

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE HACKNEY HORSE SOCIETY HELD ON 9th MARCH 2010 AT ROYAL MEWS AT 1.00 P.M.

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

1. APOLOGIES for absence were received from C. Hall and Mrs C Haydon
2. MINUTES of the last meeting held 9th September 2009, were approved and signed by the Chairman proposed by Mr Neachell seconded by Mr James, unanimous.

3. MATTERS ARISING

i. Three Counties Show

Mr James said he had nothing more to report regarding the Three Counties Show re-affiliating. As last year the BDS show and the Three Counties Show is on the same weekend so they were not interested in holding Hackney classes as they felt most exhibitors would be attending the BDS show. It was suggested Mr James ask if they could hold the Hackney classes on the Saturday as opposed to the Sunday and then exhibitors could attend both. Mr James said if Council wished him to try and encourage the show to hold the Hackney classes and suggest they hold them on the Saturday. This Council agreed to.

Action Mr James to pursue the future affiliation of the Three Counties Show

ii. DEFRA ruling on Dutch Registrations

Mrs Hicketts reported as of yet DEFRA had not responded to the question on the Dutch registrations but she had heard from the Dutch Society and they had held a meeting and it had been agreed that they would follow the rules of the Mother studbook with regard to the registrations of any progeny. They would have the same A, B and C register and would DNA test all new progeny before registration into their studbook.

4. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

The Treasurer reported to Council the Society had made a loss of £2,244 but Council should be aware of this from the copy of their accounts which had been sent out previous to the meeting. Mrs Stockton said both she and the Secretary had tried to keep costs down wherever possible but it was impossible to cover every eventuality such as legal fees. Income had been reduced by £3,330 on the Charity Auction/raffle, £2,670 on investment income, £505 on donations and £377 on subscriptions. There were increases in Printing and Stationery of £822 which was partially due to the change of address of the Society and the introduction of tamper proof paper for the passports, Costs were up on Registration, Grant and Yearbook this being mainly due because increases had been made with the HBLB grant. Show account was up by £6,630 but this was expected as the previous years accounts did not show any horse and pony of the year figures because it did not fall within the previous financial year by a day. Postage and telephone was up by £1,766 which again was mainly due to the move of the society's offices and the increase in the cost of postage. Finally there were legal fees of £1,935. Mr Haffenden said Council should have a more detailed set of accounts as they would then be easier to understand and Council could then look at where savings could be made more easily, Mr Ward suggested it would be better if the accounts were audited as this would also give a more detailed picture. Mr Oade suggested the accounts were in a very simple form already and by having them audited it would not give any more detail and the only way for more detailed accounts would be to have management accounts. Mr Oade said the accounts clearly showed all that was required and if Council wanted to know anything in more detail they could ask the Secretary before the meeting for the information. Mr Dudley said he felt the Society's accounts were in quite a good state for the current financial climate. The Treasurer proposed the accounts were accepted, seconded by Mr Dudley, unanimous.

5. PRICE INCREASES/VAT

Mrs Stockton informed the meeting that the Society must look at making some increases as it cannot make a loss as the HBLB has stated the Society must not be in a loss making situation as they have to be in a position to give 20% in every £1 granted. Hopefully as this was an unusual financial climate and there were reasons for the losses HBLB would be happy to continue to support the Society. Mrs Stockton suggested increases of £5 was made in registrations, transfers and passports this would on this years figures bring an extra £1,700 and as breeders benefit the most from the grant they would be the biggest losers if the grant was lost. Mr Connolly proposed

Registrations, transfers and passports are all increased by £5 with immediate effect, seconded by Mr Neachell, unanimous.

Action Secretary to inform members via newsletter of increases

The Treasurer told Council since May 2006 to September 2009 over £5,000 had been spent on legal fees. She said a quote had been obtained from a firm called Lawdata where they give general advice for a fixed yearly fee of £500. Mrs Stockton felt this was something the Society should consider. Mr Chicken proposed the Society pay an annual fee to Lawdata for general legal advice, seconded by Sue Wormald, unanimous.

Action Secretary to contact Lawdata

The Secretary informed Council that there were times when she has had to use her personal credit or debit card and she felt this was not an appropriate situation to be in. She asked if Council would consider having a company credit/debit card. Mr Chicken proposed the Society obtain a company credit/debit card, seconded by Mr Connolly, unanimous.

Action Secretary to obtain card

Mrs Stockton informed Council that as from 1st January the Society had increased the VAT back to 17.5%.

6. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

PR Committee

Mrs Stockton reported from the PR Committee. She said the Musical Drive would not be taking place as it was not viable but Mr Docking would be organising a Hackney driving class where the format of a Hackney class would be explained. Mrs Stockton said the website was nearing completion and comments were requested from the PR Committee about it. The new Performance Awards had had a very low take up this year but hopefully with more publicity this would improve. She asked Council if they would be happy for Mrs Reade to appraise the entries. This Council agreed to.

Action Mrs Reade to appraise the entries for the new Performance Awards, the Secretary to write to Mrs Reade thanking her for taking this on

Mrs Stockton said the Yearbook would be a little late this year due to copy and adverts not being received in time and a comment had been made in the editor's note within the yearbook. The PR committee considered the possibility of adding some extra private drive qualifying shows but felt in the end there were enough already and at the moment suitable qualifiers were coming forward. Mr Docking asked if a more comprehensive list could be supplied for the presentation of the trophies which was to include what the each trophy was for.

Show Committee

Mrs Hicketts reported on behalf of Mr Chicken for the Show Committee. She said a meeting had been held prior to the Council meeting and they had discussed the judges for the two shows and the timetable for the Breed show, the suggestions would be put to Council under item 7.

7. BREED SHOW/CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW JUDGES

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

In hand

R Connolly

A Grant

A James

Harness

J Chicken

G Docking

L Hazlett

Amateur, Junior Whip, International, Ridden

C Ambrose

R Connolly

E Ward

Private Drive, Double Harness

G Docking

A James

Overall Reserve Judges

T Burrows (as long as he was well enough)

Championship Show

J Chicken

G Docking

L Hazlett

Miss Wormald proposed Council accept the suggested judges from the Show Committee, seconded by Mr Neachell, unanimous.

Action Secretary to write to judges to confirm and include in Show schedule and newsletter

Mrs Hicketts said the Show Committee had looked at the timetable for the Breed Show and they felt it should stay as 2009 with the only changes being to the actual timings in the Ardingly ring and for the Auction to be held on the Wednesday instead of the Tuesday. This Council agreed to.

Miss Wormald asked if timings could be altered for the Supreme In Hand Animal judging as the horse is often at a disadvantage to the pony as the pony has had a days rest when it comes into the ring for this Championship. Council suggested the judging of the Supreme Hackney Animal to take place during the In hand parade in the Ardingly ring.

Action Secretary to include in show schedule and to contact South of England regarding supreme animal

Ms Ilett had kindly agreed to help Mr Vardy with the stewarding again at the Breed Show. Mr Docking agreed to commentate at the Breed Show when he was not judging and Mrs Stockton to take over when he was.

Council were requested to help in the Hackney tent as much as possible when they were not showing.

8. HBLB GRANT

Mrs Hicketts reported HBLB had confirmed they would be paying the same grant as last year but it would be pro rata as they were altering their accounting period.

9. PROBATIONARY JUDGE

The Secretary informed Council both Mr Wenham and Mr Ambrose had confirmed Mr Cooper would be suitable to go forward to the next part of the probationary period. Mr Chicken agreed he would be happy to take Mr Cooper for the Ardingly part of his probationary period.

Action Mrs Hicketts to inform Mr Cooper

10. REDUCTION IN COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr Bass suggested to Council that the numbers of Council be reduced to 15 over a period of three years as this could make for a more efficient Council. Council felt that the number of Council members should stay as it was as it was felt that there was a good cross section coming forward with this number.

11. NEW MEMBERS AND PREFIXES

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

Mr G Cunningham, Annalong, NI, Mr M Devacht, Belgium, Ms J Dobson, Rotherham, Mr G Lee, Aveley, Mr P Lijffijt, de Bilt Netherlands, Mr A Pearce, Nr Braintree, Mr P Ryder-Davies, Woodbridge, Mr M Wright & Dr G Eyres, Oakham

New Prefixes

Knavesgreen for Mr Lawes this is an extension, Crowide for Mr Crowe this is an extension, Mr T Thomas Deigratia, Gratia was agreed but he asked if it could be prefixed by Dei

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Hicketts asked what Council wished to put forward as an agenda for the judges meeting which was due to be held after the May Council meeting. The following was suggested and agreed as the agenda

1. Courtesy of Judge to Exhibitor
2. Judges Procedure
3. Knowledge of Rules and Regulations
4. Correct Presentation

Action Mrs Hicketts to send agenda to all judges

Mr Docking felt the Society should have BDS qualifying status for the Hackney Breed Show Private Drive classes. Council felt this was something to be pursued.

Action Secretary to ask BDS for qualifying status

Mrs Hicketts informed the meeting both Patchetts and BDS Essex had asked for affiliation, this Council agreed to.

Mrs Hicketts asked Council if they would be happy for her to upgrade a passport for a part bred animal called Hamewith Ruby. Normally she would just proceed as this was something as a Breed Society she could do but because the animal had a different name in the other passport then she wanted Council agreement. She confirmed that on the evidence given the animal does resemble Hamewith Ruby. Council agreed for her to proceed with the upgrade.

Action Secretary to upgrade passport

A letter was read out to Council from Mr A Brown in it he apologised for the incident in 2008 and said how he helped produce several hackneys and cobs last year. This year he has been offered his own yard with one of his customers and would be able to show approximately 6 Hackneys which would be a great plus for the exhibiting of the breed. To this end he asked for Council to consider reinstating his membership. Legal advice had been obtained and their reply was read out. Council felt they should follow the legal advice and not reinstate Mr Brown's membership, with 19 for and 2 abstentions it was agreed to follow the legal advice.

Action Secretary to write to solicitors and obtain response to be sent to Mr Brown

Mr Haffenden asked when the list of judges was put on the newsletter could it be stated the Show Committee picked them. Mr Haffenden was informed that the Show Committee just suggested to Council the judges and Council actually chose the judges so therefore it would be incorrect to state the Show Committee chose them. Mr Haffenden said Council did not have time to consider the judges when the list was read out as it was all too quick. Mr Bass asked for the list to be re-read so that Council had time to re-consider them. Council then re-agreed the list which was suggested in item 7.

Mr Connolly asked if the Society was going to consider the situation regarding the use of doping in the ring. Mr Docking said that if the Society were to go down the route of dope testing then a policy would have to be written and published, the suggested shows must be advertised as to where dope testing could be done, only certain vets could be used and it would be very expensive. A case had been proven where an animal was tested for Bute but it was found to have been in the feed bowl which had been used two years previous. Council felt the ruling the Society had regarding doping was still relevant.

Mr Bass informed the meeting the Royal International sponsorship had a shortfall of £1,000 as Mr Oakley was putting £500 and an anonymous sponsor was putting a further £500 therefore the Society should put the remaining £1,000. The general feeling of Council was that the Society should not get involved in outside sponsorship especially as they had to put increases on several items to alleviate the problem with the Society's own shortfall. The Secretary informed the meeting the Royal International had affiliated to the Society although they have never and will never pay an affiliation fee. The question was then asked as to whether there had been a request to the Society for sponsorship and it was confirmed to date no request has ever been made. The question was then asked as to where the situation of sponsorship had arisen from, no-one knew. Council felt the Society should do nothing with regard to any sponsorship.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 4th May 2010 at Stapleford Flying Club

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.00p.m.