

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE HACKNEY HORSE SOCIETY HELD ON 26th SEPTEMBER 2017, AT ROYAL MEWS AT 1.00 P.M.

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

1. Apologies R. Carter, Mrs J Clough, M. Neachell, Miss S Wormald
2. Minutes of last meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman proposed by Mr Gary Docking, seconded by Miss P Peters
3.
 - i. RSPCA Case
The Secretary informed Council that there was no further news to report at this stage on the Smith's case.
The Secretary reported with regard to the Wyatt case at the moment there was nothing to report from the RSPCA. She said that several of the Hackney animals that had been confirmed as rescued by the RSPCA via microchips were not in the ownership of Mr Wyatt. Mr Cresswell stated that he had been contacted by the RSPCA as one of the animals was still in his ownership but as he had sent the tear off slip to the Society from the transfer form informing that Mr Wyatt was the new owner, the Society's secretary could confirm to the RSPCA that he was not the owner but Mr Wyatt was. Mr Cresswell said this highlighted the problem of allowing the new owner to complete the transfer rather than the seller and perhaps it should be changed to the seller's responsibility. Council felt that with all the new legislation on passports and liability that it was important for the animal to be in the correct owner and the seller was left vulnerable for this to not be changed if it was the buyer's responsibility. Mr Cresswell proposed in future the seller was responsible for the change of owner and the fee immediately on selling, seconded by Mr Ward, unanimous.
Action Secretary to alter ruling in year book and to notify on newsletter
 - ii. Junior Officer
Mr Dudley informed Council that Miss Jessie Dudley-Apicella would be very happy to take on the role of Junior Officer. He said she would be happy to do whatever Council felt was required. He said she would also be happy to offer training as well. Mrs Stockton said she would discuss with Miss Dudley-Apicella what would be the best way forward and to inform Council at the next meeting. Mrs Stockton thanked Miss Dudley-Apicella for agreeing to take on the role.
Action Mrs Stockton to speak with Miss Dudley-Apicella prior to the next council meeting
 - iii. Facebook
Mr Bamford said he would be more than happy to set up the Facebook account and already had a template. He asked if it was to be called the Hackney Horse Society Facebook account and said posts would be monitored prior to being posted. Council discussed whether it would be suitable to have a Facebook account as it could be abused even when strictly monitored and would it be any advantage to the Society to have a Facebook account. Council felt that with the website and the fact that Facebook accounts like this are often abused it would be better not to have one. Mrs Stockton thanked Mr Bamford for looking into it.
 - iv. Website
Mr James said that to have a new website it would cost a minimum of £750 plus VAT. He said as far as he could see the present website was fit for purpose. He said perhaps the current site required a little tweak but it had everything that was required. Mr James asked Council if they wished to pursue a new site or to continue with the current one as the advantages were small for the amount of outlay. Council felt at present to continue with the website that the Society already had.
4. Lifetime Achievement Award
Mr Bamford said that when he suggested the award he felt it could be just something simple such as 40 years' service. Council felt that a criteria would be required so that it was fair to everyone as there was no firm way of knowing who had completed 40 years' service. Council discussed the way it could be

work with it being long service, someone who has done a lot of good for the Society, achieved a lot with breeding and showing. Council felt at the moment it was not something which would be suitable to start. Mr Cresswell proposed to put the idea on the back burner at the moment, seconded by Mr Docking, unanimous.

5. Review of Annual National Breed Show

Mrs Stockton said how with all the problems of wind, rain and fire the show was a great success and thanks must be given to everyone who helped to achieve this. The quality of the animals was very good and praise must be given to all exhibitors. Council felt the arson attack, for whatever reason the person did it, it did not achieve any negative results in fact it seemed to bring a lot of the exhibitors back on board and did not damage the relationship with the Society and the South of England Agricultural Society.

Mr McNinch said the Amateur classes as one class for the horses and one for the ponies was impossible to work with the awards. With cups for over and under and cups for ladies over and under the winner of one of the cups could have been placed last but win the trophy. Mr Docking said it was the most difficult classes to sort the awards out. Mr McNinch proposed to return to separate over and under classes in both the horses and ponies, seconded by Mr Docking, unanimous.

Action Secretary to alter the schedule and inform on newsletter

Mrs Stockton said there was a confusion as to whether the first or second qualified from the In hand for the Championships. Mrs Hicketts explained that the catalogue stated what the cup was awarded for and not what qualified to go into the Championships and therefore when commentating it would be preferable to use the schedule and not the catalogue for anything other than the animal or owner's details. Council asked for it to be clarified within the schedule.

Action Secretary to alter schedule

Ms Barraclough said she felt the new classes worked well and seemed popular, Mrs Stockton re-iterated this.

Although the auction did not raise anywhere near as much as previous years, Council felt that if the exhibitors wished to run it again they would be happy for them to do so.

Mr Docking asked if the Society would lose much if they stopped using the present caterers for the food. Mrs Hicketts said they sponsored £100. It was felt the food on the Wednesday which was from one of the major supermarkets was rather more varied and appetising. Mrs Stockton asked for Mr Docking to look into obtaining the food from either M & S or Waitrose and to obtain costs and bring to the next meeting.

Action Mr Docking to bring costings to the next council meeting

6. Exhibitors Group

Mrs Stockton said that at the moment nothing else had come through from the group. Mr Cresswell wished to make special thanks to Mr Docking for his excellent commentary at Newbury he said he really kept the crowds entertained. He also said how Mr Docking has been very professional on every occasion he had heard him commentate.

7. New Members and Prefixes

Council agreed to the following new members

Ms J Carter, Elson Hampshire – Ms D Groom, Taplow, Buckingham - Ms D Howlett, Dagenham, Essex – Mr J Kirk, Builth Wells, Powys – Mr S Loveridge, Bowers Gifford, Essex – Mr S K Watkins, Brynmaur, Gwent

There were no new prefixes.

8. Any Other Business

The Secretary informed Council that the Royal Bath and West and Herts County had both said that they may be interested in holding Hackney classes. Council were happy if they did want to affiliate to allow them to do so.

The Secretary said Mr Joey Peters had asked if he could be a probationary judge, she said he had asked prior to the June meeting but she had forgotten to put it forward. Council were happy for Mr Peters to do his probationary in 2018.

Action Secretary to inform Mr Peters of council's decision

Mrs Stockton felt perhaps in future it should be called trainee judges and not probationary judges. She said at the last meeting the newly formed committee were going to bring forward suggestions for people to be invited to become probationary judges. Mr Docking said the committee had not managed to meet. Mr James proposed by the February meeting for each Council member to suggest a name for Council to consider, if Council were interested then for that person to ask to see if they would be interested. If they then agreed for the Secretary to officially write, seconded by Ms Barraclough, unanimous.

Action all Council to suggest a name to be considered as a probationary judge

Miss Peters said how she thought it was not correct procedure for a judge to place the animals and then at the last minute to change the top two for conformation. Mrs Stockton said that there was nothing written down about it but she would look into it. Mr Docking thought it would be suitable for the Judge's committee to deal with any judge that had not followed the correct procedure.

Action Mrs Stockton to look into judge's rules

Council felt that any new judge should not be allowed to judge the Breed Show until they had actually judged some shows and not just completed two years, sometimes a judge could have done the two years and not judged any shows. Mrs Stockton proposed that all new judges must complete a minimum of two years and have judged at least four affiliated shows before they are allowed to judge at the Breed show, seconded by Miss Peters, unanimous.

Action Secretary to alter the rules

Mrs Stockton reported the two paintings that had been put in the auction had not sold but as agreed by Council Mr Neachell had purchased them for £200.

The Secretary informed Council that Mr Horst had apologised to her through his solicitor and that his membership had been re-instated. His solicitor had confirmed that a line had been drawn under all his issues raised.

Mr Docking reported that a new editor had taken over Carriage Driving Magazine, he felt it would be a good idea to invite her to the Championship show, Council agreed and Mrs Stockton asked Mr Docking to invite Ms Green.

Action Mr Docking to invite Ms Green to the show

Mr McNinch asked if there were separate facilities for judges and stewards to eat at the Championship show, Mr James said this was something he was dealing with.

Mr Cresswell asked how the entries were going for the show. Mrs Hicketts reported all breed entries were down including the Hackneys but the main Championship classes were quite well supported.

Mr Cooper said how disappointed and embarrassed he was that Council were not informed earlier than they were about the closure of Houghton Hall as he was informed by someone in Ireland. Mr James said that as soon as they could Council were informed. It transpired that Mr Cooper was aware of the closure prior to both Mr James and Mrs Hicketts and perhaps in future it would be best to make sure that if someone on Council was informed of something for it to be clarified with the Chairman or the Secretary.

Mr Bamford felt it was not correct to take a probationary judge on if Council felt they would not pass. Council felt they always considered whether there was a chance that the person would not pass and as in previous cases would not allow them to start.

Mr A Ward felt it was unfair for exhibitors to just attend one show and qualify for the Championships and perhaps there could be a ruling that they had to attend a specific amount of shows as well as to qualify. Mrs Stockton felt it would be difficult to implement something but could understand how Mr A Ward felt.

Mr Docking Informed Council that sadly Mrs Osborne had died recently. Council wished for their condolences to be passed onto Mr Osborne.

Mrs Stockton asked if all Council members could attend the AGM.

Mrs Hicketts reminded Council that in the next two or three years she would be retiring.

Date of next meeting sometime February

Meeting closed 4.30