

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Arab Horse Society held on the 15th of April 2017 at 1.30 at The Fold, Bransford, Worcester, WR6 5JB

Present:

Chairman: Mrs A Dixon
Vice Chairman: Mrs J Lowe
Treasurer: Mr A McLeod
Council: Mrs J Armstrong Mrs A Brown Miss K Gore
Mrs F Grant Chivers Mrs N Meredith
Mrs L Nicholson (staff)

Attendees

Ms P Atkinson	Miss J Parsons	Miss J Woodward
Mrs B Cary	Mrs J Parsons	Mrs J Woodward
Mrs C Fitch	Cheryl Probitts	Mr E Woodward
Mr F Guinness	Mrs P Shenton	Mrs J Woodward
Mrs P Grant	Miss J Sorensen	
Miss F Harper	Mrs C Sussex	
Miss U Harper	Mrs K Swanson	
Mrs K Johnson	Mr R Tolchard	
Mr A Knott	Mr P Upton	

1. To approve the Notice Convening the Meeting

The Chairman read the Notice Convening the Meeting at 1.30pm.

1.2 Before the formal business was addressed the Chairman thanked everybody for attending and asked for a moment's silence to remember members who had passed away. The society had been notified of Mr N Laurens, Mr P Sweet and Ms J Batstone.

2. Apologies for Absence

Mrs R Archer	Miss E Archer	Mr N Armstrong	Mrs F Atkinson
Mr P Atkinson	Mrs Z Atkinson	Mrs P Bowles	Mrs J Bridges
Mrs JM Crozier	Mrs J Curry	Mrs A Doxey	Mrs B Durey
Mrs M Eydmann	Mrs D Godwin	Mrs R Gould	Mr A Hallworth
Mrs C Hartley	Mrs A Hedley	Miss A Holloway	Mr G Houghton
Mrs K Houghton	VA Hull	Mrs P Kettles	Mr R Kettles
Mrs C Kokta	Mrs J Lee	Mrs S Little	Mr P Lowe
Mrs E Mann	Mrs L Maryon	Mr S McCormick	Mrs S Melia
Mrs N Mellor	T Miller-Burrage	Mrs S Murphy	Mrs JHL Philips
Mrs S Plant	Ms K Rolfe	Mrs C Sheridan	Mrs M Sweet
Mrs D Warman	Mrs D Whittome	The Hon. MA Wragg	

The Chairman gave an apology on behalf of Mrs J White who was in hospital after an accident two days ago.

3. To note the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on the 16th of April 2016

3.1 The Chairman said there was an amendment to the 2016 minutes 10.1.2. Delete “and dealt with this herself” in the first sentence.

4. To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.
The Chairman asked if there were any Matters Arising. There were none.

5. To receive the report of Council and the Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2016.

5.1 The Chairman thanked members of Council and Committees for their hard work throughout the year. The support of the Governors is also appreciated, as is the dedication of the staff in the office. She wished to express a special thanks to the AHS Welfare Officer who works in the background, often in difficult circumstances, to improve the wellbeing of Arab horses.

5.2 The Chairman invited Mr A McLeod, the Honorary Treasurer, to report on the accounts.

5.3 He reported that the accounts showed a good growth in income. A surplus of £35,000 had been achieved, due in total to the increase of shares and the bequest from Miss Patricia Lindsay.

5.4 The Treasurer stated that next year is the Centenary year and that Council had agreed that certain restricted funds will be used to promote the Society within the conditions of those funds.

5.5 Mrs F Harper asked the Treasurer to explain why the accounts on the Malvern donations on page 21 say £560 and then on page 26 of the National Show donations say £1,867. It was subsequently explained that the £560 was given as a donation specifically for the Malvern Show while the balance was given as donations to the Malvern Show to be used for individually specified purposes such as show jumping and specific ring donations and were therefore recorded slightly differently within the accounts.

5.6 Mr P Upton congratulated the National show on its increase in entries and its £5,265 surplus.

5.7 Mr P Upton asked the Treasurer if he could explain the difference between the Carried Forward and Brought Forward Figures on page 31 of the accounts as they differ. It was explained that the Brought Forward Amount is from last year and the Carried Forward Amount is the amount that will be carried forward as an opening balance for the following year.

5.8 Mrs C Fitch asked the Treasurer what was being done with the Mary Russell Fund, which was for the purpose of encouraging and promoting junior members and the ridden Arabian.

It was explained that monies from the fund would be used this year to fund the Bursaries, the Quadrille and the new British Dressage Championships for Pure, Anglo and Part bred Arabs.

Mr A McLeod also stated that, as a charity, the Arab Horse Society is required to always hold a certain amount of money in reserve and therefore needed to be conscious of how funds were spent.

5.9 There being no further questions Mrs C Sussex proposed and Miss J Sorenson seconded that the Report of Council and Accounts for the year to 31st December 2016 were approved. The meeting agreed.

5.10 The Chairman thanked Mr A McLeod and Mrs L Nicholson, Finance Officer, for their detailed attention to the accounts

6. To approve the appointment of James Cowper as Independent Examiner to the Society.

6.1 Mr A McLeod said that the move to an independent Examiner had halved the cost of having the accounts audited and this had saved the society £3,500.

6.2 Miss J Sorenson proposed and Mrs B Cary seconded that James Cowper be appointed. This was approved.

7. To announce the name of the 2017/2018 Honorary President

7.1 The Chairman thanked the retiring Honorary President, Mrs B Cary, for the great job she had done during her term of office.

7.2 The Chairman then presented the Honorary President's badge to Mrs Joan Woodward who said she looked forward to her duties.

7.3 Mrs B Cary thanked members for an enjoyable year.

8. To announce the names of the new Council Members and the names of the new Direct Elects to the Society.

8.1 The Chairman announced the new Council Members. There were four vacancies and three candidates so an election had not been necessary. Mrs F Grant Chivers, Mrs Joanne Lowe and Mrs Diana Whittome were appointed.

There were fewer candidates than vacancies for Direct Election to Committees. Mrs S Woodhouse was appointed to Stud Book and Registration Committee. Mrs S Melia was appointed to Public Relations and Marketing Committee.

9. To announce the name of the name of the 2018/2019 president Elect.

9.1 The Chairman announced that Mr P Upton was the Honorary President Elect.

9.2 Mr P Upton said he was honoured to be elected as Honorary President Elect for the Arab Horse Society's centennial year and at the age of 80 he had been a member of the society for 50 years.

10. Any other Business

10.1 The Chairman reported that no written questions had been received and the business part of the AGM being now concluded, the meeting was open to questions or comments from the floor.

11. The Chairman announced that nominations for three very worthy horses had been received to contest the WAHO trophy and the winner was Eastworth Ahmshini. She gave a short summary of the remarkable achievements of this horse adding that the trophy will be presented at the National Show.

12. The Chairman asked Mrs A Brown to report on the proposed activities that are being arranged for the Centenary and on the Performance Horse Awards.

12.1 Mrs A Brown reported that celebrations start with the publication this autumn of the Centenary book on the Society's history, activities and achievements; and include a 2018 Wall-Chart calendar free with the Year Book; special Registration certificates for foals born in 2018; Centenary merchandise; a proposed exhibition on the 'Arabian Horse' in Newmarket; an Arab Racing Seminar ; commemorative rosettes for Champions and Reserves at Malvern, and a charity auction of Arab memorabilia; and finally, the revival of the Marathon.

12.2 Mrs A Brown announced that the Performance Horse awards would be running again this year, open to Pure, Anglo and Part bred Arabs. Entry is free and the rosettes will be presented to the winners at the National Show.

13. The Chairman asked Mrs J Armstrong, on behalf of Mrs J White, to give a report on the National Show.

13.1 Mrs J Armstrong was pleased to announce that, at this point in time, more entries than last year had been received. 2017 would see the introduction of new classes including Golden Oldies In Hand and Ridden High percentage. Ridden British National Champion and HOYS qualifying Classes will be separate sections this year. Mrs L Nicholson was thanked for all her hard work on the National show

13.2 Mrs Parsons said she was disappointed at how the Ridden Golden Oldies was judged as she wasn't expecting the judge to ride the exhibits. She thought that they should do individual shows instead. Mrs Armstrong said that the class was indeed intended to be

judged from the ground and this year would make sure the judge and steward had fully read the schedule.

13.3 Mr A Knott suggested that the Ridden Pairs be put in a different ring, preferably the main ring, so that they have a larger audience. Mrs Armstrong explained that, whilst everyone would like a slot in the main ring, it is impossible to arrange this at such a large show.

13.4 Mr R Tolchard expressed his disappointment at the decline in entries for the Princess Muna and the Sire Produce Classes. He suggested that this may be due to the fact that it is judged by a foreign judge and perhaps that an English Judge should judge these classes. Mrs C Sussex said one of the groups did not make it into the ring last year as there was an accident on the motorway.

Mrs Grant said she would love to enter but the cost of bringing a family group to the show including transport, entry and stabling is very expensive.

13.5 Mrs C Fitch asked if the closing date of entries could be later as the entries close very early. Mrs Armstrong said there are different stages of entry already and, if it was left any later, it would jeopardise the production of the catalogue as the printers need it only a few days after the current last closing date.

13.6 Mr R Tolchard said he thinks the style of In Hand showing now is putting people off and, after lengthy discussion on the subject, the Chairman said it would appear that everyone in the room agreed that the show ring needs to be a calmer place for In Hand horses. Progress is being made but it will take time for more change. Many shows are following the lead by having competitors walk into the ring and by banning bagging and circling. The stewards do ask grooms to stop if they are seen exerting outside assistance around the ring.

Mrs J Lowe said that, in Europe, the UK is praised on its management of behaviour in the show rings.

13.7 Mrs P Atkinson said she ran the Crabbet stand near the main ring and had seen bagging going on behind the Marquee. She said she didn't enjoy being there and thought there were more spectators watching the other rings than the main ring.

14. The Chairman asked Mrs Armstrong to complete her report on other Shows and Events Committee activities.

14.1 The new BACS Gold Qualification cards will be given to the first two exhibitors in classes at affiliated shows. These should be sent to the office within ten days of the show along with payment for entry to the Championships. The old system of cards being purchased at the beginning of the year will remain in place alongside the new system.

14.2 Mrs C Fitch asked why the Arab Horse Society allows judges to judge two HOYS qualifiers in the same year as she thought it would be better if the rule was changed allowing them to only judge one. Mrs Armstrong replied that HOYS sets the rules we use

for their qualifiers but this can be discussed with them.

14.3 The Society is grateful to Simon Constable Equine Vets and Mr and Mrs Roberts who have undertaken to sponsor the Arab classes at the Horse of the Year show which will be held on Wednesday, 4 October at 2.30pm.

The HAPPIE points scheme has been a great success with average entries increasing from 14 to 21 across the three classes. Gold silver and Bronze Plaques are now being awarded according to wins in the HAPPIE scheme.

14.4 The UK In Hand Awards continues to reward exhibitors competing in non-ECAHO classes and thanks were given to Mrs P Shenton for running this again.

14.5 British Dressage has this year introduced a Dressage Championship for Pure, Anglo and Part bred Arabs which will be held at Solihull on 7 October.

15. The Chairman asked Mrs N Meredith to report on the activities of Stud Book and Registration Committee.

15.1 Mrs N Meredith thanked the SB&R Committee and office staff for studying all the EU and Defra changes. Compliance with these changes called for a change in AHS passports and it is likely that there will be yet more changes. The registration department will still have to comply with EU regulations after Brexit.

15.2 Mr F Guinness said that even though the passports have improved over the last few years the print is nearly invisible and the rivets make them difficult to read. Mrs N Meredith said that the rivets are necessary to hold everything together but they should not interfere with the print.

16. Mrs B Cary expressed her gratitude to all the people whose hospitality she had enjoyed during her year as Honorary President. She had been pleased to attend many events and to offer help on occasion too.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 3.25 pm