

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE HACKNEY HORSE SOCIETY HELD ON 9th MAY 2007 AT 1.00 P.M. IN THE CANTEEN ROYAL MEWS

Present: R. Bass (Chairman), Mrs B Stockton (Treasurer), R. Carter, J. Chicken, J. Cresswell, A. Grant, A. James, M. Neachell, E. Ward, Mrs D Hicketts (Secretary)

1. APOLOGIES for absence were received from Ms S Barraclough, Mrs J. Clough, G. Docking, G. Dudley, C. Hall, Mrs C Haydon, A. Oade, Mrs S Reade, J. Stevens, G Vardy, D. Vyse and A. Ward.
2. MINUTES of the last meeting held 9th March 2007 were approved and signed by the Chairman proposed by Mr Neachell seconded by Mr James, unanimous.

3. MATTERS ARISING

i. Health and Safety

Mr James said that as far as possible he was now up and running with the Health and Safety. His main concern was the lack of first aid cover. Although Mrs Hicketts had informed him the South of England First Aid people would cover the Society from the Monday, at the moment he had not received anything in writing confirming this. Mr James informed Council he did have another company who had provisionally agreed to offer cover for the show at a cost of £400. Mr James read out a Policy statement he had drafted which he hoped Council would accept for the Hackney Horse Society. (See Appendix A) Council were happy to accept it with Mr James making appropriate alterations when required. A point he was concerned with was the policy for fire evacuation from the horse boxes and stable area. He suggested for evacuation of the horses the Hackney ring could be used but he would discuss the situation with Mr Vardy. Appropriate procedure would be required for the moving of any horse box or caravan which was on fire and this is something he would take advice on.

Action Mr James to seek advice and discuss with Mr Vardy

Mr James informed Council spectators would no longer be able to stand in the collecting ring watching the classes.

Council expressed concern as to the lack of room in the collecting ring if this was the only place for exercising of animals. It was agreed for the Hackney ring to be used if weather conditions were suitable and for Mr Grant, Mr Vardy, Mr Neachell and Mr James to decide on whether the ring could be used or not and to inform exhibitors each night via the tannoy system if they were able to use it. If they were not allowed then the area to be roped off.

Mr Bass expressed concern the general public and other exhibitors with their horses walked between the chain link fence and the stables once the South of England Show started. As this was something South of England had agreed would not happen he asked for Mr James to erect clearly marked signs informing everyone that this area was out of bounds to anyone other than a Hackney person.

Mr James confirmed he would be making sure all the necessary fire extinguishers, first aid kits and signs were purchased and erected where appropriate.

Action Mr James to deal

4. ACCOUNTS

Mrs Stockton informed Council the Society was in the black but only just. She said that overall she was disappointed with the accounts. On the management side she thanked the Secretary for keeping the costs low and pointed out to Council that the rise on this part of the accounts was well below inflation. The main problem had arisen because of nearly a £5,000 downturn in donations and also some extra costs which were one offs. Mrs Stockton said that as a Society we must start looking at ways to increase our income. She said the show made losses each year of nearly £10,000 and perhaps there were ways the Society could offset this, one suggestion was to increase caravan and lived in horse boxes passes from £70 to £100 which would bring in approximately another £1,600. Council felt this was something the Show Committee should look into.

Action Show Committee to look into costs and possible increases

Another suggestion for increasing funds was to hold a promises evening at the end of year presentation dinner and dance and a raffle at Ardingly. Council agreed to both of these suggestions.

Action PR Committee to deal

Mr Chicken felt the Society should seriously look for another venue to hold the Breed show to see if costs could be reduced and Council felt this was something for the Show Committee to do a feasibility study on.

Action Show Committee to produce feasibility study

The Chairman was reported to have been happy with the accounts and Council had no questions. The Treasurer proposed the accounts are accepted, seconded by Mr Grant, unanimous.

Mrs Stockton informed the meeting Council should be looking at ways to raise the Society's income by £5,000 if possible.

5. ARDINGLY PASSES

The Secretary informed the meeting Mr Toombs had asked for Ardingly passes to be put onto the agenda. As he was not at the meeting and all that was on his letter was weekly and day passes Council felt this was something the Show Committee could consider.

Action Show Committee to deal

6. NEW MEMBERS/PREFIXES

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

Mr & Mrs I Bertram, Ms L Brown, Miss L Burness, Ms D Emmerson, Mr T Evans, Mr C Hook, Ms T Howard, Mr C Mieszczak and Ms A Smith, Mr W Ponditch, Mr T Ripley, Ms N Seaton, Miss R Simpson. Mr R Skillen, Mr T Stewart, Mr M Verrachia

New prefixes were:

Berkeleyrhodes for Mr Hamilton Rhodes and Mr J Hollister

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

PR Committee Report - Mrs Stockton informed Council the PR Committee had met recently. She said there had been positive reports on the South of England Carriage Fair and the Strictly Come Driving show and thanks were given to Miss Sparrowhawk and Mr and Mrs Clough who helped organise the displays. With regard to the British Horse Society Jubilee Drive at Windsor to date the PR Committee had been unable to get anyone to attend. She asked Council to ask around to see if they could help find people who would be willing to participate on behalf of the Hackneys and to inform her if they knew of anyone. Also at the moment only a Pony was available for the display and stand at the Royal Show and again she asked if anyone knew of someone who would be willing to bring their horse for the displays, the only problem, there would be two displays a day. The PR Committee felt the Hackney Horse Society Stand needed revamping and this was now in hand. The PR Committee had agreed to producing a calendar with a company which would charge £2.50 for every calendar if 100 calendars were ordered, all the Society had to do was supply the photographs. The Committee had agreed for the Champions in the year to be used. Council agreed with this.

Action PR Committee to produce calendar

The PR Committee had been informed the Horse and Hound was interested in receiving more articles from the Society although up to now the Society had always tried to have more articles and had always been thwarted. Therefore it was suggested Ms Lucy Higginson Editor of the Horse and Hound is invited to the Breed show for the Wednesday lunchtime.

Action PR Committee to invite Ms Higginson

Mrs Stockton said she would produce some of the articles for Carriage Driving but another reporter would be producing the articles on the shows as she did not have time to attend them all.

The PR Committee felt it would be beneficial for Mr Court of Brightwells to attend the Breed show and he had already been invited and had accepted.

The PR Committee decided to hold a judges forum at Ardingly on the Wednesday evening and would write to the judges informing them of this if Council were happy for it to go ahead. Council agreed to this.

Action Mrs Stockton to supply Secretary the letter and Secretary can then complete the mail merge and distribute

Mr James said there were several people who wanted to use a Hackney stallion but did not always want a premium stallion as they perhaps wanted a horse for different disciplines. It was felt a note could go on the newsletter asking members to supply information on their stallions if they wished it to go onto a non premium stallion list. The list then to be displayed on the website.

Action PR committee to supply Secretary with piece for newsletter. PR Committee to collate replies for the information to be displayed

Mrs Stockton said the PR Committee had discussed the possibility of the HDT world champions attending the breed show and putting on a display as Mr Sidwell had expressed an interest in doing so. The only day which was available was not suitable for the HDT team. Mr Chicken suggested they come to the end of year show as he felt there could be time in the BDS schedule to allow this. It was suggested Mrs Hicketts speak to Ms Lawson of the BDS to see if they could offer a 20 minute slot. PR Committee to pursue if time available.

Action Mrs Hicketts to speak to Ms Lawson. PR Committee to pursue if time given

Show Committee - Mr Chicken reported he and Mr Oade had had a very positive meeting with Mr Parker and Ms Lawson of the BDS. He said they were very pleased to have the Hackneys on board. All the Hackney classes would be indoors with the Horse and Pony championships in the evening. Mr Chicken said Ms Lawson had suggested the Hackneys have a Supreme Champion Animal as well as the Champion Horse and Pony, this Council agreed with. Mr Bass informed Council he was confident he could get 6 plugs per day for a week before the Championship show on Essex radio which would hopefully help bring in the general public.

Action Mr Bass to speak with Essex Radio. Secretary to confirm with BDS about Supreme Champion

Mr Bass asked if it was possible to have Champions recorded in the year book for affiliated shows. The Secretary said the shows did not always provide her with the Champions but it could be done if the information was obtained. Mr Bass said if the Secretary had any problem in obtaining the information then to speak with him and he would supply her with whatever was required.

Action Secretary to include Champions in the affiliated show results

Mr Grant reminded Council, Mr Schaumont of Belgium wanted to present a trophy for his 80th birthday next year (2008) but he wanted to be informed at the Breed show this year of what he could present the trophy for. The Secretary informed Council there were no trophies required. There was no trophy for Supreme Champion Animal but Mrs Haydon had supplied a trophy in memory of Mr Frank Haydon for this. Mr Grant agreed with the Secretary as when he looked at the schedule in his opinion there were no trophies required apart from for the International classes. The Secretary suggested as there was to be a Supreme Champion at the end of year show perhaps Mrs Haydon would prefer to present the trophy for this and for Mr Schaumont to present a trophy for the Supreme Animal in hand. Mrs Hicketts said she would speak to Mrs Haydon to see if she would prefer the trophy to be given for the end of year show.

Action Secretary to speak to Mrs Haydon

Mr Chicken asked the Secretary if she informed any exhibitors of who had entered the affiliated shows. The Secretary replied all she was interested in was had the person paid their membership, did they own the animal and was the animal a novice if it was a novice class. She said as soon as she had checked everything and agreed it the entries go back to the show and she has no record of who has entered so cannot inform anyone.

The Secretary informed Council she had been contacted by one of the Society's members who had been approached by the Three Counties Show at Malvern to see if they could hold Hackney classes. Both Mr Neachell and Mrs Stockton said that this was a very popular show and used to hold Hackney classes. Council were happy for The Three Counties Show to affiliate to the Society.

Action Secretary to contact Mrs James and Three Counties Show

The Secretary reported to Council, Micro chipping was still due to be enforced on 1st July 2008. She said hopefully because a veterinary surgeon would not be required to complete the diagram and

description when the animal is micro chipped, the cost to the breeder would not be anymore than at present.

The Secretary informed Council Mr Docking had written to say he unfortunately would not be able to commentate at this year's Breed Show. Mrs Stockton confirmed she would commentate other than when she was showing and Mr James agreed he would commentate when Mrs Stockton was unable to.

The Secretary asked if Council wanted to enforce the no smoking ban in the Hackney tent this year although it was not due to be enforced until 1st July 2007 or to wait until next year. Council felt it would be better to wait until the 2008 show.

Mrs Stockton informed Council exhibitors in the Private Drive classes felt Hackney Judges did not judge the classes the same as the BDS judges and the BDS judges did not always accept the difference with the showing of Hackneys in Private Drive classes. Mrs Stockton suggested a few nominated judges on each panel to be allowed to be entered on both panels without having to go through the various probationary periods. Mr Chicken said he had been speaking to Mr Parker of the BDS at their recent meeting on this very subject. He said he would contact Mr Parker again to see if anything could be done and he would liaise with Mrs Stockton and report to Council.

Action Mr Chicken to speak with Mr Parker and inform Mrs Stockton and report to Council

Mr Ward asked the Secretary if she was able to encourage any others to enter the Breed Show. Mrs Hicketts said more had now entered and entries were looking much better.

Mr Cresswell asked if part-breds could enter affiliated show classes. The Secretary confirmed that if the show's schedule allowed it then there was no ruling saying otherwise. Council felt only pure bred classes could be affiliated to the Society and if there were any shows wishing to affiliate a part-bred class next year then the Secretary was to inform them that this was no longer possible.

Action Secretary to write to shows if required

Mr Neachell expressed concern over the situation on not being able to offer any advice to exhibitors about their turnout. He said sometimes in Amateur classes they may not be turned out properly as per the rules of the class and therefore in these classes could something be said. Council felt this could still cause the problem with regard to legal action if anything went wrong once advice had been given. Council decided an announcement to be made before the classes and for the stewards to inform exhibitors in the collecting ring that they will be unable to enter the class as they are not properly turned out allowing time for them to correct the problem if required.

Action Stewards and Commentator to deal as necessary

The Secretary informed Council the changes to the Articles to include Accountant after Secretary had not been pursued as the Solicitor felt there would be too many Articles which required changing.

Mr Bass said the By Laws required being brought up to date as a lot of them were not relevant to the running of the Society. He said Mr Oade had looked through the Articles and had suggested various changes to the By Laws to bring them up to date. Mr Chicken proposed to accept the By Laws as suggested by Mr Oade, (see Appendix B), seconded by Mr Grant, unanimous.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING to be arranged

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.40p.m.