

This is not a full set of minutes

The 45th Annual General meeting of the British Blonde Cattle Society took place at Wetherall Community Hall on Thursday 23rd February 2017.

Pip Rogers took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that it was a change in the usual venue of the Shepherds Inn due to a refurbishment taking place.

1.Present

Pip Rogers, Nicola Rogers, William McElroy, Roy Kinnish, Alan Keith, David Bowe, Jaimee Turnock, James Drabble, Stuart Mycock, James Weightman, Pauline Williams, Peter Holman, Jackie Smith, Debbie Sixsmith, Billy Laird, Gavin Petrie, Ian Cameron, Heather Pritchard, Pat Wilson. Stuart Wilson, Lucy Corner, Kelly Stott, Rebecca Appleton, Liam Claughan, Andrew Stott, Barbara Stagg, Chris Hopley, John Gibb and Caroline Jackson.

Apologies for Absence have been received from:

Carole Stott, David Knight, Alison Watt, Alistair Martin, Vicky Hicks, Dan Davies, Muriel Gibb, George Hamilton, Jimmy Frame, John and Joyce Stott, Joanne Crozier, Nick Rogers and Charles Mycock,

2.Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting

The Minutes were previously circulated by post and by email to members, prior to the meeting. They were therefore taken as read. They were agreed and signed by the chairman Pip Rogers.

They were proposed by James Weightman and seconded by Nicola Rogers.

3.Matters Arising

John Gibb and Billy had been at the AGM in 2016.

4.Chairmans Report 2015/16

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your attendance this evening, and welcome you all to The Annual General Meeting of the British Blonde Society.

I will now give you a brief review of our 2016 Society show & sales.

We started out last February with our early spring show and sale here in Carlisle.

We achieved a great, solid start to our year at this sale with our Male & Supreme Champion Hallfield Jody leading the way with a commendable £7,000gns

Top price female Penygvent Joy reached £3,200 and stable mate Penygvent Jade the female champion selling at £2,600gns.

AVERAGES for this sale were, 9 bulls @ £3,908 4 cows in calf or calf at foot @ £2,016 6 maiden heifers @ £2,187

Next up was the Worcester Sale in April, this sale attracted huge interest and a rare surplus of buyers the packed sale ring resulted in brisk trade and a 100% clearance. Plus, a Centre Record for the breed with the Bull average over £4,000gns

Top price of the day went to Aaron Jaego Reserve Senior Male Champion going for £4,800

Senior Male Champion Kinaston Jud making £4,750.

Overall and junior male champion was Penwen Jackemo Rose £4410.

Female Champion Doncombe Larissa selling at £2,000

AVERAGES For this sale were 17 Bulls @ £4,008 5 Served Heifers @ £1,545 7 Maiden Heifers @ £1,195

It was nice to see so many happy vendors and another strong representation of the breed on offer, May Arrived and once again a 100% clearance sale.

This time it was Silverwood Luis realising £4,500gns top price of the day

Champion and reserve overall male Hallfield Jose achieved £3,500

Female Champion and Reserve Overall Eileen Jackie sold for £1,950

Averages for this sale were Males £3,178gns and Females £1,630

October brought us back to Worcester once again. The interest here laid with the females which where all sold.

Top price female going to Nantigelli Lavender selling for £1240

Samoht Hudson and Doncombe Lochinvar both selling for £2,000

October brought us back to Carlisle with Champion male Donaldson Jupiter

Top Price at this sale went to Ramrig Lego Master selling for £3,000

With Brownhill Lesa a maiden heifer and female champion of the day making £1,800

With those results still ringing in your ears. It is self-evident that the early shows have performed well, and we've made good progress with numbers on offer resulting in Greater rewards for quality and type being paid, this has been the case at both Carlisle and Worcester sale yards. And so, it is the Autumn sales we need to turn our attention and raise our profile in hope to replicate our earlier sales.

Females are selling out at these sales, if we are to increase the number of buyers present then we need to entice them with more to choose from whilst keeping quality at the forefront.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you the breeders for continuing to represent the breed at our Society show & sales. Wishing those of you with cattle forward tomorrow a successful day. And thankyou to our Auctioneers Harrison & Hetherington here in Carlisle and McCartney's in Worcester for their continued support which is much appreciated.

Health and Figures are becoming more important to our customers with increasing demand, our ability as a breed to produce more united front needs to be given consideration.

We must ask ourselves are we falling behind other breeds by not comprehensively providing consistency throughout our herds.

Other societies are vigourously encouraging their breeders to provide evidence of herd health schemes, and assurance with breeding figures before their animals are offered at their society sales.

Recording and offering these assurances should increase our market share, without which we could undoubtedly lose out to other breeds.

This is not something we as breeders should shy away from. In my opinion we will suffer in the long run if we do.

I know from experience investment and improvement reaps reward, and am sure if we make that investment it will take us forward and enable you the breeders to provide and produce the animals the market is going to require.

The future for Blonde cattle is positive providing breeders continue to improve and give the customers what they want not what breeders think they want.

When asked Commercial Customer top priorities – ease of calving temperament, growth rate and the integrity of the breeder, achieving these will result in repeat buyers.

I wish you all a successful year ahead and look forward to seeing the achievements attained where ever the breed is represented.

I would like to leave you with this passage I read in an article by Helge By.

Each and every breeder is responsible for their part in developing, promoting and expanding the breed. Breeders are you doing your part? Are you a breeder or a multiplier? Are you a promoter or a taker? Think to yourself about what role you are playing in the breed. Is there more you can do?
Thankyou

Proposed by Willie McElroy and seconded by Stuart Wilson.

Secretaries Report 2015/16 – Caroline Jackson

Mr Chairman, members and Joanne.

The Blondes were well represented in the show ring last year at both the major and local shows.

Congratulations in particular to;

The McGarry family who took the supreme champion ribbons with Budore Lollipop at the Royal Balmoral show, the first show of the new season.

Melissa Donaldson who took the supreme championship with Donaldson Jupiter who took the supreme championship at the Royal Highland show.

Countryside Juniper Berry from Jackie Smith who took the supreme championship at the Great Yorkshire show.

The Thomas family, who for the third year lifted the supreme championship at the Royal Welsh, this year with their French bull Idefix who had also lifted the supreme championship at the National show held at the Royal Three counties show.

Lucy Corner, Melissa Donaldson and Sean Mitchell did a great job of representing the Blondes at the Young show stars in May at Malvern. They sourced their sponsorship and with Melissa's cattle they showcased the breed with pride. Thank you to the team and their families for their support.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Midland club in particular the Mycock family and Stuart Wilson for their huge support in taking a stand at the Beef Expo event at Bakewell mart in May.

Thank you to the North of England club who ran the stand at Agri. Expo in October at Carlisle.

In the financial year 2015/16 we sold 40 bulls compared to 45 the previous year, with an average of £2924 which is £150 up on the average the previous year.

35 females sold compared to 44 the previous year with an increase in average of £31 to £1627.

There were 1218 registrations which is 264 down on the previous year.

We had 311 full members in 2016.

We welcomed 10 new members to the society.

The journal is about to go to print and will be with you at the of April.

Daffodil sales amounted to £131.63 at the February sale last year. We will once again be collecting tomorrow for the Marie Curie cancer charity.

I have said this before; you are producing a strong product and as a society we are here to promote the breed but everyone needs to pull in the same direction and do their bit whether that is at shows, sales, or on farm publicity. Negativity towards each other or directed at either myself or the council is of no benefit at all. Negativity breeds negativity, for those that see a glass half empty attitude would be better keeping it to themselves and look towards what they too can do to help themselves and the breed.

If you are not selling your bulls there comes a time when you have to stand back and look through fresh eyes and question, Are you producing what the market wants? Are your buyers looking for cattle

from a herd with a health plan or from a herd that has recorded figures? I appreciate all these things cost money, change does - but can you afford not to make these changes?

Three years ago we as a society made a loss of £24,000, in two years we were looking at a profit of £9000.

I need to remind some of the members that; you voiced strong concern at the AGM when the accounts were produced with a loss. Actions were taken including the cutting of hours, advertising and show stands to name but a few. This was done for the benefit of the society. Unfortunately not everyone agrees with all the decisions made. We are not a large society and sadly cannot do everything we would like to.

Strength comes by working together, have you done your bit? Rather than looking to the society and thinking 'What can I get out of it?' try looking and thinking, What can I put in to it?

The question; what do I get out of the society? makes me cross, you have to pay for a service in this world. When you become a member you are joining a society not a club that is there to give away freebies. We are part of the livestock industry a difficult industry for everyone, we should concentrate on pushing our breed forward rather than thinking 'What can I get out of it for free' Sadly there is nothing free in this world.

We have numerous registrations sent to the office incorrectly filled in; if they are filled in correctly along with payment they are turned around very quickly. Chasing members and returning these registrations costs money, money that could be better spent.

Certificates will not be sent out if there is money owing on your account no matter how aggressive anyone becomes.

Working together for the good of the breed is how we will get results, there are still some people that think that it helpful to pull the society to pieces on social media. Decisions are made at council for the way forward of the society. By putting into action some positivity rather than pulling each other apart would have far more reaching results. Using social media in a positive way can be very effective, used wrongly and it can have a very detrimental effect.

I would like to take this opportunity of reminding members that when you speak to Kate and myself in the office, please speak to us as you would be expected to be spoken to. Courtesy and manners cost nothing.

You can see from this year's accounts that a loss of 264 registrations equates to £9240, this is something that I cannot budget for. It's the member's choice to save on their registration costs but that in turn affects the bottom line for the society.

I would on a positive note like to finish with personal thanks to everyone that has helped this year, be it on stands, at sales or shows, stewards, judges, sponsors Dodds, H & H insurance, Allflex, Clive Roads and his team at McCartneys, Worcester and Heather Pritchard and her team at Harrison & Hetherington Carlisle.

I wish you well in selling both tomorrow and in the year ahead and to all the show teams I wish you a good 2017 show season.

This concludes my report 2015/16.

5.Treasurers report by Joanne Tomlinson from Dodds.

Good evening Ladies and Gentleman. Thank you for inviting Robert here tonight to present his report on the year end accounts. Unfortunately for you Robert's gone on holiday so you've got me instead.

Firstly thank you for all the help given to myself and Dodd & Co's staff during the preparation of the accounts and independent examination.

The main difference with the work carried out this year to previous years is that we have prepared an independent examination rather than a full statutory audit, following the audit requirement being removed from the company's memo and articles. This has resulted in lower governance costs for the charity during the year, while still ensuring that the accounts are subject to external scrutiny.

As the accounts show, the results of the society show a small deficit of £3,200. Whilst a loss, it is still a reasonable result especially given 2013's deficit of £25,131.

The closing funds of the Society stand at £90,661.

In the past few years when Dodd & Co have presented the accounts to the council in their December meetings, the message given was to have a review of all expenditure levels. Where can savings be made while still maximising income? Noticeable cost savings have been made in the past couple of years, with a reduction in costs between 2014 to 2016 of £11,342.

This year we have seen a reduction in membership and registration income, but an increase in journal advertising income resulting in a reduction of total income to £78,566. Costs as a whole have remained similar to last year. While cost savings have been made in certain areas such as accountancy fees and show and sale expenses, these have been balanced out by an increase in advertising and computer costs.

In summary, it's important that the financial position is continually monitored to ensure that the income generation of the society is still maximised despite the fall in costs.

I hope you agree with the adoption of the accounts for the year ended 31 October 2016.

The accounts were proposed by Stuart Wilson and seconded by Chris Shenton.

6.Election of Auditors

Messrs Dodd & Co have expressed their willingness to continue as the Society's Independent examiners.

This was Proposed by David Bowe and seconded by James Weightman.

7.Election of Council

The chairman said; "I am delighted to announce that David Knight, Alistair Martin, Stuart Mycock, Kate Shenton and James Weightman will take new seats on the council, The next meeting will be on 22nd March 2017

I would like to thank Alison Watt and Andrew McNeil for their time council.

There was no vote due to only 5 five nominations for five seats."

8.Any Other Business

a. A statement had been received from Andrew McNeil explaining his reasons for standing down from council which Caroline read out. The chairman said that he was disappointed that Andrew had felt as he did after three meetings.

b. John Gibb asked if it would be possible when having a vote for new council members that when a member has four votes could they be used on one candidate giving the candidate all four votes. This was discussed and agreed against.

c. Stuart Wilson expressed his concern at the lack of females forward at sales. This is something that we should encourage to in turn encourage new breeders. John Gibb said the cost of selling was a contributing factor to the lack of females.

Roy Kinnish agreed that this is something that should be addressed; females are reaching good prices going into the food chain in comparison to the prices achieved for breeding females.

Peter Holman said that TB is also a major contributing factor.

d. Willie McElroy thanked Pip Rogers for his time and commitment as chairman to the society over the last three years.

e. The chairman thanked Caroline Jackson and Kate Grantham from the office and assured members that they do work hard behind the scenes for the society. He went to thank our sale sponsors Dodds accountants, H & H Insurance and Allflex, our accountants, Dodds & Co for all their help. Our

auctioneers; McCartneys and Harrison & Hetherington, for their continued work and support and wished vendors the best of luck with tomorrows sale.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.35pm.