

March 2016

This is not a full set of minutes

A meeting of the council of management of the British Blonde Society took place on Monday 7th March 2016 at the British Blonde Society Office, Ave M, NAC, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire.

The meeting was opened by chairman Pip Rogers at 9.30am whereby he welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

Attendance; Pip Rogers, David Knight, Alison Watt, Stuart Wilson, Pauline Williams,

Dan Davies, Alistair Martin, Willie McElroy

Caroline Jackson was also in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence; Vicky Hicks, Sheena Kennedy and James Weightman .

2. Minutes of previous meeting - were taken as read and agreed. Pip Rodgers signed the minutes from the meeting Tuesday 14th December 2015.

3. Matters arising.

Alistair Martin questioned why the scrotal circumference minimum had been changed back to 30cm, when it had been passed last spring that this should be changed. A discussion took place. He asked that this be brought back again at some time in the future for re discussion.

Following the previous meeting it was agreed that SKYPE is not a good idea for council meetings.

Caroline said that she was concerned that she would lose payments by just sending out the invoices by email. It was agreed that she would include a tick box on the next newsletter for people if they prefer for their invoices to come as hard copy. CJ

Pauline Williams said that she would try For Framers to see if she could encourage them to sponsor the National show. PW

We have received french articles for the journal from Sandrine Deffeau and also from Loudvic from Mida test.

Willie McElroy said that the Irish stock judging will be going ahead .

Young Show Stars competition- Lucy Corner, Melissa Donaldson and Sean Mitchell have agreed to represent the Blondes. They have achieved some sponsorship; the society is paying the entry and accommodation.

4b. Pauline Williams said that the hamper from Addington for the Raffle had been sent to Kivells auctioneers. A thank you letter isn't necessary.

6. Vicky said she would be keen to have a weekend PR meeting. Pip suggested that thoughts are brought back to the next meeting.

Alistair said that the enthusiasm of new members to council should be encouraged and channelled.

5. Finance

b. It had been agreed that the society should drop the audit, this will be put to the vote at the AGM in April saving approximately £1500. The wording for this has been put together by the solicitor which had been circulated to the council and agreed upon.

It was suggested that a covering letter from the chairman is sent with the proposed change in articles to members to explain the benefit of dropping the audit.

Pip had written a letter which will accompany the AGM agenda, it was clarified that the accounts would remain to be examined by an independent accountant ie Dodds but as we are turning over well under the threshold limit, we have been advised that it is not necessary to have an audit by the accountant and would therefore make a saving of approximately £1500.

e. Queries are coming to light over registrations that are not filled in correctly.

Caroline said this continues to be a problem and whilst the problem comes from the member, they are quick to blame the office. Therefore any registrations that are not filled in correctly will receive one phone call after which the registration will be returned to the member with a note attached requesting the correct information. CJ

g. Caroline will ask for email addresses to be added to application forms in order to send as much post by email where possible. A check box should be added to SAGE and the data base for those members who accept invoices by email.

7 a. National show 2016

Malvern 17th June, the commercial class has been welcomed.

The heifer class will only be split if entries are high. This has now been agreed and the Midland club are offering £100 sponsorship and the Meadow and Thornbury herds will donate a trophy which should stay at the Three Counties.

Sponsors that were suggested were David James from Tenbury. PR

Jim Phillips as going to ask Tenbury supplies. CJ

Gerald Shearing – CJ has written to Gerald.

Mole Valley - Alison had contacted with out luck but had achieved £400 for 2017 from Mark Bolland from Willows Embryonic Services. Caroline will write to them. CJ

10. Any other business(matters arising)

e. Caroline asked council members to reply to her emails. The lack of communication is less than helpful. If she wants a reply to emails she will write this on the bottom of the email.

2016 that were agreed that Caroline should attend;

Beef Expo -1 Day

Balmoral -1 day

Highland -1 day

Three Counties / National - 2 days

Royal Welsh - 2 days

Great Yorkshire – 1 day

Agri Expo – 1 day

Welsh winter Fair – 1-2 days

4. Correspondence

a. Hilary Jones- had sent a letter accepting the role of President 2016-18.

b. Paul Brereton – Letter

It was agreed to not change the constitution at this point to change the size of council.

5. Finance

c. The £33,000 bond will be due for re investment in the summer, which should be given some thought. Caroline was asked to check that we are not paying tax on this as we are a charity. CJ

Caroline asked that if council could read their accounts before the meetings and forward questions to her beforehand it would give her the opportunity of giving council an answer at the meeting.

d. From sage

Current account £16,847

Bond £ 33,000

Cov. build Soc £ 45,330

e. Caroline will look into outsourcing stuffing of envelopes

6. Publicity & Promotion

a. New promotional leaflet WM & VH -nothing had been done about this.

b. Marketing Calendar & c. Other ideas – Vicky Hicks had requested these items on the agenda, however was unable to attend the meeting.

c. Rare breed filming = Blondes had come out on top regards a tasting board in Northern Ireland. Willie will get the details and forward them to Caroline to use.

7. Shows & Sales

a, Judges List- Caroline informed council that Dave Bell from the Simmentel society who is on our judges list sadly died on 21st February suddenly. His funeral will be on Monday 21st March.

There were a few corrections regards telephone numbers that need updating on the judges list.

b. Balmoral – Willie said that he thought that the club were happy to man and erect posters on the stand. The chairs in front of the stand will not be in situ this year which will open up the breed stands.

Three Counties

A dinner has been booked for the presentation on the Friday 17th June.

The midland club are happy to look after the stand and dismantle on the Sunday and return to the office on the Monday.

The Burke trophy will be at the Three Counties once again this year.

Stuart Wilson said that he would help with the stewarding.

Highland

Sheena has said that she will arrange the refreshments for the stand as in previous years.

The electric was discussed due to the cost. Caroline had suggesting sharing electrics with the Ayreshires but they were not interested. Alison is looking into large flasks to see if water can be boiled in the cattle lines and carried up to the marquee, she will confirm before asking Caroline to cancel the electric for the stand. AW

Royal Welsh –

Dan thought the ladies from the club would host the presentation evening as they have done in previous years. DD

c. Beef Expo 2016

This will be held at Bakewell on 20th May. The Midland club are going to pay for the stand, put cattle on and man it. Caroline will be in attendance. It will be a small stand with half a hospitality stand and one cattle pen.

d. Balmoral Sale – A very disappointing sale, One bull was sold by Henry Griffin 2500gns. Willie said that big bulls are needed for this sale.

e. Carlisle sale Feb – A good sale selling 9 of 9 bulls and 10 of 11 females sold. Two bulls failed inspection. These bulls were inspected the following day by the inspector to see if the lameness had improved on the say so of the vet. It was agreed that the inspector should not have this responsibility and the vet should make the decision as he sees it on the day of inspection.

James had done a good job of selling at Carlisle and Caroline was asked to request him for the next sale in May.

f. Weight for age – it was discussed as to whether it would be a good idea to do as the Lims do and set a bar above the average weight for age and see if this should throw an inspection. It was agreed to leave it as it is.

g. Keith Potter from Gore Cross has requested Jhones and fertility testing for the bulls at Worcester sale.

This was discussed at length. Jhones testing is not generally undertaken until after 24 months old, and still this doesn't give a 100% accuracy.

We will put on the newsletter ; 'you are encouraged to test for BVD, Jhones and fertility as well as TB if you are not in a health scheme for all society sales' in order to give purchasers confidence.

Ask for it to be announced at society sales by the auctioneer that any one purchasing for the first time, will be offered free membership to the society for that year.

English Winter Fair classes – Andrew McNeil has sent an email asking that we ask the Eng. Winter fair to change some of the classes to encourage calf entries. Due to financial constraints society hasn't been able to help finance other calf shows throughout the country.

8. Breed Development

a. Health declaration form – Altered to include Risk level 1 -5

b. TB meeting/ Wales

Dan Davies went to a meeting in Builth. All markets will have the TB status up on screens in the sale rings.

Cattle that have not been pre movement tested will be penalised.

Meetings in the future will be in regions rather than in Builth.

9. Administration

Membership

Life 63

Full paid up 187

Part paid 98

Junior 7

Associate 3

Unpaid 71

b, Registration Figures .

Part of the reason that the registration numbers looked bad in January was the loss of the PC for two weeks and in February Kate was on holiday and off sick therefore already the numbers look better at the beginning of March because registrations were being caught up on

c. Website and hosting of web address and emails .

It was agreed that Caroline should arrange the movement of the web hosting and emails to 'one to one 'through Paul Day who also looks after the Charolais and Simmental IT work.

Since having the fibre optic broadband, it has made things easier for Kate to get items on the web.

d. Elections – The election results will go on the newsletter.

Andrew Bailey 29

Pauline Williams 36

Chris Hopley 37

Stuart Wilson 39

Andrew McNeil 42

Andrew Bailey and Sheena Kennedy will be written to and thanked for their time on council.

Sheena had sent a text message to Alistair and asked that it be read out;

I would like to thank the members who have supported me during my time on council. I hope new members with ideas and enthusiasm will be allowed to move the breed forward. Regards Sheena

e. Sub committees and meetings/ suggestion to have a sub committee prior to each sale/show. This was decided against, however the sub committees are encouraged to make contact with each other and keep Caroline informed.

2016/17

1. Finance – All of council

2. Shows and Sales - Alison Watt (chair) David Knight, Stuart Wilson.

3. Breed Development - James Weightman (chair), Alistair Martin, Pauline Williams. Pip Rogers and Dan Davies.

4. P & P – Vicky Hicks(Chair) , Willie McElroy and Andrew McNeil.

Caroline will ask Chris Hopley which committee he would like to sit on.

10. Any Other Business

a. Information to regional clubs- Caroline said that some communication from the meetings and the office is not being relayed correctly to members.

c. Caroline and Stuart Wilson had attended the Paris show, be it socially they had had the opportunity to meet Lionel who is the French breed secretary, Sandrine and Loudevic from Midatest. Caroline had also attended the Fierba meeting on Friday with Hilary Jones.

FIERBA will be holding a show on the Belgium borders next year whereby they are encouraging 10 animas from each country to be sent forward.

The problems that animals from the UK would face are the health tests, travel time and cost.

We are very lucky to have Hilary going to these meetings at her own cost, she speaks fluent French and knows everyone and enjoys the interaction from the other countries. She is a great representative for the society.

d. The journal will be sent to council members, club secretaries and Hilary Jones for proofing, please proof your particular regional areas of interest and return as quickly as possible. Time is always against us but proofing is the opportunity to correct things not after printing.

Caroline was asked to chase up the link as last years' journal as it wasn't put on the web. CJ

e. Caroline was asked to include the times when we put the sales on the web. CJ

October sale dates are;

Worcester Saturday 8th October- Caroline and David will get together with Clive Roads to discuss this sale.

Carlisle Friday 21st October

Next meetings - AGM Worcester Mart Friday 22nd April 7.30pm

Monday 6th June @ Stoneleigh 9.30am

Monday 12th September @ Stoneleigh 9.30am