

Jacob Sheep Society

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

Thursday 1st November 2018

Present:

Mr Lyndon Trumper (Chairman)

Mr John Emberton (vice Chairman)

Mr Ron King (President)

Mr Gordon Connor (Field Officer)

Mrs Pat Black (Treasurer)

Mrs Lucy Thompson (Central RCM)

Mrs Barley Gould (Southern RCM)

Mr Geoff Wood (Northern RCM)

Ms Sarah Bliss (South West RCM)

Mrs Jean Simmons (Assistant Secretary)

Mr Paul Colhoun (Ireland RCM)

Miss Lisa Adams (Eastern RCM)

Ms Melanie Harper (Scotland RCM)

1. Welcome

Mr Trumper welcomed and thanked everyone for attending; he welcomed Ms Bliss attending her first council meeting as South West RCM

2. Apologies.

Mr Clive Richardson (Past Chairman) Miss Carys Richards

3. To Agree the Minutes from March 18

The minutes were formally agreed and duly signed.

4. Matters Arising

Mr Emberton told the meeting that although the EU GDPR had come into force from 31 May 2018, the Data Protection Bill was still going through Parliament so is not finalised yet. He had attended a meeting of breed societies as the representative of the Society to learn of any particular challenges we may face.

Unlike most breed societies, the JSS is a limited company and obliged by statute law to maintain a register of its members. We also require those wishing to become members to agree to be bound by our Articles and Byelaws which, among other things cover the operation and publication of the Flockbook and the Members Handbook. This covers the bulk of the personal data the Society holds.

Mr Emberton also told the meeting that, because of our small size and the nature of our organisation and its charitable status we are exempt from any requirement to register with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) as a data controller or data processor. We are also exempt from having to appoint a Data Protection Officer and register that person with the ICO. However, it

is recommended that there should be one person at management level who will assume overall responsibility for Data Protection matters. Mr Emberton stated that he would be willing to undertake that role if Council wishes.

Although we know what data is held in connection with membership and flockbook matters, which is held and processed for us by Grassroots and the obligations for use and security of that data are covered by our contract with Grassroots, there is data held by officers and RCMs in connection with their work for the Society and Mr Emberton will be contacting all Council member to discover what data is held and how it is used and opinions on how long data should be retained.

Another area of potential weakness is that Council members at present use their personal email accounts to deal with Society business. Mr Emberton suggested that he should look at what would be involved to set up official email addresses and to seek advice on this from our Webmaster, Terry Barker. This action was agreed.

Mr Emberton said he will look into these matters and report to Council in March; this will prove the Society is en route to bringing its data protection regime up to the new standards.

Council thanked Mr. Emberton for his work.

All other matters to be discussed were on the agenda.

5. Breed Promotion.

Mr Bramley attended the meeting to present his report which had been previously circulated. He asked if Council thought RCMs' should be given a choice as to whether they hold merchandise and articles he did not hold should be returned to him for online sales. Following discussion it was decided RCMs' would hold merchandise but would post out items that were ordered on line.

Mr Bramley had brought to the meeting items he considered of suitable quality for the Society to offer for sale. It was agreed that the following be ordered: 10 paperweights to cost £8 plus postage on line; tea towels plus some of commemorative design for 2019; commemorative badges to cost £3.

Mr Bramley said: the car stickers ordered had been delivered but were transparent the supplier is replacing them; the commemorative mugs will be ready for the 2019 AGM; he was still working on the new leaflet for the JSS and would send a draft for proof reading shortly; he will do some further research into the items made from slate Mr King had suggested.

Council discussed the possibility of commission sales; it was decided that there would be potentially too much onus on the Society regarding these sales particularly checking the quality and delivery of the goods sold, therefore it was agreed that goods could be advertised for a fee by the provider on line or in the Journal.

Mr Bramley has designed and had made new folders for the welcome packs sent out to new members, Council commended him for this and all his hard work with the now very successful merchandise and thanked him for attending the meeting.

6. Correspondence

There was no correspondence requiring Council's attention.

6a. Chairman's Report

Mr Trumper formally thanked Mr Clive Richardson the Past Chairman for his work as his predecessor and his continued help and support. Mr Richardson, he said, was a huge asset to the Society; Council agreed.

Mr Trumper told Council that the nomination forms for Council members were ready to go out with the Journal he said Miss Adams would retire following her 3 year term as Eastern RCM; the position of Field officer was up for re-election but Mr Connor was willing to stand again.

7. Treasurer's Report.

Mrs Black had previously circulated her review of the accounts; she explained that the review was for discussion only and the accountants had yet to make adjustments. The overall surplus will be near to that of the last financial year which is a healthy position for the Society.

Subscriptions are slightly down from the previous financial year but GRS states there is no trend appearing; lambs registrations are at 2,984; the Tay Sachs tested sheep total 668 tested clear; 893 bred clear; a total of 114 sheep tested as carriers equating to 17% of those tested. The tests are charged to members at £13.50: GRS charge 60p + VAT for administration; LGC charge £15.60; the difference of £2.82 is subsidised by the Society. 120 tests were done in the financial year.

Dr Strong had previously circulated the Annual Report of Investments of the Society. He recommended that Council takes out 38K from the money invested with M & G to cash and then review the market at the end of the year, when he might recommend moving a further 20K to cash to avoid losing money from the good performance over the last few years.

Council agreed that Dr Strong's advice had been dependable in the past and he does keep a careful watch on the markets.

It was proposed by Mrs Gould, seconded by Mr King that the 38K be moved from investments to cash. Agreed unanimously.

Council thanked Dr Strong for his work.

Mrs Black told the meeting that at present she felt there was no need to increase the membership subscription even though it has not been increased for some time; Council agreed that at £25 per annum it was very inexpensive but felt the timing was not right to increase it and decided to keep it under review. The costs of registration was discussed and it was decided they will stay the same but be kept under review.

The cost to the Society of the flock competitions and assessments was discussed; although a considerable outlay it was decided that the expense was worthwhile, though Mrs Black did ask that regions try to keep the expense of travel and accommodation for judges to a minimum.

Council discussed flock competitions and assessments generally: Mrs Thompson said she thought that the two elements of judging and assessing did not work over one visit from judges and that a competition could be held one year and the assessment another. Mrs. Gould suggested that local judges or knowledgeable members make assessments; Council thought it would be good way forward and agreed that the competitions and assessments were a service to members and worth the expenditure.

Mrs Black told Council that the gift aid on the small donations had increased the Society's income considerably.

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

8. Field Officers Report

Shows and Sales: Mr Connor thanked everyone involved in organising and running the Shows and Sales he commended the auctioneers. He said that the number of rejected sheep was very low and in the Northern Ireland region the only rejects had been due to accidental incorrect ear tagging. He said he felt that the inspection guidance notes helped members and he had a number of amendments and additions to make to the list.

2. Mouths

It was agreed Shearlings at Official Shows and Sales showing more than 2 broad teeth could be put forward in to the sale with an announcement made by the auctioneer but that sheep could not be taken into the show ring.

Council thought this a good way forward and agreed it was a fair compromise for the vendor. Mr Connor reminded Council that all shearling sheep in the show ring must not be showing more than 2 broad teeth and that judges should look in the mouths to check.

It was agreed following discussion that: Aged sheep (ie two shear and over) which are a little forward on the pad will be passed. The auctioneer will announce the fault when selling the sheep.

3. Horns

Council discussed the fusion of horns and the clearance between the horn and face – wording of the point was not agreed and Mr Connor said he would revisit the rule.

6. Any other abnormalities: sheep showing any other abnormalities may be rejected.

Council agreed this point be added.

9. Rejected sheep.

Mr Connor had been asked to remove the rule that rejected sheep may not be sold in any part of the sale by some members;

Mr Colhoun told the meeting that the Ireland region would not support the change and is strongly against the sale of rejected sheep; he said the rule had resulted in fewer rejected sheep and an improvement had been noted in the sheep sold. He stated that selling only good sheep is seen as an improvement. Miss Adams told the meeting that the Eastern region show and sale held at Melton could not accommodate rejected sheep in pens reserved for selling at the end of the sale.

Council discussed; but it was agreed that an improvement had been made to sheep put forward and that the rule would remain that rejected sheep cannot be sold.

10. If both appointed inspectors have a split decision the Adjudicator appointed will make the final decision.

Council agreed this point be added.

Mr Connor said he would like all new members to have a visit from a judge within their region for assessment of their flocks and advice. Council discussed this and agreed it was a good idea but the visit could not be enforced, whereas a visit from a judge or an experienced breeder to assess the sheep before members registered their first lambs could become a rule.

Council agreed to a compulsory visit before first registrations were made, in principle; it was agreed that Mr. Connor would approve the judges or assessors. Mr Emberton agreed to consult with GRS as to the method of informing members of the rule and report to Council in March.

Mr Connor opened a discussion on the appointment of panel judges at shows; it was agreed that the judges should be on the panel when accepting appointments and that the only redress to shows appointing non panel judges or allowing non members to exhibit was to explain the rules to them.

Tay Sachs.

Further to the review in March Mr. Connor asked Council for their views on keeping or abolishing the testing; it was agreed that the testing was set up following the discovery of the disorder and should be continued on a voluntary basis but the advice that if only Tay Sachs free rams were used the breed could become free of the disorder should be taken seriously.

Mr Wood proposed seconded by Mrs Black: that all rams, from shearling upwards, sold at official shows and sales must be tested or bred Tay Sachs clear by 2020.

Carried.

9. Judges Assessment Panel.

Mr Richardson who chairs and administers the assessment panel had asked Council to consider the re-appointment of members of the assessment panel and a new appointment to the panel.

Present panel: Mr Gordon Connor, Mr. Clive Richardson, Mr Robert Locker and Mrs. Jean Blacknell.

With reserves: Mr Scott Dalrymple and Mr Wyn Harries.

Mrs Blacknell was to retire from the panel so Mr. Richardson had proposed Mrs Jean Simmons to take the place; agreed.

It was also agreed to appoint Mr Paul Colhoun as a further reserve assessor.

Council paid tribute to Mrs Blacknell's work on the panel and Mr Trumper and Mr Connor said they would write to her expressing Council's thanks and good wishes.

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.

Mrs Simmons told Council that she intended to retire from the position of secretary three years from the 2019 AGM

Mrs Simmons had attended the NSA forum and had written a report for the Journal.

11. Reports from Regions.

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

Ireland: the requests for payments to the major shows in Ireland where the region would attend with the Breed Promotion stand were agreed.

Northern: the costs of attending North Sheep were agreed

Southern: the costs of attending the Kent County show were agreed.

Central region: the request for assessments of flocks to be separated from the competition had been agreed earlier. The Royal Three Counties show was offering a board promoting Jacob Sheep and the Society displayed in the sheep area for 6 – 8 years; the costs were agreed.

South West: Ms Bliss told the meeting the region no longer wished the Sedgemoor show to be considered for official status or wished to hold a joint official sale with Wales.

12. AGM Progress Report 2019

Mr Wood told the meeting that all the visits for the weekend were organised; there will be flock visits where members will see sheep from several flocks in the Northern region brought together. A visit to an historic working farm will follow lunch on the Friday. The AGM will take place on Saturday morning followed by a flock visit; lunch will be followed by a visit to the flock of Herdwicks at Yew Tree Farm and the gala dinner will take place that evening. Sunday lunch will be followed by the last flock visit.

Council congratulated Mr. Wood and his committee on organising such an interesting weekend and members looked forward to attending.

13. AGM 2020

Mrs Gould told Council that the organisation of the weekend was under way with a suitable hotel having been booked and the committee working on ideas for the visits.

14. AOB

Mrs Lesley Pope has the 2019 calendar organised it will shortly be available.

Mr Richardson has finished the Breed Book and it would soon be published.

Mr King proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman. Agreed

16. Time and Date of Next Meeting.

Thursday 7th March 2019 at the Carlton Club, London.