



*Members are reminded that they are entitled to receive copies of approved Council Minutes on application to The Arab Horse Society at Windsor House, The Square, Ramsbury, Nr. Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 2PE.
The request for the minutes must be accompanied by a stamped self-addressed envelope.*

**SUMMARY MINUTES
OF**

**THE ARAB HORSE SOCIETY COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held at Bromsgrove Golf Centre
On 10th December 2013 at 11 a.m.**

Present: Mrs. J. Bridges Mrs. E. Mann
Mrs A. Dixon Miss M. Pollard
Mrs. J. Lowe Mrs. C. Roebuck (Chairman)
Mr. A. McLeod Mrs. D. Whittome
Mrs. J. Woodward

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr. A. Hallworth and Mrs. N Meredith.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs. Roebuck asked if any Director Trustee had any declarations of interest to make. None declared.

3. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES OF 30th OCTOBER 2013

The minutes were approved subject to one small correction regarding staff Christmas Lunch.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(4.3) HOYS sashes have now been received by qualifiers who attended the HOYS Final.

(5.3.6) Concern was expressed at the decision to issue Stud Book Volume 22 as a CD.

(8.4) SB & R Committee thought it essential to continue to correct the percentages of the Part Bred Arabs. Current funding is from the Lady Willingdon bequest.

(4.4) The proposed Patron has accepted the invitation.

5. FINANCIAL POSITION AND APPROVAL OF 2014 BUDGET

The Hon. Treasurer provided a Financial Overview and led the subsequent discussion. It was agreed that a loss making budget was not acceptable and all committees must be financially self-supporting and be responsible for their proportion of the collective operating overheads of £90K and savings must be made in all areas.

It was also accepted that serious strategic decisions and an in depth review across all functions and resources were essential and urgent.

The projected loss for 2013 of c £18,700 has been mitigated by a fortunate increase of c £22,500 from the Society's investments. The stock market is currently at a record high.

Under CPL Act 2012 and the Charity Act, business turnover of less than £½ million legally no longer needs a full audit but Council wished the 2013 accounts to be audited as previously.

PR & Management Committee

The boiler had failed and a replacement boiler and flue had been installed. This essential (non-budgeted) action was agreed unanimously.

Insurances had been reviewed.

SEIB have notified the Society that Block Member insurances have been discontinued by the current insurer and a new insurer found. It was agreed to take up the insurance with the new insurers with an increase in the excess if a claim is made by a Member to be announced and to take effect from 2015.

The PR & M Committee had produced the 2013 Yearbook which had achieved a surplus on advertising income over print costs of £1,677 on a print run of 1,800. Council wished to thank the Editorial Team; Mrs Jean-Mary Crozier, Mrs. Val Cridge, Mrs Joan Woodward and Mrs. Maggie Court at Windsor House.

2013 Membership income is down on 2012 by £2,000 (which was slightly better than budgeted) but membership numbers were held at the same level. Gift Aid revenue is up £800 on the 2013 budgeted figure. However there is an ongoing cost of servicing Life Members without corresponding income.

The Hon. Treasurer suggested that Committees should make more use of electronic and telephone communications and try to cut back on meetings. It was proposed and agreed unanimously that effective from 1st January 2014 travelling expenses would revert to being paid only for Council members attending Council Meetings, most of which should be held at our business premises.

Promotional clothing (now on discounted sale) was not viable to sell and would not be re-ordered.

Shows & Events Committee

The 2014 budget projects a loss of c £15,500 including AHS administrative overheads. The Hon. Treasurer felt a fairer reallocation of responsibility for overheads should be considered. A Sponsors' package was being developed for the Malvern Show to meet the costs of the show.

It was proposed and agreed that Sponsorship should be actively sought for all events and should contribute to the cost of running the event rather than prize money or gifts.

Temporary Staff at Malvern and hotel costs for judges and officials will be carefully controlled and managed by the Show Administrator.

The Diamond Auction percentage paid to the AHS is not covering expenses which include dispute resolution and associated administration and staff costs.

It was agreed that Mrs. Dixon would be the Council representative responsible for the Malvern Show.

ECAHO membership and the cost and necessity of attending meetings was discussed. It was felt strongly that the European organisation should conduct its business in Europe, not in the Middle East which was an additional expense.

Stud Book & Registration Committee

The wage bill for correcting mistakes to the Part Bred Arab Registry percentages is ongoing.

The funding for this job should not deplete the Willingdon bequest thus reducing capital.

Conference attendance costs and the expense of various organisations' memberships need to be reviewed to see if any savings are possible.

A long discussion about the Premium Scheme and its beneficiaries opened. The AHS' objects require a scheme to introduce Arab blood into light horse breeding. Questions were also asked as to whether the AHS should subsidise breeding of performance horses who would probably be bred even without the financial subsidy. Of c 400 registrations, only 10 registrations are as a result of the scheme and there was some concern about the costs versus the benefits.

An updated budget was not presented and could not be agreed. The committee will review their budget within guidelines set by the Hon. Treasurer, before 1st January 2014 as payments cannot be made from that date without an authorised budget.

Windsor House Budget

This was accepted and agreed.

6. SHOW ADMINISTRATOR FOR MALVERN

Mrs Armstrong had agreed to undertake this role and had provided a report to Council outlining show preparations and proposals.

Proposals for new classes were agreed.

There were concerns that the entry fees were too low.

The appointment of a Show Director was felt to be unnecessary.

Council agreed with the recommendation to discontinue Western classes.

Monthly written progress reports will be provided to all Council.

7. PREMIUM SCHEME

Carried forward to the next meeting.

8. INTEGRITY OF AHS REPRESENTATIVES AND MEMBERS

Carried forward to the next meeting. Council was asked to review the documentation provided prior to the next meeting, for a full discussion and decision.

9. DIAMOND AUCTION

It was agreed that following several ongoing disputes and contractual issues and the administration that this necessarily caused, the original organisers of this popular scheme would be contacted and asked whether they would take on the organisation and management aspects and hold the funds for any future auctions. The AHS could then help with its PR and allocate ring space etc. at a reasonable commercial rate at the National Show for classes arising from future auctions. All existing commitments would be honoured.

10. COMMITTEE MINUTES

Shows & Events Committee – Minutes of 16th October 2013

HOYS. Mrs Lowe and Miss Wigglesworth have stood down as AHS negotiators and were thanked for their efforts.

Mrs Roebuck had received HOYS proposals and she outlined the costings and HOYS requirements. She had also opened discussions with sponsors.

It was agreed that the cost of the HOYS Q Cards would have to increase from £20 to £25 to offset AHS costs.

Three candidates had reached the necessary standard to become DCs. And their appointment was agreed.

PR & M Committee – Minutes of 31st October 2013

The minutes were reviewed and agreed, also that the PR & M Committee will assume overall control of the Website(s).

11. MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Summary minutes will be drafted and posted on the Website.

12. AGM PLANNING

The Hon. Treasurer will have discussions with the Auditors to prepare the accounts but Mrs. Nicholson and he had already discussed an outline timetable.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

A member had written concerning DNA. Our practice is to exchange DNA results (via the Animal Health Trust) between recognised Registries, not to individuals. This has been explained to the correspondent.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Bridges asked Committee Chairmen to complete and return the skeleton business / event timetables that she had previously circulated.

Agenda items for the next meeting were agreed as:-

Budgets

Premium Scheme.

A fair framework and policy for members whose actions give cause for concern.

Strategy for AHS

Stud Book & Registration Minutes of 27th November 2013, (incorporating Premium Scheme

Sub Committee Minutes of 20th November 2013. Update on Racing and the Paper on Performance Testing).

15. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS AND AGM

Wednesday 15th January 2014 at 11 a.m. at Windsor House

Wednesday 5th March at 11 a.m.

AGM Saturday 12th April at 11 a.m. at Bromsgrove Golf Club followed by a Council meeting at 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday 11th June at 11 a.m.

Wednesday 1st October at 11 a.m. (Budgets)

Wednesday 3rd December at 11 a.m.

The meeting closed at 4.30 p.m.