

The Arab Horse Society
Minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 November 2012 at Bromsgrove Golf Club,
Bromsgrove

Present: Joanne Lowe (JL)(Chairman), Natalie Meredith (NM), Sue Bundy (SB), Sally Wrigglesworth (SW), Jayne Armstrong (JA), Val Cridge (VC), Madeleine Sutherland (MS) Diana Whittome (DW), Alastair McLeod (AM), Teresa Sheward (TS) and Jean-Mary Crozier (JMC).

1.0 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Annette Dixon (AD).

2.0 To approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting 21 August 2012

2.1 The minutes of the meeting were approved as a correct record, NM proposed and JA seconded.

3.0 Matters arising from the last minutes

3.1 SW advised that the Corporate Hospitality logs had been updated.

3.2 NM advised that a further quote had been obtained from another supplier for the server but our existing supplier had reduced costs; they know our network and setup and have now installed the new server. In addition one pc has had to be replaced due to a fatal mal function and two printers have been replaced.

4.0 Financial Reports & Budgets

4.1 Unfortunately due to holidays the October accounts are not yet available, these will be circulated to Council shortly; any concerns or queries to be raised with TS. BACS and Stud Book & Registration will break even and the National Show made a small profit.

5.0 Membership Proposals

5.1 AM gave an over view of a proposed gold, silver and bronze membership package. The aim of the packages is to encourage individuals and families who would like to join the Society but may feel the existing membership and cost does not offer them value for money, for example, they may not breed or exhibit. In addition it aims to retain those who may consider leaving by offering options with reduced benefits more suited to their requirements.

It is also appropriate, not only to bring the Society into line with other organisations, but to give the AHS ability to enforce Society rules on handlers and riders who may show horses on behalf of members (at all ECAHO & in HOYS ridden classes), but are not member's themselves. Past incidents have demonstrated it is difficult to modify behaviours when an individual is not a member. With this in mind the Bronze package has been developed for handlers and riders, juniors under 16 years of age and judges.

The packages are summarised below:

	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Individual	£52 DD discount £49	£48 DD discount £45	£25 DD Discount £22
Family (max 2 adults)	£71 DD discount £66	£67 DD discount £62	
Life	£900		
Benefits	All voting, breeding & registration rights. Entry and right to exhibit at AHS events. Free 3 day pass to National Show to include 2 juniors (u16) AHS Members Insurance. Two magazines.	Voting rights only. Free 3 day pass to National Show. AHS Members Insurance. Two magazines.	Free Entry to the National Show. Two magazines per year.

A letter has been sent to all 583 life members asking them to confirm that they still require the magazines; to date 290 replies have been received, those who decline the magazine or don't reply will be removed from the mailing list. This will reduce unnecessary expenditure especially as life members don't contribute to the Society after their initial payment.

It was agreed in principle that these proposals should be introduced for 2013 membership renewal subject to:

- All members who require notification of any change to their direct debit are written to giving the requisite 14 days notice prior to any payment under the DD scheme.

JA asked that Junior members be written to notifying them of their free entry to the National Show.

6.0 Committee Reports

6.1 S & E

The minutes of 20th October were reviewed and approved.

Changes to AHS Rules for Showing: these were individually reviewed and were agreed with the following changes

Instructions to Judges to be amended to state:

“Judges should be aware that social networking websites are a public forum and should not assume that their entries on any website will remain private and take care about what they post on such sites. Judges should:

- Conduct themselves through social networking in a way that is not detrimental to the AHS;
- Ensure interaction on social networking sites is not defamatory or abusive to judges, exhibitors or members of the AHS; and
- Ensure their behaviour and language do not constitute harassment or bullying.

Any conduct whilst using social networking sites which could result in damage to the AHS's reputation, any defamatory/abusive statements or harassment/bullying made by judges, exhibitors or AHS members will be dealt with and may result in judges removal from the judging panel."

To avoid conflicts of interest instead of calendar year this should be changed to 15 months in all instances.

Nosebands & Head pieces must be backed to protect sensitive areas and solid materials are not allowed.

Rule 1 should be amended to include the following sentence “if it is brought to the Society’s attention that any of the AHS show rules are breached by an exhibitor or their handler/rider, even if they are not reported through the show complaints procedure, may result or lead to disqualification, suspension or other appropriate action of horse/ exhibitor/ handler/ rider dependent on the nature of the breach.

HOYS Qualifiers: Shows have been invited by Grandstand Media to accept a qualifier, this year Wessex has been awarded a qualifier over the Midland Arab Festival. Whilst disappointing Grandstand Media did indicate they would rotate the qualifiers.

HOYS Stand: This was highly successful, but whilst S & E are happy to assist if the AHS has the opportunity of the stand in 2013, it will need to be agreed who will oversee the running of it.

Diamond Stallion Auction: DW commented that the stallions were limited to show horses and there were no performance stallions available. Whilst it was agreed this would be preferable it was acknowledged that the jackpot relates to a showing class and the auction bidders are show people. Consideration could be given to a separate performance class via the performance scheme should they wish to organise.

Dope Testing: PR & M has raised this issue in relation to horse welfare. Whilst it has been undertaken in the past, cost has prohibited it more recently. S & E to review random dope testing to include ridden classes.

6.2 PR & M

Promotions: The Auditor requires that stock/ merchandise is overseen in a more controlled manner, not just via an annual stock take. TS and LN are setting up a database to manage this and it will require movement of all merchandise to be logged even if it is going to a show for sale and for it to be logged back in if returned unsold.

Magazine: It was agreed that the front cover should not be a “live” horse, reiterating a previous decision made by Council as it is felt unfair to promote an individual horse. This will be a bumper issue covering WAHO, Welfare, Arab Groups, Shows and much more.

6.3 SB & R

The minutes of the 17th October were reviewed and approved.

DEFRA/NED: a new committee has been formed called “Equine Health & Welfare Strategy” but it is yet to be established what their exact aims are and what influence they may have.

World Horse Welfare: NM had attended a meeting where the tripartite agreement with Europe was discussed in relation to horse import and the disease risk this presents.

7.0 Welfare

- 7.1 SB updated that there is a high level of activity from individuals wanting to rehome horses. A brief discussion took place around the recent high profile RSPCA case in the North. Euthanasia, although a difficult topic, is often a real option to be considered and the Society has highlighted this in the past.

Welfare has now got a useful advert that is going to be placed in magazines and used at promotions.

SB has arranged AHS Welfare Charity boxes.

Hillside Animal Sanctuary had written to JL thanking the Society, especially SB, for their support during a recent case.

JMC & MS left the meeting

8.0 Windsor House (WH)

- 8.1 AM had spent the 16th at WH and had the opportunity to undertake a visual review of the internal and external buildings. A summary of findings and a proposed suggestion will be circulated.

A discussion around the options to relocate registration in other parts of office and potential let part of downstairs to generate income took place. This should be considered/investigated further; to be progressed at the next Council meeting at Windsor House in January.

9.0 Part-bred Percentage

- 9.1 A paper had been circulated prepared by Julia Bridges suggesting that the showing percentage for Part-bred should be reduced to 0.1%. All agreed that part-bred Arabians must have a percentage of blood that is representative of the breed and that the current level of 12.5% was appropriate.

DW left the meeting (but see 12.1 - discussed before departure)

10.0 AOB

- 11.1 The premium scheme has found the Ferishal Trophy which had been presented to the Society by Vivien Breakwell many years ago. They have suggested that this should be awarded to the highest placed registered Arab and AHS member at the EGB annual awards; this was agreed.

SW left the meeting

- 11.2 It was agreed that the AGM provisional date would be 6th April 2013. Bromsgrove Golf Club is accessible and central for members and proved a good venue this year.