

Jacob Sheep Society

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

Thursday 7th November 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)
Mrs Carys Lewis (Wales RCM)
Ms J Woodbridge (Eastern RCM)
Mr Clive Richardson (for the Northern region)
Mrs Jean Simmons (Assistant Secretary)
Mr R Bramley for part of the meeting - Merchandise

1. Welcome

Mr Trumper welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending the meeting. He introduced Ms Woodbridge and welcomed her to her first Council meeting. He also thanked Mr Bramley for attending the meeting to give his report and discuss merchandise and Mr Richardson for representing the northern region.

2. Apologies.

Mr G Wood (Northern RCM) Ms Sarah Bliss (South West RCM)

3. Merchandise Report

Mr Bramley began by confirming his resignation; he had written to Mr Trumper a letter of resignation (previously circulated) but he was pleased to tell council that Ms Lorna Hendy had come forward and wished to take over his post as Merchandise Co-ordinator and was willing to do so before the 2020 AGM. Mr Trumper said he was delighted that Ms Hendy would take over and said he was sure she would be very capable. Council agreed to the appointment and gave permission for the handover to be done at the convenience of Mr Bramley and Ms Hendy. Mr Bramley told the meeting he would work with Ms Hendy for a while to assure a smooth handover.

Council thanked Mr. Bramley for all his work and congratulated him on the success he has made of the role leaving the merchandise in a strong position.

Mr Bramley presented the accounts for the merchandise which had been previously circulated. Council were pleased to note that the merchandise was making a profit for the Society. He said that

the remaining 50th anniversary mugs and book were being promoted and continued to sell along with all merchandise for which the orders were steadily coming in.

Mr Bramley had sourced further items which he thought would sell in the future. He had costed out the items and suggested a retail price for each item. Council considered all the ideas and decided that the following would be added to the merchandise for 2020

Cotton Tote Bag with JSS Logo

Tea Towels with a completely new design

Mr Bramley told the meeting that he thought produce from members should not be offered through the merchandise due to the complications of organising payments and deliveries. Council agreed.

Anyone with good quality craft items can sell at various JSS events throughout the year by prior arrangement with 15% of the income being donated to the Society.

Mr Trumper proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Bramley. Council agreed.

4. To Agree the Minutes from March 2019

The minutes were formally agreed and duly signed. Proposed by Mrs Black; seconded by Mrs Gould.

5. Matters Arising

Vice Chairman's Briefing Paper: Mr Emberton had previously circulated the Paper;

- (i) New email arrangements— when all RCM's would have an address for their work for the Society, were due to go live during November. The membership will be informed via Grassroots. The Paper explained to the RCMs the format to be used so that all emails were consistent across the Society. The Data Protection Act 2018 has been taken into account and the disclaimer of all liabilities added. Mr Emberton asked Council for any suggestions for changes before he sent the final versions.
- (ii) Communications –website: Council discussed the content of the Website, there were several issues with out of date information and broken links. Mr Emberton explained that our webmaster Mr Barker did an excellent job of putting the information on the Website when he was given the details of changes or events but the information must be given to him.
- (iii) Communications – website forum: Council agreed that this area was not being used by members therefore it should be removed.
- (iv) Communications – social media: Council agreed that it is unclear at present who has the responsibility for the national Facebook page; the RCMs are understood to be responsible for the regional pages or delegate a member to look after it if required.

Council agreed that the website needed someone to take overall responsibility and maintaining a register of who is in control of all the various social media sites and were pleased to accept Mr. Emberton's offer to take on this role.

Mr Trumper thanked Mr Emberton for all his very detailed work.

6. Correspondence

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

Mr Trevor Black, expressing his concern over Conflicts of Interest which may be now or may in the future affect the Society. Mr. Black had outlined the types of conflicts which could arise and asked Council to consider the key issues he had raised and take appropriate action.

Council agreed that Mr. Black had raised an important subject, which included best practice of judges and exhibitors and the detail necessary in the byelaws covering conflicts and complaint procedures, warranted careful consideration and more time than could be given to it at the meeting, therefore it was decided that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Field Officer would work together and produce at the March 2020 Council meeting a proposed response to Mr Black's letter.

Mr Peter Hunt; had requested a wool on the hoof competition be added to the schedule for the Worcester Show and Sale. Council agreed that this would be an added interest for purchasers but with consultation with Mrs. Thompson thought that the Show and Sale was already very busy and the time was filled to capacity, decided not to include the extra class at this point.

Mrs Barley Gould: pointed out a discrepancy with the members on the regional list, received from GRS, and the listing in the new handbook. Mrs Simmons agreed to liaise with GRS to ascertain why the apparent difference occurred.

7. Chairman's Report

Mr Trumper told the meeting that he had been pleased to attend the AGM in the Northern region celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Society; he congratulated Mr Richardson on the book he had written and produced for the Society's anniversary and said he was proud to be the Chairman at this time. He said he was pleased that the shows continued to produce such good animals that the Jacob was often to be seen as the Supreme Champion – a credit to the breed and the breeders, as is the sale of the Jacob sheep at the Shows and sales where the trade has been good with new record prices set. Mr Trumper said he had been saddened by reports of poor sportsmanship at a few shows which does not reflect the Society generally.

Mr Trumper told the meeting that he had been pleased to hear that the first RCM meeting had been successful with good feedback from the attendees. He thanked all the Officers of the Society who contribute a tremendous amount of work to the smooth running of the Society.

8. Nominations for Council

Nominations for council members needed for 2020 are: Scotland RCM, South West RCM, Wales RCM, Eastern RCM and Ireland RCM nomination forms will be sent out with the Winter Journal.

8. Treasurer's Report

Mrs Black had previously circulated her report and the Summary of Finances for year ending September 2019. She told Council that adjustments had still to be made and that the finances were similar to the previous year. She asked Council to note that the report was not an income and expense statement but an early indication of the finances for Councils information. Registrations were up increasing the income. Additional expenditure had occurred as a result of the publication of the handbook (a biennial expenditure) and also the one off costs of the 50th anniversary book. Mrs Black said she was pleased with the additional income from monies raised in small amounts from

members such as sale of raffle tickets; RCMs are very good at keeping records of these donations which attract Gift Aid. She reminded RCMs to use GRS to mail out information to members; a very cost effective method of communication compared with postage.

Council thanked Mrs Black for her hard work and skills in preparing the accounts on behalf of the Society.

Mrs Black had also previously circulated a paper from Dr Jerry Strong; Investments of the Society – The Annual Report. A comparison of 2019 to 2018 had been made in the report which showed that the total investments were almost the same year on year. (Less than 1% overall change)

Following an agreement from Council a modest portion of share investments were sold and the proceeds of £38,000 were transferred to the CCLA deposit account to protect the assets from a very possible market decline.

About 60% of the Society's assets are now held in a deposit account; the 40% in share investments is vulnerable due to the market but should remain in place because the dividend yield of 4% helps fund the Society activities.

Dr Strong had prepared a table showing the performance of the investments year ending September 2018 and year ending 2019.

Council thanked Dr Strong for his work and advice and discussed the future of the investments generally.

RCM Guidelines:

Mrs Black had previously circulated a draft of the up dated RCM guidelines: Council discussed them and it was decided to change the wording to: Section 6: to state that RCMs contact new members in the way most convenient to themselves rather than write to them. Further contact to the region can be made through email/post via GRS and letters can be sent out with the Journal. Following the decision that new members should be offered a visit by a panel judge (March 2019) clarification of the organising of and the costs involved if new members elect to have a judge visit their flock was discussed; the Field officer will appoint the judge, which will usually be the nearest one to the member, that judge will be allowed to claim expenses. It is not necessary for the RCM to go with the judge but if they choose to go (at this or any other time) it must be entirely at the RCMs own expense. With regard to the education of members it was agreed that the members must take responsibility for attending events such as open days. Section 10. Dealing with Shows and Sales; clarification was needed regarding sponsorship so wording was added thus: Such sponsorship should only be used for the direct benefit and costs of the Show and Sale e.g. prize money, trophies and special rosettes. The RCM must inform the Treasurer how much has been raised and account for spending of that money. It is also appropriate to consider reference to the sponsors in the Show Catalogue together with a free advert if applicable. Sponsorship monies should not be used for entertainment (e.g. food and drink) for members/non members. In addition to, and including Shows and Sales, at any event or time, when money is raised which is not intended as a donation to the Society, the donor must be informed of the use that money will be used for before the money is accepted. At events the extra money gained by a completion or raffle may be used to cover the costs of that event. Section 16: it was decided more detail regarding the handover from a retiring RCM to

the new one should be given. Mrs Black said she would do further work on the Guidelines and send them out to Council members for final approval.

Tay-Sachs

At present the Society subsidises the testing but Mrs Black told the meeting that if it had paid for all the males to be tested so far the cost would have been £4,700 as the full cost of each test is £16.32 members pay when ordering the test through GRS £13.50

Mrs Black's retirement:

Mrs Black is retiring in April 2021 she generously offered to help her successor following their appointment. Council thanked Mrs Black.

One person has come forward interested in the position of treasurer; Mrs Black was hoping to meet up and discuss the role with them and then invite them to Council in 2020 and 2021. Council agreed with that plan of action and was pleased to hear of a potential replacement.

10. Field Officer's report

Show and Sales:

Mr Connor said that he was liaising with Mr Colhoun about Tullamore Show and Sale; where he is hoping to try and improve the numbers forward; otherwise it would be likely that Council would be advised to cancel the event.

A total of 9 sheep had been rejected at the 2019 Shows and Sales.

Shadow Inspector

It was agreed by at the March meeting that Mr Colhoun would shadow the inspectors at Skipton Show and Sale; Mr Colhoun did shadow the inspectors but it has been decided that the shadowing of inspectors will not continue as a practice as it was felt the appointed inspectors are generally too busy and three inspectors was unnecessary.

Judges' Seminars/Discussions.

Mr Connor told the meeting that the seminar in the Eastern region had been held; he had spoken on the telephone to the one regional judge that could not make the meeting. The seminar for the Southern and South West regions had not been as well attended as he would have hoped but the meeting was successful

One matter raised had been judges' dress code; it was agreed that all judges should be dressed appropriately.

Seminars for 2020 will be held in the Central and Northern regions. Mrs Thompson said that the seminars could be disruptive to the running of the Open Days; Mrs Simmons invited Mr. Connor to arrange the Central region seminar at her home in Stafford.

Mr Connor told the meeting that Mr Willie Thompson has retired from the judges' panel; Council thanked Mr Thompson for his work as a judge.

Tay-Sachs

Mr Connor highlighted concerns regarding the rule brought in by Council in November 2018 that all senior males sold at Shows and Sales in 2020 must be tested Tay-Sachs clear.

The need to renew and renegotiate with LCG the pricing terms and conditions which are now out of date.

To whom the responsibility falls regarding the information on the registration certificate if that information is incorrect; e.g. if the wrong sire or dam has been entered.

The requirement of a minimum of 22 tests being sent to the lab before any testing is done; thus leading to a delay in the results being available before the males are entered for the Shows and Sales.

Although Mr Connor agreed that some members may see this as back tracking in policy he had become increasingly aware of the legal implications that implementing the rule would bring to the Society. He said he felt it was necessary to appoint a sub-committee to look into all aspects of the affects of Tay-Sachs.

Council agreed that more consideration must be given to the rule; Mr Colhoun expressed his disappointment that the rule was likely to be removed and said he thought the laboratory could have been contacted sooner. A discussion followed on the importance of Tay-Sachs to the breed, including the numbers of sheep that have been tested, the impact of compulsory testing and the way forward for the Society to manage the testing.

Mr Connor proposed: that the rule; all rams, from shearling upwards, sold at Official Shows and Sales must be tested or bred Tay Sachs clear by 2020 be postponed.

Carried. One objection.

Council discussed the formation of a subcommittee.

Mrs Gould proposed, seconded by Mr Richardson that: the officers of the Society be given Council's permission to form a sub-committee of people they consider best able to advise them on the way forward for the Society.

Carried. One objection.

Judges' Assessment Panel

Mr Richardson explained that although Mr Colhoun had been added as a reserve to the panel which consists of: Mr Clive Richardson (chairman) Mr Gordon Connor (Field Officer) Mr Robert Locker and Mrs Jean Simmons; Reserves: Mr. Scott Dalrymple and Mr Wyn Harries this had been a breach of etiquette. The suggestion should have gone to the assessment panel for consideration, before then being brought forward to Council for approval. Mr Richardson said that it was not felt necessary that another reserve was added to the panel and therefore Mr Colhoun would be removed. Mrs

Simmons apologised to Mr Colhoun and Council for allowing the breach to occur at the Council meeting where she should have advised Mr Connor to consult the panel.

11. Office, Grassroots and NSA

Mrs Simmons had previously circulated the report.

Mrs Simmons's Retirement

Council were pleased to hear that Dr Nicola Fletcher had offered to take over the position of Assistant Secretary in 2022 when Mrs Simmons will retire. Council agreed that Dr Fletcher could work with Mrs. Simmons to familiarise herself with the work over the next year and attend Council meetings in 2021/2022

12. Reports from the Regions

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

Ireland Region. Mr Colhoun asked for the money for the region to be able to attend Tullamore show, the NSBA show, Blessington sale, and membership of NSBA. Agreed.

He asked that Council reconsider the rule that judges and inspectors being unable to claim for expenses if they buy sheep at a Show and Sale. Council discussed the rule which states that judges and inspectors at Official Shows and Sales cannot claim expenses if they buy or sell sheep. Council agreed that the judges and inspectors should be able to claim if they buy sheep but the rule would remain in place for them if they were selling sheep.

Mr Colhoun asked for clarification on what is deemed acceptable for RCMs to claim in expenses in the course of their duties.

Mrs Black told the meeting that all expenses were to be considered by her, Council reiterated that and agreed that claims could not be made that had not been approved before the money was spent. RCMs could not claim expenses for visiting flocks for any reason as this was not a service the Society provides; the expense of regional events should be covered by the members who attend them and this was where the RCM could meet with members. Several opportunities already exist such as Open Days, Committee Meetings, Flock Competitions/Assessments, AGM weekends, Shows and Sales and using Social Media.

Scotland Region

Miss Harper asked for the cost of Scots Sheep (NSA) be met and posters for the Show and Sale – both agreed.

Eastern Region

Ms Woodbridge said she was hoping to get support in the region for open days and for the future events she hoped to hold.

Wales Region

Mrs Lewis asked for the costs of the smallholders show to be met. Agreed.

Southern Region

Mrs Gould asked for the costs of the stand at Kent County to be met. Agreed

Central Region

Mrs Thompson asked for the costs for the stand at the National Sheep Event of the NSA which falls in the central region to be met and that printing costs as yet unknown may be claimed. Agreed. The stand which belongs to the Society is considered old fashioned and is very heavy, Mrs. Black said that the region could cost out a modern stand on behalf of the Society.

RCM Meeting

Mrs Lewis told Council that the first RCM forum held in September at Camster Fold with Jean Simmons and John Emberton joining them had been an opportunity for RCMs to meet in an informal environment allowing support and guidance with the aim of making the role less daunting and therefore more welcoming. Whether RCMs have a support structure or committee in their regions or not, it is important that there is support at a national level, as it has been recognised as a 'lonely' post at times. An opportunity to meet fellow Council members also reinstated that second opinions/help/guidance could be sought from fellow RCMs. The group discussed what they had deemed important to their members on a practical level; discussing how each region is run with the ability of drafting up a 'best practice' approach ensuring consistency throughout the regions, but allowing flexibility as all regions are very much individual with different needs/ events etc. the RCMs had compared their regions annual calendars and clarified what the Society expects from each region. The group felt that the forum had been useful and applicable to their roles and whilst understanding and appreciating that the meetings would come as a cost to the Society they wished Council to consider repeating the meetings on an annual/biannual basis feeling that it would be incredibly beneficial for all, RCMs in having a support network and knowledge to make the most of their roles in the most effective and efficient way, and of course to our members; if the RCM fails in an element of their role, the first to succumb will be the members.

Mrs Lewis thanked Mrs Simmons and Mr Emberton on behalf of the group for their input to the meeting.

Mr Trumper thanked Mrs Lewis for her report and said he was pleased the meeting had been a success.

13. Communications Update

Mr Richardson said that that he was organising a 50th anniversary quiz with Hayley Higginson in the next Journal. That letters to members can be sent with the Journal and one informing members that the Tay-Sachs rule has been postponed could be included in the next one. Council agreed that would be done.

14. AGM 2020

Mrs Gould had brought a copy of the flier which will go out to with the Journal. Council agreed that the weekend looks very interesting and well organised and thanked Mrs Gould and her committee for all the work in organising it.

15. AGM 2021 Progress Report

Ms Woodbridge said that nothing to date was organised but she would ask for help in the region and source a hotel in the near future. Council members offered their support and help to Ms Woodbridge in organising the weekend.

16. AOB

Mr King told the meeting that he was due to retire in 2021 and that he would like to present to the Worcester Show and Sale a cup for the best ewe lamb. Council thanked him and accepted his kind offer.

Council considered a complaint against a member and following procedure using Article 15. (ii) decided that the member would not be allowed to renew their membership to the Society.

Mrs Lesley Pope has said that she will produce the 2019 calendar but then wishes for Council to find another volunteer to continue the work Council thanked Mrs. Pope for her excellent work

A member had asked why the Ireland region members seemed to be divided into Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland in the handbook. Mrs Simmons explained that it had been done for the future trading in the Society following Brexit. The Society had not divided Ireland into two regions.

Mrs Black said that the discussion of increasing the subscription to the Society would be dealt with at the March meeting.

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

17. Time and Date of Next Meeting.

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