Breeds must be included in any joint venture, seconded by Mr Dudley, unanimous.

Action Mr Cresswell to contact the BDS

5. Approval of Accounts

Mrs Stockton confirmed with Council they had had a chance to look through the accounts for the year beginning 1st October 2013 and ending 30th September 2014. She said how they were an improving picture as this year the operating loss had been reduced from £5387 to £1002 but with the unrealised gains on our investments gave a final figure of £6839 in the black.

Mrs Stockton said how an operating loss was still a loss and the Society needed to try not to rely on the investments. She said how the sponsors and supporters had once again rose to the challenge and donations were slightly up.

Cost on the whole stayed consistent which when you couple inflation into the figures this is very good. The only figures which were up was postage/stationary/telephone costs and database costs. This was due to the new legislation on passports and the equipment and stationery required in running the Society as a PIO.

The Treasurer said to sum up the Society was moving in the right direction but still had to be very careful and the aim was to improve the operating accounts so they appear in the black. Once again she thanked all the sponsors for their support. There were no questions raised on the accounts so Mrs Stockton proposed the accounts were accepted, seconded by Mr Neachell, unanimous.

6. Price increases

Mrs Stockton said how the bank costs to using the card facility was quite large and to save as much as possible on this anyone using a credit or debit card to be charged a surcharge of £2.50. If people then stopped using the cards the charges would be reduced as they were done on a percentage used and if they still wished to use them then some of the charges would be offset so it would be a win win situation. Another area Mrs Stockton felt could be looked into increasing was the cost of registration. At the moment due to all the grants received on registrations the breeder is paying very little if not coming out in profit so Mrs Stockton felt the registration cost could be increased from £31 to £35. Council felt the idea of a charge on card use was now normal practice and ultimately the cost of registrations would not affect the breeder. Mrs Stockton proposed a surcharge of £2.50 is levied on any card use and registrations to be increased to £35, seconded by Mr Dudley, unanimous. Mr James said how the Society was missing out on a lot of income as very few members had signed up to Gift aid and this was an area which needed to be encouraged, especially as there was a nil cost to the person agreeing to sign up to Gift Aid. Mr Hardy the new Treasurer said he would pursue how he could encourage more to sign up to gift aid. Miss Wormald asked for anyone who had not signed up to the 100 club to do so as this was a good way of raising money and it was only £15 with a chance of winning a third of the income raised.

Action Mrs Hicketts to inform members of the card surcharge and the increase in registration costs. Mr Hardy to encourage the take up of Gift Aid

7. Judges for Breed Show

The following were chosen for the Breed show judges in the new trial format:

In Hand Pony

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Mr J Wenham Jnr

In Hand Horse	-	Mr R Walker Jnr
In Hand Championship	-	Mr J Wenham Jnr and Mr R Walker Jnr
Novice Pony	-	Mrs S Reade
Novice Horse	-	Miss P Peters
Novice Championship	-	Mrs S Reade and Miss P Peters
Open Pony	-	Mr R Walker Jnr
Open Horse	-	Mrs S Reade
Open Pony Championship	-	Mrs S Reade and Mr R Walker Jnr
Open Horse Championship	-	Mrs S Reade and Mr R Walker Jnr
Amateur Pony	-	Mr J Wenham Jnr
Amateur Horse	-	Miss P Peters
Amateur/Ladies Championship	-	Mr J Wenham Jnr and Miss P Peters
International Pony	-	Miss P Peters
International Horse	-	Mr R Walker Jnr
Double Harness/Private Drive	-	Mr N Fuller
Junior Whip	-	Mrs S Reade
Ridden/Trade/Part Bred Show	-	Mr N Fuller

Mrs Stockton proposed to accept the list as above, seconded by Mr Docking, unanimous.

It was decided that the judges for the Championship show was to be decided at the June meeting. Council asked Mrs Hicketts to find out who will be available.

Action Mrs Hicketts to inform members of the judges and to write to the judges to see who would be available for the Championship show

8. Stewards for Breed Show/Championship Show
Breed Show

Both Mr Connolly and Mr Hardy said they would be joint Stable/Parking stewards. Mr Connolly said he was unable to attend until the Monday as it was his daughter's 21st but he had already spoken to Mark Hardy and he will be on site from the Friday and will deal with the stabling and parking. Mr Connolly confirmed he would be the Health and Safety representative. Ring Stewards to be Robbie Robertson and Alistair McNinch with Roly Connolly, Mark Hardy and Geoff Dudley helping with the stewarding. Commentator Mr Docking.

Miss Wormald said she would supply free tea and coffee to anyone who comes into the tent. Mr Connolly said it would be nice to have a TV going showing various DVD's and he would supply the TV. Council were happy for this to take place but asked Mr Connolly to source the DVD's and to make sure they were suitable to be shown. Mrs Stockton informed Council that NFU due to a change in their sponsorship will no longer supply the marquee and tables and chairs. They had supplied this to the Society since 1999 free of charge. She said how she had written to South of England and explained the situation and they had agreed to pay a percentage of the cost of supplying the marquee. At this moment in time no quotes had been forwarded by them as to the likely cost.

**Action Mr Connolly to source DVD's
Championship Show**

Stewards for the Championship show to be confirmed at the June meeting. Mr Docking confirmed as commentator.

9. RSPCA

Mrs Stockton informed the meeting that some members of the Society were being prosecuted by the RSPCA for cruelty but at this present moment in time names were not available. She said the Society's legal firm has said within the rules they could be removed as members. Council felt very strongly that they must be removed with immediate effect and if they are convicted then Council to reconsider then.

It was felt with the Royal patronage that the papers may try and contact the Society or members of Council and Council felt a statement was required to be written. Council felt both the letter to the members and the statement needed to either be passed by the legal firm or written by them.

Mrs Stockton said that when this broke out she had been in touch with our legal firm and they advised for the following to be included in the Bye Laws: *Any member that is the subject of formal investigation by the RSPCA, Police or equivalent investigation authority in relation to any form of mistreatment of animals will be suspended from exercising the privileges of membership of the Society with immediate effect, pending a resolution of that investigation. The matter shall also be referred to the next Council meeting.*

Mrs Stockton proposed the Bye Law is accepted, seconded by Mr Docking, unanimous.

Action Mrs Stockton to make sure a letter is sent to the members and a statement to be written

10. Section C Upgrade

Mrs Hicketts explained that Mr Horst in Holland felt one of his animals that at the moment was registered as a Section C animal should be a Section A if the rules of registration in 1974 was followed for one of the Dams within its progeny. Mrs Hicketts explained that in 1974 the rules of registration within UK for mares was:

a. Registered Sire and Registered Dam

b. Registered Sire, Dam unregistered but sired by a Registered Sire out of a mare by a Registered Sire

She also explained that in 1974 the rules of registration for animals Bred beyond the UK was:

The rules and conditions of entry for horses and ponies bred beyond the United Kingdom are the same as those for horses and ponies bred in the United Kingdom expect that every horse or pony must trace back on both sire's and dam's side, in all lines, to horses or ponies registered in the English Hackney Stud Book and all previous back crosses must be registered in that Stud Book.

Mrs Hicketts explained to Council that if the registration of the mare Cueni Naomi was presented to her and she was following the rules on registration of the 1974 studbook then if the animal had been bred in the UK it would have been eligible but as it was bred outside of the UK it was not.

Council were of the opinion that the studbook rules were to be adhered to and therefore this animal would not have been eligible for registration. Mr James proposed that Cueni Naomi could not have been registered as per studbook volume 47 and therefore the progeny Heemhoeve's Topy must stay as a Section C animal, seconded by Mr Cresswell unanimous.

Action Mrs Stockton to inform Mr Horst of council's decision

Mrs Stockton read out a proposal for the Dutch H numbers which Mr Horst had put forward which was Hackneys at the date of their registration in the Dutch Hackney Studbook comply to the criteria for registration in the Studbook of the UK Hackney Horse Society, Council stated that all Animals bred beyond the UK must follow the rules of the studbook which is that they trace back on both Sire and Dam's side in all lines to animals registered in the English Hackney Stud book this will not ever change.

Action Mrs Stockton to inform Mr Horst of council's decision

11. New Affiliation Requests

Mrs Hicketts reported the following shows had asked to affiliate to the Society:

Indoor Driving Show Ireland 4th May

Royal Three Counties Show Malvern 13th June

Surrey Area BDS Show Surrey, 12th July

Devon Branch Area BDS Show 19th July

Driving Addington 26th September

Council were happy to accept all the above affiliations.

Action Mrs Hicketts to inform the shows

Mrs Hicketts informed Council that Mr Bass had been invoiced by the Royal International for sponsorship and the only money raised so far is £200 from the Dinner Dance. Council asked if the invoice had been sent to Mr Bass's address or the Society's, Mrs Hicketts confirmed the Society. Council felt very strongly that any show wishing for sponsorship must raise it from outside of the Society and that the Society not to be involved at all. They said a letter to go to the Royal International informing them they must contact Mr Bass direct as this was not anything to do with the Society. Mr Docking informed the meeting that Patchetts the Pre-Season Driving Show was no longer able to continue due to lack of funds.

Action Mrs Stockton to write to Royal International

12. New Members and Prefixes

Council agreed to the following new members:

Miss A Baker, Bishops Stortford Hertfordshire – The Hon E Boscawen, Truro, Cornwall - Revd A J Pugh, Tewkesbury, Glos– Mr W Taylor, Exeter Devon

Renewal of membership for Mr D Vyse Council felt Mr Vyse could have his membership renewed but if he was to break any rules and regulations again then an immediate ban would be enforced and depending on the severity a lifetime ban could be imposed.

Mrs Stockton to write and confirm with legal firm

New prefixes were

Avion for Mr Lijffijt and Heemhoeves for Mr Horst

13. Any Other Business

Mrs Hicketts said there had been a comment about the description of a drop noseband and they had asked for clarification. Council said that a drop noseband was any noseband that did up under the bit. Mrs Stockton proposed where ever a rule states about drop noseband the following to be included: a drop noseband is any noseband that does up under the bit and the only noseband allowed is a normal cavesson noseband, seconded by Mr Docking, unanimous.

Action Mrs Hicketts to change rules

Mrs Stockton informed Council that Mr Horst had made a suggestion to the Novice qualifying system to encourage more entries. Council did not want to consider any changes to the Novice qualification as the system

was working, entries will always be low at times as exhibitors do not want to have their animals removed from Novices if they win the Championships.

Action Mrs Stockton to write to Mr Horst

Mr Neachell asked Council if they would be happy for him to return to the judge's panel with immediate effect. Council were very happy for him to return as a judge.

Action Mrs Hicketts to include Mr Neachell on judges panel

Miss Peters asked if there was any way the results could be given out at the show for the Breeders and Exhibitors points. Mrs Stockton explained that it was a long process and timings made it difficult to announce it at the show. Mrs Stockton asked Miss Peters if she would take this on and then she could make sure the results are announced after the horse championships at the show, this Miss Peters agreed to do.

Action Miss Peters to work out Breeders and exhibitors awards at the Breed Show

Mr Dudley asked if Miss Dudley could be considered as a probationary judge, Council were happy to take her on to the probationary system for this year.

Action Mrs Hicketts to inform Miss Dudley

Miss Peters asked if the Novice horse and pony automatically come forward from the Breed Show for the Championships. Mrs Hicketts confirmed they did.

Ms Barraclough asked if there was any way exhibitors could be encouraged to use the Website for selling their Hackneys. Mrs Hicketts said they could advertise for free and hoped everyone was aware of this service. Council suggested it is put in the newsletter that this service was available. Mrs Stockton informed Council that she was hopeful of someone taking over the updating of the website as at the moment it took a lot of the Secretary's time trying to keep it updated.

Action Mrs Hicketts to include in newsletter

Mr Ward asked if the Royal Windsor show could give some more time between the Hackney classes. Mrs Stockton said this was very difficult as we did not want to cause any upset to the show but she would have an off the record conversation.

Action Mrs Stockton to speak with Royal Windsor

Next Meeting after AGM 8th June 2015.

Meeting closed 4.50 p.m.