

June 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 6 th June 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, Alison Watt, Stuart Wilson, Vicky Hicks, Andrew McNeil and James Weightman

Caroline Jackson was also in attendance.

1.Apologies for absence; David Knight, Pauline Williams, Alistair Martin, Willie McElroy and Dan Davies.

2.Minutes of previous meeting - were taken as read and agreed. Pip Rogers signed the minutes from the meeting Monday 7 th March 2016.

3.Matters arising. 3h Young Show Stars – the team consisted of Lucy Corner, Mellissa Donaldson and Sean Mitchell. They came 10 th in the competition. They represented the breed and themselves very well. Attained sponsorship themselves and worked well as a team. Pip remarked on what a good event this was and anyone getting the opportunity to attend this event in the future should take the opportunity. Financially the society paid £460 which was the entry and accommodation.

5a. The dropping of the society audit was unanimously agreed upon at the AGM. Rebecca Hollands had been entered twice for her payment for stuffing envelopes on SAGE – This has been rectified

Semen sales on the accounts in February - This figure has come from DNA testing rather than semen sales. The figures come together under the Chart of Accounts.

9L James Little is the auctioneer at Carlisle.

4.Correspondence

a.The South West Club have requested that the £50 prize money that was offered from council for the winners of each regional clubs commercial herd competition was paid to the club to help with running the competition, was turned down. This is a prize from the society to this year's winner of each region on the understanding that an article can be written to use for publicity for the Blondes. There will not be a national commercial herd competition this year.

Caroline will find out which regions will be holding this competition this year. All clubs have been written to. CJ

Midlands and Wales are holding this.

North East and North of Scotland are not.

5.Finance

A1. Caroline had forwarded a copy of the Chart of Accounts to council members to help to explain how the nominal codes are made up into the reports.

a.Accounts – The accounts were discussed.

Caroline was asked to see when the legal (audit) costs were paid last year for a comparison to this year. CJ

5b.John Gibb had asked for a suggestion to be put forward. This being that members would be allowed to credit their accounts and then able to register animals of any age to suit.

Caroline explained that there are a few members that do credit their accounts but still have to register their calves on time. It was agreed that this was a positive thing to do but calves must be registered on time.

C.Bank accounts

From the sage system 4/6/16

Current 8508.41

Nat.West Liq. Acc. 33018.08
Petty cash 97.45
Coventry building society 45395.97
Total = 87019.91
Euro cash 125.77euros
e. Journal cost
Printing cost £4607.00
Less discount returned £46.07
Final cost £4560.93
Final total 2016 journal £679.07 profit
Posted 369 @ 1.23 = £453.87
Colleges/ libraries approx. 30@ 1.23 = 36.90
Overseas approx. 12 = 60.00
Total postage approx. = £550.77
£128.30 profit
1700 copies £2.68 per copy

1. Caroline reported that we had more adverts this year than in previous years.

f. 100 club – No

h. Anne Gibbs (the vet at Worcester) had commented on the improved standard of cattle this year.

i. A suggestion had been put forward by Roy Kinnish that we make the October Worcester sale an Elite female sale. With exhibitors paying a higher entry fee for elite females and some of this going towards a financial prize. This was not passed. However it should be advertised as a Blonde cattle sale rather than a bull sale as it will be predominantly females forward.

j. Alison Watt and Andrew McNeil thought they could save postage by taking journals to the members of their clubs to distribute. A list of club members will be given to Caroline so that she knows every paid up member has received one. AW & AMcN

m. A disclaimer is needed on the website where registering bulls. CJ

6. Publicity and Promotion

a. Caroline said that she had moved forward with flyers for this year due to not having anything in the way of promotional information for 2016, so had updated the old leaflet with contact numbers. She also has some more posters being printed.

b. Vicky Hicks said that she had looked into a price for designing the leaflet £468. She will produce a leaflet in rough copy and forward to Andrew McNeil who can get it designed and printed. This needs doing as soon as possible and then it can go to print in the new financial year (Nov). To include; Easy calving, growth rate, carcass traits. Mrs Don had good grade sheets and they may be useful to Vicky to include some of the information. These to be ready to go to print before the September council meeting having been approved by council through email. VH and AMcN

Caroline will forward Vicky, Norman Halls picture from the journal. CJ

c. Vicky suggested that we have x6 pull up banners to reflect the leaflet which would be better than posters and can have the banner part replaced as and when needed. Caroline agreed that they would be a good idea however they don't stand on grass which the Yorkshire, Highland, Welsh shows all are. Therefore posters for boards are still required.

d. It was agreed to start with the leaflet and look at the banners at the next meeting. Next agenda

e. Stuart Wilson had offered to sponsor a teardrop flag banner which Caroline has ordered.

Stuart was thanked for this.

f. Are the clubs face book pages linked to each other, we need to encourage interaction between clubs? Andrew McNeil will include this in a letter of encouragement to the secretaries of each club. AMcN

g. Caroline to tag groups when putting reports on facebook. CJ

h. Vicky will contact the clubs to see what social media they are using and what promotional work they are doing. VH

j. Hilary Jones has asked that the society have its own Beef labels for when selling Blonde beef. Caroline has looked into the price of labels. It was thought that this should be done by individual breeders.

7. Show & Sales

a. Balmoral- It was agreed that we should put forward a calf class again to the livestock committee at Balmoral. Male and female classes born after April of show year. CJ

b. National Show at the Three Counties

1. There will be a presentation dinner on Friday 17th June. £21 per head. If anyone wants tickets, please book by Friday 10th June with the office.
2. Pip was going to speak to Jim Phillips regards Tenbury supplies sponsoring us at Three Counties.
3. The Midland club are holding a drinks reception after the grand parade on Friday afternoon.
4. We have 70 entries for the National Show at the Three Counties.

c. Highland

1. Alison Watt has organised the urn to be heated in the lines which will keep boiling water hot for coffee all day. She will arrange for two men to carry this up to the marquee. Caroline has emailed to cancel the electricity from the stand.

2. A letter had been received from George Hamilton thanking society for keeping the stand at the Highland.

3. Sheena Kennedy has offered to get the refreshments for the stand. Alison will correspond with Sheena. AW

d. Welsh show- the club will organise the presentation refreshments.

e. Beef Expo – This had been a well supported event. Charles and Stuart Mycock had organised their cattle for the stand and Charles had manned the stand with Caroline. We would have been missed if we hadn't been there.

g. We have had three good Spring sales all with good averages and clearances. There were a number of people leaving each sale without a bull. Whilst the sales were all making a profit all be it not terribly high, we are not fulfilling market demand therefore it was agreed that we should remain with two sales at Carlisle. This was proposed by James Weightman and seconded by Stuart. This was agreed by all.

h. Calf show – October sale.

1. Heather at H&H is happy for us to have a calf show. It was agreed that we should have this on the morning of the show and sale and if possible in the big show hall. Caroline will speak to Heather about this.

2. A young handlers class was suggested but agreed not to go with this as children will be at school.

3. It was agreed that calves did not have to be offered for sale. If they were, then they would go into the main catalogue. Otherwise there would be a separate catalogue for the calf show.

4. There would be no commercials.

5. We should advertise this amongst the breed that there will be an emphasis on Blonde cattle sale with calf show.

6. Bulls and females born on or after 1st Nov the previous year.

7. Caroline will contact Willie for any further input as he has been so involved with the Limousin young breeders. CJ

8. An entry fee for the class will be charged and overall winner and reserve would get a years free membership to the society. CJ

i. Caroline said that when she has been checking entries for the shows it had become evident that there were a lot of mistakes, please be more vigilant with eartags, dates of birth particularly.

Kim Mathews from AHDB attended the meeting, they are doing research through AHDB.

Working with abattoirs on commercial animals for carcass traits. He will come back to Caroline when he has more information for the Blondes.

8. Breed development

a. Joiner – a great deal of time has been spent by Caroline investigating the pedigrees through Australia and Canada, the great, great grandsire on the dams side is only 94% pedigree. The following was agreed.

Newsletter

Due to insufficient pedigree details in the fifth generation for Rapor Joiner, all calves will require an inspection prior to registration at the breeders expense.

This will be held under review.

b. Lean meat / Healthy eating route- Caroline said that she had been approached twice recently with regard to promoting the Blondes along the Healthy eating route, this wasn't met with any enthusiasm. It was felt that this could be detrimental to the breed and promoting bulls.

- c. As of 1/7/16 it has been announced that the whole of the UK is to be BVD free within 1000 days.
- d. Council encourage all Blonde members to be a member of a herd health scheme.

9. Administration

a. New Members – There are no new members since the March meeting.

b Membership

Paid members 284 (includes 63 life members) 221 paying = 13,260

Part paid 85 (approx. £2996.25 paying £35.25 unpaid £24.75 = £2103.75)

Unpaid 60 (£3,600)

c. Registration figures – 68 down year to date (May15v16) = £2380.

d. Next meeting, Monday 12 th September - Stoneleigh – Alison Watt offered her apologies for this next meeting.

Monday 5 th December - Carlisle

10 Any Other Business

b. Correspondence and participation from council Caroline again commented on the lack of response from emails that are sent to council and the lack of support that she is getting. The chairman asked that everyone respond to correspondence be it by email or phone. Everyone

e. Pointon show would like a rosette for their show in August, through Chris Hopley. CJ

f. The chairman asked that all the men wear a shirt and tie to council meetings. All

11. Items for the next agenda.

Marketing and Social Media

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.40pm