

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE HACKNEY HORSE SOCIETY HELD ON 5<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2008 AT 1.00 P.M. AT STAPLEFORD FLYING CLUB

Present: A. Oade (Chairman), Mrs B Stockton (Treasurer), C. Hall (President), Ms S Barraclough, R. Bass R. Carter, J. Chicken, J. Cresswell, G. Docking, G. Dudley, G. Haffenden, A. James, M. Neachell, Mrs S. Reade, Miss A. Sparrowhawk, G. Vardy, D. Vyse, A. Ward, E. Ward, Mrs D Hicketts (Secretary)

1. APOLOGIES for absence were received from G. Dudley, Mrs C Haydon, and J. Stevens.

The Chairman said how disappointing it was that Mr Grant had not been re-elected to Council. His wisdom and experience would be sorely missed. He also reported at this stage Mr Grant was possibly not going to continue as Chief Steward and as this was his sixtieth year it would be very disappointing for him to not attend the 2008 Breed Show. At the Show Committee it was suggested the Chairman writes to Mr Grant asking him to definitely steward for this year and if he stills feel he does not want to continue then to retire after the 2008 show. Mrs Reade asked if Mr and Mrs Grant could be given life membership as a thank you for all they have contributed. This Council agreed to.

**Action Chairman to write to Mr Grant and Secretary to make them life members as from 2009**

2. MINUTES of the last meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> September 2007 were approved and signed by the Chairman proposed by Mr Docking seconded by Mr Vardy, unanimous.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- i. Museum

Mrs Stockton reported at the moment the Royal Mews had not agreed to house the heritage cups for us due to lack of space but it was still being looked at.

4. ACCOUNTS

The Treasurer reported the accounts were looking much better this year although as always Council must look at ways of keeping the Society in the Black. Overall nothing had changed dramatically. Council had no questions. The Treasurer proposed the accounts are accepted, seconded by Mr Neachell, unanimous.

The Secretary informed Council due to the HBLB accounting procedures there was a real possibility the Society could lose money on the HBLB grant if animals that were not registered in their first year was given the grant. The reason, being in the January figures have to be presented to HBLB of all animals registered and grants given, even though the actual accounting period runs until 31<sup>st</sup> March. Therefore if money was given to an animal other than a yearling it would be from the wrong HBLB financial year. Mrs Stockton proposed the HBLB grant not be given to animals if they are registered passed their first year of birth, seconded by Mr Vyse, unanimous.

**Action Secretary to inform membership via newsletter and to implement**

5. PRICE INCREASES

The Chairman informed the meeting that each year prices should be looked at. The Secretary suggested as everything was increased last year apart from the DNA kits even though they had been increased by Newmarket by £2.50, perhaps this was something which could be considered. Mr Cresswell did not agree with this as he said the breeder was always being penalised and perhaps there would not be a need for any increases as the caravan passes have been increased. There was a discussion as to whether there was a need to increase anything this year, if membership should be increased, could the stabling be moved from Woodhouse or if any other items could be increased. Mr Chicken proposed DNA is increased by £2.50 seconded by Mr Vyse with 1 against the proposal was carried.

**Action Secretary to implement and inform members via newsletter**

## 6. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Mrs Stockton reported the PR Committee met on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2007. The Committee felt more members were required so Ms Sue Barraclough was co-opted onto the PR Committee. It was agreed to hold another Judges seminar on the Wednesday at 6.00p.m. At Ardingly. Mr Docking and Miss Sparrowhawk would once again be organising a display for the South of England Carriage Driving Fair. The Society had been invited to take the Hackney Team to the Strictly Come Driving again. The Society would retain their presence at the Royal Show Breed display. The Three Counties Show has affiliated to the Society and they would be holding a full day of Hackney classes. Mrs Stockton reported the Horse and Hound should be covering the three main Hackney shows being Ardingly, the Northern and the Championships. Mrs Stockton said she would be continuing to supply the editorial for Carriage Driving magazine. On the subject of the calendar photographs had been requested from all those eligible but to date very few have been supplied. It was reported the Hackney Horse Society first Auction was a great success and it will be happening again in 2008. Mrs Stockton said Mrs Clough and Ms Barraclough will be holding a new members day to give advice, encouragement and instruction.

Mrs Stockton also reported from the Show Committee. She said the Committee had decided as there were very few entries in the Amateur classes to stop the Ladies only amateur classes and have only one horse and one pony amateur class, keeping the Championships with the top 4 from each class going forward, also keeping the ladies Championship with the four highest placed ladies to qualify. Council felt it would be appropriate to stop the ladies only amateur classes but the height classes should be kept. Mr Vyse proposed to stop the ladies only amateur classes, the two amateur pony and two amateur horse classes to stay with the Amateur Championships staying the same. The Ladies only Amateur Championship to be held with the 2 highest placed ladies qualifying from each height class, seconded by Mr Neachell with 1 against the proposal was carried.

**Action Secretary to alter schedule and inform members via newsletter**

Mrs Stockton informed Council of the Judges the Show Committee had chosen for the Breed Show and the Championship Show. Mrs Barraclough queried the choice of Mr Burrows for the Harness classes as this would make it difficult for her to show and as far as she was aware Mr Burrows had agreed to judge the Amateur classes. Council felt the list of judges would be acceptable as long as Mr Grayshon was swapped with Mr Burrows. Mr Chicken proposed the following judges for the Shows:

In Hand

B Fury, J Cresswell, S Bamford

Harness

L Hazlett, R Connolly, N Grayshon

Amateur, International, Junior Whip, Ridden

T Burrows, E Ward, J Sayers or C Purver

Private Drive, Double Harness

G Docking, B Fury

Reserve Overall Mrs B Stockton, M Neachell

Championship Show

L Hazlett, R Connolly, Miss P Peters

Reserve Overall Mrs B Stockton, M Neachell

Seconded by Mr Vardy, unanimous.

## **Action Secretary to alter schedule and inform members via newsletter**

The Show Committee proposed the timetable for the Breed Show to stay as per 2007 with the only differences being the Junior Whip moving from the Thursday to the Wednesday, the Hackney ring to start an hour earlier on the Thursday, the in hand parade to start 15 minutes earlier and the Champion Harness pony to start 20 minutes earlier in the Ardingly ring on the Thursday, the Champion Harness Horse to start 1 ½ hours earlier on the Friday, seconded by Mr Vardy, unanimous.

### **Action Secretary to alter schedule**

Mr Oade said there was a need for some more stewards especially now Mr Grant could possibly be retiring in the not too distant future.

Regarding Health and Safety the Show Committee said most would be as per last year. On Mr James' advice they had agreed to put in the Catalogue and Show Schedule a statement pertaining to Health and Safety. Where exhibitors have to sign the declaration on the entry form for something to be included regarding Health and Safety and a safety policy statement to be displayed in the Hackney tent. A few problems the Society had with the South of England on the Health and Safety was raised and it was decided for the Chairman to send a letter detailing our problems to them.

### **Action Secretary to alter schedule, catalogue and entry form Chairman to send letter to South of England**

## 7. NEW MEMBERS AND PREFIXES

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

Mr Bongers, Holland, Mr S Burrows, Mr Dean, Ms N Evans, Mr & Mrs Honeywell, Mr & Mrs Morris, Mr Rozendall, Holland, Coby and Gerald Spierings, Holland, Mr Stubbs, Mr & Mrs Todd

#### New Prefixes

Sunbeamstud for Mr David Vyse

Marstonstud for Mr Peter Vyse

Semleystud for Ms Nikki Evans

Halloughtonstud for Ms Charlene Vyse

Staplefordstud for Ms Melanie Vyse

Wentworthstud for Mr John Vyse

All of the above new prefixes were unanimously refused by Council.

## 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman informed the Council a letter had been received from RBST confirming the Hackney Horse and Pony would be staying on the Category 2 Endangered list for 2008.

The Chairman said Swansea County Show had asked if they could have qualifying status for their show, Council felt the Show Committee should look into all Qualifying Shows.

### **Action Show Committee to deal**

Mr Toombs had informed Mr Oade he would be happy to continue to run the Society's auction at Ardingly.

Mr Oade read out a letter which Miss Sparrowhawk had sent into the Society before she was voted onto Council. On her comments about the judging in the Championship Class at Ardingly mention would be made at the Judges seminar. On the Amateur status of drivers at the moment nothing could be altered. In the Part bred wagon class it was felt it should stay as a show wagon class and to monitor it to see if

entries to increase. On having a spotlight at the Championship show, although this would be an excellent idea cost would be prohibitive. The website was being dealt with.

Mr Neachell suggested perhaps the International classes could be a little later in the morning at the Championship show.

The Chairman informed the meeting several letters of complaint had been received regarding the removal of the use of looped reins in the amateur classes. He said as usual a rule had been changed far too quickly and perhaps in future changes to rules should be considered and brought to the next Council meeting before implementation. Everyone knows the rules are stretched to suit some people but there are genuine cases for the use of the reins and the use of looped reins have been allowed for at least 15 years. By stopping the use in just Amateur classes was the Society not discriminating against a disability. Council discussed whether the rule should be re-instated, whether looped reins should be allowed and how to stop people making a mockery of the rule. Mr Bass proposed the rule on looped reins be re-instated so that they can be used in all classes but application must be made to the Society each year for the exhibitor to use looped reins and a letter to be sent from the Society asking the exhibitors doctor to confirm the need for the use of looped reins, obviously written permission will have to be given from the exhibitor to be sent to their Doctor because of the problem with confidentiality, seconded by Mr Cresswell with 3 against the proposal was carried.

**Action Secretary to change rule and inform members via newsletter**

Mrs Reade asked if anything had been done with her letter regarding the behaviour of Mr Wenham Jnr. The Chairman informed her that he had been waiting for the meeting to see what Council wished to do as it was not a case for the disciplinary committee as no investigation was required and any discipline could only be given from full council. Council was very upset by Mr Wenham Jnr.'s behaviour as this was the only problem in what was a fantastic show weekend. Council decided the normal "yellow card" situation in enforced this being a letter is sent explaining Councils disapproval about his behaviour and if anything happens again the disciplinary rule will be enforced.

Council considered the ruling in the show schedule regarding non-appearance at Championships and Mr Oade proposed to remove "if no valid reason has been given for non-appearance of an eligible animal the exhibitor will be unable to exhibit at the Annual National Breed Show the following year" seconded by Mr Chicken, with 1 abstention proposal carried.

**Action the Chairman to write to Mr Wenham the Secretary to change the rule in the show schedule**

Miss Sparrowhawk said the Kent County Show would be considering holding classes for Hackneys in 2009. Council suggested she sends her contact details to Mrs Hicketts so she can formally write to the Show.

**Action Miss Sparrowhawk to send details to the Secretary and the Secretary to write to Kent Show**

The Chairman said the gift for Mr Grant celebrating his sixtieth stewarding year would be presented to him at the AGM as long as he attended. Mention was made to Mrs Haydon being 90 and it was decided to present her with a Harrods hamper, value to be decided by the Chairman, again being presented at the Show. Finally a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday card to be sent to Mr Ryder once the Chairman obtained his birth date.

**Action Chairman to find out birth date of Mr Ryder Secretary to send card and obtain hamper**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING May venue to be decided

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.45p.m.**