

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE HACKNEY HORSE SOCIETY HELD ON 14th FEBRUARY 2006 AT 1.00 P.M. AT THE ROYAL MEWS

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

1. APOLOGIES for absence were received from Mrs C Haydon, J. Moor, Mrs D Oade, J. Stevens, and Rev W Watson.
2. MINUTES of the last meeting held 15th November 2006 were approved and signed by the Chairman Mr Bass, proposed by Mr James seconded by Mr Chicken.

Mr Bass welcomed everyone to the meeting. He said that he had come to something on the agenda that had not happened before which was the election of Chairman, where he was being opposed for the Chairmanship by Mr Oade.

At this point Mr Bass told the meeting that a member of Council had informed him that an article had appeared on a website from America insinuating that he was in some way connected with the Dutch newly formed society which had been set up somewhere in Belgium. He said that he was stunned to hear of this although at no point was it derogatory. Mr Bass said that he had written to an American magazine where the article had also appeared (the United States Equine Federation Magazine) saying that he was Chairman of the British Hackney Horse Society and had been advised of an article which appeared in an issue of their magazine mentioning him by name. He said he had now seen a copy and wished to state categorically that he has "no involvement or interest in any other Hackney Society or in the establishing of any proposed new Society" as implied in the article and expected to see this information corrected at their earliest opportunity. Mr Bass stated that he had received an apology to both himself and the Hackney Horse Society from the magazine USEF. The editor for the said article, Brain Sosby, said a clarification statement would be published in the March issue of the Equestrian together with their profuse apologies, had they not done this Mr Bass said he would have sued them immediately.

Mr Bass re-iterated to Council that his support lies with the United Kingdom Hackney Horse Society.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr Bass said that Mr Oade had chosen to stand against him as Chairman. This was fine but this had not arisen before. To his knowledge the Chairman would automatically be re-elected as Chairman after his first term and at the end of his second term, which is 6 years, an election and another candidate put forward. To know that he has an opposition, he feels that in some way he is looking for a reason for it. He asked Mr Oade if there was any particular reason for him standing. Mr Oade replied that as he said when he walked in before the meeting started, there was nothing personal but he was asked last year before the last Council meeting if he would stand as Chairman. At that time he said no as he did not think this was the correct way of doing things. When it came up because the term of office came up, he had again been asked by several members of Council if he would stand and had a little pressure put upon him to do so. The decision was not taken lightly and again he stated that it was nothing personal. Mr Oade said that as soon as he had been asked to stand and he had agreed to, he had telephoned Mr Bass personally to tell him as he did not want rumours going around. Mr Bass quoted from selected parts of previous minutes the reasons given as to why Mr Oade resigned. This was that Mr Oade was getting too much hassle from all sides and that as this was only a hobby he should be enjoying it. The Chairman felt that there was a lot of personal agendas going on within the Society and also things going on behind the scenes that he only found out by default or once the situation had been dealt with. The other comment from Mr Oade at the time was that he no longer enjoyed being Chairman because of all the hassle and aggravation. These were comments read out from minutes of previous meetings. Mr Bass said to Mr Oade that in his defence the Hackney Horse Society does have aggravation and that it will never go away. The job is not a hobby but a full time job and if he put as much time negotiating and trying to claw his way with the Society forward into the 21st century and if he worked as hard

at his business, he would be a multi-millionaire. Mr Bass said he loved the Society and he loved the Hackney and he had very much enjoyed being Chairman but it had been hard. In his opinion he thought the Society had turned the corner and now had a very good chance of going from strength to strength. Mr Bass informed the meeting that only this morning he had been talking with Mr Osbourne putting the case of the Society to him and he said that the Society had lost the Royal International Horse show after 100 years. We were a small Society and the cost of keeping the Royal International was £2,000 which would be crippling to the Society and could he help. Mr Osbourne replied that he was waiting to conclude something but rest assured he heard what he was saying and he was going to do his best to help? Mr Bass said that these were the type of people he was trying to bring on board to give the Society the leg up it needs. Mr Bass concluded by reading out a fax from Mrs Haydon saying that she would unfortunately not be able to attend the meeting but would like it to be recorded that she supported his election to Chairman of the Society. Mr Bass then asked Council if they wished for him and Mr Oade to adjourn outside whilst they took their vote

Mr E Ward asked Mr Oade why he wanted to take the job of Chairman on. Mr Oade replied that with respect to the comments about why he gave up last time they were partially correct, but partly the other reason was for personal reasons at home. As he said, although it is a hobby it is not a job because no-one gets paid for it. He gave the job 100% when he was Chairman and like Mr Bass enjoyed being Chairman but he did have personal things going on at home, which were going to he thought at the time, interfere with being able to give 100% and that is why he stood down. He said that he did give 100% when he was Chairman and the Society came a long way. Mr Oade said that he took over in very troubled times when there were a lot of problems and changing of rules and again the Society got onto an even keel and started moving forward and had some good shows etc. Mr Oade said that in answer to Mr E Ward's question he had been asked by several people to stand and he assumed they wanted a change. He said that he had not taken the decision lightly and he still thought he had plenty to offer as his core interest is the Society. Keeping the Society and the breed going true to what it should be and we are only custodians for the time we are here. He thought it was important for someone to keep the Society going in the way that has been done and in a professional manner. He re-emphasised that it was not personal and he was not "knocking" Mr Bass but he had been asked to stand and had agreed to. Mr E Ward asked Mr Oade if that was his main reason the fact that he had been asked by several people? Mr Oade replied absolutely as he had been asked by several members of Council and off Council if he would be Chairman.

Mr Bass then said that he thought the situation may have come around from a comment he had made in the early part of the year whereby he had become a little despondent with the progress he was making and he did say that "he would turn this job in". As always rumours travel faster than truth and what did surprise him was that people who he had had little contact with telephoned to ask if the rumour was true and asked him to stay on and offered their total support. This was from both members and exhibitors which gave him fresh heart to push on. He went on to say that the Society had started about £10,000 in the red and the Society is now £14,000 in the black, Mr Bass said that although at the moment the Society had the HBLB behind it and it was something he wished to get out of and for the Society to financially stand on its own two feet and not go around with the begging bowl but while it was happening the Society needed them. Mr Bass said that the ponies had virtually already been sanctioned and he asked for clarification from the Secretary who replied that they had provisionally sanctioned it but it had to go before their board. Mr Bass said that he truly felt with the right backing and co-operation from Council we would do the right thing and push forward. At this point Mr Oade agreed with Mr Bass and said that from his point of view that whatever the outcome he would fully support and back the Society as ultimately that is what he is interested in. Mr Bass asked Mr Oade what they should do and should they adjourn and make their choices. The Secretary asked how the vote was to be held and Mr Oade replied that in most organisations he was connected with protocol called for a silent vote. Mr Bass replied, no, the Society has had hands up votes before and people who have a sense of conviction should stand on their own two feet and act like men and women and put their hands. He said don't be frightened as they would not offend him and he was sure would not offend Mr Oade. Mr Oade asked what the council members thought.

Mr Ward asked if Mr Bass and Mr Oade could retire from the room so that Council could hold a more general discussion. Mr Bass agreed to this but did say he was not in favour of a secret ballot.

At this point Mr Bass and Mr Oade retired from the room.

Mr Chicken said that Mr Bass had put a good case forward and he would vote for Mr Bass. Mr A Ward could not see why there was any reason to change and felt that Mr Bass had done a very good job as Chairman. Mrs Reade asked if an actual nomination had been received and the Secretary replied that there had been an official nomination received into the office. Mr Grant said that he had been a member of this Council a long while and had never known this happen before. Mr Chicken asked Council if anyone else wished to put their name forward for election, of which nobody was interested. Mrs Stockton said there were two candidates who were both dedicated to the Society and wanted to do their best. She said she felt for Mr Bass as he has a lot of commitments when he is showing and she thought it was very hard for him to completely fulfil all the Chairman's responsibilities when showing. Obviously the Society does not want to lose anyone from the show ring. Mrs Stockton felt that particularly at the Breed Show it was very hard physically to fulfil the responsibilities and to be the public face of the Society. She felt that there was some merit in having a Chairman who has no commitment to showing but who is committed to the breed. Mr E Ward said that at least Mr Bass would be aware of the situation from the other side. Mrs Stockton said that whoever wins everyone in the room would offer their full support. Mr E Ward said that he still felt he did not get an answer from Mr Oade as to why he wanted the job again other than because people had asked him to stand again and did he want the hassle back. The Secretary said that when she recorded the minutes from when Mr Oade offered his resignation Mr Oade did not want anything about his personal reasons being recorded. Mr Chicken said that whilst Mr Oade was in the Chair he did have a very powerful person on Council who led him a dog's life and never let him be his own Chairman in fairness to Mr Oade. Mrs Stockton and Mr Vardy replied that although they could not answer on Mr Oade's behalf they thought that Mr Oade did not see the situation like this and always stood his ground but this is something they would have to ask Mr Oade.

Mr Hutchinson said that he thought there should be another type of vote. The Secretary asked what he meant and Mr Hutchinson replied a paper ballot. The Secretary asked if Mr Hutchinson was proposing this and he replied that he was proposing it. Mr Hutchinson's proposal was for a silent paper vote to be held, seconded by Mr Neachell with 10 for, 3 against and 1 abstention the proposal was carried.

Mr Toombs said that a lot of people here and outside of this room have felt in a very awkward position and he had not heard a bad word spoken about either gentleman. It is a situation that has not arisen before and without being too boring or academic there isn't really a mechanism in the Society's constitution for us to resolve it and the mechanism to resolve it are the people sat in this room. He said that it would be nice after this event and in the future that it is looked at and put straight. Mr Chicken said that the whole Articles needed to be re-looked at.

The Secretary said that she had already made up paper votes the week before the meeting but that she had not handed them out because Mr Bass told her it was going to be a hands vote. The Secretary said she would hand the voting papers out but before she did she asked the question to Council if everyone was happy for her to proceed? There were no objections to proceeding. The Secretary then distributed and collected the voting papers. Before starting the count she asked Council if everyone had voted and handed her their paper. Votes were then counted in front of Council. The Secretary asked for someone from Council to check the ballot papers and to confirm the count. Mr James checked and counted the papers. The Secretary read out the result of the election of Chairman which was 9 votes for Mr Oade and 6 for Mr Bass. Mr Oade was therefore voted in as Chairman of the Hackney Horse Society. Mr Oade and Mr Bass were asked back into the room. The Secretary said that she would keep all voting papers in case anyone wished to check them.

Mr Oade took the Chair and thanked everyone for their support. Both he and Mr Bass had agreed that whatever the outcome they would support the Society and help move it forward. He said he would like to record an official vote of thanks in respect of the wonderful job Mr Bass had done whilst Chairman of the Society.

Mr Dudley asked if the Vice Chairman was being considered at this meeting. Mr Chicken proposed Mr Bass as Vice Chairman, seconded by Mr Dudley, all were in favour.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- i. Mrs Haydon's Video – Mrs Stockton reported that progress was being made and hopefully all the problems with the editing suite had been sorted. She said that she would be spending the next three days with Mrs Haydon to sort out the final editing. Mrs Stockton said that although the film company had been very slow they were very good to work with. Obviously some of the delay was due to the sad death of Mr Haydon and Mrs Haydon was also very particular in making sure that the finished DVD would be as perfect as she could achieve. Questions were asked as to whether it was going to be one or 2 DVD's, whether it was going to be both DVD and video, when it would be available and how much would it cost to purchase. Mrs Stockton replied that there should be 2 DVD's, and both formats would be available. They would be ready for sale in June 2006 and at the moment she did not know what the cost would be. Mr Chicken did express some concern over how long the video was taking to produce and that enthusiasm for it was being lost. The Chairman felt that once the DVD was produced and on sale the enthusiasm for it would be re-kindled.
- ii. Probationary Judges – Council considered whether to accept the probationary judges onto the next stage after being informed of the comments from the judges that each probationary judge had been allocated to. Council agreed that all judges should be asked to come forward to be considered at Ardingly and to move onto the next stage of their probationary.
Action Secretary to write to all probationary judges
- iii. Price Increase – Mrs Stockton asked Council to re-consider the price increase on the membership as it was felt that members would be lost if the £5 increase was levied. For every member lost 7 would have to pay the increase just to break even. She said that the BDS membership was only £22 for their single membership compared to ours which is £30 before the £5 increase. A discussion took place with comments that it was always the breeder being penalised, perhaps the £5 increase should be re-looked on everything, whether life members could ask for a small contribution. Mr Bass felt that after discussions he'd had with Mrs Stockton and the Secretary it would probably be better at this stage not to increase the membership fee. Mrs Stockton proposed that the membership fees stay as they are at the moment which is £30 for single and £42 for double, seconded by Mr Chicken all in favour.
- iv. Trustee Information
Mr Toombs proposed the forms the Secretary handed out before the meeting started were accepted as the Society's New Trustee Forms, seconded by Mr Chicken, all in favour. Mr Chicken asked if trustee insurance would or had been organised. The Secretary replied that nothing was in place at the present time. Council felt that trustee insurance should be organised. Mr Chicken proposed that trustee insurance is arranged and that the Chairman and Secretary each to obtain a quote and if the Chairman feels it is a reasonable quote to proceed but if he feels it is too high to bring it to Council at the meeting in may, seconded by Mr James, all in favour.
Action Chairman and Secretary to both obtain quotes
- v. Transfer of Ownership between Middelman and van der Endt
Mr Bass informed the meeting that he had spoken with his solicitors as per the minutes of the last meeting with regard to the transfer from Middelman to van der Endt. Letters had been sent by Lawdata, Mr Bass' solicitors, to Mr Middelman and Mr Middelman had responded to each letter stating that Mr van der Endt owes him 3,500 euros. The final letter to Mr Middelman from Lawdata dated 9th January stated that as he had still failed to support his allegations that Mr Endt owes 3,500 euros and unless appropriate documentation as evidence to support his claim by 5p.m. on Friday 13th January they will advise the H.H.S. to complete the transfer. Mr Middelman replied that he had not received the letter until 14th January and was not able to respond in time but he holds onto the point that the transfer of the horses cannot be completed until Mr van der Endt pays him his 3,500 euros. He would hold the H.H.S. responsible for the 3,500 euros as completing the transfer without

his permission would be unlawful. As far as Lawdata are concerned even after this response from Mr Middelman the H.H.S. could still complete the transfers. A discussion took place as to whether the transfers should be completed, the fact that Middelman had not as yet instructed a lawyer to respond to Lawdata, whether the Society should become involved in the matter at all, should the Society be advising Mr Endt to sue Mr Middelman, if the Society did proceed with transferring the animals should the trustee insurance be in place first and the rule with regard to transferring of animals needs to be legally checked out. The Chairman proposed a letter is sent to Middelman asking for him to confirm that the 3,500 euro debt is for the purchase of either or both of the horses and a reply is required within 28 days. Also a letter to go to Mr van der Endt informing him that the situation is being taken seriously and it is being pursued, seconded by Mr Toombs, all in favour.

Mr Oade said assuming after 28 days Mr Middelman had replied saying the debt is from the horses he would pass the letter onto Mr van der Endt saying that he needed to pursue the matter with Mr Middelman. If the debt was not from the horses he would instruct the Secretary to proceed with the transfers. The Chairman said he will speak to his solicitor unofficially to see where the Society stands legally on the transfer ruling. He said he would also speak to Newmarket to see how they handled their transfers and any consequent disputes.

Action Mr Oade to write to Mr Middelman and Mr van der Endt. Also to contact Newmarket and his solicitor.

vi. New Venue Horse & Pony of the Year

Mrs Stockton said that after more investigation Scope would probably not be the best venue for the Championships as the timing of their show would not be suitable and the cost was likely to be far too high. Also another problem with Scope was they were a major showjumping venue and there could possibly be a problem with moving jumps or even jumps in the ring. She said that before Towerlands had been renovated she had been there and even then thought it would make a good venue. Mr Bass reported to Council that he and Mr Chicken had held a meeting with Towerlands. He said the ring was the equivalent in size to Wembley, they had corporate tables, restaurants, bars, PA system, sound system, the latest lighting, 120 loose boxes, parking and a good road network. Mr Bass said that Towerlands remit was to hold as many different shows as they could as opposed to just showjumping. He said for £1,500 the Society could have the place for the Saturday with exhibitors being able to park overnight on the Friday and Saturday if required and all of the restaurant and bar facilities. Stables at a cost of £25 for one night or £45 for two, which included bedding. Mrs Reade asked if there would be any other charges incurred by the Society, to which Mr Bass replied the only charges would be for the site and any stables used, which the stable cost would be passed directly to the exhibitor. Mr Bass explained that he had been in touch with Mr Osbourne of Osbourne Refrigerators who had agreed to put on two scurry driving classes plus a Championship. Mr Osbourne would supply the rosettes and necessary cones but may require stabling of which he would pay for. Mr Oade said that the actual Scurry Driving Association had written asking if the Society would be interested in hosting a scurry driving competition comprising of 2 classes plus a Championship and they were in negotiation with a sponsor. Mr Bass said that he had spoken with Mr Osbourne about the Association and he said he had broken away from the Association and formed the Osbourne Scurry Group as he did not want his company to be associated with them. Mr Bass felt very strongly that it would be better to join forces with the Osbourne Scurry Group as opposed to the Scurry Driving Association. Mr Vyse asked why the Society could not tie in with another show. Mr Oade replied that if this happened the Society would probably have to go back to just the Open and Novice Championships. Mr Bass felt that it was very important to keep the Junior Whip class and the Private Drive Championship. He said he was also in discussion with Mr Peacock from the Heavy Horses to see if he could put on a display. Also a letter had been sent to the Shire Horse Society to see if they wanted to use the Championship show for their own Championships to

which they had replied that for 2006 it would not be possible but they would consider it for another year. Mrs Stockton felt that if Towerlands was to be the venue, it was going to be a full day and more advertising should be done especially on local radio. Mrs Reade asked if a date had been agreed for Towerlands and Mr Bass replied that they had agreed to the 30th September which was the week after Utrecht and the week before HOYS. Mr Chicken said that if the sponsor for Docklands did not come forward he would guarantee to sponsor the Championship show for £500. Mr E Ward proposed that the Championship show is moved to Towerlands, seconded by Mr Dudley, all in favour.

Mr Oade thanked Mr Bass for all his hard work in securing this venue. The Chairman and Vice Chairman agreed to pursue and deal with the final details of arranging the Championships at Towerlands. Council agreed for the Chairman to send a letter to Linda Greaves at Docklands thanking her for all her support and a brief explanation as to why the Society needed to move.

Action Mr Oade and Mr Bass to finalise the show. Mr Oade to write to Mrs Greaves

vii. Performance Awards

Mrs Stockton said that she had discussed the Performance Awards with Mrs Reade and they had agreed that changes were required but both coming up with different conclusions. Mrs Stockton said that she had spoken with several people from other disciplines and other than the Private Drive people, all the other disciplines felt that the awards would not work for them. She had worked out a different point system for this year but really felt that perhaps a complete new system needed to be implemented. Mrs Stockton felt the way forward would be to contact the other disciplines to see how they felt the Society could best reward pure or part bred Hackneys achieving high results in their own discipline. Mrs Stockton proposed that she would pursue the new Awards Scheme and present a workable solution to Council at a future meeting so that it could be implemented for 2007, seconded by Mr Toombs with only 1 abstention the proposal was carried.

Action Mrs Stockton to pursue new awards scheme

The Secretary reported that Mrs Gill the winner of the 2005 Performance Award had decided to resign from the Society and had asked for her membership fees back even though she had not resigned before 31st December. Mr James said he would speak to Mrs Gill to see if she would reconsider her resignation. The Secretary was informed by Council not to refund Mrs Gill's membership.

Action Mr James to speak to Mrs Gill

viii. HOY Trophies

Miss Weber had informed Mr Bass by fax that she had still not been able to find anymore about the missing trophies and perhaps the last recipients of the trophies may still have them. Also perhaps it would be worth checking with Brenda Dulake as to whether she knows anything else about them. Mr Toombs proposed that a final letter is sent to Gerrards and Hampton Court asking if they know of where the Schroder Life Challenge Cup and the Florette Challenge Cup are, seconded by Mr James, all in favour. The Chairman said that the matter should not come up under Matters Arising again and any replies will be mentioned under Any Other Business.

Action the Chairman to write to Hampton Court and Gerrards

ix. Membership Gift Aid

The Secretary replied that the Accountant had still not heard from the Inland Revenue and did Council feel that the Membership Gift Aid should be pursued even without the Inland Revenues response. Council agreed for the Secretary to do whatever necessary to set up the Membership Gift Aid.

Action the Secretary to set up the Membership Gift Aid

x. Derogation

The Secretary said that DEFRA had finally replied to the question of a derogation for the Horse and Pony of the Year Show and they had stated that a derogation would not be given to this show.

xi. Restoration of Buckley Courage

The various quotes had now been received from John Davies Gallery for the Buckley Courage painting. The quotes were:

Estimate of value in neglected state £250-£350

Estimate of value in restored saleable condition £2,300 - £3,500

Suggested Value for Insurance purposes £3,500 - £5,000

Estimate for Restoration £1,250 plus VAT

Mr Bass said that Mrs Haydon was very keen for the painting to be restored and to be kept by the Society. A discussion took place as to whether it was worth the Society restoring the painting, how the restoration could be paid for and whether the painting could be hung in the Pavilion at the South of England. Mr Cresswell proposed that he would organise and sponsor the purchase of a Border Fine Art ornament which he would then organise a raffle and the proceeds to be used for the renovation of the painting, seconded by Mr Dudley, all in favour.

Action Mr Cresswell to organise and purchase ornament and hold raffle

xii. Stables

Miss Weber had sent a fax stating that she had been unable to contact Denise Francis but that the stables were definitely to be available to the Hackney Horse Society. Mr Vardy stated that at one point the Society did get some money back on the temporary stables purchased if the Society did not use the permanent ones as our exhibitors did not like having their horses in them. It was felt that at this stage the matter to be dropped and possibly to use it as leverage if the South of England ever wants to increase the contribution to ground rent. The matter now to be dropped and removed from Matters Arising.

5. JUDGES FOR THE BREED AND CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

The list of available and ineligible judges were distributed to Council. After looking through the available judges Council felt that to try and obtain three judges from those available and eligible would be difficult. Mr Neachell proposed that the ruling on the ineligibility is scrapped, seconded by Mr Dudley, all in favour.

After Council very carefully considered the judges available for each section Mr A Ward proposed with Mr Vyse seconding the following judges for each section: -

IN HAND

Mr Neachell, Mrs Read, Mr Wenham. Mr Grayshon Reserve

HARNESS

Mr Ambrose, Mr Neachell, Mrs Stockton. Mr Grayshon Reserve

AMATEUR, PRIVATE DRIVE, DOUBLE HARNESS, RIDDEN, JUNIOR WHIP

Mrs Reade, Mr Wenham, Mr E Ward. Mr Neachell Reserve

CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

Mr Ambrose, Mr Ward, Mr Grayshon. Mrs Stockton Reserve

With only 1 against the proposal was carried.

6. TIMETABLE/AUCTION

Council were informed that the South of England had given exactly the same timings as 2005 for the 2006 Breed Show. The Chairman asked Mr Tombs if he would still run the auction which he agreed he would although he felt it did not raise a great deal of money. Council therefore felt the timetable for 2005 show would be suitable for 2006.

7. NEW MEMBERS/PREFIXES

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

Ms N Craigen, Mr C Green, Mr S Hibbert and Miss J Wedgbury, Mr D McBride, Mr G & Miss L McIntosh, Ms C Moreau & Mr M Hills, Mrs K Nowak USA, Mr & Mrs Oosterhout-Kapitein Holland, Miss L Sayers, Ms S Thompson.

There were no new prefixes.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Dudley informed the meeting that Orsett Show was going ahead in 2006 and there would be stabling available. Although a charge would be made for the stable as long as the person exhibited the money would be refunded.

Mrs Stockton informed the meeting that Mr Richard James would be producing Carriage Driving monthly and not bi-monthly.

The Secretary informed Council that Woodbridge Show on 1st May and Hereford Spring Carriage Show on 7th May had applied for affiliation. Council agreed they could affiliate.

The Secretary informed Council that the RBST had written to the Society informing them of the RBST ReGENeration Appeal. They asked for the Society to inform members of the project with a view to members volunteering their registered stallions for semen collection in the 2006 season. Council agreed for members to be informed via the newsletter.

Action Secretary to inform members on next newsletter

The Secretary informed the meeting that the P(UK) Summer Championships would not be affiliating to the Society this year. Mr Bass said that although P(UK) had decided not to affiliate he had been in negotiations with Mrs Betsy Branyan from P(UK) and they have now agreed to hold Open and Novice classes at this years show even though it would not be affiliated.

Mr Chicken expressed considerable concern at the loss of the Royal International Show. He felt that the Society should try its utmost to keep the show. Mrs Stockton said that Mrs Haydon had spoken personally with Lizzie Bunn at the Royal International and unless the £2,000 could be found they would not keep the classes on. Mr Bass reminded the meeting that Mr Osbourne was looking at the possibility of sponsoring this show and he would pursue his answer.

Although council felt very strongly on this matter no-one was able to come up with a way of obtaining the money other than to pursue Mr Osbourne. Mr Toombs said that he felt there were far too many qualifying shows at present and this needed to be looked into in the future.

The Chairman asked Mr Bass if he would pursue an answer from Mr Osbourne with regard to him sponsoring the Royal International and asked the Secretary to find out from the Royal International if the Society obtained sponsorship could the classes still be included at this stage.

Action Mr Bass to find our Mr Osbourne's answer Secretary to speak to Royal

The Secretary said that Mr Walker had asked if a trophy could be presented in memory of Mrs Chris Wenham and the suggestions were to hold a championship between the ladies only amateur classes or a pony points cup similar to the suddie points. Council were happy for a trophy to be presented and for the Wenham family to decide on what it would be presented for. The Secretary informed Council of the resignation from the judges panel of Miss Sydney Smith.

The Secretary read out a letter from Mr Rob d'Achard with regard to the new European Society. In it, it explained how they were a group of Dutch people working for the last 4 years to promote the Hackney in Holland and world wide. He said that this was the reason they have established a European Hackney Society so people from all over Europe (Spain, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands etc.) can be a members and they can promote the Hackney to all those countries. They will also organise shows and demonstrations in those countries. They said that as the UK Society was the Mother Studbook they wanted to follow our rules and regulations and would like to have the approval from the UK Hackney Horse Society to have this new European Hackney Society. The Secretary also read out an email from the Dutch Society our Daughter Studbook saying that they understand the new European Hackney Society does not have recognition by the UK Hackney Horse Society at present and are very concerned if we did give them recognition. Council wondered whether this was just a Society, if they were going to operate a studbook, their reasons for setting up in Belgium but calling the Society a European Hackney Society and whether Brussels had or were going to recognise them. It was felt that at the moment not enough was known about this new Society and more should be found out. Mr Vardy proposed that the Chairman write to Mr d'Achard saying that the Society cannot give approval at this moment in time and asking him to furnish information, seconded by Mr Vyse, all in favour. The Chairman said he would send a copy of the letter to the Dutch Society.

Action Chairman to write to Mr d'Achard and the Dutch Society

Meeting closed 5.10p.m.

