

**Minutes of the Council meeting held at 11am on Tuesday, 20 September 2016  
at Bromsgrove Golf Centre, Stratford Road, Bromsgrove. B60 1LD**

**Present:** Mrs. Annette Dixon (Chairman)                      Mrs. Carolyn Kokta  
Mrs. Joanne Lowe (Vice Chairman)                                 Mrs. N. Meredith  
Mr Alastair Mcleod (Treasurer)                                     Mrs. Anne Brown  
Mrs. JHL Phillips     Mrs. Joanna White  
Mrs. Fiona Grant Chivers  
Mrs. Jayne Armstrong

**1. Apologies for absence.** Mrs. Whittome, Miss Gore, Mrs Melia.

Mrs Dixon reminded Council that, although promised, no meetings at weekends had taken place. Increasingly, horses are owned by people who have full time jobs and are unable to take time off work. If new Council members are to be recruited and encouraged this issue must be addressed.

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting.** Minutes had been circulated to and approved by Council electronically.

**3. Matters arising from the previous Minutes if not an agenda item.**

**3.1** The Chairman had not yet received the J Hall report.

**3.2** Mr. McLeod pointed out that it was agreed at the last meeting that a Membership Application Form should be part of the leaflet but the leaflet had been printed without it. On behalf of PR&M he will organise the production and insertion of the form. Mrs Dixon had requested that a few copies of the leaflet should be sent to each Council member so that they could be widely distributed but this had not yet been done.

**3.2** Mrs. Phillips is still working on the photographs of WAHO Winners for the office.

**3.3** Mrs. Meredith said that SB&R had written to those people who owned horses whose passports had been returned by the RSPCA.

**3.3** Mrs Dixon reported that Mrs. Joan Woodward has accepted the invitation to take up the position of Honorary President in 2017.

**4. Council and Committee member expenses.**

Mr. McLeod said the current banding system had been in place for some time and should be reviewed. After discussion it was agreed: a) that that mileage for

Council meetings would be paid at the rate of 25pence per mile and b) because of the varying numbers of co-optees on each Committee, each Committee would receive an allowance of £200 per annum, the allocation of which would be the responsibility of the Committee Chairman.

## **5. Letting office space.**

Mrs Dixon had been approached by a possible tenant who had indicated an interest in the unused room at Agriculture House. Mr. McLeod outlined the terms of an agreement, the basis of which was a renewable yearly Licence to include heating and lighting and with three months' notice. Council agreed this to go ahead.

## **6. Magazine**

**6.1** The Editorial Board for the AHS Magazine now includes Jean-Mary Crozier and Val Cridge. The Council representative is Mr. McLeod who will be the point of contact. The contents are not finalised yet however the magazine is going to focus on the celebration of the Arabian horse world in conjunction with the Olympic Year. There will be articles on breeding, endurance, racing and Partbreds

**6.2** Mrs. Dixon had previously mentioned the possibility of outsourcing the magazine should be explored and had made some enquiries but had not yet received any further information. This will not be pursued at the current time. Support of the current Editorial Board is to be continued and Council agreed that the Chairman should invite them to continue with further issues.

## **7. The possibility of selling on eBay.**

**7.1** As there is a quantity of old stock, Council agreed that an ebay shop should be set up to target a wider audience than the website shop. PR & M will take responsibility for the set up and management of the account but first will take stock of all items in the office in order to keep the website shop up to date. Mrs. Nicholson in the office will deal with the finance and the postings for both the website and the ebay account but must be regularly updated by PR&M with what she is required to put on the sites.

**7.2** Varied opinions on purchasing more clothing and promotional items were aired. Mrs. Kokta said PR&M would like to expand the promotional items coming up to the centenary year. Mr. McLeod had reservations as money had been lost on promotional items in the past and stock was easily damaged when in transit to events. It was explained that any plans for 2017 expenditure, along with expected income from sales, must appear in the PR&M budget in readiness for Council approval.

**7.3** Mrs. Dixon informed Council that three boxes (ninety-nine copies) of The Classic Arabian by Peter Upton had recently been sold to Israel.

## **8. Welfare.**

Mrs. Meredith had received a report from Mrs. Green (welfare officer). A situation in the North is now under control although continually monitored. There is one more case awaiting a hearing but, to avoid the problems caused in the past by social media, Mrs Green would prefer details not to be reported at the moment.

Another problem has improved thanks to WHW and will also be regularly monitored. Mrs. Green had recently judged the condition of rehomed horses at Equifest where she also met the new Executive Officer of the RSPCA. Mrs. Green and Mrs. Meredith will attend the WHW Conference. Council thanked Mrs. Green for doing an excellent job in difficult circumstances.

## **9. Financial Report.**

Mr. McLeod stressed that it is important to try to achieve a break-even figure each year to cover costs. Reserve funds should not be used for annual operating costs as it would reduce the amount of interest earned. A number of small RESTRICTED funds had been used in the last few years and are now showing a nil balance on the spreadsheets and accounts. He is currently collating information to prepare the annual Report and Accounts where all the detail will be available to members.

He had negotiated a reduction in insurance premiums, the total wage bill had been reduced and support costs were down. The National Show showed an increased profit and BACS had remained in profit. Joanna White and Jayne Armstrong were thanked for their achievements on the finances of these shows.

## **10. 2017 Budgets.**

**10.1** The Treasurer had circulated a guideline for setting budgets for 2017. Each Committee should submit their budgets as soon as possible as the Treasurer needs them to incorporate into producing the end of year reports.

As the 100<sup>th</sup> Year anniversary of the AHS is in 2018 and there may be special promotional projects, he suggested that it may be possible to utilise some of the Reserve Funds for this purpose. However any proposals must come to Council to be approved as part of the budget and before publication.

**10.2** Mrs. Kokta thought a contingency fund could be provided but Mr. McLeod explained that the running costs of the Society should be met from its income. Only in some special cases the cost of promotional events/items could be funded from reserve funds.

Mrs Dixon thanked Mr McLeod for his continued good management of the Society's finances.

## **11. Public Relations and Marketing Committee**

**11.1** Mrs. Kokta said that the Committee's priority was preparing for the Centenary and the intention was to set up a separate Centenary Committee. She hoped that each individual committee could be represented. After discussion it was recommended that the PR & M Committee should set up a meeting to discuss the Centenary and invite Council members interested to attend.

**11.2** Mrs. Kokta was pleased with the Quadrille this year and said it was a part of the Centenary plan. It had started small this year and there were hopes to grow it next year by taking it round more shows, and then in Centenary Year taking it to County Shows. The costings will be shown in PR&M Budget.

**11.3** Mrs. Lowe said she would find sponsorship of an art exhibition to be held in London.

**11.4** Mrs Meredith reminded PR&M how important it is to send all news about Arab horses, regardless of how small the story, to as many horse magazines as possible. It was felt that there needed to be more action from the Committee.

**11.5** Mrs. Brown said that the BEF organises a Futurity Scheme for young horses competing in eventing, showjumping, dressage and endurance from foals to three years old. They have now developed this into an equine bridge to award horses in the 3 Olympic disciplines from 4 years onwards but with nothing for endurance horses. However after pressure, the BEF agreed that from 2017, endurance horses will be now awarded for the best 6 year old and the best 7 – 10 year old horse. This is only for horses that have passed through the youngstock scheme.

### **11.6 PR&M Minutes of 2 September 2016.**

The Committee had some ideas for recruiting members. Mr. McLeod explained that 63% members pay by direct debit on 1<sup>st</sup>. January. Whilst there is an incentive to pay by D/D there are always people who do not wish to pay using this method. Mrs. Phillips felt that lapsed members needed reminding. The idea of a voucher incentive for members to recruit a new member was felt to be a good idea but the cost implications needed to be carefully thought out and calculated. Mr. McLeod recommended that the public liability insurance which costs £13 per member was promoted and pointed out that if this cover was taken out individually it would cost in excess of £50 so there is a huge benefit for members in addition to the two magazines and free entry to the National Show.

The Committee was asked to reword the last paragraph of their Minutes as it was not correct.

Mrs Kokta left the meeting.

## **12. Stud Book and Registration Committee**

**12.1** EU Animal Health Law due in 2021 will require a Holding Number for premises where more than 5 animals of any species are gathered together. Currently the impact of BREXIT on the horse is not known however it is understood that nothing will change in the immediate future.

**12.2** Mrs Meredith asked for financial support towards attending the WHIRDEC meeting in Geneva which is discussing current problems being encountered by the registration departments over the latest regulations relative to the identification of horses. This had not been approved in the 2016 budget and there were some concerns about the need to attend extra meetings because of the cost to the Society. Mrs Meredith promised to keep costs for the Society to a minimum during the trip and Council agreed she should go.

**12.3** Mrs. Meredith referred to the PPS Minutes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> June and asked Council to approve non Council Members 1) Mrs. Eydmann as Chair and 2) Mrs. Bartrum as Vice Chair. Two other members are Council members and any expenditure would be sanctioned by a Council Member. Approved.

### **12.4 SB&R Minutes 28 June 2016**

A charge to be levied for the covering certificates required from stallions domiciled abroad with semen stored in the UK.

SB & R wished to move ahead with planning for a new stud book computer program. However currently there are no plans from the new Central Equine Database for their IT requirements and whether DEFRA has stipulated data to be uploaded in live time. Weatherbys could be requested to define AHS requirements for a new computer system including the new Central Equine Database requirements. They have given an approximate quote of £3.5k to provide an overview of the system and to research a rewrite of the system. Negotiation on this fee should be attempted. Mrs Dixon and Mrs Armstrong recommended that an independent quote should be obtained. Further consideration would be taken by SB&R and brought back to Council.

Approval was given for an additional phrase to be added to the Rules of Registration. 'It is an Arab Horse Society Rule of Registration that any horse that has any modification to its heritable genome will no longer be eligible for registration as an Arab, Anglo Arab or Part bred Arab'.

**12.5** Approval was given for a 'Suspended Transaction' section on the website.

**12.6** Mrs. Meredith asked that any documents (mostly pertaining to DEFRA/EU) sent via email were acknowledged and read as they are important and Council needs to be involved and understand the discussions taking place.

## **13. Shows and Events Committee**

Mrs. White stated that the Committee had not had a recent meeting however she had supplied Council with a written summary of recent events.

**13.1 National Show.** It was disappointing that a judge had let the AHS down by cancelling her judging appointment however there had been no complaints regarding the replacement. The Show had run well and there had been no problems with behaviour. The 'guidance' leaflet that came out prior to the show had been well received. The Committee was thanked and congratulated on running a great show.

Costings for the show next years were being looked at and the Premier Inn as a potential hotel for the judges was being considered. The VIP tent was also being looked at with some changes planned and the type of food in the judges' tent was to be reviewed.

**13.2** Mrs. Armstrong stated that BAC had not made as much money as in previous years and the general lack of people showing had had an impact. She put forward a proposal for BACS 2017 which included qualifying cards to be sent to all affiliated shows to give to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in each class Mrs White thanked Mrs Armstrong for her work with the shows.

**13.3** Discussion took place on the suggestion of a volunteer to take on a supporting and honorary role to help Mrs Nicholson. The offer to assist at the show this year on the Tuesday and Wednesday had been taken up and had been very helpful to Mrs. Nicholson. It was agreed unanimously that help was needed and that safeguards will be put in place and that it will be a low profile role in the background as administrative and technical advisor. Finances, as always, will only be handled by the Committee Chairman. It was agreed by everyone that this volunteer will be an asset and extremely useful at the Show. Council approved the proposal by a vote of 8 'yes', 0 'no', 1 'abstention'.

**13.4** The new dressage championships for Arabs has been agreed with British Dressage and there will be an article in the Yearbook.

**13.5** Mrs. White informed Council that the In Hand Judges finals are taking place in October and will let Council know the results. Mrs. Lowe reported that the PJI planned by Midland group had to be cancelled due to lack of candidates.

#### **14. Centenary plans.**

PR&M had made a long list of ideas. Council thought all of them worthy but no decisions could be made as there was no detail. PR&M will choose which they wish to take forward and work out some costings to bring to Council.

#### **15. Date and venue of 2017 AGM**

Weekend of 15<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at the same venue as last year. Mrs Dixon will book it again. PR&M may utilise the morning to provide an educational event.

**16. Any other business**

Mrs Dixon had circulated the minutes of the ECAHO Show Commission meeting and Mrs Meredith asked about the mention of the introduction of sanctions on shanking in the USA. Mrs Dixon said the problem of excessive handling of horses was an ongoing matter of concern in ECAHO and methods of control were frequently under review.

**17. Date of next meeting.** Tuesday, 21 February 2017 at Agriculture House. In view of the need to accommodate all Council members it was decided to set the following pattern for meetings:

February Weekday at Agriculture House.

April Immediately after the AGM to elect officers and Committee members.

April/May Weekend at Bromsgrove (or other more central location).

June Weekday at Agriculture House

September Weekend at Bromsgrove.

Meeting closed.