

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE JACOB SHEEP SOCIETY LTD MEETING**
held at **9.30 am** on **Thursday 4th November 2021**
via Zoom

In attendance: John Emberton (JLE; Chairman), Lyndon Trumper (LT; past Chairman), Janet East (JPE; Vice Chair), Jean Simmons (JS; President), Clive Richardson (CR; Field Officer), Pat Black (PB; Treasurer), Nicola Fletcher (NF; Secretary), Claire Bentham (CB; Northern RCM), Charlie Coe (CC; Eastern RCM), Paul Colhoun (PC; Ireland RCM), Barley Gould (BG; Southern RCM), Melanie Harper (MH; Scotland RCM), Hayley Higginson (HH; representing Central Region), Carys Lewis (CL; Wales RCM).

1. **Welcome:** JLE welcomed all members to the meeting.
2. **Apologies** – Kay Carpenter (Central), Lisa Hutchins (South West).
3. **Minutes of last meeting:** Agreed by all present.
4. **Matters Arising: At the March meeting** Lucy Thompson had asked whether members' names may be listed alphabetically in the Handbook if they are joint members. CR had checked with Grassroots and unfortunately it would be too difficult to do as the database would have to be changed manually for each Journal mailing to avoid duplicate postings.
5. **Correspondence:** None received.
6. **Future of Merchandise:** Jacqueline Emberton has been managing the merchandise temporarily. Some of the pricing has been updated and most of the merchandise is sold through the online shop. Some merchandise was taken to the Central Region Open Day. JLE suggested that a decision is made after Christmas whether we should continue with the merchandise given that some items may be sold as Christmas presents. His view is that we continue with embroidered clothing, ties and Journal binders, but discontinue some of the other items. PB asked that we inventory the items we have and make a decision about the future of the merchandise in March. All agreed.
7. **Social Media Report:** Previously circulated by KC. The JSS Facebook page is the most popular platform and receives the most engagement.
8. **Website report:** Previously circulated by JPE. JPE expressed her thanks to Kay Carpenter and Terry Barker who have been very helpful with updating and improving the website. Regional Council Members should keep sending updates to Terry for inclusion on the regional pages. HH asked if the Judges List could be in a more prominent position, and if the link to Grassroots and the link to join the Society could be placed on the Homepage. JPE will ask Terry to put these on the homepage.
9. **Field Officer's Report:**

Judges' Assessment Scheme: CR had previously circulated draft revised criteria for the Judges Assessment Scheme. A discussion was had about these criteria, and it was agreed that they would be accepted with the addition that judges must hold an individual membership in order to be on the judges' panel, but if they are also part of a joint membership they may continue to register their sheep using the prefix of their choice. CR suggested that an article in the next Journal would explain the

scheme fully. It was agreed that this is a good idea. CR explained that currently the judges' assessment panel is drawn from the main judges' panel and appointed by Council following recommendation by the Field Officer.

A discussion followed about whether the Field Officer should chair the Judges' Assessment Panel, and JS queried whether the current three year term of appointment should be amended to an annual appointment with the panel re-appointed yearly. JLE suggested that this be revisited at the November 2022 Council Meeting following election of the new Field Officer at the 2022 AGM,. All were in agreement.

Due to show cancellations during the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been limited opportunities for judges to officiate at shows. CR has sent a letter to all judges to ask for their willingness to judge in the future.

Approval of Provisional Judges: CR recommended that Matthew Kehoe and Peter Gorringer be approved to join the provisional judges' panel as they have now shadowed a judge at a show or show and sale. All were in agreement.

Tay-Sachs: CR proposed that, given the success of the Tay Sachs testing programme to date, the Tay Sachs subsidy should be extended for 12 months. All agreed. CR suggested that the deadline for submission of test kits to Grassroots for Tay Sachs testing be brought forward to mid-May and mid-October to give the lab more time to get test results back before Worcester Sale entries close. All were in agreement.

CR proposed that the Tay Sachs status be declared on the entry form and in the catalogue of all Official Shows and Sales. All were in agreement.

CR proposed the inclusion of a line stating 'The Tay-Sachs status of all entries, i.e. tested clear, bred clear, carrier, or untested, must be declared on the entry form and included in the catalogue.' This was approved.

Official Sales: At Official Sales, it was agreed that the ram class will be split into aged and shearling ram classes if there is a minimum of three animals per class.

The use of red tape on horns of rejected sheep was discussed and it was decided to maintain this rule.

It was decided to use blue tape on the horns of sheep which pass the inspection but need an announcement from the auctioneer at the time of sale, e.g. an older sheep that is slightly sharp on its mouth.

Four horned sheep: It was agreed that Lesley Partridge's line drawings with explanations of which sheep would pass and fail at a Show and Sale inspection will be published with explanations in the March 2022 Journal.

10. Chairman's Report

Conflicts of Interest: A draft amendment to the Byelaws was previously circulated by JLE, detailing changes to Section 2: Judges Panels and Section 8: Rules for Shows. All agreed that the new wording should be adopted.

In this regard, CR raised a query from a member who asked whether it is appropriate to show under a judge with whom they also have a joint flock. It was felt by the Board of Directors that it would not be appropriate for this member to show under this judge.

Changes to Articles: It was agreed at the March 2021 meeting to stop the use of the word 'Council' and replace it with 'Board of Directors'. However, the title 'Regional Council Members' was not changed at that meeting. A discussion was had about the best title to use. JS will put together proposals, guided by the officers, for consideration by Council.

- 11. Vice Chair Report** - JPE had previously circulated a charity volunteers' report. Following discussion, it was agreed that JPE will put together a draft document for consideration by Council. All agreed.

12. Nominations for 2022 Council

To date, no candidate for the Treasurer or Field Officer roles have been identified.

13. Treasurer's Report

Advance Payment and Expenses: It was agreed that payment of expenses incurred on behalf of the Society is acceptable provided that approval from the Treasurer is obtained in advance.

Summary of the Estimated Financial Performance for the year: Previously circulated. PB gave a summary of the Society's projected finances for the year. This was accepted by all.

14. Office, Grassroots and NSA Update

Previously circulated by NF. NF thanked Council for their patience and support as she gets to grips with her new role, in particular Jean Simmons and Clive Richardson. JS gave an update on the NSA. She is happy to continue representing the JSS as the NSA representative but asked if anyone is interested in attending meetings to let her know.

15. Reports from Regions

Ireland: There will be a show at Tullamore in 2022 and the Irish region would like to have a stand. Funding was requested for Tullamore Show and the National Sheep Breeders Association of Ireland if requested. This was agreed.

Tay Sachs – A member asked about the possibility of having a third submission date for Tay Sachs tests. NF and CR explained that the cost per test would go up if we run extra, smaller batches and that two batches offers the best value for money. Based on historical figures, it would not be expected that a sufficient number of tests would be submitted should a third date be included.

Flock Competitions – PC asked if the classes could be split into small, medium and large flocks. CR suggested that the number of flocks in the small and large flock categories could be divided based on the number of sheep in the flocks that enter the flock competition to ensure that there are even numbers of competitors in each category.

PC asked whether the Irish region can donate money to other charities. PB, JLE and CR explained that it would be permissible for another Charity to set up a stand at a JSS event if the host wishes and for members to donate to that Charity, but the JSS cannot donate to another Charity except in the very restricted circumstances set out in our Articles of Association and current Charity regulations. It must be clear that any money donated or raised at a raffle, for example, is specifically for another charity.

Scotland: MH asked if money that was approved for ScotSheep which was cancelled this year could be approved for next year's event. Agreed.

South West: No issues to report.

Eastern: Melton Mowbray Sale went well with good trade for females. The Region has had several cups that have gone missing from Shows. CC highlighted the need to keep good records of cups held by shows.

Northern: The Skipton Sale went well with good prices. CB is getting to grips with her new role. She had a problem with two cups that were not awarded to the winners at the Great Yorkshire Show, and asked that new RCMs are given a list of trophies and cups. CR said he would put together receipt forms for the trophies that are managed by the Northern Region and will send them to CB. JLE reminded RCMs that Regions which organise events in their Region should notify the Chairman who can distribute to the Officers a list of events that are being organised in Regions.

Wales: The flock competition has been held with 9 flocks entered and one more still to be visited. Results will be announced at the Christmas gathering. An Open day was not held this year. There were no issues to report.

Southern: No issues to report.

Central: HH gave an update on Central Region activities. HH asked if Worcester sale could hold a class for a pair of ewe lambs. CR explained that there is already a lot of time pressure to get the showing done in time for the sale to start, so this would further increase the time pressure. JE highlighted that each pair of lambs would have to be penned separately. Overall, it was not felt that this would be feasible. HH asked if Reserve Female and Male rosettes could be awarded and this was approved. HH asked for funds for a stand at the NSA at Malvern – this was approved. KC will design a new stand and bring ideas to the March 2022 meeting.

16. AGM Update

2022 – PC gave an update on the arrangements for the 2022 AGM. A subcommittee have been formed to help with organisation. Many members have made their travel arrangements and booked their rooms. An exciting programme is planned for the weekend with a trip to the Glenpark Estate a highlight of the AGM weekend.

AGM 2023- Central region, 2024 – TBC.

17. AOB

CL (Wales RCM) asked about a case of a lost ram and whether it would be possible to trace the owner of the animal. CR advised that if the ear tag number could be read it might be possible to trace the owner via Grassroots.

JS proposed a vote of thanks to JLE for chairing the meeting, NF for taking the minutes and PC for all his team's work to organise the AGM which will be held in April 2022.

JS proposed that Ron King should be presented with a Waterman pen in recognition of his work as President of the Society. All in agreement.

18. Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 3rd March 2022 at the Carlton Club, London.