

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE HACKNEY HORSE SOCIETY HELD ON THURSDAY 21st MARCH 2019, AT ROYAL MEWS AT 1.00 P.M.

Mrs B Stockton (Chairman), Miss S Barraclough S, Bamford, R. Carter, Mrs J Clough, G Docking, Miss J Dudley-Apicella, G Dudley, M. Hardy, (Vice-Chairman), R James, A. McNinch, M. Neachell, Miss P Peters, R. Robertson, Miss S Wormald, A. Ward, E Ward Mrs D Hicketts (Secretary)

1. Apologies were received from Mrs N Salter
2. Minutes of last meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman proposed by Mr Neachell, seconded by Mr Dudley.

3. i. Museum

Mrs Stockton reported that she and Mrs Salter were hoping to go to visit the Museum sometime in April 2019.

Action Mrs Stockton and Mrs Salter to visit Museum during April

ii. Catering for Annual National Breed Show

Mrs Stockton said she had arranged for an outside caterer to bring lunch for the Monday and Tuesday at a cost of £6 per head and the Wednesday at a cost of £7 per head. Mr Docking asked if they would be bringing plates etc. Mrs Stockton said she would confirm. Miss Wormald said she would supply the juice, tea etc. again. She also said that she would bring the napkins, cups and paper plates if they were not supplied by the caterer. Council thanked her for this. Mrs Stockton said she would bring the plastic wine glasses. Mr Docking suggested that on the Sunday night he organises a social meet and greet for a couple of hours which would be held in the Hackney tent. There would be no music or dancing but some form of nibbles. He said he has someone who would sponsor this up to £800. Mr Docking proposed to hold an informal meet and greet in the Hackney tent on the Sunday evening seconded by Mrs Clough, unanimous.

Action Mrs Stockton to confirm re-plates. Miss Wormald to bring necessary napkins and plates to show. Mr Docking to organise meet and greet

iii. Stewards Breed Show

Mr McNinch said that both Joey Peters and Jimmy Wenham had said they would be available to help, Nicola Salter said she would run the collecting ring when she was not judging. Mary Ilett had said she would help if her school commitments allowed it. Hopefully Gillian McNinch would be free to help in some way and Geoff Dudley would also be available for some stewarding. Mrs Stockton said that someone was still required to oversee the car parking and stabling, there were a few volunteers who would help out but no-one at the moment who would do the stable plan and be the point of contact for the secretary. Mr Connolly was asked for the stabling plan at his interview and he said he did not have the stable plan but would help out if necessary. Mr Dudley kindly volunteered to do the stable plan but would not be at the show prior to Sunday to be able to implement it. Mr Docking said he would contact a gentleman called Mr Colin Hurd to oversee the stabling as he thought he would be interested in taking the role on, Mr Dudley said he would help him out if required. Miss Wormald said she would donate £60 towards food costs for Mr Hurd if he agreed to oversee the stabling and parking. Council hoped Mr Cooper would be happy to help as in past years and for the Secretary to contact him to confirm if he was available.

Mr Docking said Sue Smith, Hope Nebbling Julie Carter and Sue Nebbling will all help in the tent as usual. Mr McNinch confirmed Ella McNinch would do the Rosettes and Cups as before.

Jessie Dudley-Apicella asked if there was anything Council wanted her to do with the Juniors. She thought perhaps anyone that entered either the Junior Whip or Young Driver to give them a lesson one evening prior to their classes. Council thought was a good idea.

Action Mrs Hicketts to contact Mr Cooper, Mr Docking to contact Mr Hurd and Miss Dudley-Apicella to organise Junior lesson

iv. Prices

Mr James said that the Society was a business and to run a business you need to have a budget and management accounts. He said in the future Council needed to regularly look at management accounts so that correct decisions can be made for any increases etc. He said within Sage he could easily set them up to give information which could show regularly how the Society's finances are going. He said if Council were happy he would spend some time with the Secretary and set up Sage so correct quarterly figures can be given to Council. For this year he said the Society would need a 5% overall increase on costs, this would give approximately £2,250. Suggestions came forward which were: 10% on everything, those who did not receive their information electronically then to have an extra charge, anyone on Council could make a donation of £100 per year, Gold Silver and Bronze membership and Newsletter sponsored. Miss Dudley-Apicella said she had put together an email for her Junior Day and got lots of free items and a £200 donation. Mr Docking said anything to do with Children will gain support and sponsorship. Mr Bamford felt if Council did donate then the members would be happy. Mr Hardy said perhaps at Ardingly the members needed to be informed as to why the price increases were required, Mrs Stockton said this would be done at the AGM. Mrs Stockton said for Mr James to bring suggestions forward to the next meeting in June for price increases. Mr James proposed he sets up the management accounts and for finance committee to bring suggestions to the June meeting for any price increases, seconded by Mr Docking, unanimous.

Action Mr James to sort details on sage and the finance committee to bring suggestions of price increases to Council

4. Approval of Accounts

Mrs Salter apologised for not being able to attend this meeting but she said that she had a very important meeting that she could not get out of. She sent the following report which Mrs Stockton read out:

"As you know I am new to the position and am only just beginning to understand the accounts fully, I am hoping to spend some time with the Secretary so that I can get an even better understanding.

In 2017 we finished the year with funds of £265,569 and 2018 we finished the year with £258,449 a difference of £7,120. There are some one-off costs in this loss, Legal fees for the GDPR at £2708 being one, though the situation re the credit from the telephone negated this cost. Basically it is our income across the board that is down. We need to monitor the profit and loss of the Society very closely and plan for the future of the Society now.

In 2019 we know we are going to have the extra cost of the new secretary being employed alongside Mrs Hicketts for three months, though this will not show in the next set of accounts 2018/2019. We are hopeful that HBLB will continue to provide us with the grant. There is a possibility that we may need to increase the cost of some of the services we offer members." There being no questions Mrs Stockton proposed to adopt the accounts, seconded by Mr James, unanimous.

5. Secretary

Mrs Stockton reminded Council that there had been 5 applications. One was not invited for an interview. Of the four invited forward one withdrew. Therefore three people were interviewed who were Carey Knox, Roly Connolly and Emily McMullen. Mr Hardy, Mr James, Mr Neachell, Mrs Stockton and Mrs Hicketts conducted the interviews. Mrs Stockton said all had interviewed well. Of the three candidates Miss McMullen seemed to be able to offer the Society all that was required for this role, including storage and office space. Mrs Stockton proposed to offer the job to Emily McMullen, seconded by Mr James, unanimous. Miss Wormald proposed the official start date would be 1st January 2020 but for Miss McMullen to shadow Mrs Hicketts from 1st October 2019, for three months and for both to receive full salary also for Miss McMullen to be given expenses of £200 for her attending the week of Ardingly, seconded by Mr Carter, unanimous.

Action Chairman to write to all candidates

6. Hackney Championships Possible New Venue

Mrs Stockton said how at the last meeting it was suggested to look at the possibility of a new venue for the Championships as the exhibitors didn't like the distance to Arena UK, the venue was muddy and the parking area was not very well lit. She said Mr James had checked on 35 arenas and had found Hartpury College which had the required date and the necessary facilities. Mrs Stockton said how she had approached the BDS about joining forces and she had asked Mr Wray to let her know what the BDS were prepared to offer prior to 14th February so that she could put both suggestions to the Rare Breeds meeting. She said how she had forcefully put to the Rare Breeds Show Committee Meeting that for the Hackneys Arena UK was not suitable. She put forward the suggestion of Hartpury as a possible change of venue, she said she could not suggest anything to do with the BDS as they had not replied. There was some sympathy with the Hackneys for the conditions at Arena UK but not on where it was located. For the Rare breeds it was a good area. The Rare Breeds did not agree to changing the venue at all. Mrs Stockton said that Hartpury was still available but it would have to be on the basis of a Hackney only show.

Mrs Stockton said the BDS Chairman had emailed late afternoon on the day before this meeting (Wednesday 20th March) their proposal for a collaboration. She said how they had booked Addington for Saturday 21st 2019. The BDS have sole use of the venue and the event will have live entertainment on the Friday evening, followed by a full day of showing on the Saturday with the bar and restaurant open on Saturday evening. They plan to have three outdoor arenas and if the weather is poor then some daytime classes will be moved indoors. The Saturday evening gala performance will take place solely indoors. Mr Wray said they would host the Open, Novice Junior Whip, Young Driver and Private Drive Hackney classes and these would all be in the gala evening, any other Hackney classes would be held outside. The only cost for this year would be £300 towards the venue costs and the judges and stewards costs to be borne by the HHS. Mr Wray also said that as it was already mid March, he felt there could be other factors which may mean a collaborative year end Championship event for 2019 is not achievable. In this case he would be keen to progress a 'joined up' end of year Championships for 2020. Council felt this was a most generous offer.

Council discussed in depth the options open to them and the problems each venue could cause. Some of the problems identified were, Newbury show would lose their qualifier and also entries and therefore the Society could lose their affiliation in the future, some of the Exhibitors were not happy with the distance and conditions of Arena UK, moving to Hartpury would mean the Society would have to hold a stand alone show, timing of joint show with BDS, the proposed changes to BDS show and allowing time to properly assess the impact of these changes.

Mr McNinch suggested to give appearance money of say £100 or £150 for attending Arena UK at Grantham with some of the money Miss Peters had offered for a change of venue if Miss Peters agreed. Miss Peters said she would offer the money forward for appearance money if that was suitable. Mr Docking proposed due to time restraints and in agreement with Mr Wray's comments, that he feels for 2019 there are factors that could make a collaborative show unachievable and for the Championships to stay at Arena UK with £100 appearance money for 2019 per exhibitor, seconded by Mrs Clough, unanimous. Mr Docking felt it would be advisable to inform the members the reason as to why it was appropriate to stay at Arena UK, this Council agreed to. Council also agreed a letter is sent to the BDS thanking them for their proposal and generous offer, but as Mr Wray stated in his email, that "due to already being in mid March and having other factors which mean a collaborative year end Championship event for 2019 is not achievable". Miss Wormald offered £100 for first prize to both the Open Horse and Pony, council kindly accepted and thanked her for her generosity.

Action Chairman to write to BDS Chairman and Secretary to inform members via mail drop

7. New Members/Prefixes

Council agreed to the following new members:

Mr & Mrs C Hurd Lavant, West Sussex - Joe McAleese Aghalee Craigavon – Tony and Janice Phillips London - Lyn Price, Wickford, Essex – Lee Wenham & Ange Hodgson Crowborough East Sussex

New Prefixes

There were no new prefixes

8. Any Other Business

Mrs Hicketts advised Council that there could be issues with regard to the checking of passports at the South of England due to the Equine Flu outbreak. She said the Society's rule is: ***It is essential for exhibitors' horses/ponies to have correct flu vaccination certificates.***

The recommendations that were sent from South of England was: Horses must have been vaccinated to comply with the requirements of the primary course (1st vaccination and then 2nd vaccination between 21 – 92 days later), followed by the first booster (150 – 215 days) and all subsequent boosters. Horses may compete having received the primary course and prior to the first booster but not within 7 days of receiving a vaccine dose.

Horses must have been vaccinated within 6 months before the show but not less than 7 days of arriving at the show.

Foals

In-foal mares that have already had vaccinations of a primary Equine Influenza course should be vaccinated 4-6 weeks before the foal is due to be born.

Foals should be vaccinated for Equine Influenza at 6 months to commence their primary course. Council felt it would be prudent to remind members of our ruling and of the recommendation from South of England.

Action Secretary to inform via mail-drop

Mrs Stockton informed Council there had been two Society events held in the last couple of weeks and she would like to take this opportunity to thank both organisers. She said how Miss Dudley-Apicella's Junior Experience Day at Ashfields was a superb day with 30 young people attending. Every child long reined a Horse and pony, Mr Dudley showed them the harness and there was also a rein machine. In the afternoon each had a turn at running an in hand horse and pony and driving a horse and pony. Feed back has been very good and there have been some wonderful write ups. Miss Dudley -Apicella asked for a letter to go to the sponsors to which Mrs Stockton asked her to supply the names and address of anyone she wished a letter to go to.

Action Miss Dudley-Apicella to supply details of who she wanted a thank you letter to go to

Mrs Stockton said the weekend after was the Judge's Seminar which was run by the Judges Committee, chaired by Mr Docking. She said how there had been some very positive comments about the day.

Mrs Stockton said there were some rules and guidelines discussed which the judge's felt needed to be reviewed by Council. These were as follows:

Whip. In the Amateur class the exhibitor must carry a whip and the judges felt this should be for all classes. Mr Docking proposed a whip is held in all classes, seconded by Mrs Clough, unanimous.

Action Secretary to change rules and inform members

Weight of shoes. Mrs Stockton said how Mr Dudley had brought along to the seminar a sample of all the shoes to show the various weights. The judges were not happy with the maximum weight of the Pony and Horse and felt this needed to be reduced. They thought the Yearling weight of shoe was okay. Council discussed this and how the welfare of the equine is paramount. Mr Bamford proposed to take the weight down by ½ pound on the horse to 1 ½lb and 7oz on the pony to 1lb but for Yearling weight to stay the same, this to be with immediate effect, seconded Mr E Ward, unanimous.

Action Secretary to change rules and inform members

Commenting on Social media. Mrs Stockton said that discussion took place with regard to judges not to comment on classes they are due to judge or have judged on any social media, this Council agreed with. They felt it would be best to confirm with the Society's legal firm to make sure any wording which was put onto the judge's guidelines was suitable.

Action Secretary to contact legal firm then to put into guidelines

Amount of Shows. Mrs Stockton said the judges thought there should be some form of restriction on the amount of shows judges agreed to judge. Council decided that on the judge's guidelines it is suggested that judges should limit their judging acceptance to two shows which would be either two affiliated shows or one affiliated show and one qualifying show.

Action Secretary to include in guidelines

Standard of Dress. Mrs Stockton said that the judges wanted included in the guidelines that judges can address the standard of dress shown by exhibitors by reporting to the judges committee any infringements. A standard letter with reminders setting out the expected standard of dress could then be sent to the exhibitor concerned. Further infringements would then become a matter for Council. Council agreed to this and thought the judges committee should write the standard letter for them to approve at the next meeting.

Action judges committee to supply letter for next meeting

Hat for male judges. Mrs Stockton said there was a suggestion to add to the Judges guidelines that gentlemen must wear a Black bowler hat, it cannot be a straw trilby or panama, this Council agreed to.

Action Secretary to include in guidelines

Provisional Line up. Mrs Stockton said how the judges felt the provisional line up is the decision of the judge but on final line up the winner must be brought in first, this council agreed to.

Action Secretary to include in guidelines

Comfortable Animals. Mrs Stockton said that there was a suggestion for inclusion in the Judges Guidelines that judges should encourage good production and presentation of correct and comfortable Show Hackneys, this Council agreed with.

Action Secretary to include in guidelines

Mrs Stockton said that a date and venue was required for the AGM, she said how the BDS were holding a dinner dance in October and that they had offered for the Hackney Horse Society to hold their AGM there prior to the dinner dance. There was the option of holding it at the same venue as the EGM. Mr Ward asked why it could not be held at Ardingly as before, Mrs Stockton said how the exhibitors did not like this. Mr Docking asked if Miss Peters could hold the AGM at her place sometime in late September early October, this Miss Peters agreed to.

Action Chairman to confirm date with Miss Peters

9. Date of Next Meeting to be 3rd June 2019

Meeting closed 4.45 p.m.