

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE HACKNEY HORSE SOCIETY HELD ON 4th MAY 2006
AT 1.00 P.M. AT THE VILLAGE HALL ADDLESTROP

Present: A. Oade (Chairman), Mrs B Stockton (Treasurer), R. Bass (Vice Chairman), R. Carter, J. Chicken, J. Cresswell, G. Dudley, Mrs C Haydon, R. Hutchinson, A. James, M. Neachell, Mrs S. Reade, K. Toombs, G. Vardy, D. Vyse, A. Ward, E. Ward, Mrs D Hicketts (Secretary)

1. APOLOGIES for absence were received from A. Grant, J. Moor, Mrs D Oade, J. Stevens, and Rev W Watson.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Haydon for organising the hall and the refreshments. He also thanked everyone for coming as it was a different venue to normal. Mr Oade informed council that Mrs Oade had been admitted to hospital because of general deterioration but they were hoping for her to be home again in the next couple of weeks.

2. MINUTES of the last meeting held 14th February 2006 were approved and signed by the Chairman, proposed by Mr Vyse seconded by Mr James.
3. MATTERS ARISING

- i. Video. Mrs Stockton reported things were progressing very well and the DVD would be ready to be launched at Ardingly. She said Mrs Haydon had worked extremely hard and had been to her place several times since the last meeting to finalise everything. Mrs Stockton informed Council it would be a box set of 2 DVD's at an approximate cost of £35, each DVD being approximately 11/2 hours long. The first 50 would be a special edition and autographed by Mrs Haydon. They would be available to order from the star of Ardingly but none will be issued until the Wednesday. Mrs Haydon asked for a vote of thanks for Mrs Stockton as she had worked tirelessly on the project and has done all the donkey work, without her the DVD would not have been produced. Mr Cresswell asked if there was a way that copying of the DVD could be stopped to which Mrs Stockton replied that it would not be possible to stop pirate DVD's being made.
- ii. Transfer of Ownership Mr Middelman and Mr van der Endt. The Chairman reported that he had written to Mr Middelman as agreed at the last meeting and he had received a reply but he still did not say what the debt referred to. The Chairman said he felt closure was required so he instructed the Secretary to contact the Society's solicitors forwarding all the relevant correspondence. The solicitors replied in his opinion the Society can probably safely transfer the two horses to Mr van der Endt as long as Mr van der Endt indemnifies the Society for any claims that Mr Middelman may bring against it in relation to the transfers together with any costs associated with such claims. The solicitor also suggested writing to Mr Middelman again giving him one last change to particularise or prove his claim. Mr Oade informed Council that Mr van der Endt had telephoned him and he informed Mr van der Endt that he had instructed the Society's solicitors to look into the situation. Mr Oade said he would send the letters the Society's solicitors had drafted for Mr Middelman and Mr van der Endt. Council had no objections to this.
Action Mr Oade to send relevant letters
- iii. Probationary Judges. The Chairman said someone was required to report on the probationary judges for their last part which involved judging at least one class at Ardingly. Mr Ward proposed Mr Chicken and Mrs Haydon take the probationary judges for their last part and report to Council at the next meeting, seconded by Mr Toombs, all in favour. The Secretary was asked to write to all the probationary judges informing them of the situation and telling them they must contact Mr Chicken either before Ardingly or no later than the end of the day on the Monday 5th June for timings.
Action Secretary to write to all Probationary judges
- iv. Horse and Pony of the Year. Mr Bass informed Council at the moment there had been no great development. He asked if the contract had been signed to which the Secretary replied a deposit had been paid. Mr Bass said with the money Mr Toombs raised, HBLB grant and the money from our other sponsor, the costs were more or less covered. Mr Bass informed the meeting he had spoken with the Heavy Horse people and they had replied that this year they would be unable to attend as they were already committed elsewhere but would consider something for

next year. The Vice Chairman wondered whether a class for the light trade could be included this year on an invitation basis. Mr Toombs asked if there could be 2 classes for this and Mr Dudley thought it would be possible. Mr Vyse said anyone with a Hackney in light trade should be invited first. Mr Oade commented that the Society really should be promoting the Hackney in as many other disciplines as possible. Council agreed for Mr Oade and Mr Bass to sort the classes out between them.

Action Mr Bass and Mr Oade to sort all the classes out

Mr Oade read out a letter from the Scurry Driving Association which stated they had taken legal advice as to the Osbourne Scurry Group using the Scurry Driving Association rules as the copyright was owned by the Scurry Driving Association and may not be used by any other group without the Association granting permission, which in the case of the Osbourne Scurry Group, had not been given. They went on to say although they appreciated the Osbourne Scurry Group have described their participation in our Championships as a 'display' or 'demonstration', where timing devices are used and there is a winner there must be a competition and rules are used. They asked the Society to re-consider the use of these rules as if further action is necessary then the Society's show may be implicated in the proceedings. Mr Bass said he would speak with Mr Osbourne to see if it was a display or not. Council discussed the situation and asked for Mr Bass to obtain written confirmation from Mr Osbourne assuring the Society that he was putting on a display only and that it was not a competition

Action Mr Bass to contact Mr Osbourne to obtain written confirmation to the Society that he would be putting on a display only

- v. European Society. The Chairman informed Council he had written to the European Society as instructed by Council at the last meeting saying Council were unable to offer approval at the moment and asked several questions of them. He said Mr d'Achard van Enscht had spoken with Mrs Stockton on the telephone and it was suggested a meeting be held with all the overseas Societies at Ardingly. The Chairman informed Council a letter had been received from the European Society saying they would be interested in meeting at Ardingly but they did not answer any of the queries in his letter. Mr Oade reported he sent another letter confirming the suggestion for a meeting at Ardingly was for all Overseas Societies which included the European Society. In the letter he asked again for the European Society to answer his questions as it was on the agenda for the Council Meeting in May. To date no reply has been received. Mr Vyse asked who the Secretary was of the European Society and was it Mr d'Achard van Enscht. The Chairman replied on the letter head from the European Society the Secretary's address was Mr d'Achard van Enscht but no name was given. Mr Bass informed the meeting that he was certain they would not be operating a studbook, Mr Vyse replied he knew they were asking how the UK society handled their registrations. The Chairman informed the meeting that DEFRA had commented questions were being asked about another studbook. Mrs Stockton said she had asked Mr d'Achard van Enscht directly about whether the European Society would be operating a studbook and he refused to deny it. Council considered all points raised and agreed for the Chairman to write to the European Society saying following the recent Council meeting because of the lack of response to the questions asked of them they will not be eligible to come to the Overseas Societies meeting as Council do not accept them. The Chairman to also send a letter to all known overseas Societies inviting anyone from their Council to attend a small "get together".

Action The Chairman to write to the European Society and all overseas Societies

- vi. Trustee Insurance. The Secretary informed Council she was still waiting for the quote even though she had completed a proposal form in March. The Chairman informed the meeting he was waiting for a proposal form from his brokers.

4. CHAIRMAN

Mr Oade said he would not read out the letter from the Society's solicitors in response to Mr Bass' solicitor's queries as everyone had been sent a copy but basically it stated the purported changes to the Articles had been done incorrectly and therefore were invalid but Mr Oade had been lawfully elected under the 1999 Articles of Association. He went on to read a letter from Mr Bass' solicitors where they said they were pleased to note that our solicitors agreed with their opinion that the purported amendments of June 2005 were invalid and therefore of no effect. They also stated they wanted to make it abundantly clear that their client, Mr Bass, was not seeking re-election as Chairman and that he was quite content to serve as Vice-Chairman under Mr Oade's Chairmanship, his only concern in undergoing this exercise was that correct procedure was followed and the Hackney Horse Society is run in accordance with the proper

constitution. They also asked for confirmation that Companies House would be notified. Mr Oade said Companies House had already been informed by telephone and they were not concerned as long as they were re-done correctly. He also informed Council that the Society's solicitors had drafted a letter for the Society to send to Companies House. Mr Oade concluded that the situation with regard to the Chairmanship was now resolved and Council agreed. The Chairman suggested he would go through all the Articles and any changes required be sent to the Society's solicitors for confirmation that everything was in order and for them to be ratified at a Special General Meeting at the Championship Show.

Action The Chairman to go through the Articles

Mr Bass said Article 10a needed to be re-included and the new article where Council was reduced to 15 should not be re-instated. Mr Chicken said the Society would not want everyone from the North on Council and no-one from the South which is what could happen if Council were reduced to 15. The Chairman asked for Mr Walsh and Mrs Clough to be written to informing them of the situation with regard to the Articles and asking if they wished to be re-instated onto Council.

Action Secretary to contact Walsh and Clough

At this point Mr Oade read out a letter from Rev Watson informing Council that with regret he would be resigning from Council and the judges panel. Mr Oade said he would write to Rev Watson thanking him for all his support over the years and how Council were sorry to learn that he wished to resign from the judges panel and Council but could fully understand his reasoning.

Action the Chairman to write to Rev Watson

5. ACCOUNTS

The Treasurer informed Council again the accounts were moving in the correct way and this had been helped by the significant improvement in the stock market. There was still no room for complacency but at least they were showing a positive improvement. Mr Bass said the accounts were better this year as they had more detail to them. The Treasurer replied now the Accounts were produced by the Secretary on Sage it was easier for the Accountant to include more detail. Mrs Stockton proposed the Accounts are signed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr Dudley, all in favour.

6. NEW MEMBERS AND PREFIXES

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

Ms A Arends Holland , Mr R Armstrong, Mr A Cusack Australia, Mr G Docking, Mr Elliott
Mr & Mrs Freriks Holland, Mr & Mrs A Gregory, Mr P Hollis, Mr & Mrs B Howard
Mr G Horst and S Croes Holland

Mr and Mrs Lambertus Holland, Mr & Mrs Polman, Mr Poppe Holland, Mr H Schaap Holland, Mr & Mrs
Stacey, Master J Taylor, Mrs D and Miss C Vyse, Mr A Veltkamp Holland, Mr R Walker Jnr, Mr J
van der Westen Holland, Miss D Womack and Mr M Hartley

New Prefixes were:

Ardtole for Mr N Fitzsimons, Starlink for Mrs J Stevens

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Bass asked if Ponies UK had now affiliated to the Society and the Secretary confirmed they had. He asked for notification to be put in the newsletter. Mr Bass said they would be running 3 classes which were open pony, open horse and amateur. Mrs Haydon informed the meeting due to personal reasons she would now be unable to judge Ponies UK.

Action Secretary to include in newsletter

The Chairman informed Council that Mr Vyse had agreed to sponsor the Royal International and they would be holding 2 Novice plus championship and 2 Open plus championships.

Action Secretary to include in newsletter

The Chairman read out a letter from Miss Sparrowhawk with regard to the new ruling on training aids. She asked for any further changes to the rules to be put to the vote of the members for full consultation and consideration. Also the use of simple cross ties and over-reach boots to be allowed. A petition had also been received asking that a vote on the latest ruling regarding training aids be put to the members and in future any new rules to be considered are put to the members for full consultation. With regard to rule changes having to be put to members first Council felt they are elected by the members to make decisions and therefore they would continue to make changes to the rules without any consultation of the members. On the subject of the training aids rule it was discussed in depth with comment that over-reach boots and cross over reins should be allowed, the Society needs to consider the public perception of the use of training

aids, over sized brushing boots can hide all sorts as can over-reach boots, some exhibitors will always try and take advantage if any training aids were allowed. Mr Toombs proposed cross over reins and over-reach boots can be used but are subject to scrutineer by any Council member and if seen to be in breach of ruling disciplinary action will be taken, seconded by Mr Dudley, 4 in favour, 9 against and 1 abstention, proposal not carried. Further discussion took place on over-reach boots with regard to them actually being for protective purposes and not being a training aid and Council accepted nearly all disciplines use them for safety purposes. Mr Neachell proposed standard rubber over-reach boots and cross-over reins are allowed. Anyone abusing them then disciplinary action will be taken. This to be for a trial period of 12 months after which Council will review the situation, seconded by Mr Dudley with 10 for and 6 against the proposal was carried.

Action Secretary to put in newsletter and Chairman to reply to Miss Sparrowhawk

The Chairman informed Council of a letter which had been sent to Mr Chicken asking for all animals on the American Studbook registry to be automatically accepted onto the UK studbook. He said he had replied stating that this would not be possible and even fairly recent registrations of theirs have been found to not trace back to UK stock.

The Chairman informed the meeting that Essex Heavy Horse Show had re-affiliated to the Society after a few years of non-affiliation.

Action Secretary to include in newsletter

The Chairman informed Council that Mr van der Endt had sent in his Breed Show entries which included the animals in dispute. Council instructed the Secretary to accept his entry but to remove any ownership details from the catalogue.

Action Secretary to deal

The Chairman read out a letter from Mr McDowell regarding Sheepcotes Flying Sparkes where he states that he had spoken with the new owner of the animal asking if he would apply for a permit so that he could register his foals and the new owner had agreed to obtain one. He also said that although a letter had been sent in from his brother asking that no animals are registered to Sheepcotes Flying Sparkes prior to a permit being obtained he feels this would be discriminating against him if the Society enforced it. Council agreed that as long as a permit is obtained for Sheepcotes Flying Sparkes, the progeny parent test to the sire and dam then the Secretary to register Mr McDowell's progeny by Sheepcotes Flying Sparkes.

Action Secretary to register the animals once the permit and parentage confirmation received

The Chairman read out an email which had been received requesting more ridden classes and promotion of the breed. Council suggested the Secretary reply informing them of the ridden class at Ardingly and the performance awards and that the Society is already trying to promote the Hackneys outside of the driving sphere.

Action Secretary to reply

Mr Chicken said that the Society's website needed to be looked at and re-vamped. The Secretary informed Council she had already been in touch with the web manager and he would charge approximately £1,500 for this. Mr Chicken said he would contact the people who did his website to see what they would charge and if they would be interested in re-vamping the Society's site.

Action Mr Chicken to see his web people

The Secretary informed Council that although this may not be the time and perhaps Council may not be happy for her to comment, she said that the workload on her is constantly increasing not only from the Society but also due to government legislation. The Secretary informed Council that on Monday 8th May she was having to have training for the National Equine Database as everything she did in the office with regard to the horses she had to re-do for the National Equine Database which is a government body. The Secretary thanked Mr James and his wife for taking on the purchasing of the promotional goods and for running the Society's stand as although this was only one very small part of her job, she felt great relief in just having one thing removed from her very large list of jobs to do.

The Chairman informed Council that if people wanted to be on Council they should actually be prepared to do things other than just come to the meeting. Members of council needed to consider this for further discussion at the next full Council meeting.

Action Secretary to include on next agenda

Mr Creswell reported that he had purchased the ornament and had the tickets produced for the raffle to raise the money for the restoration of the painting Buckley courage and he had tickets with him for distribution.

The next meeting would be a show meeting and would have no agenda

Meeting closed 4.20p.m.

