

Jacob Sheep Society

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Carlton Club, St. James's Street, London. Thursday 5th March 2020

Present:

Mr Lyndon Trumper (Chairman)
Mr Ron King (President)
Mr John Emberton (Vice Chair) via telephone
Mrs Pat Black (Treasurer)
Mrs Lucy Thompson (Central RCM)
Mrs Barley Gould (Southern RCM)
Mrs Carys Lewis (Wales RCM)
Mr Clive Richardson
Mrs Jean Simmons (Assistant Secretary)

1. Welcome

Mr Trumper welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending the meeting. He said the main concern at present is the health of Mr Connor the Field Officer; Council joined Mr Trumper in wishing him well during his recovery.

2. Apologies.

Mr G Connor (Field Officer) Mr G Wood (Northern RCM) Ms Sarah Bliss (South West RCM) Miss M Harper (Scotland RCM) Mr Paul Colhoun (Ireland RCM)

3. To Appoint an Interim Acting Field Officer

Council were pleased that Mr Clive Richardson had been asked and was able to stand as Acting Field Officer during Mr Connor's convalescence. Mr Richardson said he would liaise with Mr Connor and Mr Dalrymple (deputy F.O.) during the period and would consult them on important matters. It was unanimously agreed to appoint Mr Richardson as Acting Field Officer.

4. To Agree the Minutes from March 2019

The minutes were formally agreed and duly signed. Proposed by Mrs Gould, seconded by Mrs Lewis.

5. Matters Arising

Vice Chairman's Briefing Paper Update: Mr Emberton had previously circulated his update, he said that the new email provider is awaiting transfer of the jacobsheep.org domain from Names.co and expects this to be imminent. He will get instruction on setting up the email to Council members as soon as possible thereafter.

Mr Emberton had also produced a paper of suggested amendments to byelaws to cover conflict of interest considerations, which he and other Officers had discussed since the previous meeting. The amendments were discussed and it was decided that two points need further work before the

changes are made. The completed amendments will be sent to Council members via email and they will be asked to approve them before the AGM.

6. Correspondence

Mrs Simmons told Council that a letter had been received from:

Mrs Geraldine Fletcher; she had noticed that members who had failed the assessment when they applied to Council to become judges had been appointed by the RCM and Ireland committee to judge at several shows in Ireland.

Council agreed that regional committees should only nominate judges for Royal and major shows in their region and then those nominations should be approved by the Field Officer before being suggested to the show. Council agreed with Mrs Fletcher that when someone has been assessed by a JSS panel of experts it is not right for a JSS committee to recommend them as competent.

Mrs Simmons explained that shows in other regions selected judges from the panel list, supplied by her. The shows are not obliged to choose a panel judge but where they appoint another person they cannot be deemed to be under the Society rules and therefore a Society Champion Rosette cannot and must not be awarded. Mrs Simmons said that she checked on behalf of the Field Officer the schedules or with show secretaries that a panel judge had been appointed before posting a rosette out to them; in the case of Ireland Mr Colhoun was given the rosettes. Mrs Simmons said this system was useful because contact with the shows in Ireland was not always readily available and Mr Colhoun had contacts with the shows and was able to assist them in finding a judge willing to travel.

Council agreed that all the shows should be given the list of panel judges including Ireland and make their own choice of judge. In all cases of nominated judges the Field Officer must approve the appointment.

Mr Richardson agreed to liaise with Mr. Colhoun about the matter.

Mr Mark Gollop; complained to Council with regards to a ram he had bought at Worcester show and Sale; that ram had been taken by another member who had consequently refused to return the ram. This member had been contacted initially by the Central RCM to explain the mistake, then by Mr Trumper. Council agreed that this member had behaved inappropriately when contacted.

Following discussion it was agreed that Council take legal advice about the matter at this stage.

7. Chairman's Report

Mr Trumper told the meeting he was aware that the terrible weather of the past winter had caused difficulties for a lot of members. He said he hoped that there would be a good crop of lambs for all this spring. He had noted that the number of registrations was up for the 2019 born lambs flock book and he thanked everyone involved with the administration. He thanked Ms Hendy for taking on

the role of Merchandise Co-ordinator and said he was pleased to see she had plans to take the merchandise from strength to strength.

Mr Trumper said he was looking forward to the AGM weekend and meeting with many of the members in Kent.

He said that he appreciated all the work which was done by Council members especially the officers but was concerned that the work load expected of them could be time consuming and in some cases quite onerous. He suggested that Council consider taking on more professional paid help for the administration of the Society and that it would be more likely that volunteers would come forward for Council positions if that help was available.

He was pleased to report that a teleconference had been held by the Tay Sachs Sub Committee and that a presentation would follow later in the meeting.

Council discussed the number of RCMs needed for Council and there being no representative from the South West or Eastern regions and no nominations for the positions at the AGM whether a change of regional boundaries would be advisable. The counties of the Eastern Region had previously been part of the Southern, Northern and Central Region and it was thought that the counties of the South West could benefit from joining with the Southern region. It was agreed that using GRS makes communication with members easier and that events held in regions should be held at different localities within the region where possible. It was decided that this should be discussed further but was generally agreed as a good way forward.

8. Nominations for Council

Nominations have been received for the Ireland, Scotland and Wales regions and for the Chairman elect. No nominations have been received for the South West or Eastern regions.

8. Treasurer's Report

Mrs Black had previously circulated a draft of the accounts; she explained that these needed a final adjustment before Council could approve them so it was agreed that Council members would approve them via email before the AGM where members would also be given a copy of the adjusted final papers to adopt.

She reported that: there were 871 members an increase of 4 on 2019. The expenditure by the trustees was very slightly raised but this was expected as travel costs increased. An increase in registrations had raised the income as had the surplus made by the Northern region AGM weekend. As agreed Council discussed an increase in membership subscription charges, Council is reluctant to increase these charges unless it becomes necessary; Mrs Gould suggested that the subscription stays the same for members who pay by Direct Debit or in the Ireland region PayPal, but those who pay by other means and therefore cost more to the Society should have an increase of £3; this was thought to be an excellent idea but it was decided that an increase in registration would be the fairest way to raise the income for the Society. It was agreed that from January 2021 ewe lambs would cost £5 to register (£10 for late registrations) and ram lambs £20 (£40 late registrations). With regard to

subscriptions, Mrs Black agreed to liaise with Grassroots in order to obtain statistics on the various methods of payment by members in order to further investigate the impact of any increase in the subscription at any time in the future.

RCM Guidelines:

Mrs Black had previously circulated a draft of the up dated RCM guidelines; the work on them discussed at the previous meeting had been done so therefore they were approved.

It was agreed that all the papers sent to new RCMs including the Guidelines should be sent to re-elected ones too as it was important for everyone to be up to date with all the rules of the Society.

Council thanked Mrs. Black for all her work on this.

Mrs Black's retirement:

Mrs Black is retiring in April 2021; there is at present no-one forward to take her place. She suggested that the general book keeping be handed over to the accountants. This would reduce the treasurer's work by around 80% Mrs Black told the meeting. Council agreed with her that the role of treasurer on Council should remain and should be dealt with by someone with knowledge of the Society; the decisions made on spending should remain with the treasurer as an Officer of the Society and that the role of Company Secretary should remain with the treasurer.

Council asked Mrs Black to liaise with the accountants to find a way forward for the book keeping before her successor took over in 2021. She agreed and Council thanked Mrs. Black for all the hard and important work she does on behalf of the Society

10. Field Officer's report

Mr Richardson said that he was pleased to take the role of Acting Field Officer on behalf of Gordon Connor following Mr Connor's operation. He was pleased to say that Mr Connor did not wish to resign and looked forward to returning to the work when fully recuperated. Council were delighted to hear that and looked forward to Mr Connor's return.

Shows and Sales: Inspectors and adjudicators have all been put in place for 2020 by the Field Officer.

Melton Show and Sale: Mrs Simmons told Council GRS had been in touch about the sale and it was decided that she through the office became the contact for the sale for 2020. She agreed to liaise with GRS and the market.

Regional Forums: Mr Connor is hoping to be able to lead the forums which are to be held in the Northern and Central regions this year.

The Pat Bramley trophy: Mr Connor has received one eligible nomination for 2020

Tay-Sachs: Council had agreed that the Officers appoint a subcommittee to take all the issues which Tay Sachs brings to the Society forward. The subcommittee appointed is made up of 6 members: Mr Lyndon Trumper, Mr Gordon Connor, Mr John Emberton, Mr Clive Richardson, Dr Nicola Fletcher and Mr Robert Locker.

Mr Richardson reported that the first teleconference of the Tay Sachs subcommittee had been very positive and that they had discussed three options. 1. To discontinue any form of testing; the subcommittee had all agreed not to do this. 2. Compulsory testing in some form; they had agreed that this could have a detrimental effect on the numbers sold at Official Shows and Sales. 3. Develop the measures in place; they had agreed that this would be the best way forward for the Society. They discussed the possibility of having two set dates on which the testing would be done; thus members would know when they would receive the results, at present the laboratory tests when 22 blood samples have been sent in but members have no idea of the time the testing will take. Dr Fletcher had been in touch with the LGC laboratory and they would be willing to do this. Council agreed that this would appear to be a sensible way forward and that it would be the member's own responsibility to get the sample sent in time for the test. Another type of sample taking is available; A Tissue Test (as opposed to blood) – this means that when the sheep is tagged small sample of ear tissue is automatically sealed in an attached numbered vial corresponding to the ear tag. A vet visit would be unnecessary but a pilot test would be necessary before the laboratory could guarantee the results. Council agreed with the subcommittee that the complication of possibly a third tag in a sheep's ear and the expense of a different type of tags and applicators for some members would be prohibitive.

Council agreed with the subcommittee that a disclaimer needs to be made by the Society when members declare a sheep bred clear and this will be added to the certificate with immediate effect.

The subcommittee had discussed member's apparent lack of knowledge about Tay Sachs in the Society and felt that education about Tay Sachs is needed generally, with more information given to members. Council agreed.

They had discussed the possibility of subsidising the costs of tests on rams being sold at Official Shows and Sales. Mrs Black said that she would be willing to consider the expenditure.

It was decided that Dr Fletcher would be asked to find out the cost of the tests when done on the biannual basis; the subcommittee would hold a further meeting during the year and report to Council in November. Agreed and Council thanked the subcommittee for the work.

11. Office, Grassroots and NSA

Mrs Simmons had previously circulated the report. She reminded Council that funds were available for Junior Shepherd meetings within the regions.

12. Reports from the Regions

The reports having been previously circulated from Northern, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Central and Southern regions only matters for Councils attention were discussed.

Central Region

Mrs Thompson asked that £130 to renovate the JSS trophy at the English Winter Fair be approved; Mr James Cartwright had got the quote and was willing to get the work done. Agreed

The CR committee had expressed concern over what appeared to be trading of sheep on the trailer parks at Official Shows and Sales. Council agreed that this is bad practice but it lies within the jurisdiction of the auctioneers not the JSS.

Mrs Thompson asked that future RCM forums could be opened to members who were considering being nominated for the positions, giving them a better idea of the work load and the obligations. Agreed.

Southern

Mrs Gould told the meeting that her committee felt that education was necessary about Tay Sachs. This having already been agreed earlier in the meeting was welcomed by Council.

13. Merchandise Report

Ms Hendy's report having been previously circulated Council discussed her ideas for taking merchandise forward and agreed with her when thanking Mr. Bramley for all his work over the past 10 years for the smooth handover and his continued support . Ms Hendy thanked Mr Baker who is helping manage the web shop. Council agreed.

Council confirmed the JSS Merchandise Aims: 'The Society has a range of merchandise items which both promote the breed and raise additional income for the Society' and 'The pricing of merchandise should cover the cost of the item, allow for a small contingency to cover damage and aim to make a 10% - 20% surplus for the Society'

Ms Hendy has placed an advertisement in the Spring Journal asking members to send her their favourite Jacob meat recipes; if she receives a good selection she will produce a budget for producing a Recipe Book and present it to Council in November. Council thought this had a good potential and also approved Ms Hendy's suggestion that publications produced by AHDB are made available to members through the RCMs and from the merchandise stand along with the NFU Mutual's 'Little Book of Minding Your Head'.

The Web Sales:

Postage and Packing: These costs are under review to see if income can be increased within reasonable limits. Review and remove from the web shop any items which are not financially practical to post. Use recycled envelopes and boxes at zero costs. Send parcels by Royal Mail to eliminate mileage charges. The situation will be monitored to 30th September 2020 and a report made to Council in November.

Council thanked Ms Hendy for the work and for being so proactive and is looking forward to seeing the merchandise ideas on the stand at the AGM weekend.

14. Communications Update.

Mr Richardson told the meeting that the Journal and all the inserts for the AGM were printed and would be sent out shortly.

15. AGM 2022 Progress Report

Mrs Gould said that everything was organised in the region but she was disappointed that there were only 50 members booked in for the Gala Dinner, she is still hopeful of receiving more bookings. A small auction led by Mr Pope will be held on the Friday evening. The region is looking forward to the weekend.

16. AGM 2021

An Eastern Region member Mr John Dixon had tried to book a hotel in Market Harborough but unfortunately the hotel was unable to accommodate us on the requested dates. Council thanked Mr Dixon for his help. Mrs Thompson told the meeting that she was in touch with two hotels in the region and would report to Officers when she had any details; it was decided that Council will organise the event in order that the accommodation and the date of the AGM 2021 can be announced at the 2020 AGM.

17. AOB

Mr King showed Council the Worcester Show and Sale cup for the best ewe lamb he was presenting this year. Council thanked him for the beautiful cup to be treasured for years to come.

Mrs Black said that the Society would donate £30 again from the Pat Bromley fund to the Rising Stars representing JSS. Council agreed.

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

18. Time and Date of Next Meeting.

Thursday 5th November 2020 at the Carlton Club, London.