

Jacob Sheep Society

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

Thursday 7th March 2019

Present:

Mr Lyndon Trumper (Chairman)
Mr Ron King (President)
Mr John Emberton (Vice Chair)
Mr Gordon Connor (Field Officer)
Mrs Pat Black (Treasurer)
Mrs Lucy Thompson (Central RCM)
Mr Paul Colhoun (Ireland RCM)
Mrs Barley Gould (Southern RCM)
Miss M Harper (Scotland RCM)
Ms Sarah Bliss (South West RCM)
Miss Carys Richards (Wales RCM)
Mrs Jean Simmons (Assistant Secretary)

1. Welcome

Mr Trumper welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending the meeting.

2. Apologies.

Mr G Wood (Northern RCM) Miss Lisa Adams (Eastern RCM)

3. To Agree the Minutes from November 2018

The minutes were formally agreed and duly signed.

4. Matters Arising

Mr Emberton had previously circulated a briefing paper on the update on GDPR; he asked Council members to check his list of various data which Council members and various other volunteers he had provided. Mr Emberton had spoken with an advisor from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and following his advice told Council that the best practice would be for each Council member and the Journal editor to have their own JSS mailbox; his research had found that as a registered charity the Society can have mail boxes for Council members free of charge from some suppliers, though not the current host of our jacobsheep.org.uk domain which would incur a minimal charge to transfer. He proposed that the mailboxes be set up; Council unanimously agreed.

It was agreed that a disclaimer should be on every email and an appointment would be necessary by Council for someone to have the authority to remove passwords as members of Council resigned; Mr Emberton agreed to do this.

A discussion was held regarding the storing of data and it was decided that retiring RCMs should handover any live emails to their successors and archive the rest, Mr Emberton advised that emails be archived as they are dealt with, generally papers should be kept for 6 years in the case of the accounts the minimum is for 7 years.

Mr Emberton said he would try and set up the email accounts in time for the AGM and the members would be informed on the website and in the Journal.

Mr Emberton had been in contact with GRS with regard to the compulsory inspections of lambs he had circulated a report to Council; following discussion Council decided that the inspections would not be reinstated as the legalities of Zootech registration did not allow this and the Society's accreditation to the scheme is vital to the cross border trade in Ireland and the occasional exports to other European countries.

He told Council that all accredited breed societies were informed last year that part of the draft UK/EU leaving agreement is that accredited societies would be allowed to have UK accreditation which would have equivalent standing in the EU without having to make individual applications. That application had been made for the JSS.

Mr Trumper thanked Mr Emberton for his diligence and work.

Mrs Black told Council that the cash that Dr Strong had advised to be moved from the investments had now been moved into the treasurer's account and a careful watch was being kept on the markets.

Mr Trumper thanked Dr Strong for his continued work.

Mr Bramley had sent a merchandise report which had been previously circulated and had sent a sample of the anniversary mug which Council were pleased to hear would be on sale at the AGM along with the gold coloured pin broaches. The 2018 calendars had been successful the meeting was told and it was decided that more trailer stickers would be ordered. It was decided that the engraved slate coasters would not be ordered but would be considered in the future. Council will look at further ideas for merchandise in November ready for new stock in 2020.

Mr Trumper thanked Mr Bramley for his work in particular the production of the mugs.

5. Correspondence

Mrs Simmons read a letter from Mrs Blacknell: she said she thought that it should be made clear to all new judges when invited to join the Judges' Panel that they will be expected to retire voluntarily thus allowing younger judges the chance to gain experience: secondly she expressed her concern that the judges visiting flocks in the Central Region Flock Competition/Assessment had not sent the members who had entered feedback although the necessary forms had been given to them and a verbal agreement had been made with Mrs Thompson that they would do so.

Council discussed the retirement of judges and agreed they were unable to dictate to the judges when they should retire it is hoped that judges unable to fulfil the duties of a judge for any reason would retire. Mr Emberton pointed out the byelaw 2. Judges Panel. (f) disqualifications and other

sanctions (ii) The judge continually ceases to officiate at shows when invited to do so. Council agreed that the bye law should be enforced when possible.

Council discussed the possible ways that judges could be encouraged to make written assessments to members who had paid £25 to enter the competition/assessment it was agreed that the judges selected by the regions for the completion/assessment would be briefed by Mr Connor before being finally agreed to. Previously the RCMs' had to ask Mr Connor to approve the selection but he had not contacted the judges previous to them visiting the members.

In the case of the Central Region Mrs Thompson asked that the members have the £25 returned to them. This was agreed.

6. Chairman's Report

Mr Trumper told the meeting he is pleased to see that the registrations are at an all time high; there has been good activity at the sales, which are very important to the breed as members will keep registering their sheep if they can sell them. He pointed out that a good reason for keeping the sheep is being able to sell them thus the breed keeps multiplying.

7. Nominations for Council

Nominations had been received for: Vice Chair; Mr John Emberton. Field Officer; Mr Gordon Connor. Southern RCM; Mrs Barley Gould. All nominations were unopposed.

No nominations had been received for the Eastern RCM so Council agreed that Mrs Jane Woodbridge be asked to take the role.

Miss Carys Richards for Wales and Ms Sarah Bliss for the South West agreed to continue as RCM for their regions.

8. Treasurer's Report

Mrs Black had previously circulated her report and the Summary of Finances for year ending September 2018. She told Council that the finances were similar to the previous year and she had used pie charts to illustrate this. The change in the income stream was largely due to the changes in the Gift Aid rules.

It was agreed that Mrs Black email the full accounts to each Council member for their approval before they are presented to the members at the AGM.

Mr Tim Cherry had sent a donation of £50 given in memory of his wife Ruth Cherry raised by the Belbroughton Spinners. Council agreed that because Ruth had been a Central Region member and had often entered the Wool Cup a trophy for the best Central Region exhibit would be purchased in her memory by Mrs Thompson.

Mr Trumper said had written to thank Mr Cherry and the spinners.

Mrs Black told Council that there is about £8000 of donated money in the accounts. She said she would be emailing all RCMs for their bi-annual financial statement.

Mrs Black told Council of her intention to resign her position as Treasurer and Company Secretary in 2021 when she would hand over her duties. Council all agreed that Mrs Black had done a wonderful job and would look forward to continuing to work with her for the next two years. A discussion followed on the best way to encourage members to volunteer for work on Council. It was agreed that handovers must be done properly and Council members should begin this process before they retire.

Mr Trumper suggested that a workshop be held for RCMs to enable them to exchange ideas and the experienced members give guidance to the newer ones on organising committees and events in their regions. The RCMs all thought it would be very helpful and Mrs Simmons will organise the date and extended an invitation to her home as a meeting point.

9. Field Officer's report

Show and Sales: Mr Connor told the meeting that all the inspectors and adjudicators had been appointed for the Official Show and Sales 2019 being the same judges as appointed last year. Mr Colhoun asked that the 5 Judges in Ireland be allowed to shadow the more experienced inspectors at the Official Societies Show and Sales; Mr Connor said this would be allowed but at the judges own expense.

Mr Connor had prepared the updated Guidance Notes for inspectors and members as discussed at the previous meeting, he told the meeting he would email out to all members of Council for their records.

Flock Competitions: Further to the correspondence and Mrs Thompsons request for discussion at Council Mr Connor explained that he had spoken to the judges who had judged in the Central Region and had received an undertaking that the assessment sheets would be sent to the members over the Christmas period and he was disappointed that this had not happened. Council discussed the possible way forward to ensure that judges who undertake these appointments do fulfil their duties. Mrs Blacknell had suggested that judges would not be able to receive expenses until the assessment sheets had been sent, however Mrs Thompson told the meeting that this was the second time that the Central Region judges had not sent the assessment sheets and on both occasions had not claimed expenses. Mrs Thompson said that it would be inconceivable to organise another competition/assessment without assurance that the assessments would be returned. Mr Connor wished to point out that Mrs. Thompson had organised the competition properly and was in no way to blame for the judges' refusal to fulfil their duties.

It was agreed that when RCMs organise the completion/assessment that Mr Connor not only approves the judges as he has done previously but will write to them ensuring they understand the level of commitment needed to undertake the appointments and inform them that the assessment sheets must be sent to participants within two weeks.

New Members' Inspection: Further to the discussion at the March meeting Council agreed that the visits would be worthwhile and come under the charitable aims of the Society where as visits to the longer term members would not; the cost to the Society would be justifiable. Mrs Black reiterated that the membership subscription was due to be increased and would help to fund the visits. Council decided on a detailed structure to the visits. It was agreed that when RCMs send a welcome letter to

new members they make the offer of an experienced judge visiting their flock and ask them when they would like the judge to visit. If the member chooses to have that visit the RCM will contact Mr Connor with the details of the new member he will then appoint a judge; the judge will then contact the member and make arrangements for the visit. If the RCM is available they will be able to join the judge and introduce themselves to the member.

Judges Returns: Mr Connor was pleased to report that all the judges had made their returns on time in 2018

Young Person of the Year: RCMs were reminded to send Mr Connor their nominations for the award.

10. Office, Grassroots and NSA

Mrs Simmons had previously circulated a report including the return the Society had made with GRS through DEFRA, to the European Commission, enabling the Society to be listed as a 'third country breeding body' (following Brexit) and therefore be allowed to use the Zootechnical certificates for pedigree animals and germinal products. She told Council that the Flock Book would soon be ready for publication and she would have it printed in time for the AGM weekend.

Mrs Simmons read to council her letter of resignation stating she would be retiring from her voluntary position as Assistant Secretary at the 2022 AGM but was happy to work with a successor before that date to ensure a smooth handover period.

Council thanked Mrs. Simmons for her work and looked forward to continuing to work with her for the next three years.

11. Reports from the Regions

The RCM reports having been previously circulated brought the following to Council.

Ireland Region. Mr Colhoun asked if he could arrange for the judges in Ireland to visit members' flocks on an informal basis to give guidance on the sheep and as a way of keeping in touch with the regions members. He told the meeting that the region's Jacobs were improving all the time and he thought the visits would help to keep the standard rising. Mrs Black told the meeting that the travel costs would probably be prohibitive and would set precedence for all regions, but Mr Colhoun could send detailed costs to her for consideration.

Council discussed the way that members of the Society keep in touch and as all new members were to be offered a visit they will be aware that advice is available and thought that members who are interested to learn will attend Open Days and Forums. They would likely enter the Flock competition/Assessment when the costs would be met by the members not the Society. A possibility of new members paying towards the cost of a visit was discussed and the possibility of the joining fee being raised to help cover those costs. Mrs Black said that it was likely that membership subscriptions will need to be increased in the near future.

Other items for Council's attention were dealt with on the agenda.

12. Communications Update

Mr Richardson had written a communications report which had been previously circulated.

A request to all Council members to send in their reports for the Journal in good time was made. Mr Richardson reported that the 50th Anniversary Book was now ready for final proof reading and he requested Council's permission that when printed they should be couriered to him and he will bring them to be sold and distributed at the AGM. Council unanimously agreed. They also agreed to Mr Richardson's suggestion that Mr. Walsh be consulted as to where copies of the books for reviews in the farming press should be sent.

The handbook is due to be reprinted in 2019 and Council were requested to remind members to update their contact details with grassroots who publish the book from the data they have on members. Mr Richardson will send them out with the autumn Journal.

Council thanked Mr. Richardson for his work on the book and the continued editorial work on the Journal

13. AGM 2019

Mr Wood had sent a report stating that the final details of the AGM weekend were in place and that the region was looking forward to hosting all the events.

Council thanked Mr Wood and his committee for all the work they had done organising the weekend. Mr Trumper said he and all the members were looking forward to it.

14. AGM 2020 Progress Report

Mrs Gould told the meeting that the hotel is booked for the AGM weekend in the Southern region and that there will be 3 flock visits with further activities still to be arranged.

Mr Trumper thanked Mrs. Gould and her committee for the continuing work toward to AGM 202. Council agreed.

15. AOB

Mr Emberton reminded Council that GRS will distribute fliers for events and activities in the regions. RCMs need only to email the item to Jeni at Grassroots and inform her of the regions they would like them sent to. Jeni will then send them via email to members where we hold an email address and post hard copies to members not on email; this is a saving of money to the Society and a good deal of time for the RCMs. He suggested that some additions to the current RCM guidelines to incorporate some of the basic practical tasks.

Mrs Thompson said she had been contacted by a member who had been disappointed to be unable to book a room at the beginning of November in the hotel where the AGM is being held. Council agreed that where ever possible the hotels booked for the Society AGM weekend should be large enough to accommodate all the members attending.

Miss Richards asked if Council members were covered by indemnity insurance; Mr Emberton explained that since the latest changes to the Articles members of Council do have the power to take

out the insurance. Mrs Black told Council this would be very expensive, following discussion council agreed the insurance was not necessary.

The Wool Cup had been won the previous year by a member from Wales who had noticed that the cup was in need of repair, Miss Richards offered to get the cup repaired and Council agreed that the costs would be met by the Society and thanked Miss Richards.

Mrs Simmons told Council she had met with the late Anna Roose's daughter Sarah Binfield who had donated three wonderful garments made with Jacob wool. Council was grateful for the gift and agreed Mrs Simmons would display them at the AGM weekend.

Mr King proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman. Council agreed.

16. Time and Date of Next Meeting.

Thursday 7th November 2019 at the Carlton Club, London.