

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE HACKNEY HORSE SOCIETY HELD ON 15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2005 AT 1.00 P.M. AT THE ROYAL MEWS

Present: R. Bass (Chairman), Mrs B Stockton (Treasurer), A. Oade (Vice Chairman), R. Carter, J. Chicken, Mrs J Clough, J. Cresswell, G. Dudley, R. Hutchinson, A. Grant, A. James, M. Neachell, 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, Mrs S Reade, J. Stevens, and Rev Watson.
2. MINUTES of the last meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> June 2005 were approved and signed by the Chairman proposed by Mr Walsh seconded by Mr Oade.
3. MATTERS ARISING
  - i. Mrs Haydon's Video – Mrs Stockton reported that due to the death of Mr Haydon for obvious reasons the actual production of the DVD had been delayed but it would still be available for the launch date of the Annual National Breed Show 2006. The video company had purchased a new editing suite which would be for the sole use of the Society until the video was produced. Due to the amount of material it seemed likely that two DVD's would be produced and not just one. Mr James asked if a sample could be made so that he could use it to advertise on the stand as he did not want to be showing a complete DVD in case people chose to watch but not purchase. Mrs Stockton said she would look into the possibility of a sample being produced.  
**Action Mrs Stockton to check possibility of producing sample of DVD**
  - ii. Probationary Judges – The Secretary reported that only a few judges had sent in their reports for their probationary judges and she would contact those outstanding so that all the reports can be discussed at the February meeting  
**Action Secretary to contact judges**
  - iii. HOY Trophies – Nothing reported
  - iv. Membership Gift Aid – The Secretary informed the meeting that the Society's accountant had raised a query on the implications of obtaining the gift aid for the members and he had contacted the Inland Revenue but was still waiting for a reply.  
**Action Secretary to pursue**
  - v. Horse of the Year Show Derogation – Nothing to report
  - vi. Restoration Buckley Courage – Miss Weber had faxed a quote for the restoration of the painting which was for £1,250 + VAT. The Chairman said that valuations were still required for the painting in its present state and once repaired and asked the Secretary to contact Miss Weber to ask her to obtain these.  
**Action Secretary to contact Miss Weber to ask for further valuations**
  - vii. Schroder Life Stables – Nothing to report

Mr Bass reported that he had received a letter from Mr van der Endt clearly stating that he had purchased Plains William and Plains Endeavour from Mr Middelman and that he demanded for the transfer of ownership to be completed by the Hackney Horse Society. The Chairman also informed Council that he had written to Mr Middelman asking for his reason for not signing the transfers and he had replied that an oral business agreement had been made which Mr van der Endt now refuses to fulfil and until he fulfils the agreement he will not sign the transfers. Several points were raised from Council which were, did the business agreement involve the two horses, had the Society been informed of the business agreement, whose responsibility was it for the transfer to be signed by the vendor, Mr Middelman had informed the society of his non-intention to sign within the 28 days stated in the rules and regulations of the Society, this is a dispute between two individuals and not for the Society to become involved with. After a general discussion involving the points raised the Chairman said that he would look into obtaining legal advice from his

solicitor as to whether the Society can complete the transfers without Mr Middelman's signature and report to Council at the meeting in February.

**Action Chairman to contact his solicitor for legal advice**

#### 4. COMPLAINTS EXHIBITORS/JUDGES

The Secretary read out a complaint from the Northern Hackney Horse Club Show about the conduct of Mr Walsh in the ring at their show this year. A complaint from Mr Stringer about Miss Peters behaviour in the ring at the Annual National Breed Show this year. Miss Peters complaint about Mr Stringer's judging at the Annual National Breed Show and an apology from her for not being fully aware of the ruling on leaving the ring. Mr & Mrs Turner's complaint about Mr Stringer's judging at the Society's Championship show in October this year and their apology for leaving the ring. Mrs Hicketts also read out three other letters of complaint about the judging at the Society's Championship show this year.

Mr Walsh said that he asked permission to leave the ring because he felt his horse was lame. It was pointed out to Mr Walsh that his behaviour when leaving the ring gave the impression that he was unhappy with what was happening in the ring.

Mr A Ward reported to the meeting that he had actually heard Miss Peters abuse the judge at the Annual National Breed Show.

With regard to Mr and Mrs Turner several Council members witnessed their behaviour on leaving the ring at the Championship show and some had heard Mr Turner trying to wind Mr Walsh Junior up in the ring about the judging.

Council felt that the ruling on leaving the ring as it stands at the moment was too ambiguous and that it should be changed to: - Once judging has commenced in any class, exhibitors may not enter or leave the ring, if there is a reasonable problem they must ask permission to stay at the bottom of the line until the class is finished. The Chairman said that the Society should no longer tolerate this type of behaviour from the exhibitors. Mr Oade proposed that the ruling to be changed to "once judging has commenced in any class, exhibitors may not enter or leave the ring, if there is a reasonable problem they must ask permission to stay at the bottom of the line until the class is finished" and if anyone contravenes this rule in the future then the 12 month ban from the date of the incident is enforced. The Chairman of the Society to enforce this rule without the incident being brought to a Council meeting but if anyone is disciplined in this way Council to be informed at the next meeting. With regard to Mr Walsh, Miss Peters and Mr and Mrs Turner a letter of reprimand is sent to them informing them that this behaviour is totally unacceptable. The new rule to be sent to them and they are to be informed of the 12 month ban which will be enforced if this rule was not adhered to in the future, seconded by Mr Neachell all in favour.

**Action Chair to Write to Walsh, Peters and Turners**

Mrs Stockton suggested that the Secretary write to all the judges informing them of this new rule and for it to be put in the next newsletter to all members.

**Action Secretary to write to judges and include rule in newsletter**

Council discussed the situation of the various complaints about Mr Stringer and it was felt that he had not adhered to the judges guidelines where it states "care should be taken in the selection of placing so that excessive work is not required". Mr Toombs proposed that the judge is written to and told that he will be removed from the judges panel as he did not adhere to the Society's guideline where care should be taken in the selection of placing so that excessive work is not required, seconded by Mr Chicken with one abstention the proposal was carried.

**Action Chairman to write to Mr Stringer, Secretary to remove Mr Stringer from Judges panel**

Comments were made with regard to the existing judges panel and that it should be looked at and that there was a need for a judges committee to be formed to look at the judges panel. At this point Mr Vyse passed a petition to the Chairman that had been signed by 30 exhibitors for the system of three judges at the Annual National Breed Show and the Championship show to be introduced. He said that it would only increase the amount of judges required by two as at present 7 are required and with this format only 9 would be needed. The system would work with 2 judges judging each class on a rotation basis with the third judge being used as a referee and all three judges for the Championships.

A discussion took place on the implications of this. The possible need to change the ruling on the judge not being allowed to show and judge in the same year. The fact that it would eliminate exhibitors feeling that it would not be worth showing under a certain judge as the judge did not like them. The possibility of having 7 judges on a revolving basis throughout the show. Splitting the show into three Sections and having three judges nominated for each. Mr Vyse proposed the Annual National Breed Show be split into three sections which were, In-hand, Harness and Amateur, Gig, Double Harness, Junior Whip, Ridden, seconded by Mr Neachell all in favour.

**Action Secretary to alter Catalogue and Schedule and inform membership**

Mr Dudley proposed that when the letter is sent to all judges, including the overseas judges, they are asked to tick what sections if any they are available for, seconded by Mr Vyse all in favour.

**Action Secretary to alter letter to judges**

Mr Vyse proposed three named judges to be appointed for each section at the Annual National Breed Show and Championship Show with two judges judging at any one time on a rotating basis the third judge to be used as a referee if necessary, all three judges to judge the Championships, seconded by Mr Neachell all in favour.

Council discussed the ruling of judges not being able to show and judge at the Annual National Breed Show and it was decided that with the introduction of the three judges this ruling could be stopped. Council decided that the membership is asked to vote on the removal of this rule now the introduction of the three judges had been made. The Secretary to confirm the wording of the voting paper with the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and President before it was distributed.

**Action Secretary to confirm voting paper with nominated officers and distribute to members**

5. NEW VENUE

The Chairman reported to the meeting that he had contacted Towerlands to see if it was possible for the Championship show to be held there. Mr Bass said that the indoor ring was 60 x 30 metres, there were 100 loose boxes, indoor and outdoor rings, catering facilities and enough parking for 100 lorries. The cost to the Society for having the facilities for the day would be £1,500.

Two other possible venues were mentioned which were Ponies UK and Scope, Scope being the week long show jumping show which was where the Shire Horse of the Year was held. A discussion took place as to the requirements for the show, the need to tie in the Championships with another prestigious show, the need to promote the breed to people other than Hackney enthusiasts and the fact that there was a real need to move the championships from Docklands. It was agreed that the Secretary should write to Towerlands asking what shows they held during September, October and November which the Society may be able to tie in with. Also for her to contact Ponies UK to ask for details and the date for their new winter show and the possibility of tying in with them. The Secretary also to pursue Scope to see if there is any change of holding the Championships at this show. All the information to be brought to the February meeting.

**Action Secretary to write to Towerlands, Ponies UK and Contact Scope**

6. TRAINING AIDS

The Chairman asked Council what their views were with regard to training aids at shows and should any be permissible or for them all to be banned. Draw reins and over reach boots were mentioned as being possibly permissible as allowed training aids. It was the general feeling of the meeting that no training aids should be allowed as the exhibitors would only take advantage of any being allowed. Mr Bass proposed that the rule is changed so that no training aids are allowed apart from draw reins and if anyone is seen breaking this rule the owner of the horse will be subjected to the 12 month ban from the date of the incident, seconded by Mr E Ward, with only three against the proposal was carried.

**Action Secretary to change rule and inform members via the newsletter**

7. MEETING VENUE

The Secretary read out a letter from Mrs Haydon asking if Council could consider moving the Council meetings to Adlestrop. The Chairman reported that he had spoken to Miss Weber asking her to inform Mrs Haydon that this was something that he would not be able to support as however ill Mr Haydon

was he always wanted the meetings to stay at the Royal Mews as it was such a prestigious location. A discussion took place as to the pros and cons of moving the meeting and Mr Oade proposed that the May meeting is moved to Adlestrop with all the other meetings being held at the Royal Mews other than the meeting which is held at Ardingly, seconded by Mr Vardy with only 2 against the proposal was carried.

**Action Secretary to inform outcome to Mrs Haydon**

8. PRICE INCREASES

The Secretary/Accountant informed the meeting that HBLB had expressed concern over the Society's finances and that if there was not a significant improvement in the 2004/2005 figures then they may not be able to continue with the grant to the Society. They also expected increases to be levied most years on various Society's charges. Council discussed whether it would be prudent to increase the membership fee and it was felt that the membership should be increased along the same lines as any other proposed increase. It was suggested that with the likelihood of the pony obtaining the HBLB grant this would be the best time to levy any increases. Mrs Stockton proposed that all costs are increased by £5 apart from DNA, Stables and entry fees, seconded by Mr Chicken with only one against the proposal was carried.

9. NEW MEMBERS/PREFIXES

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

Mr T Allen, Mr J Bennis – Holland, Mrs E Cartwright-Hignett, Mr D Crosier, Mr M Giles, Ms A Graham, Ms F Hall, Miss C Heath, Mr S Hillier, Mr M Holberton, Mr D & Ms C Lewis, Mr M Lines, Miss C Meads and Mr DThursting, Mr S McCartney, Mr A Spatcher, Mrs J Tuccio, Mr P Power, Mr T Sharp, Mrs D Trembari, Mr W Wood

New prefixes were:

Nutfields for Mr W Murrell, Grandshore for Ms A Sparrowhawk, Reedley for Mr J Thomas

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman informed council that a letter had been sent to the society from the Royal show saying that unless the Society was able to underwrite the classes at the Royal International Horse Show for a sum of £2,000 + VAT they would no longer be able to stage Hackney classes. It was generally felt by Council that the Royal International show is a very prestigious show and was something they did not want to lose but the society would be unable to afford to sponsor the classes. It was also a concern that if the Society supported one show other affiliated shows would expect the same support. Mr Oade asked if entries were down for this show and the Secretary replied that as far as she was aware entries were similar to those in the past. Mr Walsh informed the meeting that Mr Roger Stack who as far as he was aware was the Chairman of Hickstead had expressed an interest in the Society moving the Breed show to Hickstead. Mr Toombs proposed a letter is sent to the Royal International asking if they could re-consider their decision as the society was unable to afford to underwrite any costs and as the Hackney was a Rare Breed the promotion of the breed through showing was very important to the Society and to point out that the Society had shared a showing relationship with the Royal Show for approximately 100 years. A carbon copy to be sent to The Chairman of Hickstead, seconded by Mr Oade all in favour.

**Action Secretary to write to Royal Show and the Chairman of Hickstead**

Performance Awards – The Secretary informed the meeting that there had been several complaints as to the winner of the performance awards for 2005. Although the result was correct and several of the exhibitors who had been complaining had mis-read their rules, a couple of points had been highlighted that may require changing. The Secretary together with Mrs Reade and Mrs Stockton to look into the rules of the performance awards and change where appropriate.

**Action Secretary, Mrs Stockton, Mrs Reade to look at the Performance award rules**

The Secretary read out a letter from Mr Moor saying how dismayed he was by the actions of the grooms in the ring at Orsett Show. Council felt that a letter should be sent to Mr Moor saying that they had taken his points on. In order to be able to do anything in the future, if he has any complaints

he must name names. Mr Oade also suggested that the Secretary copy the ruling on page 81 Appendix A sub section ii of the rules in the next newsletter.

**Action Secretary to print rule in newsletter**

The Secretary read out a letter from Mr Dwyer thanking Council for the invitation to judge at the Breed show and to congratulate everyone concerned on the organisation and running of the event. The Secretary informed Council that she had contacted South of England asking for them to continue the time in the Hackney ring on the Thursday but to increase the ring time in the main ring on the Thursday and Friday but as to date no reply had been given.

**Action Secretary to pursue**

Mr Bass informed Council that as trustees they should be taking a more proactive attitude with the running of the Society and that further discussion was required at the February meeting.

Mr Hutchinson asked if there was any reason why Anglesey show was not affiliated to the Society. The Secretary reported that there was not. Mr Oade said that it was down to the shows to ask for affiliation not for the Society to ask the shows.

Mr Walsh asked why only some of the affiliated show results were put onto the website and why were the champions not included. The Secretary reported that to her knowledge she had included all the affiliated show results on the website down to fourth place which are the only guaranteed results forwarded by the shows and the results had never included the champions other than the Annual National Breed Show Results.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING February 2006

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.30p.m.**