

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE HACKNEY HORSE SOCIETY HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2007 AT 1.00 P.M. AT THE UNION JACK CLUB, LONDON

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

The Chairman asked for a minutes silence to remember those the Society had lost since the last meeting.

1. APOLOGIES for absence were received from R. Bass, C. Hall, Mrs C Haydon, J. Stevens and K. Toombs.
2. MINUTES of the last meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> September 2006 were approved and signed by the Chairman proposed by Mr Vardy seconded by Mr James.

The Chairman welcomed the new Members of Council to the meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- i. Committees/Format - The Chairman said he had looked into the situation of sub committees; he had not been contacted by any other member of Council with any suggestions for the committees. Mr Oade felt only three committees would be required which were P.R committee, which he would be interested in being a member. Training Education and Discipline committee, which would deal with all training and educational aspects and the investigations on any disciplinary situations. Show committee which would deal with all aspects of the shows. A discussion took place as to whether the sub committees had to come back to council on any major decisions, would the disciplinary committee actually deal with the required disciplinary action or would that be dealt with by full council and on training would it be for Hackney members only or to the wider audience trying to encourage new people. Mr Neachell felt Disciplinary should be a committee on its own and training and education would run well with P.R. Mrs Reade felt it would be good to have a Disciplinary committee as hopefully any situations would be fully investigated much quicker and ultimately the disciplinary action could be dealt with earlier as once it was brought to council all facts would have been gathered for a decision to be made on the correct disciplinary action.

The Chairman proposed there to be three committees which would consist of PR/Training, Show and Discipline, seconded by Mrs Stockton, all in favour.

Various members of each committee were to be as follows:

PR/Training

A. Oade, Mrs B Stockton, A James, G. Docking Mrs J Clough

Discipline

R. Bass, A. Oade, M. Neachell, G. Dudley, D. Vyse, J. Cresswell, A. Ward

Show

J. Chicken, A. Oade, G. Vardy, A. Grant, E. Ward, Mrs B. Stockton, R. Bass, G. Dudley, Mrs D Hicketts

Each committee to take minutes of their meetings and distribute them to full council copying the Society's offices. Major decisions to come before council and any Disciplinary action to be dealt with at a full council meeting

- ii. Judges Forum – The Chairman felt a more general discussion for judges should take place as opposed to a titled judges training seminar, especially as some of the judges may feel if it was a training seminar then it would not be necessary for them to attend as they did not have anything to learn. Obviously it would be for judges training and there was an amount set

aside in the HBLB grant to cover this. Mr Docking proposed a judge's forum is organised by the P.R. committee, seconded by Mrs Reade, all in favour.

**Action, P.R. Committee to organise Judges Forum in 2007**

- iii. Website - Mrs Hicketts reported Jayne Speight was attending a web design course and would carry on designing the new look Hackney Horse Society website over the coming months.
- iv. Auction – Mr Toombs had confirmed to the Secretary he would be prepared to run the auction again for 2007.

**Action Mr Toombs to organise and run auction**

- v. Dinner Dance - Mr Dudley informed council he had a few ideas but did council have any idea how many it would be for and when and where would be suitable. The Chairman suggested working on figures of 60 – 80 attending. Mr Chicken felt the Society should be holding a Dinner Dance in conjunction with a presentation evening of all the trophies. He felt if this was to happen more people would be likely to attend the dinner dance. The Secretary said this would be a good way to alleviate the problem she has with regard to the distribution of the trophies as the compensation obtained sending the trophy through the post does not cover the value of most of the trophies. Also a lot of exhibitors did not want the trophies this year because of having to pay for postage. Further comments made were if it was to be a combined presentation evening what would be the best date and would it be suitable for a council meeting to be held beforehand. Mr Chicken proposed a Dinner Dance and Presentation Evening is held the last weekend in October with a Council meeting beforehand to be organised by Mr Dudley, seconded by Mr Neachell, all in favour.

**Action Mr Dudley to organise Dinner Dance and Presentation evening**

4. TIME TABLE/ JUDGES

The Chairman reported to council the timings for the Hackney ring had been cut and the Society would only have the ring from 16.30 on the Thursday afternoon. He said he had tried to alter it as had the Society's Secretary. Mr Oade had pointed out to the Director the South of England the importance of this ring time to the Hackney especially as we were a rare breed. He had even suggested the Society hold their classes in the morning from 8.30 to 11.00 but to date nothing had altered. Mr Oade was disappointed with the timings allocated to the Society from the South of England especially after Mr Bass had fought so hard to get the ring available in the first place. The reason the South of England had to change the timings offered to the Society was because they had been given HOYS qualifier for the coloured and had to fit four more classes plus a championship into an already tight schedule. Mr Oade said their had been a request from Mr Allen for a part bred show wagon class and Mr Allen would be happy to sponsor it, Mr Neachell proposed a part bred show wagon class to be held at the Annual National Breed Show seconded by Mr Grant with one against the proposal was carried.

After council considered all the relevant options open to them they decided on the following:

On the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday classes to start at 10.00.

Monday – In hand pony, Double Harness, Private Drive Pony, Private Drive Horse

Tuesday – In hand horse, Ridden, Part bred Wagon Class, Novice Classes and Novice Championships

Wednesday – Open, Amateur, Amateur Driven by a Lady Championships

Thursday – National Amateur Championships, International Pony, Junior Whip, International Horse

The In hand parade and Horse and Pony championships to be in the main ring with similar timings as before.

**Action Secretary to alter the schedule and time table as necessary and to inform members of the new class in the newsletter**

Judges – Mrs Reade asked if the three year ineligibility rule for judging was still in force. Mr Neachell said this had been stopped at a previous meeting.

Council was given a list of all the judges who were available to judge the various classes at the Breed show and the Championship show. It was discussed as to whether a probationary judge could be

included as it was not normal practice to let a probationary judge judge the breed show in their first year. Council decided as there were now three judges this would not be a problem. Council agreed to the following judges for the various classes

In Hand

A. Grant, A. James N. Grayshon

Harness

R. Bamford, A. Grant, P. Gray

Private Drive, Amateur, Double Harness, International, Junior Whip, Ridden

C. Ambrose, J. Wenham Jnr, M. Neachell

Reserve for all classes J. Chicken

Championship show

Mrs S. Reade, Mrs B. Stockton, M. Neachell

Reserve R. Bamford

**Action Secretary to inform relevant judges and put on newsletter**

The Chairman said the caterers were increasing prices substantially for the buffet supper. He asked council if they wished to keep to the format of the evening as it was, to reduce costs by having a running buffet or to cancel it altogether especially as it was getting increasingly more difficult to achieve sufficient numbers to make the evening viable. Council felt with the new dinner dance and presentation evening there was no need to hold something at the Breed show. Mr Vyse proposed to cancel the buffet supper at Ardingly, seconded by Mr Vardy, all in favour.

**Action Secretary to inform members by the newsletter**

## 5. HORSE AND PONY OF THE YEAR

Mr Vyse asked if all the Society's classes held at last years Championship show were to be held indoors at the combined BDS and HHS show. The Chairman informed Council at this stage nothing had been confirmed. Members of Council felt very strongly that on no account should any of the Society's classes not be held in the indoor ring and a letter must be sent to the BDS saying "following the recent Council Meeting the Society was looking forward in joining forces with the BDS in holding the jubilee show but Council wished to have the Open Pony and Horse within the Gala evening performance and for the Novice Horse and Pony Championships, International Horse and Pony, Junior Whip and Performance Awards presentation to be held in the main indoor ring over the two days".

Mr Docking was quite concerned as to the various connotations about the Junior whip classes. He said with regard to insurance for the Junior whip, with the BDS the junior whip must be accompanied in the vehicle by a competent adult. This started a general discussion as to whether the Society had all the necessary insurance requirements, had the Society complied to all Health and Safety requirements, who should perform risk assessments, what medical cover was required, what if anything is covered by the South of England, whether the insurance covers the Junior whips and was the minimum age acceptable to the insurance. Council felt another meeting was required to discuss and deal with the relevant issues raised. The South of England to be contacted to clarify what the Society was covered by them and also for the Society's insurance company to be contacted with regard to what if any extra insurance is required on top of what the Society already has in place and if they offer risk assessment advice. Once all the information is obtained a meeting to be called in the next 3 to 4 weeks to discuss all the issues. Mr Chicken said the meeting could be held at the flight center if the Royal Mews was unavailable.

**Action Secretary to write to South of England and Society's insurance Chairman to write to BDS**

## 6. GELDING RULING

The Secretary asked Council if the gelding ruling could be altered so a veterinary letter was not required informing the Society the animal had been gelded which was the present ruling. Mrs Stockton proposed in future on re-registrations of geldings only a letter from the owner at time of re-registration confirming the animal had been gelded was required and there would be no charge, seconded by Mr James all in favour.

**Action Secretary to alter rule and inform members by the newsletter**

7. PRICE INCREASES DNA

The Secretary informed council the cost of DNA testing had increased by £2. The Chairman proposed the Society keep the cost of a DNA kit as it was and for the Society to absorb the increase from Newmarket, seconded by Mr E Ward, all in favour

8. NEW MEMBERS/PREFIXES

Mr & Mrs J Aldis, Mr E Duddy Australia, Miss J Ellis, Mr C Evans, Mr M Hardy, Mr J Houston USA, Mr T Irwin, Mr R Jones Australia, Miss N Mc Grail, Mr M Pearce Australia, Mrs M Rowlands, Mr M Salter, Mr P Stewart, Mr T Thomas

There were no new prefixes.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Buckley Courage – The Chairman informed Council the South of England were very happy to hang the painting of Buckley Courage in the Norfolk Pavilion. He said he would speak with the South of England to see when it would be suitable for the Society to present the painting to them

**Action Mr Oade to speak to South of England**

Great Yorkshire Show – The Chairman informed Council he had spoken with the Great Yorkshire Show to try and have the Hackney classes re-instated there but they were not interested. He said he would try again for 2008

**Action Mr Oade to speak to Great Yorkshire**

Prefix – Mr Quigg had sent in a letter asking for the Glenshane prefix to be transferred to Mr James Kelly especially as he used the prefix originally. Mr Neachell proposed the Glenshane prefix is transferred to Mr Kelly seconded by Mrs Reade, with one abstention the proposal was carried.

**Action Secretary to write to Central Prefix, Mr Quigg and Mr Kelly**

RBST Watchlist – The Chairman read out a letter from the RBST stating the Hackney will still be categorised as 2. Endangered in the 2007 watchlist.

Swansea County Show – Swansea County Show had asked to affiliate to the Society and asked if they could have qualifying status. Council agreed to the affiliation but not to giving qualifying status.

**Action Secretary to write to Swansea County Show**

Articles of Association – The Chairman informed Council he had checked through the proposed changes to the articles which required re-instating due to the incorrect procedure followed previously.

The Chairman informed Council due to the new International Accounting Standards it may be more suitable for the Society to not have a full audit anymore but instead to go for a compilation reporting of the accounts. This would basically mean the accounts would be checked as they are now but instead of being signed off by an auditor they would be signed off by an approved accountant. Mr Chicken proposed in future for the Society no longer be audited and for the necessary articles of association to be changed accordingly, seconded by Mr Neachell, all in favour.

The Chairman proposed necessary articles are changed as follows:

Throughout the Memorandum and Articles of Association the Secretary shall be known as the Secretary/Accountant

Delete Bylaw 35

By Law 29 Money and Cheques - All moneys received and paid shall be entered into an accounting system. All cheques over a certain amount agreed by Council shall be signed by the Secretary/Accountant and Honorary Treasurer. All cheques under such amount shall be signed by the Secretary/Accountant.

#### Memorandum of Association 3a

To improve the breed and to promote the breeding of Hackney Horses and Ponies.

#### Memorandum of Association 9

##### Accounts

True accounts shall be kept of the sums of money received and expended by the Society and the matter in respect of which such receipt and expenditure takes place and of the property, credits and liabilities of the Society and subject to any reasonable restrictions as to the time and manner of inspecting the same that may be imposed in accordance with the regulation so the Society of the time being, shall be open to the inspection of the Members. Once at least in every year the accounts of the Society shall be examined and approved and the correctness of the Balance sheet ascertained by one or more properly qualified Accountant or Accountants

Article 6 on Membership to include "Membership to the Society and renewal of Membership at the sole discretion of Council"

#### Article 10

The Council of the Society shall consist of a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Honorary Treasurer and ordinary members totalling 21 in number, which will include the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Honorary Treasurer. Council agreed this change to the Articles.

#### Article 10a

The Council shall elect a Chairman whose term of office shall be for three years. At the end of the term he may stand for re-election. Anyone from Council wishing to stand for Chairman must send notification in writing to the Secretary at the Society's offices at least 21 days prior to 1st February, proposed by one member of Council.

#### Article 11

Each Council Member will serve a term of 3 years and will be eligible for re-election after that term. The Chairman whilst serving his term of office will automatically be re-elected as a Council Member if he is eligible for re-election during his term of office.

#### Article 11 a

Any Council Member who act in a derogatory manner or contravene any of the Society's Rules and Regulations will be asked to resign from Council immediately and will not be able to stand in the future.

#### Article 16

Honorary Treasurer – The Honorary Treasurer for the time being of the Society shall be a Member of Council

#### Article 29

Council Members shall be elected by ballot by the Members of the Society. At an appropriate time each year, the Council shall invite nominations from the Members of the Society of candidates for election as Council Members to fill the 7 vacancies caused by those retiring by reason of the ending of their terms of office as Ordinary Council Members or Appointed Officials. Each candidate must be nominated by 3 Members of the Society. The Council shall then send to all the Members of the Society a list containing the names of not less than 10 candidates and stating the number of vacancies to be filled. The list of candidates shall contain the names of all persons properly nominated by Members together with those of

retiring Council Members who wish to be re-elected. The Council will ensure that not less than 10 names are included on the voting paper. The votes will be inspected by an independent scrutineer who will report in writing the names of the appropriate number of candidates having the highest number of votes to fill the vacancies of the Council. No Member may vote for more than the stated number of vacancies. If any voting paper shall contain more names than the stated number of vacancies it will be rejected by the scrutineer. All the voting papers will be destroyed after the result has been reported.

Article 30 Accountant – At every Annual General Meeting an Accountant or Accountants shall be appointed by resolution for the then ensuing year. The Accountant or Accountants shall prepare and approve the accounts of the previous to the Annual General Meeting succeeding his or their appointment; and a statement showing the financial position of the Society shall be laid before every Annual General Meeting and shall be considered by the Members at such Meeting.

seconded by Mr Chicken all in favour

**Action Chairman to send proposed changes to solicitor for clarification**

DVD – the Treasurer reported the DVD had already broken even. Total expenditure was £9,600, total income on sales £8,200, HBLB grant allowance £1,000, stock in hand £400.

Mr James reported Brightwells had been in touch with him saying they may be interested in including Hackneys in their sale at the Festival of the Horse at Malvern. He said Brightwells would handle all the administration and the Secretary would only be required to confirm any animals admitted to the sale were registered with the Society. Council were happy for Mr James to pursue.

**Action Mr James to pursue**

Mr Vyse asked Council if they were in agreement for him to send a letter to the membership requesting donations from them in order to keep the classes at the Royal International as he was not happy to have to foot the bill for all the sponsorship again this year. A discussion took place as to whether this was suitable, if they money could be paid to the Society, if it would be suitable for the Society to pay for the Sponsorship and who would make up any shortfall if there was one. Council agreed a letter could be sent to the membership in the next maildrop and cheques could be made payable to the Society with any payment to the Royal International going from the Society. Mr Vyse informed Council he would make up any shortfall.

**Action Mr Vyse to organise letter and send to Secretary. Secretary to include in maildrop**

Mr Vyse said Mrs Brown's behaviour at the Championship show was disgusting and not becoming of a Society judge. He felt this behaviour must not be accepted from any member or exhibitor and as Mrs Brown was a Society Judge it made the situation even worse. Council agreed with Mr Vyse and suggested a letter is sent to Mrs Brown stating how this had only just been discussed as it was the first Council meeting after the show and her behaviour at the Show was not suitable for a Hackney Horse Society panel judge and if anything like this was to happen again she would be removed from the judges panel and further disciplinary action would be taken.

**Action Chairman to write to Mrs Brown**

Mr Docking informed council the Private Driving classes at HOYS were to be reduced and there would be only one Champion out of the Horses and Ponies. He said he would be launching a campaign to try and encourage HOYS to keep and increase driving classes and asked if the Society would lend its support by writing a letter. Council were happy to offer their support in this way.

**Action Mr Docking to draft letter and forward to Secretary**

Mr Vardy asked if there was any way the South of England could supply him with a stable plan earlier than at present. The chairman said he would discuss this with the South of England

**Action Chairman to speak to South of England**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING to be arranged

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.50p.m.**