

A meeting of the Council of Management of the British Blonde Society took place on Wednesday 22nd March 2017 at the British Simmental Society Office, Ave M, NAC, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire.

The meeting was opened by the chairman Pip Rogers and commenced at 9.30am. Pip thanked everyone for attending the meeting and welcomed Stuart Mycock to the council.

Attendance; Pip Rogers, Stuart Wilson, Willie McElroy, Alistair Martin, James Weightman, Stuart Mycock, Chris Hopley, Pauline Williams and Dan Davies. Caroline Jackson (breed secretary) was also in attendance.

Minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read and signed by the chairman.

Matters arising

Finance

f.1. The office contract - has been renewed with the Charolais society.

h. Budget/forecast – Caroline has emailed Vicky Hicks but heard nothing back.

6. Publicity & Promotion

d. Willie has created a poster that is in the foyer at Carlisle. It was decided to run this for the next twelve months.

6f8 Changes had been made to the commentary, these were accepted by council.

i. Leaflet – Willie has created a new leaflet and had one last proof and will be ready to go to Balmoral show.

k. Andrew McNeil said he would happily go to the office to work with Kate to improve the website. This hasn't happened however Willie McElroy has been into the office having found a website that would be more reliable and effective with opportunities to share web information with facebook, emailing and many other options.

7. Shows & Sales

a) National show 2017 / Relish catering – Caroline will be speaking again to Stephen Potter and Relish catering. The general concern was the selling price once charged by Relish and the cost of the beef, as well as the fear of the way our beef is cooked.

b. Beef Expo 2017 - The Midland club are happy to help and support this event.

Chris Hopley has achieved a price of £200 for the stand, which has been paid by the society. Stuart Mycock will source cattle for the stand. The British Blue society have offered to share the electricity. Linda Sewell and Derek Hicks are happy to help with the stand.

d. Royal Highland show – Caroline hasn't yet heard from the Highland show regards sharing with NMR. **CJ**

e. Scotlands Beef Event 2017-. George Hamilton has agreed to do this event, the society have paid half the amount in the form of £137.50

7h Calf show re; Carlisle – Thirsk calf show has now been taken in hand by Thirsk market. Caroline will liaise with the North East club to help to promote the calf show and encourage as many calves forward as possible. **CJ**

Stuart Wilson asked if we could find out what number of females are transferred per year. **CJ**

8 Breed Development

a) Publicity boarding - A kidney shaped magnetic display board for shows with hard standing with 2 x pull up banners were discussed at a cost of £1100. At the December meeting Andrew McNeil had offered the clubs stand to the society however things have now changed.

This was discussed and agreed that this is something we should work towards to have for Agri Expo but aim at getting good photos of both commercial and pedigrees throughout the summer. Willie thought he may be able to get a sponsor to help with the cost of the stand.

Caroline was asked to see if this included VAT. CJ & WM

c) Blonde Young Breeders

Caroline hasn't had anything back from Vicky. It was thought that rather than trying to do something completely independent then we should encourage young breeders to join the Angus young breeders interbreed days and Caroline also told the council that the NBA are going to try and put together an interbreed young breeders day at Harper Adams.

It was thought that we should find a catchy logo for Blonde young breeders with a minimum membership fee ie; £5. It was suggested that Vicky and Stuart encourage young members to take part in the Angus training days, The NBA young breeders event and also the Young Show Stars. It was thought that someone from the Blondes being at these events would be helpful.

Caroline will speak to Gail, CJ. VH & SM

9 Administration

Caroline asked that when inspections were carried out that they are completed on the correct paperwork.

Any other business

b. Willie has produced a questionnaire which hasn't been used yet but all secretaries should be aware of this so that these can be used. **CJ**

4.a. Election of Chairman

Willie McElroy was proposed by Chris Hopley and seconded by Pauline Williams.

There were no other nominations. Willie accepted the position.

Pip Rogers said that it had been an honour to have been the society chairman over the last three years, he thanked council for their support and thanked Caroline and Kate for their work in the office. Three years ago things were not good financially and he was glad to be able to prove that we could turn this around and still be here. He encouraged all of council to get behind the new chairman putting us in a strong position going forward.

Willie McElroy then took the chair. He thanked Pip for all his work and commitment particularly with regards the finances which have stabilised over the last three years. Willie commented on the enthusiasm of council and encouraged that we should be a united council.

b. Election of Vice chairman

Alistair Martin was proposed by Chris Hopley and seconded by Pip Rogers. There were no other nominations; Alistair explained that he would be happy to take the position for two years.

Willie said that everyone on council has an important role to play and he hopes that he will be able to attend as much as possible however it may be that from time to time that he has to ask another council member to cover for him at events if he cant get across the water.

Sub committees

c.Finance, Chairman - Stuart Wilson, this committee involves all of council.

d.P & P, chairman – Chris Hopley.Stuart Mycock, Willie McElroy and Vicky Hicks

e. Breed Development. Chairman – James Weightman. Alistair Martin, Kate Shenton. Pauline Williams.

f. Shows and Sales, Chairman - David Knight. Chris Hopley Dan Davies, Pip Rogers

g. Young Breeders – Vicky Hicks and Stuart Mycock.

Willie said that he would like the chairman of each committee to deliver a report to each council meeting.

5 Correspondence

a. East of Eng Ag. society have split from the Smithfield show

b. Melton Mowbray market, a letter inviting the Blondes to visit and hold a society sale has been received.

c. FIERBA are looking for judges to join the judging panel- Willie McElroy, James Weightman showed interest and Caroline was under the impression that this may be something that Stephen Potter may be interested in. Caroline will send their details to Bas at FIERBA. **CJ**

FIERBA are also looking for young breeders for judging in May – It was felt that this was a bit late notice.

d. Young Show Stars – Lucy Corner, Melissa Donaldson and Sean Michelle had expressed an interest again this year, There had been interest from the Northern Ireland club also though they may be interested in sending a team from the club as opposed to going through the society. Caroline said she would include in the next newsletter should anyone else be interested.

7. Publicity & Promotion

b. Display boarding and marketing – It was agreed to have a package of banners and stand , aiming for Agri Expo but we have a lack of commercial photographs both good enough and of high enough resolution. It was agreed that we should aim to get more through the summer. **WM & CJ**

c. Willie had created a new logo which was accepted by council.

D Advert required for Worcester sale due to numbers, Caroline also includes date of Carlisle sale at the bottom of this advert,

8 Shows & Sales

a. Dinner at 3 Counties – Caroline will speak to Stephen Potter though it was thought that it may be too expensive if the caterers wouldn't drop the meal price and then have to put the cost of the beef on top of the caterers quote. Caroline will sort it out. **CJ**

e. Hanbury show along with Morton in the Marsh and Burwarton are running a new trophy for these three shows together.

f. Stuart Mycock asked why the timings were as they are regards the Carlisle and Worcester sale. Someone had spoken to him who hadn't sold at Carlisle but wanted to go to Worcester but then couldn't due to TB testing dates. The reason for this is because the sale dates are set to correspond with auctioneer's diary dates with regards to other sales and also that of our partnered other breeds as to what dates work for all concerned.

9. Breed Development

a. Recording – It was agreed that Caroline should speak to Barbara Webster at Abri to see what they could offer to the society with regards to recording only. James and Emma Steed from Signet are going to present an EBV presentation on 2nd May at a North East area meeting in York. Everyone is welcome.

Pauline Williams suggested that it would be a good idea to write the name of the sire on the calves' passports going forward.

The question was asked as to whether we can have EBVs on the website.

b. Health schemes – This was discussed at length.

1. Bio Best are offering 50% discount on the first years membership. Costing £35 for the first year. WM

2. It was agreed that in line with other societies, members wishing to sell at society sales must be a member of a health scheme in order to be able to sell. by October 2018. This was proposed by Pip Rogers and seconded by James Weightman. CJ

c. Alistair Martin had written a Society Mission Statement which was agreed by council, there were a few items he wanted to finalise and will bring back to the next meeting. AM

James Weightman suggested that we include commercial cattle into our mission statement. AM

e. Speaker prior to sales on Health issues – It was thought that if we are taking sponsorship from Biobest then it may be a good idea to ask them to do a presentation before the sale in October.

I Scrotal circumference – After a lot of discussion, this subject has been discussed in the past. It was decided to raise minimum scrotal size in the Rules and Regulations to;

Upto 2 years old bulls minimum 30cm.

Over 2 year old bulls minimum 32cm.

This will take effect as of the February bull sales 2018. CJ

It was suggested that within two years we should lift the minimum and refer to the Eblex rules for a two year old bull measuring 34cm.

Willie suggested that we find out from the Blues society to see if they still sell measuring tapes and could possibly sell them to members. CJ

10. Administration

a. New Members

Four new members since the December meeting. who were proposed by James Weightman and seconded Alistair Martin.

Wendy Dodimead – Australia

G&J Armstrong – Enniskillen

J&D Murphy – Dungannon

A.Potts – Co.Down

b. Registration Figures – February figures showed we are up 120 on February 2016.

c. Council nomination – wording to be changed to '**entries close 5pm Friday**'.

d. Web/IT/facebook

Facebook- Caroline has arranged for the facebook page to now stand alone as **British Blondes** with British Blonde which currently is named Caroline Gweneth Jackson as the host page. This will return to be British Blonde by the end of May.

Willie was going to get in touch with the societies for the major shows to see if they would off free tickets which we could raffle off on facebook. Dan suggested that Willie ring Menna for the Royal Welsh. WM

Web- Willie has found a template web site on the internet costing £10 per month and shown it to Caroline and Kate. Willie and Kate are happy to create the new website. A quote has been received

from Paul Day at £1850, it was agreed to offer Kate extra hours to get the website up and running. Willie will work with her on this.

It was agreed to take the Sire and Dam summary off the website. KG & WM

11. Any Other Business

- a. David Benson leaves the Charolais society on 31st March. It was agreed that Caroline should buy him a good bottle of Whiskey. Peter Phythian replaces David as chief executive of the Charolais.
- b. Caroline has signed the new contract with David Benson regards the office on the same basis as the last seven years with a break in January 2018 and then three years after that followed by another three years. If we needed to come out in between David had thought that with enough notice there wouldn't be a problem.
- c. Willie thanked everyone for attending and asked that if anyone has any queries or concerns please send them to Willie or Alistair for him to look into straight away.
- d. Caroline said that the journal will be ready for the Worcester sale 22nd April. Pauline suggested that next year if people do not get back to the office with their journal entries then they miss the date. Chasing takes time, which is something we don't have.

12. Next meetings – Wednesday 7th June & Wednesday 20th September