

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE HACKNEY HORSE SOCIETY HELD ON 9th FEBRUARY 2005 AT 1.00 P.M. AT THE ROYAL MEWS

Present: R. Bass (Chairman), Mrs B Stockton (Treasurer), A. Oade (Vice Chairman), J. Chicken, Mrs J Clough, G. Dudley, R. Hutchinson, A. Grant, A. James, J. Moor, M. Neachell, G. Vardy, D. Vyse, E. Walsh, A. Ward, E. Ward, Mrs D Hicketts (Secretary)

1. APOLOGIES for absence were received from Mr & Mrs C Haydon, Mrs D Oade, Mrs S Reade, J. Stevens, and Rev Watson.
2. MINUTES of the last meeting held 20th October 2004 were approved and signed by the Chairman proposed by Mr James seconded by Mr Chicken.
3. ANNUAL NATIONAL BREED SHOW – JUDGES

The list of available judges was read out to Council. These were:

J. R. Bamford, D. Dunn, T Dwyer, H. Eastwood, W. Fury, Ms J Gilbertson, N. Grayshon, Mrs C Haydon, J. Moor, M. Neachell, S Reade, G. Stringer and Rev Watson. Mr Bass handed to Council a list of judges which he thought could be nominated from the list of available judges for the various classes. He said that he had tried to choose judges who were not members of Council. Mr Bass asked Council for their views on these suggestions. Mr Oade asked why this had been done as it was his understanding from the last meeting that the names were to be drawn from at hat at this meeting. Mr Bass replied that this was the case but perhaps Mr Dwyer from Australia could be used as he would be paying for his own airfare and it would be a totally new face. Mr Cresswell commented that from an exhibitor's point of view the Australian judges judge in a totally different way to the English judges. Council agreed that the selection of judges should be the same as agreed at the last meeting which was to draw the names out at this meeting. Mr Toombs proposed that as Mr Dwyer had agreed to pay his own way over that he is nominated for the Amateur, Gig, Double Harness and International classes. A photo is taken of him judging and a little editorial piece is sent to Horse and Hound after the Annual National Breed Show, seconded by Mr Walsh, carried with one against.

Action Mr Moor to take photo and liase with Mrs Stockton on the editorial as PR Representative

The draw then took place and the results were as follows:

In Hand Pony

Mr Stringer
Mr J R Bamford Reserve

In Hand Horse

Mr J R Bamford
Mr Grant Reserve

Harness Pony

Mr Eastwood
Ms Gilbertson Reserve

Harness Horse

Mr Dunn
Rev Watson Reserve

Amateur Gig Double Harness International

Mr Dwyer
Ms Gilbertson Reserve

Ridden

Mr Grayshon
Mr Fury Reserve

Junior Whip

Mr Fury
Mrs Haydon Reserve

Council then discussed whether or not the judges who were unavailable for Ardingly should be included and those who had already been chosen for the Annual National Breed Show. Mr Oade proposed that all the names of the judges who had replied should have their names put into the hat with the exclusion of the Harness judges for the 2005 Annual National Breed Show, seconded by Mr Vardy, unanimous.

The draw then took place for the HOYS and the results were as follows

Open Class

Mr Stringer First Reserve Mr Moor Second Reserve Mrs Haydon

Novice Class

Mr James First Reserve Rev Watson Second Reserve Mr Neachell

International Class

Mr Eastwood First Reserve Miss Peters Second Reserve Mr Moor

Action Mrs Hicketts to write to all the judges informing them of the draw and confirming their availability

Mr Oade felt that from the grumbling that was coming from the meeting about the judges that had been drawn this system had possibly not worked and the system needed to be reviewed yet again. A discussion took place as to whether this format was suitable, whether it should revert back to one of the previously used systems, whether there should be a review of the judges panel and possibly having a separate list of judges for Council to choose from for the Annual national Breed show and Championships. It was felt that Council needed to re-think the judges selection and for it to be discussed at the next meeting.

Mr Toombs proposed that the membership are informed on the next newsletter that the selection for the judges was done in a totally democratic way by the names of the available judges being put into a hat and drawn at the meeting, seconded Mr Oade, unanimous.

Action Secretary to include in the next newsletter

Mr Dudley said that the problem of the lack of judges was the ruling on judges not being able to show at the Annual National Breed Show if they were judging and he would bring this up at the AGM to see if members wanted to have yet another vote on whether to re-change this ruling.

The Secretary informed Council that the South of England had increased the stabling and caravan passes which meant the Society needed to increase them also, the increase on both being £2 otherwise the Society would be subsidising them. Mr Toombs proposed that the increases of £2 on both stables and caravan passes be applied, seconded by Mr Oade, unanimous.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- i. Mrs Haydon's Video – Mrs Stockton reported that the video was progressing well and should be ready for launching at Ardingly. Although it is always being referred to as the "video" mostly DVD's would be produced as videos are gradually being phased out. On no account would she rush the final stages of the production of the video in order to guarantee it being available for the Annual National Breed Show, especially as there are various other venues where the video could be launched.
- ii. Probationary Judges – The Secretary reported that only a few people had contacted her with regard to the shows they wished to attend for their probationary judging. Due to one of the probationary judges informing her that he had misinterpreted what he should be doing Mrs Hicketts would contact those she had not heard from in case they were of the same opinion that they had to contact the shows direct. Mrs Hicketts informed Council that Mr Docking had been in contact with the Society, as there seemed to be a misunderstanding as to why he had not contacted Mr Chicken. Apparently he had been in touch by letter but his correspondence must have been mislaid in the post. The Secretary had spoken to Mr Bass about this situation and he had suggested that if Mr Docking was still interested in becoming a probationary judge then he could be considered at Ardingly; Mr Docking had confirmed that he was still interested. Mr Moor felt that under the circumstances of Mr Docking resigning from Council and the comments he has made about the Society in the past he should not be allowed to be considered as a probationary judge

and proposed that Mr Docking is written to saying that Council do not feel he can be accepted as a probationary judge, seconded by Mr Ward, unanimous.

Action Chairman to write to Mr Docking

- iii. Private Drive Championship Cup – Mrs Hicketts said that three people had replied to the Society’s advert for a cup for the Championships. These were Mr Murray, Mr Ramsden and Mrs Boot. Mrs Boot wished to donate a trophy in memory of her young son who died several years ago from unknown causes. Mrs Stockton proposed that the offer of all the cups could be taken with Mrs Boot supplying the main trophy and the other two being asked to donate one for best opposite section and one for Concours D’Elegance, seconded by Mr Vyse, unanimous.

Action Secretary to write

Mrs Hicketts said that Mrs Stockton had realised that the country was covered for qualifying shows for these Championships all except from Ireland. The Secretary had spoken with Mr Bass regarding this problem and it was decided to contact the Irish Hackney Horse Society to use their show for qualification.

- iv. HOYS Trophies – Mr Haydon still pursuing

- v. Membership Gift Aid – Mrs Hicketts informed Council that she was still pursuing this and had received some further information from the Welsh Pony and Cob Society in connection with it. Mr Toombs said that he had been talking to his MP who had mentioned about gift aid to him and wondered why the Society had not taken this up. Mr Toombs said he would be happy to speak with his MP again and pursue this for the Society and then inform Council of the way to proceed.

Action Mr Toombs to pursue

- vi. Horse of the Year Show – Mrs Hicketts read out a letter received from the Horse of the Year Show replying to her letter asking if the Hackneys could put on a display now they had Rare Breed Status. Mr Gill from the show had replied that at the moment the timetable was complete and they could not at this juncture propose anything which could involve a presence from the Hackney Horse Society but they will keep our letter on file.

- vii. Change of Owner –Mr Bass had contacted his solicitor with regard to the change to the wording of the change of owner ruling and his solicitor had replied that he thought it would be appropriate. Mrs Hicketts informed Council that under the new DEFRA regulation with regard to passports, all passports should be updated with the new owner and signed by the Passport Issuing Authority in question, therefore she felt this should be put into the change of owner ruling as well. Mr James proposed that the wording is changed to incorporate the DEFRA requirement for the return of the passport when a change of owner needs completing, seconded by Mr Chicken, unanimous.

- viii. Restoration Buckley Courage – Mr Haydon had written to Mr Bass saying that he could get a quote for the restoration from a local firm of international repute. He suggested that a valuation should be obtained for insurance purposes and regardless of the value of the picture it should be restored. Mr Chicken suggested that perhaps once the picture is repaired it is then sold, Mr Toombs proposed that the picture is valued in its present condition, a valuation is given if it is restored, a quote is obtained for its restoration and then these figures are given to Council for further discussion on how they wish to proceed, seconded by Mr Vardy, unanimous.

Action Mr Haydon and Mr Toombs to arrange

- ix. Schroder Life Stables – Mr Haydon had written to Mr Bass saying that he will contact Denise Frances who negotiated the Schroder Sponsorship to see if she can throw any light on the situation.

Action Mr Haydon to pursue

Mr Bass then went through the rest of Mr Haydon’s notes and the following were his comments and the replies:

Probationary Judges – They are approved by Council

2005 Horse and Pony Championship – Docklands – Performance Award Presentation, winners down to third are given their rosettes and the cup is presented.

International Classes deleted – no they will be at the Annual National Breed Show and HOYS Band – Similar to last year

Riding for the disabled – not yet decided

Private Drive Championship Prize – Mrs Stockton has offered to sponsor these. Mr Vyse will sponsor the stables for any overseas visitors at the Annual National Breed Show and will supply the prize money for the Championships.

Dumb Jockeys at Shows – Council felt this is covered under the ruling in the Rules and Regulations Appendix A xv.

Iris Gates Memorabilia – Mr Toombs reported that only a few books and one model were left.

Rare Breeds – Mrs Hicketts is constantly chasing but as of yet no answer

AI Frozen Semen – Council felt that the problem with some semen lasting longer than others is down to the stallion owner. 10 years after the death of the stallion was introduced because of the cost of any owner going down the route of frozen semen.

Soft leather croppers and leather covered beck sets – this was answered in the last minutes on page 4 just above last but one paragraph.

Animals bred beyond UK – The situation with regard to the registration is no different. Confirmation of the owner from the studbook that the animal is registered in is now also required.

Council alteration to Articles of Association – This is already in hand for the AGM. Voting will stay the same but instead of members being able to vote for 7 candidates it will only be for 5, therefore over a period of 3 years reducing the number to 15.

Mr Bass proposed that each new candidate who wishes to become a member of Council completes a synopsis of no more than 100 words about themselves explaining why they wished to be considered for Council and what they could offer the Society, seconded by Mr Neachell, unanimous.

Action Mrs Hicketts to bring a sample of the nomination form with this included to the meeting in May.

Roland Connolly Display – Council felt that it was not necessary to view the display beforehand.

Mr Haydon in his written notes agreed with Mr Oade from the last minutes in that although the facilities at Docklands were excellent it did not attract any public other than Hackney enthusiast and a more prestigious venue should be investigated.

Mr Oade stood by what he said at the last meeting and feels the Society needs to promote the breed to people other than Hackney enthusiasts. A discussion took place as to the suitability of the Docklands, the requirement as per the Articles to further the breed, the fact that the Royal was looking into expanding their equine facilities to include a new indoor arena and the need to continue to look for other venues.

Mr Haydon from his written notes proposed that Council continue to try and find another venue which was more suitable for the Horse of the Year Show, seconded by Mr Neachell, unanimous.

Mr Toombs handed over several cheques from various clients of his which had been donated to help with the cost of another venue for the Horse of the Year Show. Mr Toombs proposed that the money is earmarked for a new venue for the Horse of the Year Show and put into the deposit account, seconded by Mr Oade, unanimous. Mr Bass thanked Mr Toombs for this wonderful contribution.

5. INSURANCE – LIBEL AND SLANDER

The Secretary informed Council that the new quote for the libel and slander insurance cover had increased from £250 to £1,000 due to the fact that very few companies now do stand alone libel and slander cover. Mrs Hicketts asked whether Council still wished her to continue with this cover or not. Mr Toombs proposed that a disclaimer is included in all the Society's publications and the libel and slander insurance is stopped, seconded by Mr Oade, unanimous.

6. TREASURER

Mrs Stockton informed Council that she felt the position of Treasurer should be changed to Honorary Treasurer as the Secretary dealt with all the accounts on a day-to-day basis. Mrs Stockton felt that the Secretary's title should be changed to Secretary/Accountant so that members and any business were

fully aware that she dealt with the accounts and could answer any questions necessary on the Society's behalf. Mrs Stockton proposed that the Treasurer is changed to Honorary Treasurer and the Secretary's title is changed to Secretary/Accountant, seconded by Mr Vyse, unanimous.

7. NEW MEMBERS AND PREFIXES

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

Mr D Bethell, Mr N Brown, Mr L Cann, Ms A Daysh, Mr & Mrs M Edmonds, Mr R Guariento, Mr and Mrs A McCann, Mr N Neeleman (Holland), Mr M O'Kane, Mr E Tibbs, Mrs R Wade (USA)

New Prefixes were:

Gadefair – Ben Price, Markstown – Mark Sayers, Nunsbridge – William McDowell, Shorehill – Mr A Mulholland, Suttonpark – Mrs M Neachell, Whitethorns – Mr R Sherfield

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Bass welcomed Mr Cresswell to the meeting.

Mr Bass said that Mrs Reade had been in touch with him asking if the Society could officially thank Miss Dulake for all her support for the Society over the last 40 years. Mr Bass informed Council that he had already done this as soon as he knew that she had been unsuccessful in her re-election.

Mr Chicken asked if the Secretary could ask Chatsworth Show if they would be prepared to put Show Wagon classes on again.

Action Secretary to write to Chatsworth

Mr James reported that the Horse and Pony Rescue Show would no longer be affiliating to the Society but that he had been able to arrange for the Monmouthshire BDS Show and Sale held on 15 May to affiliate.

Action Mr James to give full details of show to the Secretary

Mrs Hicketts reported to Council that there was a dispute over a mare in Ireland as two different people were saying they both owned the same animal. One had already had progeny registered to it and the other wanted progeny registered. As the animal was too old for a blood sample to be held and there were no full brothers or sisters it had been decided in the first instance for Rev Watson to do a visual on both animals to see if this eliminates either.

Action Rev Watson to sight the mare

Mrs Hicketts informed Council that a forged Hackney Horse Society certificate or registration had been sent into the Dutch Hackney Studbook. The reason this came to light was they were unable to locate the animal so asked the Society for all the relevant details. The details which had been changed was as follows: the name of the animal was not in the volume stated on the certificate, the registration number referred to another animal, the date of birth was incorrect and the number of the dam referred to a different animal than that named. The Dutch Society is going to look into it.

Mr Grant asked if there were still any ex-officio's on Council. The Secretary replied that the Articles of Association had been changed and there were now no ex-officio members of Council.

Mr Oade asked if Mr Middelman had eventually signed the transfer for Mr Vyse's horse and the Secretary informed him that he had.

Mr Bass said that consideration needed to be made as to the date for the Hackney Horse of the Year Show as the new Dutch show would be on 1st October 2005 and some of our exhibitors would wish to attend. He felt that perhaps 8th October would be more suitable. The Secretary said that from an office point of view 8th October would be much better and Mrs Greaves was able to accommodate both dates. Mrs Stockton felt that although the HOYS would be 15 October in 2005 the dates could clash for the future which could cause a problem for the Private Drive Championships at the Hackney Horse of the Year Show. Mr Bass proposed that the Hackney Horse of the Year Show be held on 8th October 2005 seconded by Mr Vyse, unanimous.

Action Secretary to change dates

DATE OF NEXT MEETING early May 2005

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.15p.m.