

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE HACKNEY HORSE SOCIETY HELD ON 11th SEPTEMBER 2007 AT 1.30 P.M. AT STAPLEFORD FLYING CLUB

Present: A. Oade (Chairman), Mrs B Stockton (Treasurer), Ms S Barraclough, R. Bass R. Carter, J. Chicken, J. Cresswell, G. Docking, G. Dudley, A. James, M. Neachell, K. Toombs, G. Vardy D. Vyse, A. Ward, E. Ward, Mrs D Hicketts (Secretary)

1. APOLOGIES for absence were received from Mrs J. Clough, A. Grant, C. Hall, Mrs C Haydon, Mrs S Reade and J. Stevens.

The Chairman thanked Mr Chicken for allowing the Society to use his premises for the meeting and for kindly supplying the food and drink.

2. MINUTES of the last meeting held 9th May 2007 were approved and signed by the Chairman proposed by Mr Neachell seconded by Mr Docking, unanimous. The Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held at Ardingly June 2007 were approved and signed by the Chairman proposed by Mr James seconded by Mr Vyse, unanimous.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- i. Dinner Dance – Mr Dudley reported to Council the Dinner Dance and Presentation evening will be taking place on 17th November at the Hilton, Dartford Crossing. The cost would be £30 per ticket and a double room would cost £78 for Bed and Breakfast. The hotel had agreed to give 10% of the bar takings to the Society as we were a Charity. The minimum amount of tickets which the hotel required to be sold was 66. The evening will consist of a four course meal, disco and possibly a singer. The Chairman thanked Mr Dudley for finding the venue and for agreeing to organise the evening.

Action Mr Dudley to supply something for the newsletter and to sell tickets

- ii. Promises Auction – Mrs Stockton said she was hoping to obtain a minimum of 6 promises to auction at the Dinner Dance. Mr Dudley offered to run a raffle at the Dinner Dance to raise more funds. So as not to take too much of the evening up with fund raising the raffle numbers to be drawn and placed on the prizes for people to check if they have won anything. Mr Toombs kindly agreed to act as auctioneer for the evening.

Action Mr Dudley to organise raffle Mrs Stockton to organise Promises and Mr Toombs to run auction on the night

- iii. Auction – Mr Toombs said if the Society still wanted him to run the auction he would but for the little amount raised and the few sellers and buyers it hardly seemed worthwhile. Also he wished to steward more which was not always possibly with the amount of work involved in the running of the auction. He thanked Mr and Mrs James for all their help in helping to make sure the auction ran smoothly. Council felt the amount raised, which was £600 this year was a considerable amount for the Society funds and if Mr Toombs would be happy to continue running the auction they would be very grateful. Although there may be few sellers and buyers the members seemed to enjoy the auction which shows with the amount of people always in the Hackney tent when it is on. Mr Toombs agreed to continue running the auction for the Society.
- iv. Calendar – The letters requesting photos from the owners of the Champions of the Annual National Breed Show which will be included have been sent. Letters to the Champions of the Championship show will be sent as soon as possibly after the event. The calendar will be for sale during 2008 but it will be for the year 2009.
- v. Mr Schaumont Trophy – Mrs Haydon did not wish to present her trophy for the Supreme Harness Champion at the Championship show as Mr Haydon was very keen on the breeding side she wished the trophy to remain for the Supreme animal at the Annual National Breed Show, this therefore left the problem of Mr Shcaumont still having no trophy to present. Mrs Hicketts informed Council that to her knowledge there were no cups required for the Annual

National Breed Show. The question was asked as to whether the International classes had any cups and the Secretary replied she was not certain if they did or not. If they did not perhaps this was something Mr Schaumont would be interested in supplying trophies for. Another suggestion was made for Mr Schaumont to present a one off trophy which was won outright in his 80th year for whatever he wanted. Council felt Mr Schaumont could make the decision as to what he wanted to do.

Action The Secretary to write to Mr Schaumont with the suggestions

- vi. Probationary Judges – A letter had been received from Mrs C Wigmore asking to be considered as a probationary judge. Mr Docking proposed at this present time it would not be suitable to recommend her as a probationary judge, seconded by Mr Dudley, unanimous.

Action the Secretary to write informing her of decision

Mr Chicken reported to Council he was happy to recommend Mr E Smith as a judge after he supervised him for his second part of his probationary period at the Annual National Breed Show.

Action the Secretary to write to Mr Smith informing of decision and include on judges panel

- vii. BDS/HHS Panel Judges – Mr Chicken informed the meeting Mr John Parker from the BDS was personally interested in the idea of some Hackney judges being automatically included on the BDS judges panel and for it to be reciprocated but it was not his decision and the Society needed to write to Mr Barry Luck who was the Chairman of the judges committee with the suggestion.

Action Secretary to write to Mr Luck

Mr Oade reported to Council, at the Show Committee meeting held prior to the Council meeting, a suggestion had been made for both the Private Drive and Pairs classes to have a BDS and HHS panel judge to judge them. This the committee had agreed to and he was requesting agreement from Council to action it. Council agreed to this suggestion.

4. NOVICE POINTS

Mr Bass said the amount of points awarded in the Novice system was unfair as you could have an animal which shows only once in the year and is the only entry at a small show qualify before an animal that has competed 4 times in larger shows and been placed third or fourth. At the moment the points are awarded 10 for first, 5 for second, 2 for third and 1 for fourth, the gap between first and last needed to be closed. Council decided to alter the amount of points awarded to the following: 10 for first, 8 for second, 6 for third and 4 for fourth. It was hoped that this would prove to be a much fairer system.

Action Secretary to alter points in year book and schedule and notify members via newsletter

Mr Vyse said the ruling on the Champion of the Horse and Pony of the Year not being removed as a Novice seemed unfair to homebred animals as an animal which was unable to trace back to UK stock was not permitted to enter the Novice classes at the Annual National Breed Show and therefore would always be able to stay as a Novice for the three seasons. Whereas an animal which traced back to UK stock was eligible to compete at the Annual National Breed Show and if they won the Novice Championship was removed as a Novice. He felt the ruling should be reversed to the 2006 season whereupon the Annual National Breed Show Novice Champion and the Horse and Pony of the Year Champion were both removed as novices. Mr Oade said the Show committee had been discussing this very subject at this mornings meeting and although it was down to be discussed at the next meeting the opinion did seem to support Mr Vyse's idea. Mr Ward proposed starting for the 2008 season the Champion Horse or Pony of the year is removed as a Novice, seconded by Mr Toombs, with one against proposal carried.

Action the Secretary to alter ruling and notify membership via newsletter

5. COMPLAINT AGAINST EXHIBITOR

Mr Oade read a letter out from Mr Neachell saying he was very unhappy with the conduct of Mr Breaker after the International Class at the Annual National Breed Show. He said he verbally abused him, accused him of being biased and his language was appalling. Council felt this was something the

Society must try and stop and although he could be banned for 12 months felt a warning letter should go first warning him that the Society will not tolerate this kind of behaviour and if he behaves like this again the disciplinary ruling will be enforced.

Action the Chairman to write to Mr Breaker

The Chairman read a letter out from Mr James about the behaviour of Mr Neil Turner. He said when presenting Mr Turner with his rosette who he had placed fourth he became very rude and aggressive demanding why there was no extra “run off” and he refused to take his rosette.

Council agreed a letter to go the same as Mr Breakers warning him that the disciplinary rule will be enforced if anything happens again.

Council asked for the wording to be changed in the disciplinary rule from date of “incident” to “ruling”.

Action the Chairman to write to Mr Neil Turner Secretary to change wording

Mr Cresswell said Council must start being stronger with discipline as this type of behaviour seems to be happening all the time. Mr Oade replied if judges informed Council of all incidents then Council could deal with the situation better. It was suggested a letter is sent to all judges expressing Councils gratitude to the Judges who brought these complaints to Council’s attention and asking all judges to write into Council with any incidents they encounter so that Council can deal with them appropriately.

Action the Secretary to write to all judges

Mr Oade read a letter out which had been sent anomalously to Mr James. Council felt this was not worth commenting on as the person had not been brave enough to even sign it.

6. COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

There had only been one nomination forward for Council which was from Miss A Sparrowhawk and therefore two further names were required as the Articles of Association state that 10 names will be sent out for voting. Mr Bass said he had spoken to Mrs Carolyn McIntosh who was more than happy to stand and Mr Oade suggested Mr Gary Haffenden as he had mentioned he would be interested in putting his name forward for Council at some point. Council were happy to accept all of the above.

Action the Secretary to contact Mrs McIntosh and Mr Haffenden

7. ROYAL HIGHLAND AFFILIATED SHOW

The Chairman informed Council a letter had been received from the Royal Highland Show explaining due to there only being three animals entered at this years show of which only two came forward and the embarrassment of asking a judge to come from a distance to look at just two animals they will no longer be holding affiliated Hackney Classes. He said a letter of thanks had been sent to the show for their support in the past and hoped they may reconsider at a future point. Mr Oade said this was the problem with having so many shows which were now qualifiers as there is now no need to make the journey to a show just in order to qualify and perhaps this was something which needed to be redressed. Council were disappointed to lose the only show in Scotland but understood the show’s situation.

8. NEW MEMBERS AND PREFIXES

The following new members had joined the Society since the last meeting:

Mr A Brazier, Mr F Brotherton, Mr J Cannon, Mr J Cleland, Mr C Hanna, Mr W de Heul Holland, Mr D Machin, Mrs S Noon, Mr T Ritson, Miss L Smith, Capt D Wood and Mr B Verdonk Holland

There were no new prefixes

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Doctors Letters - Mr Oade informed Council of two Doctors letters which had been received after the last Council meeting and before Ardingly stating that looped reins were required for both Mr P Vyse and Mrs L Taylor. He said letters had already been sent confirming this would be okay. Mr D Vyse said the situation with regard to the amount of exhibitors using looped reins was getting ridiculous especially as often they only used them in the show ring. A discussion took place as to whether looped reins should be allowed at all in the future, whether the ruling is dropped so anyone can use them regardless of whether they have a doctors certificate, in amateur classes only looped reins should be banned completely even if the driver has a doctors certificate as the animal should be suitable to be driven by an amateur and

therefore should not pull. Mr Neachell proposed the ruling is changed and no looped reins allowed in any amateur classes even if the driver has obtained a doctors certificate and Council have agreed for them to use them. In all other classes looped reins will be permissible, seconded by Mr Toombs, unanimous.

Action the Secretary to change rule inform members on newsletter and judges

Royal International Funds - The Secretary commented on the situation with regard to the Society holding money for the Royal International fund and the VAT element of the invoice. She felt as a Society it was not correct for us to hold other peoples money and although the Society had written the cheque in payment of the Royal International, as it was invoiced to Mr Vyse and the Society had nothing to do with it then the VAT should not be reclaimed. Council agreed the Society should not claim the VAT back as it is not their money and therefore this would reduce the money in the fund by £350. The balance of the account must be paid back to the fund raisers to hold in an account which they open for this. In future the Society must not be involved in this type of transaction.

Action Secretary to correct VAT element and refund balance

Collection of Trophies - Mr Oade reported Mr Pittaway had complained that he was not allowed to take his trophy home from the Annual national Breed Show and he had to attend a Dinner Dance in order to collect it. Council said he could nominate someone to collect his trophy at the Dinner Dance or he could arrange with the Secretary to collect it from the Society's offices.

Action the Secretary to write to Mr Pittaway and put in Newsletter

Junior Whip - Mr Vyse proposed the Junior whip class at the Annual National Breed Show to allow animals to be entered from recognised stud books and not just the UK studbook, seconded by Mr Neachell, unanimous.

Action the Secretary to change rule and put in Newsletter

Show Pace - Mr Bass said although he had discussed the situation regarding animals entering the ring at show pace he still felt this was something which needed to be addressed for open classes only. He felt it would look more professional if everyone came in at show pace as was the case many years ago. Mr Vardy said from a steward's point of view the only way it would work is to make sure everyone was in the collecting ring before anyone was allowed to enter the ring. Mr Bass proposed for open classes only all animals enter at show pace, seconded by Mr James, with 6 for and 7 against proposal defeated.

PR - Mrs Stockton said the PR Committee had not met recently. She said Mr & Mrs James had been very busy taking the stand to various shows and displays. She reported that Mr & Mrs Turner and Ms Barraclough had taken Brookeborough Flash Jack and Sunbeam Venture respectively, to the Rare Breeds Survival Trust display and she thanked them on behalf of the Society. At the moment she was struggling to obtain photographs for the various articles in Carriage Driving and if anyone had any ideas of sources for good photos then to let her know. Mr James informed Council that to date there were 20 Hackneys entered in the auction.

South of England Carriage Fair - Mr Docking said the South of England Carriage Fair were so impressed with the display the Hackney's put on this year they wanted one for 2008 as a stand alone display. Mr Docking did feel although Miss Sparrowhawk had put on a very good display it should be handled by the PR Committee in the future. This council agreed with.

Action PR Committee to deal

Jubilee Driving Show Display - Mr Docking said the BDS had asked him to produce a display on the Saturday evening of the Jubilee Driving Show. He informed Council he wanted this to be used to promote the Hackney. Mrs Stockton had agreed to bring her team and he wanted a good horse and pony also a very good ridden Hackney.

Action Mr Docking to deal

Supreme Hackney - Mr Vyse felt the Supreme Hackney should have the top two qualify from the Novice as well as the Open classes. Mr Oade said this was something for the Show Committee to discuss

Action Show Committee to deal

Double Fees for Caravan Passes - A suggestion had come into the Society's offices requesting the cost of caravans should be increased to double for those who do not exhibit as it did seem unfair for exhibitors to pay the same as those that just come for a weeks holiday. Mr Oade said this had been

discussed at the Show Committee meeting held prior to the Council meeting and it was suggested caravan and lived in lorry passes are doubled with 50% being refunded if someone exhibits. People must collect their money from the Secretary at the Show as no refund will be given afterwards, this Council agreed to.

Probationary Judges - Comments had been made that Probationary judges should be overseen or monitored by a Senior judge for a period of one or two years after going onto the judges panel. Council felt this was not necessary as they had gone through the probationary period and this should be enough. Museum - Mr Oade reported the Mossman Museum at Luton had now closed and he and the Secretary had collected all the Society's Museum pieces. Anything which had been loaned to the Society to display at the museum had been returned to their rightful owners, all the Heritage cups were with the Society's engraver and any other pieces were being stored in the Society's offices. Mrs Stockton said she had been in touch with Major Marcham who was involved in the placing of the museum before Luton and at the moment he is hopeful we could either have a display at the London Museum or the Royal Mews. Mrs Stockton said as soon as she knew if either were possible then she would inform the Secretary. Mr Oade said the display cases had been given to the Society but they needed to be collected and asked if anyone would be able to do this and store them until a suitable location had been organised, Mr Vyse said he would do so.

Action Mrs Stockton to deal with location of museum Mr Vyse to collect display cases

Mrs Hicketts asked Councils agreement for the Heritage cups to be valued this they agreed to.

Mr Oade thanked Mr Chicken once again for allowing his premises to be used by the Society.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING early February

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.30p.m.