

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE HACKNEY HORSE SOCIETY HELD ON 1st March 2016, AT ROYAL MEWS AT 1.00 P.M.

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

Mrs Stockton asked for a minutes silence for Mr Wilf Gill and Mr Alex Presho who had sadly died.

1. Apologies Mr R Bass, Mr J Creswell, Mr R Carter, Mr J Chicken and Mrs V Gill
2. Minutes of last meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman proposed by Gary Docking, seconded by Mr Cooper.
3.
 - i. PIO
Mrs Hicketts passed around the new passport. She said that at the moment there were no more changes regarding passports. The UK have to supply a central database by July, this should have no effect on the Society as a Passport Office but we will have to uplift all our data into the necessary fields.
 - ii. Judges Guidelines
Mrs Stockton reported the judge's seminar is to take place in March and at the moment only three judges have apologised. She said all guidelines will be discussed at the seminar.
 - iii. BDS/Rare Breeds/Hackney Championships Joint Venture
As Mr Cresswell was unable to attend the meeting Mrs Hicketts reported the BDS have made no further contact regarding a joint venture. Mrs Stockton reported an approach had been made to Victoria Foods and although they could not look into it for this year it was something they may consider in the future. She said how Mr James from the Carriage Foundation had contacted to express an interest. Mr James said although it was of interest if the show was still just on one day then it would probably not fit in with the current timetable.
Mr Connolly reported that a conference call had been held with the Rare Breeds regarding the 2016 show. He said how everyone was very positive about the show to the extent that it was felt there was a chance the show could outgrow the venue. One negative brought forward was that there was a clash between the ridden and driving classes in the collecting ring he said he would be addressing this. Mr Connolly said he would be having a meeting with the owner of Houghton Hall to iron out some of the issues we had last year. He said he was going to ask Sally Oultram to look into the show's website to see if she could update it. The sponsorship from both the HBLB and the RBST had been confirmed and the HBLB had agreed to increase their sponsorship from £3000 to £3500.
Action Mr Connolly to organise meeting with Houghton Hall and contact Sally Oultram regarding website
 - iv. RSPCA Case
Mrs Hicketts stated that at the moment there was nothing else to report other than the case which was due to come to court on 8th February 2016 has now been postponed until July. At this moment in time the defence was not accepting any of the evidence put forward and therefore everyone would have to attend court including the Secretary of the HHS.
4. Approval of Accounts
Mr Hardy said everyone should have received a copy of the accounts for the period of the 30th September 2014 to 30 September 2015. He said he was very pleased to say that they showed a profit of £4,494.00 as opposed to an operating loss of £1,002.00 for the year before. A large contributing factor to this profit was in the fund raising department he thanked all the Society's Sponsors and Supporters, as without their generosity and help the accounts would not look as healthy. He said Mrs Hicketts our Company Secretary asked him to highlight the fact that there was still plenty of work to be done in view of the fact that we did not have to pay for our Championship Show of approximately £2000.00, the Society claimed £1,421.00 in NI Employers Liability Contributions and she did not take her annual increase of £300.00. This Totals £3,721.00 which is a sharp reminder of what was still required to achieve.

With regard to costs they remained relatively consistent, although there was a rise of £695.00 in Stationery, Telephone and Postage, mainly due to increased Passport costs and recorded deliveries, as we are now registering more Animals in Europe. In addition, there was an increase in our Insurance, but this was due to an increase in cover for Directors liability from 1-2 Million Pounds which is more in line with our requirement. Investments stand at £180,558.00 with £78,171.00 Cash in the Bank. Total Net Assets of £233,088.00. The HBLB continues to help the Society with a Grant each Year and jointly both the Rare Breeds Survival Trust and the HBLB have been very supportive. The Society through its Sponsors and Supporters is sustaining itself, but I feel that Council should now be looking into price increases, to ensure that the Society's costs are pro-rata with the ever increasing costs it has to incur.

The Hon Treasurer proposed to adopt the accounts seconded by Ms S Barraclough, unanimous.

The Chairman reported to Council that Mr Hardy wished to have agreement from Council to sign the Secretary's mileage and electricity expenses as they have been presented to date. He had confirmed to the Chairman that he had no problems with the amounts claimed but he felt for his own sake he wanted more traceability and accountability. Mrs Stockton said it cost the Society only £20 a week for the Society's offices. Mrs Stockton also reported the Hon Treasurer had wished to introduce a system retrospectively and refused to sign the Company Secretary's electricity expenses from October to December and her December mileage. Mrs Stockton spoke with the Company's accountant who was happy with the expense forms as presented for a Company of our size. The Accountant suggested putting it to Council at the March meeting to see if they wanted any change for future expense claim forms. Mr Hardy still refused to sign the expense forms until it had been put to Council even when the Company Secretary stated she would have no alternative but to close the offices as it was not acceptable for her to continue to use more of her own electricity and petrol until her past expenses which had been done in all good faith had been signed and any future ones up until 29th February 2016 would be signed under the present system. Mr Hardy still refused. Mrs Stockton contacted the Company legal firm who said it was not reasonable or appropriate to effectively change the rules retrospectively and require additional information. Changes can be made but the employee needs to be informed about them before incurring the expenses not afterwards. He raised concern that refusal to pay expenses properly incurred with no prior warning of changes could conceivably give rise to a claim for Constructive Dismissal. Council were perfectly happy for the Hon. Treasurer to sign off the Company Secretary's mileage and electricity expenses as they have been presented for the past 17 years as they had no concerns at all about any accountability or traceability. Distances could be confirmed by AA route planner or similar and everyone knows from their own electricity bills the cost of electricity. The Company Secretary said she did not feel connolly raffle, auction etc. She said whatever system was installed she still would have to take money in all good faith from others. Council could understand why the Company Secretary felt uncomfortable going forward in taking cash but were perfectly happy for the Company Secretary to continue to take cash as she has done in the past at the Shows as long as she was happy to do so. Mr Neachell proposed for the Hon Treasurer to sign the Company Secretary's mileage and electricity expenses as has been presented for the past 17 years and for the Company Secretary to continue to take cash at Ardingly as has been done in the past, seconded by Mr Dudley, unanimous.

There was a very detailed discussion regarding various issues that had arisen regarding the situation the Company Secretary had been placed in, Mr Hardy offered to resign as Hon Treasurer, Mr Docking proposed to accept Mr Hardy's resignation, seconded by Mr Neachell, carried.

Both Mr James and Mr Connolly said they would be happy to take on the role of Hon Treasurer, Mr James was proposed by Mr Docking, seconded by Mr Cooper, Mr Connolly was proposed by Mr Neachell, seconded by Miss Wormald, a vote took place and Mr Connolly was duly elected as Hon. Treasurer. He will keep the role of Vice-Chairman.

5. Price Increases

As Mr Hardy had pointed out in his Treasurer's report, although the figures were good this year costs were continually increasing. Mrs Hicketts said how a lot of the increase in costs on the postage and stationery was due to the new passports. It was felt this was where any increases were required to compensate for all the extra cost. Mr Dudley proposed to increase Registrations by £5 to £40, passports by £5 to £16 and DNA £2.50 to £60, seconded by Mr A Ward, unanimous.

Action Secretary to update where appropriate and inform members via the newsletter

6. Timetable/Classes Breed Show

Novice Pony Move to Monday – Council discussed this but felt it was better to keep as is for this year as the ridden and part bred class had already been moved to Wednesday.

Novice Champion Eligibility – It was suggested Novice animals not to be knocked out of Novices if they win either the Annual National Breed Show or the Championship Show but they will have their full three years as a Novice but a Novice could only win the Novice Champion at the Breed Show or the Championship Show once, proposed by Mr Dudley, seconded by Mr Docking, with 1 against proposal carried.

Junior Whip/Young Driver – Council discussed the possibility of Junior Whip and Young Driver with Junior Whip starting at 8 – 14 and Young driver from 15 – 21. Council felt 8 would be too young for a junior whip but for the Junior whip class to be from 10 – 14 with the rules as is and for the Young Driver from 15 – 18 with the rules the same as any open class, proposed by Mr Docking, seconded by Mr Cooper, unanimous. Miss Peters kindly offered to sponsor the Young Drivers class as well as continue with the sponsorship of the Junior Whip, Council were very grateful for all her and her families support over the years.

New Class not Show Wagon – Council discussed various options and there was a general feel for Section C animals to be included in any new class but Mrs Stockton was conscious of the time and felt this was not the best place to go through the various options and it was agreed for Mrs Stockton, Mr Connolly and Mr Docking to look into various ideas and bring to Council in June. Also for Miss Moore's suggestion of Novice Private Drive class to be discussed then.

Action Secretary to alter schedule and any rules and to inform members via newsletter of the changes. Mr Docking, Mr Connolly and Mrs Stockton to discuss various options for the new class

7. Amateur Ruling

This was to stay as it is.

8. Judges for Breed Show and Championship Show

Council were given the list of judges who had agreed to judge both the Breed Show and Championship Show.

The following judges were selected for the Annual National Breed Show

In Hand Horse – Mr Wenham Jnr

In Hand Pony – Mr McNinch

Open Horse – Mr McNinch

Open Pony – Mr Docking

Novice Horse – Mr Docking

Novice Pony – Mr McNinch

Amateur Horse – Mr E Ward

Amateur Pony – Mr Docking

International Horse – Mr Ward

International Pony – Mr Connolly

Junior Whip and Young Driver – Mr Connolly

Ridden, Private Drive, Pairs – Mrs Neal with Mr Fuller as Reserve for Ridden

All Championships will have both judges from the Sections

The following judges were selected for the Championship Show

Open Horse and Pony – Mr S Bamford

Novice Horse and Pony – Mr Connolly

International Horse and Pony – Mr Docking

Amateur Horse and Pony – Mrs Stockton

Private Drive, Ridden, Junior Whip and Young Driver – Mr Wray

Action Secretary to put in newsletter and write to judges

Mrs Stockton reported Mr Ambrose had still not replied to the letter asking reasons as to why he did not attend Equifest. It was not certain whether he had moved and had not informed the Society but as he had replied to his availability to judge the address on file was correct. Council felt the Chairman should

send a letter to him asking him for his reason stating if he did not reply then he would be removed from the judges panel.

Action Mrs Stockton to write to Mr Ambrose

9. Breed Show/Championship Show Stewards

Annual National Breed Show Stewards

Mr Connolly – Parking and Stable Manager

Mr Cooper – Parking and Stable Manager to help on Saturday and Sunday

Mr Robertson – Chief Steward

Mr Dudley – Assistant Chief Steward

Mr J Peters – Steward

Mr McNinch – Steward

Mr Docking – Commentator and Mrs Stockton when Mr Docking was unavailable

Championship Show

No Stewards were discussed

Mrs Stockton reported a conference call had been held with the CEO of the South of England, Mr Nichols, several items had been discussed such as warming up area before the Championship class, parking and animals by the stables when their show started. Mr Nichols would be looking into these items and would report back. Mr Nichols said that there would be no driving of animals around the show at any time during the build up of the show. Also on no account would there be any repeat of the “get together” and if there was then the Society would no longer be able to have the show there.

The auction would still take place but there would be no Barbeque before or after.

Mrs Hicketts had been asked to contact Mr Nichols with regard to erecting another bench around the tree, he had said he would only want a metal one but he was going to have a look at the Antiques Fair on 1st and 2nd March to see if they had one and would only expect a contribution from the Society. Mr Docking said he knew someone who made these benches and would ask for costs if required.

Action Mrs Hicketts to monitor

10. DNA Part Breds

Mrs Stockton reported to Council the situation regarding a Part Bred Welsh that transpired to be a registered Part Bred Hackney, this was proven via DNA. Mrs Stockton felt it would be much better to get confirmation of the Hackney part of the animal before registration, this would also mean that in the future if any cross referencing was required a full DNA sample was held. Mrs Stockton proposed in future to DNA all part breds with immediate effect, seconded by Mrs Clough, unanimous.

Action Secretary to inform members via newsletter

11. Dinner Dance

Mrs Stockton thanked everyone who was involved in the 2015 Dinner Dance she congratulated everyone for a wonderful evening. She said there was a few things that required improvement which were all to do with the venue and for that reason a new venue had been found. The new venue was called Orsett Hall, it was still in Essex and very easy to get to. Although there would be a minimum covers of 150 it was felt this number could be easily achieved. Mrs Stockton said confirmation and a deposit had to be made prior to the meeting otherwise the date would have been unavailable. She reported that Mr and Mrs Hardy would not be organising the function this year but Mr Docking and “friends” had kindly agreed to take over the reins.

12. New Qualifier Requests

The Secretary said that the Kent BDS had asked to affiliate, Council were happy for them to do so. Both the Devon and Surrey BDS show had asked to be given a qualifier. Council felt that there were already enough qualifiers in the Surrey Area but they were happy to give qualifier status to Devon especially as there were no qualifiers in the West Country.

13. New Members/Prefixes

Council agreed to the following new members:

Ms M Bamford, Southowram, Yorkshire - Ms J Enoch, Nazeing, Essex – Ms S Kerr, Emsworth, Hampshire - Kathryn and Carl Nichols, Georgia USA – Ms Pritchard, Broxbourne, Hertfordshire - Mr W Rast & H Rast, Almero, Holland – Ms E Smith, Batley, West Yorkshire – Mr J Vine, Arundel, West Sussex - Mr H Wolters, Winterswijk, Holland

Marfield Mr Denis O'Neill, Wrexhill Miss E Smith (New Member), Braveheart Mr W Rast (New Member)

14. Any Other Business

Mrs Hicketts reported a doctors letter had been received regarding Mr David (Jimmy) Peters using looped reins, Council were happy to agree.

Action Mrs Hicketts to write to Mr Peters

Mrs Hicketts reported a letter had been received from Mr Ron Allen asking to be considered as a probationary judge. Council said due to Mr Allen's previous conduct he would not be considered to go onto the judges panel.

Action Mrs Stockton to write to Mr Allen

Mrs Stockton read out an email which had been received from Mr Paul Wyatt. He asked if embryo transfer could be allowed in the future, Council felt this was something the Society should allow and Mr James proposed to accept embryo transfer, seconded by Mr Docking, unanimous.

Mr Wyatt asked for animals where the stallion does not have a permit to be allowed to be registered as pure breds, Council would not agree to this as they felt a stallion must have a permit as at least a vet would have checked for hereditary diseases.

Mr Wyatt wanted a type of premium for acknowledgement of achievements of Sires and Dams that offspring have achieved good results in other disciplines, Council felt this was something that needed further discussion and asked for it to be discussed at the next meeting in June.

He asked if the Society could contact Sports horse GB to see if they could offer rosettes for their young stock, Council felt this should also come to the meeting in June.

He also wanted the Society to contact Equifest to put on In hand classes, this Council did not feel was suitable as the in hand classes are not that well supported even at the Annual National Breed Show.

Finally Mr Wyatt asked if the Society could encourage more leasing, Council felt this was something which the Society could not get involved in, incase anything went wrong.

Action Mrs Hicketts to write to Mr Wyatt and put items on next agenda

Mrs Stockton reported an email had been received from the European Hackney Horse Society with various points which they wished Council to discuss.

First point was they would like after 10 years recognition from the HHS. Council could not recognise the EHS and advised they contacted the Dutch government to pursue any form of recognition. Secondly they would like their registrations equal with those of the NHS regarding ownership of animals etc. Again due to legislation only a PIO can register a change of ownership so again Council advised this was something for the Dutch government. Third point was that all the active members of the EHS do not have to pay a joining fee if they are not already members of the Hackney Horse Society, Council agreed as long as they were members of the EHS they did not have to pay a joining fee. Last point was that could the figures for Registrations, membership etc be given a fixed Euro price list. Council agreed a fixed euro price list could be given but for it to be set in September and then again in February.

Action Mrs Stockton to write to EHS

Mrs Stockton reported that a non-member had written congratulating the Society on wonderful Hackney classes at the Championship show. She said how she had asked if a sash or something similar could be presented to the top junior point scorer throughout the year and presented at the Championship Show. Council were very grateful and agreed a sash could be presented but only at the Championship show as the Peters family kindly sponsored the Juniors at the Breed Show.

Action Mrs Stockton to confirm to Mrs Marshall

Mr Docking reported he had been asked to do a display with Hackneys at the Carriage Driving Fair and that Ms Barraclough will be helping. Council thanked him for all his support for the Society.

Mrs Stockton reported there had been an altercation between two members at the dinner dance. Both parties had been written to and a reply had been received from the alleged victim only. *He said he had not reported the incident and did not wish to pursue the matter. In view of this Council decided no further action to be taken*

Date of next meeting 6th June 2016

Meeting closed 4.45