

December 2016

Please note that this is not a full set of minutes.

A meeting of the council of management of the British Blonde Society took place on Monday 5th December 2016 in the boardroom at H & H, Carlisle.

The meeting was opened by chairman Pip Rogers at 9.40am whereby he welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

Attendance; Pip Rogers (Chairman), Stuart Wilson, Vicky Hicks, Andrew McNeil, James Weightman, Pauline Williams, Alistair Martin, Willie McElroy, Chris Hopley and Dan Davies. Caroline Jackson was also in attendance.

1 Apologies for absence were received from Alison Watt and David Knight.

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

3 Matters Arising

4c. Festival of Livestock, due to Tower Bridge being closed, stock numbers were having to be kept to a minimum therefore Blondes were not required this year.

5b. Clive Roads from Worcester mart accepted the letter that Caroline sent regards to the 1% auctioneers commission.

6f1. Vicky wasn't able to link clubs to the society webpage. Caroline has heard nothing back from the clubs that do not have Facebook pages requesting help that was offered.

6f8. Breed commentary - This is something that needs to be looked at with regard to the next meeting. CJ and council.

7a. Northern Ireland would like to host the National show in 2019.

7f. George Hamilton is unable to judge at Worcester spring sale, Richard Hartshorne has accepted this role.

7h. The calf show at Carlisle was cancelled due to a no show of the few entries that we did have. Alan Walkers father had offered sponsorship to this for next year.

The calf show was discussed and it was decided that we should ask the North East club if we could join their already successful calf show at Thirsk that is already up and running opening it up to all members from other regions. CJ

7i. The society didn't take a stand at the Welsh Winter Fair, due to the lack of time from club members. It was agreed that we need to get more Blonde commercial animals in the rings at the winter fairs. A discussion for the S & S committee. **Shows & Sales**

7i(2) It was agreed that at future council meetings that chairmen from each sub committee 'take the sub committee agenda items' to the table.

8b. Alistair Martin said that he has yet to make contact with Dessie Green regarding exporting opportunities. He had established that Fraser was the gentleman that buys/ fattens and exports to France.AM

4. Correspondence

a) Beef cattle conference 23-25 January.

b) Letter from Davy Gibson

1. The club would like to host the National show in 2019 at Balmoral show.

2. The club had put forward Roger and Alexander Johnston, Paul McGarry, Conor Savage and Davy Gibson for the judges list. Caroline said that this is usually changed at the September meeting. It was proposed that these names are included in the September 2017 discussion for the society judges list.

5. Finance

a) End of Financial Year - Accounts Report from Joanne Tomlinson and Robert Wharton from Dodd & Co. The overall final figure amounted to income down £16,963 and expenditure down £1,095 - a loss of £3200.00

c) Society charges 2016 Junior breeders membership needs to be added to this.

c2. It was suggested that Caroline look into Iginity DNA testing. CJ

d) Society fund raising – Caroline said that by not having a fund raising option running we are done £2000 and suggested that an on line lottery could be produced with the help of Paul Day who looks after IT issues in the office at an approx. cost of £200 to produce this to go on line plus the lottery license. There was no interest in this.

d2. It was suggested that Caroline look into re investing the liquidity fund and adding some from the Coventry building society to invest in the Cumberland building society investing £50,000. CJ

e. Caroline explained that she did have a query regarding cheques made to British Blondes as opposed to Blonde d'Aquitaine. Robert advised Caroline to write to the bank with a letter telling them who we would like included in the acceptance of cheques. CJ

f.1. Caroline is in discussions over the office contract with David Benson. It was thought that if we can have a rolling contract with a three year rent review would be the best way forward. CJ

2. Caroline said that although it wasn't something she could offer immediately, but would be interested in working from home in the future if council decide that the office is a luxury that the society cannot afford.

g. Caroline was offered sage training.

h. Budget – It was agreed that it is very difficult to produce a budget with not knowing the number of registrations and membership. Vicky Hicks said that she would create a forecast working off the excel sheet that Robert Wharton had bought to the meeting. VH

i. Andrew McNeil said that he thought a lot more postage could be received by email including the newsletter, which if people don't receive by email then it should be posted on the website. Caroline expressed her concern regarding the newsletter and thought that members should still receive this as hard copy if they don't have email addresses. CJ

6. Publicity & Promotion

a) Calendar of events 2017, these were looked at and agreed.

b) Polled Blondes in Devon – the article from Robert Woods was read and thought that as it was an advert should be treated as such either to be included with the newsletter or charged at an advert rate in the journal. CJ

c. Journal cover 2017 – only two pictures had been sent forward for the journal cover. Willie had a number of pictures that council looked at and decided upon a calf picture. This to be bled off the cover and or taper into fading out off the cover. CJ

d. The bill boards in the foyer at Carlisle are £160 + VAT, It was decided that Willie would produce a poster and Andrew McNeil will get it printed for this, The hire is for twelve months in which time the posters can be changed.

e. Caroline was asked to get the sale dates on the front page of the website.

f. Caroline was asked to include the QR code onto newsletters as a matter of course.

g. Andrew McNeil said that email addresses can be downloaded by using mail chimp and will talk to Caroline and Kate about this following the meeting. AM & CJ

h. Andrew showed council the Blonde jacket that he has produced and given to Caroline. Delivery on orders takes approximately 12 days. AM

i. Leaflet – include the QR code which could be embedded into the logo. WM & AM

James said that he would have a cow picture that could replace the middle picture and will send to Andrew. JW

k. Andrew McNeil said he would happily go to the office to work with Kate to improve the website.

7. Shows & Sales

a) National show 2017 / Relish catering - Caroline is in the process of arranging the catering and has requested Blonde beef, at present the caterers have said yes we can provide our own but cannot give us a finalised price though have indicated that it will be similar to 2016. Caroline is yet to go back and ask for a reduction if we are providing our own beef.

b. Beef Expo 2017- The Midland club are happy to help and support this event but not finance it as they had financed Expo in 2016. Chris Hopley is going to enquire on price of a small stand. CH

c) Sales Balance sheet – It was greed that everyone should look for sponsors. Their logos could be used on Facebook and the web with reports. Caroline reminded council that we should be seen to be supporting our sponsors.

MooCall was suggested as a sponsor. CJ

d. Royal Highland show

2. Andrew McNeil will produce a new sign for the stand, due to the stand being a lot smaller than in previous years. AM

e. Scotlands Beef Event 2017 - Caroline has forwarded the information regarding this and will speak to Alison Watt about it. CJ

f. Balmoral Trade space - Balmoral will take place over 4 days next year. The programme has moved around a bit and there have been some classes added to accommodate the 4 days.

g. Balmoral Sale – letter from Davy Gibson regarding the Balmoral sales. Caroline will speak to Richard Beattie offering our support but not to have the society involved within the sale.

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. These would improve our Expo stands. Andrew McNeil said he would look into the magnetic poster sheets that go on the frame as he has a frame that we can use. AM

b) CheCks TB - Caroline explained the idea from CheCks with regard to the voluntary scheme for vendors to put themselves into categorised areas banded 1 – 10. The one main problem was that a TB 4 area that is the most unlikely area to have TB would be categorized as an area 1 therefore not making things clear.

The pedigree committee had voted against supporting this coming into place.

c) Blonde Young Breeders

1. Vicky will resend Young Breeders suggestions to attach to the minutes. VH

2. Vicky will speak to Gail Beardsly from the Angus young breeders to see if we can work with them or template their idea. VH.

3. Andrew will provide the first 15 hoodies for Young breeders free of charge. AM
Age range 8 -24years. Membership to be £10.00 and will include hoody.
1. Vicky would like to include some junior prizes amongst the classes that we currently have. VH
2. If young members pay a full membership (enabling them to vote) and register cattle to the society, they too can be included into Young Breeders.
3. Membership forms need to be changed slightly to include this as will the Society charges in the journal and on the mail out. CJ

9 Administration

- a. Registration Figures – down 218 on last year. One member that has registered a lot of cattle in the past from Scotland hasn't registered any this year.
- b. New Members – Two new members

Mr Sean Tracey, 30 Killucan Road, Cookstown, Co Tyrone, BT80 9JW

Mr Matthew Reynolds, Wood Farm, Asheridge, Chesham, Bucks. HP5 2UP

Mr Patrick Loye, 8 Dorsey Road, Cullyhanna, Newry, Co Down. BT35 0QA.

- c. Staffing Review - Annual pay & bonus review, £25 for Caroline and Kate was given a Christmas bonus.
- d. Calf Inspections
- e. The draw for the two members to stand for re election in 2016, Alistair Martin and Alison Watt are due to retire by rotation.

Draw of two people: James Weightman, Willie McElroy, David Knight and Vicky Hicks as per Articles of Association and the directorship of solicitor this is required. James Weightman and David Knights names were drawn.

9f Vice Chairman = David Knight who resides as vice chairman until March 2017 has resigned from this position.

Andrew McNeil was proposed by Pauline Williams and seconded by Vicky Hicks was willing to stand.

Willie McElroy was proposed by Chris Hopley and seconded by James Weightman declined.

Andrew McNeil is now the vice chairman.

Andrew said that he would want full active support from all on council with committee groups working to have results to bring back to council meetings along with a three year active plan.

10 Any Other business

- a) Next meetings.

AGM 23rd Feb Carlisle, Caroline explained that the Shepherds Inn are having a refurbishment so will be closed all of February so will endeavour to find a new venue and suggested that we then go to the Toby Inn for the carvery. This was agreed.

Wednesday 22nd March at Stoneleigh,

Wednesday 7th June at Stoneleigh,

Tuesday 19th September at Stoneleigh

Thursday 7th December.

b. Blonde Forum - attached

Willie has produced a questionnaire which was a result of the forum to be sent to venues who have open days.

Next Agenda

Breed commentary

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.55pm