

Jacob Sheep Society

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Carlton Club, St. James's Street, London, on Thursday 22nd March 2018

Present:

Mr Clive Richardson (Chairman)
Mr Ron King (President)
Mr Gordon Connor (Field Officer)
Mrs Pat Black (Treasurer)
Mrs Lucy Thompson (Central RCM)
Mrs Barley Gould (Southern Region RCM)
Mr Geoff Wood (Northern RCM)
Mrs Jean Simmons (Assistant Secretary)

1. Welcome

Mr Richardson welcomed and thanked everyone for attending and apologised for having to postpone the meeting from 1st March due to adverse weather.

2. Apologies.

Mr Lyndon Trumper (Chairman elect) Mrs Siwan Harries (Wales RCM) Miss Melanie Harper (Scotland RCM) Mr Paul Colhoun (Ireland RCM) Miss Lisa Adams (Eastern RCM) and Mr Peter Gorringe (South West RCM)

3. To Agree the Minutes from November 2017

The minutes were formally agreed and duly signed.

4. Matters Arising

All matters to be discussed were on the agenda.

5. Correspondence

Mr Richardson had received two emails; one in support of Council's decision to continue with Tay Sachs testing. The other to be dealt with later in the agenda.

6. Chairman's Report

Mr Richardson told Council that the new data protection laws would become mandatory on 1st May and GRS had met with breed societies, the JSS being represented by Mr John Emberton. The rules which affect the Society are mainly regarding contact details of members held by GRS and Martel mailing and what they do with them. GRS will amend the forms sent to members or potential members from the Society to reflect the new rules. The rules will require that young members are especially protected; GRS will send a letter to all parents/guardians of junior members to request permission regarding contact and publication of the details.

Council agreed that Mr Emberton would be asked to lead the liaison with GRS to ensure the JSS is kept to date and thanked him for attending the meeting.

Council discussed the protection of children at Society events and agreed that permission should be sought for photographs of minors to be published at the beginning of all events with the option of refusal given to parents/guardians.

With regard to the Journal Mr Richardson said that published photographs of minors were sent to him from their parents and guardians so that permission was deemed given or he used photographs from Facebook which were already in the public domain.

Election of Officers and RCMs. Council were pleased to hear that Mr John Emberton has been nominated unopposed for the position of Vice- Chairman, Mr Geoff Wood nominated as Northern RCM and Mrs Lucy Thompson as Central RCM and that they would work with Mr Trumper as he takes the Chair at the AGM. The positions of Wales RCM and South West RCM were vacant but Council would appoint a RCM for both regions hopefully before the AGM.

New website. Mr Barker continues to update the new website which Council agreed was looking very fresh and inviting. He is asking for feedback from all members and especially asked that RCMs send him the information needed to keep the web pages up to date. The Forum section of the website still needs to be set up for the members.

Council agreed that Mr Richardson will write to Mr Barker to thank him for all his voluntary work on the new website which is still on-going, and minimising the cost to the Society.

Judges for Royal Shows. Following a letter to the chairman from Mr Stephen Dodsworth pointing out that one judge was appointed for two major shows during 2018, Council discussed the matter and agreed that although there is no rule to prevent judges doing two Royal shows in one year it would be preferable if they didn't. The shows mentioned by Mr Dodsworth include the Great Yorkshire which is not a Royal show, and his suggestion that the six most prestigious are listed and a rule put in place to prevent a judge from doing any two in the same year was discussed. It was decided that the rule would be too difficult to administer and keep control of as shows can choose judges without the Society's input, and it was considered better that shows choose the judges as very few individual exhibitors would be affected by the same judge at two major shows. Mr Connor reminded Council of the rule which states judges must not accept appointments from two shows less than 50 miles apart.

It was agreed that Mr Richardson reply to Mr Dodsworth.

Merchandise. Mr Bramley sent a sample of the mug and note block being produced for the 50th anniversary of the Society. Council discussed the options and chose the final wording and colouring of the mug which will sell for £6. The note paper block will have the logo in the top corner and the website address along the bottom of each sheet.

Council thanked Mr Bramley for his work and it was agreed other ideas from Council members would be put to him directly.

Life Members. It was agreed that any member wishing to become a life member would have to have been a fully paid up member for 10 years as per the Bye-laws.

Welcome letter to New RCMs. Previously circulated by Mrs Black. Council agreed the letter which explains the positions of Director (Limited Company) and Trustee (Charity) which RCMs take on when appointed to Council. Council agreed that these positions be noted on the nomination forms for RCMs and Officers and those candidates are offered the guidance from Mrs Black before the formal nomination is sent.

Breed Book.

Mr Richardson told the meeting that he had completed the manuscript for the book, and he thanked Mr Stan Taylor, Mrs Marion Leithead and Mrs Jean Simmons for reading and making suggestions for a few changes.

He said that each chapter and appendix would be headed by a line drawing by Mrs Lesley Partridge, and Council thanked Mrs Partridge for her generosity. Council agreed the title of the book, that Mr Richardson will choose the photographs, agreed the costs, numbers to be printed and chose the colour and style of the cover. Council asked Mr

Richardson to attribute the book, both as author and compiler, to himself and thanked him for the work. The book will be printed during the summer and available to members from the AGM 2019 onwards. Review copies will be sent to some agricultural publications including the Farmers Guardian and to the NSA.

7. Nomination of President. Mr Ron King was nominated by Mr Clive Richardson. Mr King left the room for Council to accept any other nominations and discuss the position. There being no further nominations Council were delighted to ask Mr King to stand as President for the next three years. Mr King accepted and said he would be proud and delighted to continue in the role. Council expressed its gratitude for all the work Mr King had done and said they looked forward to working with him in the future.

Council discussed the matter of encouraging volunteers to join Council. An idea that the vice-chair and chairs' term of office be reduced to two years was put forward by Mr Richardson which Council thought would be worth discussing for the future.

The role of the vice-chair was discussed with the possibility of giving the responsibility of assisting with organising the AGM weekends and other duties enabling the position to be proactive on Council before taking overall responsibility.

RCMs should be encouraged to invite anyone interested in volunteering in the future on to their committee and involve them in organising the regions events.

8. Treasurer's Report.

Mrs Black had previously circulated her financial report for Council's discussion. The Society's finances are good, although spending was up slightly, the increase in gross income, and the surplus were an improvement on last year.

The surplus includes income from our investments, in the last financial year without them there would have been an overall loss; thus proving how important they are to the Society.

The increase in income is largely due to the regional activities and sale of merchandise. The Scotland region AGM weekend had produced a good surplus mostly due to generous donations from Scotland region members.

Funds from registrations and subscriptions appear to be slightly down but Mrs Black said that this was not an issue as far as she was concerned. Five bursaries were awarded in 2017 (8 in 2016). Spending of the trustees was up slightly (£270).

There are 887 members year on year comparison giving a net loss of 1

Financial Guidelines

Mrs Black had previously circulated the Financial Guidelines which clarified guidance on Council travelling expenses ie that Council members travelled to the meetings in the most economical way and that only the nominal cost of tube travel in London would be paid and members would have to self-fund any additional cost if they choose an alternative type of transport across London.

Council agreed the guidelines.

Guidelines for Regional Council Members

Mrs Black had previously circulated the Guidelines for RCMs which included two new sections.

She said that the Breed Promotion items which were held in the Regions e.g. stands, banners etc had a monetary value (the full total for the Society across all the Regions was approximately currently £1300 – excluding leaflets.) She asked that RCMs keep a record of Breed Promotion items they held in their region and to be aware of the value of them. It was the responsibility of the RCM to ensure that all such items were passed on to their successors.

The second new section covered Merchandise where various items of merchandise may be held in the Regions. Again they had a monetary value which was why Bob Bramley undertook stock checks. RCMs were responsible for ensuring that stock holdings were up to date and accurate and any merchandise held in the Region at the end of the RCM's term of office be passed to their successor.

Tay Sachs

The cost of Tay Sachs to the Society is £2.70. Council discussed this subsidy provided under Article 6 (5) and thought it an important part of the Society's work.

It was unanimously agreed to continue with the subsidy.

Gift Aid

Mrs Black explained that HMRC now allowed Gift Aid at 25% to be collected on small donations from individuals of less than £20 meaning she will be able to apply for Gift Aid from the monies raised in the regions from raffle ticket, quizzes and individual auction sales (less than £20 to the Society). The Gift Aid submission which will be made by Mrs Black does not require details of individual amounts – only a total - nor does it require details of individual donors. So RCMs only need let Mrs Black know of the total amounts raised and submitted to the Society Account after any such events as they do currently.

Council thanked Mrs Black for her work on the accounts and the reports.

9. Field Officers Report

Shows and Sales: Mr Connor said that all judges, inspectors and adjudicators had been appointed for the Shows and Sales 2018. The Southern Ireland Show and sale was returning to Tullamore market on 1st August 2018.

Mr Connor had been asked about the Society's policy of sheep bought at Official Sales which prove to be non-breeders. He explained that auctions will have their own rules under warranties and responsibilities, these will be available at the market and they should be checked by both vendors and purchasers. The JSS cannot be held responsible for infertile sheep of any age. He said that the buyer should negotiate with the vendor but the JSS could not be involved with discussions.

White tape will be used on the horn of substituted sheep and red tape on rejected sheep at all sales.

If the two inspectors at any sale cannot agree as whether to reject a sheep or not then only the official adjudicator, appointed by Mr Connor, is to be consulted. The adjudicator's decision will be final and no other person is to be consulted by either inspector.

Flock Competitions. Non competitive sections are now to be available in all regions; RCMs should let the Field Officer know of the dates of the competition and judges should be approved by him before being appointed. The judges must be made aware of the new rules; these can be checked on the website.

Tay Sachs. Most regions agree that the testing should continue as it is at the moment with the probability that all senior rams will have to be tested clear to be sold at Official Shows and Sales in the future.

Council discussed whether tested animals should have their status declared at Official Sales; it was felt this would discourage members selling known carriers without having to declare it.

Mr Connor proposed, Mr Richardson seconded:

Any sheep that is tested must have its status declared at Official Shows and Sales.

Carried unanimously.

Mr Connor will hold judges seminars in two regions this year and he was pleased to say he has received the nominations for the Young Person of the Year.

10. Office, Grassroots and NSA Report

The report having been previously circulated Mrs Simmons thanked Mr Emberton for his help with IT and Mr Barker with items on the website.

The NSA breed forum will be held on May 3rd, Mrs Simmons will attend.

Council agreed to the ordering rosettes.

As soon as Grassroots have finished the Flock Book they will send it as a PDF and Mrs Simmons will arrange the printing.

10. Reports from Regions.

The reports having been previously circulated the following issues were brought to Council's attention:

Ireland: Mr Colhoun asked that Council consider the methods of payments available to members in Southern Ireland. Mrs Black explained that for the JSS to hold an account especially for Euros would be very expensive. That for payment via BACS both the payee and payer were charged, she told the meeting that Paypal was the easiest and cheapest for both parties.

He said that members had suggested that a minimum weight of 30 kg for lambs was introduced at Official Shows and Sales. Council discussed the issue but decided that this would be detrimental to late born lambs which should not be excluded and the quality of the sheep was paramount not the size. Council decided against introducing the ruling.

Northern: Mr Wood reported that all arrangements for the 2019 AGM was going well. There was a proposed itinerary in place. He told Council that the region was planning to host a day for young and inexperienced members to learn about AI, sponging and lambing. Mr Wood was reminded of the Pat Bromley fund which was available to contribute to the costs for education of young people. He asked for guidance on the disposal of unwanted items donated to the region. Council agreed that he could dispose of them as rubbish.

Southern: Mrs Gould said that plans had begun for the 2020 AGM weekend.

Central: Mrs Thompson told the meeting that her region would organise the National NSA event, Sheep 2018, at the Malvern Showground in July. Mr Gareth Jones will judge the Worcester Show and Sale. She said that at the regional committee meeting members had discussed trimming lambs and thought that the bye-law 'lambs to be shown to their best advantage' could be considered too ambiguous; Council did not agree and the bye-law will not be changed.

Wales: Mrs Harries had asked Council to consider helping Welsh members following the annual charges being introduced in Wales for isolation units. She explained that for Welsh members to be able to show in the region and attend Shows and Sales the isolation unit was necessary but costly, and the new JSS ruling that rejected sheep could not be sold at official sales and would have to be taken home putting the vendor on a stand-still compounded the

problem. Council considered the issue but decided it was unable to change the rules as it would benefit only a small section of the membership.

11. Communications Update.

Mr Richardson reported that the March Journal was ready and about to be printed. He asked that in future Council members sent their reports to him in good time, the respective closing dates being February 15th, July 14th and October 15th. Council thanked Mr Richardson for his work on the Journal.

He said he was grateful to Miss Harper and Mrs Harries who organise Facebook for the Society and have said they will continue with the work.

12. AGM Progress Report

Mr Gorringe had reported that the weekend visits were finalised and all was up to date. It was decided to invite Libby Henson and Jeni from GRS to the gala dinner as guests of the JSS,

Council thanked Mr Gorringe for his work and everyone was looking forward to the event.

13. AGM 2019

To be held in the Northern region at Grange over Sands. Mr Wood asked Council if, as it was the 50th anniversary and a special occasion with many members present, it would consider help with the funding – perhaps of the drinks reception. Council thought that some help would be appropriate but Mrs Black said she would look into the most beneficial way the Society could help. Council thanked Mr Wood for his work.

14. AOB

Mr King proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman; Council agreed that Mr Richardson had been an exceptional Chairman working tirelessly over the three years to promote the Society, its members and the breed. Mr Richardson thanked all Council members he had worked with for their support and help; he said he had enjoyed his term in office.

16. Time and Date of Next Meeting.

Thursday 1st November 2018 at the Carlton Club, London.