

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE HACKNEY HORSE SOCIETY HELD ON 5th FEBRUARY 2009 AT ROYAL MEWS AT 1.00P.M.

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

1. APOLOGIES for absence were received from Mr R Carter, Mr J. Cresswell, Mrs C Haydon, Mrs S Reade, Miss A Sparrowhawk and Mr D Vyse

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Barrass and Mr Connolly the new Council members to the meeting.

2. MINUTES of the last meeting held 5th February 2009, were approved and signed by the Chairman proposed by Mr Chicken seconded by Mr Bass, unanimous.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- i. Outstanding Debt/ van der Endt Ownership Dispute

Mr Oade reported Mr van der Endt had now paid in full the amount he owed the Society. Mr Middelman although still refusing to transfer Plains William to Mr van der Endt had agreed to transfer the animal directly into the new owner, Mr Stubbs, as he felt it was not fair for Mr Stubbs to be penalised. The Society's solicitors had asked Mr van der Endt to pay for the legal fees, totalling £1,800, which the Society had incurred over his dispute with the Society over the transfer of Plains William. To date Mr van der Endt had not been forthcoming with any money. Mr Oade proposed the Society completes the transfer of Plains William from Mr Middelman into Mr Stubbs name, seconded by Mr Bass, unanimous. Council stated if Mr van der Endt wanted to become a member of the Society in the future, his application should not be put to them for consideration until he had paid the £1800 which the Society has had to pay to the Solicitors in dealing with the transfer dispute. Council were informed as the Society was a registered charity it is bound by the laws of England and as such it is protected from ordinary civil proceedings challenging its administration, policies or charter. As such anyone wishing to challenge the Society on any of its administration, policies or charter will be barred from bringing a claim unless they can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the court they are a claimant of sufficient standing and is able to obtain an order from the Charity Commission or the court granting express permission to do so.

- ii. Membership Application Form

Mrs Stockton said the PR committee was asked to propose a form which was to be attached to the back of the membership application form which asked a few questions of new members as to whether they were breeders, how many animals they owned etc. She distributed a sample to Council and they were more than happy with the suggestions although a slight change within the first line from "though this is not mandatory" to "to help the Society". It was also felt that it would be useful to send the same form, taking out New from the first line, to all the existing members in the next maildrop. Mrs Stockton proposed to include the new form onto the back of the existing membership form with the change of removing "though this is not mandatory" to "to help the Society" and keeping the answers on the membership database, also to include in the next maildrop for existing members to complete, seconded by Mr James, unanimous.

Action Secretary to include on membership form and maildrop to existing members

- iii. Ridden Class for Championship Show

The Secretary informed Council it was not something the BDS would be interested in at the moment. Mr Docking confirmed at the moment the BDS would not be looking at adding any new classes to the show as they may have to move from Towerlands to another venue at very short notice as the owners of Towerlands were looking at obtaining planning permission to build houses on the land.

iv. Judging of Ridden Class for Annual National Breed Show

Mr Oade informed the meeting this was discussed at the Show Committee meeting prior to this meeting as instructed by Council at their last meeting. It was agreed as the Annual National Breed show is specifically for the Hackney breed, the ridden class is to be judged as a Hackney under saddle. They must be able to walk, trot, canter, be well mannered and suitable as an all round ridden animal.

Action Secretary to alter schedule and inform the judges for this years ridden class and put in newsletter

v. DEFRA Ruling on Dutch Registrations

The Secretary informed Council DEFRA had received other complaints regarding the Dutch not following Mother Stud book rules. They were still dealing with the situation with their Dutch counterparts and will contact the Society when a decision has been made. As far as DEFRA are concerned our daughter studbook must DNA all progeny and parent test before registration into the studbook.

vi. Mrs Brown

The Secretary informed Council letters had been received from Mrs Browns solicitors to which the Society's solicitors had replied. Since October there had been no further correspondence. To date the legal costs incurred on this would be in the region of £1,000.

4. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

Mrs Stockton reported to Council the Society was in a fairly solid financial position and hopefully is at its strongest to weather any financial recession. Although there is a bottom line figure of nearly £13,000 profit this was not a realistic figure and a more realistic figure would be to take approximately £6,500 off. This is due to the fact there was no Horse and Pony Championships in this financial year as they were held in October and not September and the auction for this financial year raised £5,000 where a more realistic figure of £1,300 - £1,500 could be expected in the future. Mrs Stockton also reported to Council both herself as Treasurer and the Chairman have explicitly told the Secretary that she is not allowed to give credit to anyone. Unfortunately every year there are one or two people who try to bully her into giving them credit and blame her when they do not succeed. Everything must be paid for when ordered including any Breed show entries. Mrs Stockton asked Council if they had any questions. Council raised no questions on the accounts at all, the Treasurer then proposed the accounts were accepted, seconded by Mr Neachell, unanimous.

Mrs Stockton proposed the Secretary was to allow no credit whatsoever to anyone whether they were a member or Council member of the Society, seconded by Mr Chicken, unanimous.

5. PRICE INCREASE/VAT/DNA

The Secretary informed Council the Treasurer and Chairman had agreed to not pass on the reduction in VAT although obviously the Society would only be charging 15%. Therefore this meant in real terms the Society would be gaining an increase on everything of 2 ½%. The Treasurer said due to this the Society would be able to hold off any price increases other than on any items such as DNA, stables, or passes which are a direct cost and the Society has no control over. The cost of DNA had been increased by Newmarket to the Society by £3 and Council felt the full amount had to be passed onto the members. Also the stables at Ardingly had increased to £77.50 and Council felt the £1.50 also had to be passed onto the exhibitors. Mrs Stockton proposed although the VAT reduction to 15% has been implemented

no prices to be altered, DNA to be increased to £52.50 and stabling to £77.50, seconded by Mr Connolly unanimous.

Action the Secretary to inform members via the newsletter of increases in stabling and DNA also to alter the entry form accordingly

6. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

PR Committee

Mrs Stockton said the PR decided they would hold another Judges seminar at Ardingly in 2009

Action PR Committee to organise

Regarding the website the PR committee felt although it was much improved on the old site there was still room for improvement. Mrs Stockton said her daughter had said she would look at the site and re-vamp it for a small fee, this council agreed to.

Action the Secretary to contact Mrs Stockton's daughter and organise

Mrs Stockton informed the Council several displays had taken place during 2008 which were very successful and similar would be organised in the future. The PR committee had agreed to hold two or possibly three training days during 2009 one in the North one in the South and possibly one in the Midlands. It was suggested numbers would be limited to eight and it would take the form of basic training in the fundamentals of showing show wagon Hackneys. Council thought this would be an excellent idea.

Action PR committee to organise

Mrs Stockton said Mr James had apologised for not taking the stand around as much as he hoped but this was due to work pressures at home. She said perhaps in the future the possibility of purchasing another trailer could be looked at but at the moment this was not something she wanted to recommend to Council as she felt as Treasurer it was not the correct time financially.

The PR Committee decided as there were only three entries last year for the Performance Awards it was something which needed to be reviewed. The PR Committee felt the Awards should consist of a certificate awarded to the highest performing Hackneys in various disciplines, the PR committee would contact the governing body of the various disciplines to obtain the details of the successful Hackney. For the keen amateur or for someone who has a much loved Hackney they use for pleasure they would be able to enter by sending a short written resume to the Secretary of the Hackney Horse Society of what they have been doing with their Hackney or Part bred Hackney and why they deserve recognition. Council agreed to this suggestion.

Action PR committee to organise. Secretary to inform members via newsletter

Show Committee

Mr Oade on behalf of Mr Chicken reported from the Show Committee.

The following judges were proposed for the Breed Show and the Championship Show

In hand

R Connolly

P Gray

M Neachell

Harness

H Eastwood

A Grant

Mrs S Reade

Amateur, Junior Whip, International, Ridden

A James

L Hazlett

J Wenham Jnr

Private Drive, Double Harness

R Robertson
E Ward

Overall Reserve Judges

J Chicken, G Dudley

Championship Show

S Bamford

A Grant

N Grayshon

Spare in case any of the above were unavailable

C Ambrose

W Fury

Council unanimously agreed to the suggested judges.

A suggestion had come forward to the Show Committee to hold a Light Trade Class at the Breed Show to which the Committee felt would be a very popular class and suggested to hold one on the Monday afternoon, it was to be for pure or part bred Hackney to a 2 or 4 wheeled vehicle and if sufficient numbers the class to be split. This Council agreed to.

Mr Oade said how they had discussed holding a more prestigious class on the Thursday but the Committee felt due to time constraints it was best to keep to the same as 2008. This Council agreed to.

Regarding the Timetable again Mr Oade said the Show Committee had looked at it and again as 2008 worked so well they decided to keep the timings the same. This Council agreed to.

Mr Oade said two new stewards were available for the Breed Show and they were Mrs Ilett and Mr Robertson. He also reported Mr Grant had retired as Chief Steward but would stay on as an advisor and the Show Committee had proposed Mr Vardy take over. This Council agreed to.

7. NEW AFFILIATED SHOW/NEW AFFILAITED CLASSES/AFFILIATED SHOWS NOT AFFILIATING

The Secretary informed Council due to the situation at Ponies UK in 2008 they would not be affiliating again. Swansea County Show would not be taking place during 2009. Both Edenbridge and Oxted and Royal County of Berkshire show had agreed to hold Novice classes. Mr Oade said although we did not want to discourage people suggesting other classes members should not contact the affiliated shows direct, the Society must contact the Show. The Victoria Foods Carriage Driving Extravaganza asked to affiliated to the Society, this Council agreed to. Mr Hunter-Thomson from The Victoria Foods Carriage Driving Extravaganza asked if they could have qualifiers for their show. Council felt there were enough show wagon qualifying shows but they said they would be happy to offer a Private Drive qualifier to this show.

Action Secretary to write to show and confirm Private Drive Qualification and add to date in year book

8. RULE CHANGES

At the Show Committee it was proposed to adopt the suggestion from the Society's Honorary Solicitor to adopt the rule all drivers, grooms and handlers must be members of the Society. Council agreed to this and Mr Dudley proposed with immediate effect all drivers, grooms and handlers must be members of the Society, seconded by Mr Chicken, unanimous.

The Secretary mentioned the problem of making sure no-one enters under a judge who has bred their animal, especially as the affiliated shows do not always give the name of their judge to the Society. Mr Connolly proposed with immediate effect it is the sole responsibility of the Exhibitor to not enter under a judge who has bred their animal, seconded by Mr Dudley, unanimous.

9. HBLB GRANT CHANGES

The Secretary reported to Council the proposed changes to the spending of the HBLB grant. They were as follows:

Grants paid to Premium Mare owners who use a Premium Stallion @ £120

Grants paid to Mare owners who use a premium Stallion @ £70

Grants paid to Premium Mare owners @ £60

Reduction in Registration fees @ £20

Reduction in Stallion Permit Fees @30

Subsidy in DNA typing @ £40

Contribution towards stud book

Subsidy in Travel to the Annual National Breed Show

Contribution towards Breed Show Costs

Training for Judges

Horse/Pony of Year

Advertising of Premium Stallions

Council accepted the proposed changes.

10. NEW MEMBERS AND PREFIXES

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

Miss R Anderson, Stanhope, Australia, Mr R F Batty, Woodford Green, Essex, Mr & Mrs Beadnall, Tighnabruaich, Argyll, Ms M Chapman, Welling, Kent, Mrs S Edgar, Lymington, Hampshire, Mr J Lawes, Brockford Green, Suffolk, Ms R Milton, Ilford, Essex, Ms P Oole, Fynaart Netherlands, Mr C Patrick, Huntingfield, Suffolk, Mr & Mrs Randall, Romford, Essex, Mr H Reddihough, Keighley, West Yorkshire, Mr J Ripley, Biddenden, Kent.

New Prefixes

Dancewood Ms P Oole, Netherlands

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr James reported Brightwells would no longer be holding a Hackney sale. In his opinion he thought it was still something which would be of interest if a venue could be found. Council felt this was not something the Society would pursue.

Mr Oade read a letter out from Mrs Allen where she asked to be considered as a judge and also a steward. Council felt as they had just taken on two new stewards it was not the time to have anymore and as stated in September they would not be interested in considering her as a judge at the moment.

Action Secretary to write to Mrs Allen

Mr Oade reported he had had several complaints about the non-availability of tickets to Hackney members for the Presentation Dinner Dance, the Secretary confirmed she had also had several complaints. Mr Dudley stated no-one who wanted to come had not been able to get a ticket.

Mr James reported the Three Counties show would not be affiliating this year due to them clashing dates with the British Driving Society Show, the Secretary was under the impression they were affiliating. Council asked for clarification.

Action Secretary to confirm with Three Counties

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 12th May 2009 at Stapleford Flying Club

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.07p.m.