

Jacob Sheep Society

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at the Carlton Club, St. James's Street, London.

Thursday 2nd November 2017

Present:

Mr Clive Richardson (Chairman)
Mr Ron King (President)
Mr Lyndon Trumper (Chairman-elect)
Mr Gordon Connor (Field Officer)
Mrs Pat Black (Treasurer)
Mrs Lucy Thompson (Central RCM)
Mr Paul Colhoun (Ireland RCM)
Miss Lisa Adams (RCM Eastern Region)
Mrs Lesley Pope (Representing the Southern Region)
Miss M Harper (Scotland RCM)
Mr Geoff Wood (Northern RCM)
Mr Peter Gorringer (South West RCM)
Mrs Jean Simmons (Assistant Secretary)

1. Welcome

Mr Richardson welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. He thanked Mrs Pope for attending for the Southern region, and welcomed Mr Wood and Miss Harper as new RCMs and Mr Trumper, Chairman-elect.

2. Apologies.

Mrs Siwan Harries (Wales RCM) Mrs Barley Gould (Southern RCM)

3. To Agree the Minutes from March 2017

The minutes were formally agreed and duly signed.

4. Matters Arising

The young handlers' competition was held in Scotland not Ireland.

The judges' Code of Conduct as discussed has been sent to judges as a letter and will not form part of the Bye-laws. The Code will appear in the Spring Journal for members to read before the showing season begins.

Mr Robert Locker who had worked as the webmaster for some years had asked for a replacement; Council was pleased to hear Mr Terry Barker had taken over and thanked Mr Locker for all his work and expertise.

Remaining matters arising to be discussed were on the agenda.

5. Breed Promotion

Mr Bramley had previously circulated his report and audit chart to October 2017 showing sales and stock held; a profit of £585.06 has been made overall. Mr Bramley keeps records of all merchandise,

purchase and retail prices and stock held. He reported that 2016 – 2017 had been a good year for sales and that he had received positive feedback about the items offered, and the web shop had been very busy from October to December and had been a valuable outlet for the merchandise. Following his review he told Council that the staple items such as ties had been restocked.

Mr Bramley suggested some new items were added to stocks and he had brought along samples of: **Tie Pins**; Council agreed to these and also agreed that Mr Gorringe should liaise with Mr Bramley for a supply for the 2018 AGM and that a gold version be considered for the 50th Anniversary celebrations. **Boot Puller**; these were agreed as a good quality item which will sell at £15. **Note block**; Council agreed to these. **Paper weight**: Council liked the style and finish of these but asked if the head of the sheep could be made to look more obviously a Jacob which Mr Bramley said he would look into. Other items will be further researched before ordering including a key ring with wording.

For the 50th Anniversary Council agreed that commemorative mugs will be made, the final design still to be approved but the one shown to Council was considered to be excellent.

Mr Bramley said he was always interested to hear of suggestions for merchandise and said he would need any instruction from Council in time to cost out and produce items in time for the anniversary.

He said that the Society held sufficient leaflets for the next year but asked Council to consider the design and content for the future; it was agreed that one leaflet would be produced with all the information instead of four separate ones. Mr Richardson asked for suggestions for the March meeting, Mr. Bramley said he would produce a draft for consideration. The leaflet will be available on the website.

It was agreed that items produced by Mr Crump which were of high quality and Jacob soap made by Mrs Pope could be sold with the merchandise; a percentage of the income to be retained by the JSS

Council thanked Mr Bramley for attending the meeting and for his work on the merchandise it congratulated him on his success in achieving profit and providing interesting items for sale.

6. Chairman's Report and Correspondence

All correspondence was to be dealt with under the agenda.

Website.

Mr Richardson asked Council to consider the report and recommendations, previously circulated, from Mr Barker regarding the website. The detailed updating of the website generally, the re-design and the transfer of the site to a new host was all unanimously agreed.

The site data will be moved on to a 'responsive' platform and then be re-launched. The site will be redesigned to make it more visually appealing and be updated with a 'User Forum' dedicated to the Jacob Sheep owners. One person will be updating all the pages; Mr Barker's offer to do that was accepted by Council so a set format and layout will be used throughout.

The cost of the new host will be £350 to install with an annual cost of £66 thereafter; this produces a saving to the Society in monetary terms but gives a more responsive and easier to use product.

Council thanked Mr Barker for his advice and hard work and all agreed that they looked forward to working with Mr Barker.

The domain name JSS.co.uk is still available and Council agreed to ask Mr Barker to look into buying it.

It was agreed that Facebook is an important communication tool and it was decided that the RCMs would be responsible for the content of their regional pages and could either update it themselves or could nominate a member to do so. Council agreed that the content should be updated immediately and Facebook should be developed as an opportunity for advertising and contacting members. A link to Facebook from the website will be investigated.

Breed Book.

Mr Richardson told the meeting that he continued work on the book. He had done further research into the format of publication: to contain the 20,000 words and 120 photos plotting the history of both the breed and the Society the book would need 80 pages plus the cover and he had acquired a quote for printing on good quality paper, stitched with a soft cover, the JSS logo embossed on the cover, and with the printers responsible for the layout. Council agreed and decided that the book will retail at £10. It was also agreed that a hard back copy could be made available at £15.

The design was discussed and Mr Richardson would like a meeting with others to decide on the photographs used. He asked RCMs to try and acquire a selection of photographs from their regions to broaden the final choice of illustrations.

A further update will be made in March. Council thanked Mr Richardson for his continued work on the book.

7. Treasurer's Report.

Mrs Black had previously circulated a draft of accounts for Council's discussion. Early indication is that the Society is in good heart and the surplus will be similar to the previous year's accounts. The expenditure and income both seem to have dropped a little.

Mrs Black discussed the income of the AGMs and from regional activities. She stated that all monies must be paid to the Society in a timely fashion and Council agreed.

The RCMs are asked for statements of income and expenditure every six months, thus making sure all monies are paid in for the end of every financial year. All regional expenses must be cleared by the treasurer before being made.

Mrs Black said that as all Council members are Directors and Trustees of the JSS she thought that new members of Council should be given a welcome letter from the Chairman which would include a document produced by the Charity Commission outlining the key responsibilities of a Trustee. Each Trustee needs to be aware that such responsibilities are necessary for good practice and responsibility is equally shared amongst all Trustees. A draft will be produced for Approval at Council in March 2018

Council discussed the need to raise the membership subscription as it has not been raised for 10 years; as the finances are in good heart Mrs Black agreed that they need not be raised until 2020 if Council agreed a rise in November 2018.

Council thanked Mrs Black for her work on the accounts and the reports.

Dr Strong had prepared the Annual Report of Investments of the Society. The capital value of the investments continues to increase slowly and he recommended that Council leaves the investments where they are and be prepared to move more to the deposit fund if a fall in the stock market begins. Council agreed. Council thanked Dr Strong for his continued work with the investments.

8. Field Officers Report

Shows and Sales: Mr Connor said that quality sheep continue to sell well; there had been varying numbers of sheep rejected at the sales with one up to 10%.

The new Monmouth sale in Wales had been a good success and Mr Connor feels this will have a good future.

Council discussed the role of inspectors at sales. Any complaints made would be dealt with in writing by the Officers of the Society. Mr Connor drew attention to the role of the adjudicator, who would be asked to make a decision if the inspectors asked for assistance. There is no recourse for adjudication following a rejection.

It was agreed that in future all pedigree certificates shall be handed in to the auctioneer's office at Skipton in line with the other sales.

Council discussed the sale of rejected sheep at the Official Shows and Sales. Mr Colhoun proposed that rejected sheep should not be sold at any time at Official Shows and Sales, seconded by Mr Wood. Carried.

Flock Competitions: Mr Connor said following his discussions at judges' seminars in future Flock Competitions would become Competitions or Assessments; members would be able to have their flocks assessed by the judges without entering the competition.

For consistency in judging Mr Connor led a discussion on the handling of sheep during competitions; it was agreed that the main flock of ewes will not be handled; all other individual animals or groups of animals will be handled.

Trimming Lambs: the bye-laws state that lambs are shown to their best advantage therefore it is up to the exhibitor as to whether the lambs are trimmed or not. Mr Connor will write an article for the Journal explaining this rule for members.

Judges' Panel: Mrs Trish Baker and Mr Alex Leggate have retired from the panel. Council thanked them for their work and wished them well for the future.

Miss Mairi Connor and Miss Jenifer Milton were proposed to the provisional panel as they have shadowed judges during the twelve months following their success at the selection panel. Council were please to appoint them both to the panel.

The rule that judges must attend at least one seminar every three years was confirmed by Council, Mr Connor is to contact any judge who does not comply and it was agreed as per the rule they will be removed from the panel.

Tay Sachs: Grassroots Systems provided the data to Council and at present:

530 animals have been designated (TSC) – tested Tay Sachs clear.

550 animals have been designated (~) – bred Tay Sachs Clear

85 animals have been identified as carriers of the Tay Sachs marker gene

652 kits have been sent out of which 568 have been completed.

Mr Connor led a discussion:

(1) Should a rule be introduced that: all rams above one year of age sold at Official Shows and Sales be tested or bred Tay Sachs clear.

Three members had written to Council and their letters were read out. RCMs had received comments from members. All these comments were welcomed and formed part of the discussion.

Council were careful to discuss the outcome of implementing the rule on the disorder itself, the effect on sales of rams both at official and other sales, and the cost of testing to the membership and the willingness of members to participate.

Following a detailed debate Council decided that the rule will probably be introduced in the future but more information should be made available to members on the disorder for at least another twelve months before its implementation is considered again.

(2) Was testing to be continued: it was agreed that it should continue.

Mr Connor told the meeting he had held two judges' seminars in 2017. He reported there was a good turnout in both regions (Northern and Central) and he said he appreciated the work in the regions to organise the seminars.

9. Office, Grassroots and NSA Report

The report having been previously circulated Mrs Simmons thanked Mr Emberton for his help with IT and Mr Barker for advice regarding scams.

Grassroots reported that membership of the Society stands at 886. They had previously circulated a full report of registration figures and stated that the registry seems to be running smoothly. Council agreed .

The NSA report will be published in the Journal.

10. Reports from Regions.

The reports having been previously circulated the following issues were brought to Council's attention:

Ireland: Mr Colhoun asked for funding for the entry fees to the major shows in Southern Ireland for their breed promotion stand. Council agreed they were all important and the equivalent of attending NSA events in the UK. The funding was agreed.

Southern: the region had discussed the possibility of the Society inspecting rams before registration. Council decided that the project would be too expensive and not cost effective.

Central region: Mrs Thompson had brought the website and Tay Sachs to Council's attention but these had been dealt with on the agenda. She asked that Council consider judges' days (a member had suggested that two regions share a day) instead of holding seminars at Open Days. It was decided that the present format will remain.

Eastern: Miss Adams asked if Council would be prepared to continue to cover judges' expenses if a new venue was found for the now disbanded East of England show. It was decided that a show which invites Jacob classes should pay the judges' expenses.

Wales: Mrs Harries suggested that the inspection guidelines are sent out to vendors at Official Shows and Sales. The guides being available on-line it was not thought necessary to send them out and the role of inspectors had been discussed earlier.

Southwest: Mr Gorringe said that two planned Open Days in the region had been cancelled. He asked Council to consider merging the Sedgemoor sale with the Wales region at Monmouth. Council agreed it was a good way forward and would bring the South West region into an official sale. Mr

Trumper welcomed the idea and said that if sufficient Jacob entries were made the Society might have a sale without other breeds.

11. Communications Update.

Mr Richardson reported that the winter Journal was ready and about to be printed. Ms Lorna Hendy had offered to collate the show results for the Journal and he wished to thank her for doing that.

Council thanked Mr Richardson for his work on the Journal.

12. AGM Progress Report

Mr Gorringe was pleased to report that all details for the AGM weekend had been completed and full details and booking forms were printed ready to go out with the Journal. He said the Devon Hotel was very convenient for members just off the M5 and close to the airport. He had arranged coach travel for members who require it and thought that the auction proceeds will help cover the costs. Council agreed that coach travel does make the weekend easier to organise and is enjoyed by the members.

Council thanked Mr Gorringe for his work and said the weekend was looked forward to.

13. AGM 2019

To be held in the Northern region at Grange over Sands. Mr Wood said there would be another two committee meetings to finalise the arrangements but the hotel was booked. They would not know if Princess Alexandra would be able to attend before next November.

Council thanked Mr Wood for his work.

14. AOB

The costing of flock competitions was discussed; it was preferred that 10 flocks participate in a region to help cover costs but if the RCM contacted the Field Officer and if it was felt the competition was justified with a lower number it would be allowed to go ahead.

Mr Gorringe told the meeting that he would resign as RCM for the South West at the 2018 AGM as he was leaving the region.

Replacing RCMs was discussed; if there is not a candidate for the region Council has the right to appoint someone as RCM.

Mr Richardson reminded Council that a Vice-Chairman was required in 2018.

The Peter Rudd Trophy is awarded with £50 to the winning home-bred shearling ewe alternatively at the Great Yorkshire and Royal Highland Shows. Mr Richardson reported that there is £350 left in the fund donated by Mr Rudd's family.

Mr King proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman. Agreed.

16. Time and Date of Next Meeting.

Thursday 1st March 2018 at the Carlton Club, London