

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE JACOB SHEEP SOCIETY LTD MEETING**
Held at **11.00am** on **Thursday 3rd March 2022**
at the Carlton Club, London, and via Zoom

In attendance: John Emberton (JLE; Chairman), Janet East (JPE; Vice Chair), Jean Simmons (JS; President), Clive Richardson (CR; Field Officer and representing Northern Region), Pat Black (PB; Treasurer), Nicola Fletcher (NF; Assistant Secretary), Robert Locker (RL; representing Scotland Region), Paul Colhoun (PC; Ireland RCM), Barley Gould (BG; Southern RCM), Carys Lewis (CL; Wales RCM), Lucy Thompson (LT; representing Central Region).

- 1. Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed all those attending in London and via Zoom.
- 2. Apologies** – Lyndon Trumper (Past Chairman), Kay Carpenter (Central Region), Claire Bentham (Northern Region), Charlie Coe (Eastern Region), Lisa Hutchins (South West Region), Melanie Harper (Scotland Region).
- 3. Minutes of November 2021 Meeting:** The minutes were agreed by all present, proposed by PB, seconded by CR.
- 4. Matters arising:** CR confirmed that it is not possible to list joint members' names alphabetically in the Handbook, as had been suggested by LT.

JLE had circulated draft changes to the Byelaws, which were reviewed by the Board. This was required due to the Jacob Sheep Society being included in an application by DEFRA for Zootech membership to allow sheep bred in the EU to be registered in the Jacob Sheep Society flock book, and to review draft changes included following the November 2021 Board meeting.

A discussion was had regarding the requirement for new judges to have ten years' experience with a flock of sheep, and whether this should stipulate Jacob sheep. CR proposed that Council vote on the wording, and JS seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 9 votes in favour of the wording 'Jacob sheep' and one vote in favour of 'sheep'.

RL queried the proposed wording regarding syndicate type ownership of animals exhibited at shows where the animal or its offspring is part owned by the judge, and whether this would apply in the case of shared rams, semen or the offspring of those rams. CR highlighted that this could potentially apply when a ram has been borrowed or hired from another breeder.

JS queried the wording of the proposed disputes procedure. If a complaint is made against an individual, that individual should be able to provide their version of the events. In addition, several Officers or nominated representatives should deal with the complaint.

It was agreed that a subcommittee should be formed to consider the proposed changes to the wording of the Byelaws. The Chairman will also engage a lawyer to check the agreed wording of both the Articles of Association and Byelaws.

5. **Correspondence:** None received.
6. **Future of Merchandise:** It was agreed at the November 2021 meeting that the Society should retain a limited number of items to promote the breed, i.e. embroidered clothes, ties and journal binders. The remaining items in stock will be distributed to the RCMs for them to distribute to members as they see fit. If the items are sold, it will be suggested that the price should be 50% off the original sale price. CR proposed a vote of thanks to Jacqueline Emberton for managing the Merchandise and co-ordinating the distribution of discontinued items.
7. **Social Media Report:** A breakdown of activity across the various Social Media platforms had previously been circulated by Kay Carpenter.
8. **Field Officer's Report:** CR updated the Board on planned Shows and Sales for 2022. All sale inspectors and judges have been arranged. Blue tape will be placed on one horn of an animal that passes the inspection but needs an announcement from the auctioneer, e.g. an older sheep that is slightly sharp on its mouth. White tape will be placed on the horn of substitute sheep and red tape on the horn of rejected sheep. The in lamb sales held in 2021 were discussed, and it was agreed that they were a success. Following discussion, it was agreed that these should be supported by the Board but not be made Official Sales. Open days are still being arranged for this year. Judges' seminars are still to be arranged.
9. **Chairman's Report:** All items had been covered in the topics above.
10. **Vice Chairman's Report:** JPE had previously circulated a paper discussing proposed Guidelines for Volunteers. It was agreed that a succinct but robust policy should be in place, including proforma risk assessments for farm visits and other in person events. It was agreed that the Directors of the Society will prepare a brief summary of their current roles and responsibilities, to be forwarded to JPE. JPE will use the current RCM roles and responsibilities document prepared by PB and therefore RCMs will not need to document anything further at this stage. Once agreed, these documents will be available on the Jacob Sheep Society website.
11. **Items discussed at Officers' Meeting in January 2022:**
 1. Treasurer. PB has asked the Society Accountants for expressions of interest. They have a candidate who PB has spoken to and described the role. JLE will speak to the candidate on the telephone to assess her suitability.
 2. Southern Ireland Subsidiary Company. JLE explained the progress of the establishment of this Company which is required to allow sheep in the Irish Republic to be registered with the Society now that the UK is no longer a member of the EU. We need at least three board members for the formation. who will be the Chairman, Mrs Geraldine Fletcher who has volunteered to be the Director resident in the Republic of Ireland and Paul Colhoun, the current Irish RCM. The sole object of the

subsidiary will be to manage the membership records and flock book for members/sheep located in Eire. Grassroots will continue to manage the register of sheep and members on a day-to-day basis. This was proposed by CR, seconded by JLE.

3. Communicating with Members. CR had received a complaint from a member who was unaware of a Regional fleece competition that was only advertised by Facebook, therefore some members were not aware that it was taking place. CR proposed that all communications be sent to members via Grassroots with a hard copy sent by post to those who do not have email. Other forms of communication, e.g. Facebook and WhatsApp, may also be used as a supplement to the communications via Grassroots. It was agreed that this method of communication will be used in the future.

- 12. Treasurer's report.** PB had previously circulated a report for the Spring Journal, Summary of Financial Activities and Final Accounts. The Society's finances are sound. The total membership has increased to 904. The Society's spending has decreased which helps to maintain a buffer.

The greatest proportion of income in 2021 was through subscriptions, registrations and investments, with spending mainly on Grassroots fees, Journal production and other administrative costs.

A discussion was had about how to encourage advertisements in the Journal. CR said that there is a discount if three advertisements are placed in the Journal per year. There is also a free advertisement for sale sponsors.

JS highlighted that the Pat Bromley memorial fund is for the education of young members, and RCMs can apply for funds if an event is being held that includes education for young members.

- 13. Office, Grassroots and NSA update.** NF gave an update on Office activities since the last meeting, and highlighted that Tay-Sachs testing is now carried out twice a year, with this year's deadlines on May 15th and Oct 15th. Grassroots will send reminders to members before each deadline.

JS gave an update on National Sheep Association activities. She will attend the Breed Society Forum on 8th May. The flagship NSA event, Sheep 2022, will be held on the Three Counties showground on 27th July. Scotsheep will be held this year on 1st June. There are currently vacancies for Northern Ireland, Scotland, the Marches, Wales, South West and South East representatives of the NSA.

14. Reports from the Regions (previously circulated)

Ireland. At the last Committee meeting, it was suggested to increase the mileage to 45p per mile, and PC requested that this be put in place for the Society. All were in agreement.

PC asked whether subscriptions should also be increased. PB said that our finances are good at the moment and suggested that this be reviewed in 12 months' time. All were in agreement.

PC asked why meetings of the Officers were held without RCMs present. CR and JLE explained that meetings are sometimes held to update the Officers on various matters that can then be brought to the Board if decisions need to be made. These meetings are minuted by the Assistant Secretary.

Southern Region. BG asked about the election of new Board members. CR explained that JE is willing to continue as Vice Chairman and Peter Gorringe has volunteered as Southern RCM.

Central Region. LT explained that unfortunately the location of the planned Open Day cannot go ahead as there has been a fire at the farm, so an alternative venue needs to be identified.

LT requested a new stand for the NSA event at Malvern, and details of several options had previously been circulated by KC. This should be professional looking, easy to transport and could be used by other Regions. All were in agreement that KC should send quotations for suitable stands to the Treasurer who would then approve the purchase.

Scotland. The Scotland Show and Sale will move to Harrison and Heatherington in Carlisle from the previous venue at St Boswells.

Wales. CR had a request from a member that Jacob wreathes be sold on the Society Stand at the Smallholders' festival with a percentage of the sale price to the Society. All were in agreement.

15. AGM update. PC and his committee have been busy making the arrangements for the 2022 AGM weekend. 130 were booked for the gala dinner. Buses will be provided to and from the airport.

2023: This will be hosted by the Central region. A hotel has been booked just outside Worcester. Flock visits are currently being planned and the trips will include a boat trip down the Severn.

2024: To be hosted by the Wales region.

16. Any Other Business.

JS had previously circulated draft titles for RCMs, following the change of the title of Board of Directors from the previous title of Council, therefore the title 'Regional Council Member' is no longer appropriate. NF will circulate the proposed new titles to RCMs and ask them to vote on their preferred title. Once the title is selected, the Articles of Association will be updated once the title is agreed at the AGM.

JS proposed a vote of thanks to JLE for chairing the meeting, and NF for organising the hybrid meeting.

JS offered a tribute to PB who has done outstanding work for the Society as Treasurer and Company Secretary. She thanked the Irish RCM and his committee for all their hard work organising the AGM. She thanked BG for her years of hard work as Southern RCM,

as this was her last Board meeting. JS also said that she would be delighted to attend regional events in her role as President.

JLE asked that RCMs notify the Chairman and Vice Chairman of regional events in addition to the President.

17. Date and Time of Next Meeting. Thursday, 3rd November 2022 at 11am at the Carlton Club, London.