



Minutes of the RBYS meeting held on 14th February 2019 at Rare Breeds Survival Trust, Stoneleigh Park, commencing at 11.00 a.m.

Present: R James (Show Director), Mrs B Stockton (Treasurer), Mrs D Hicketts (Secretary), Mrs C Bassett (Highlands), T Blunt (RBST), Ms V Clayton (Shire), Mrs A Dodd (HBLB), Mrs A Hart (Highlands), Mrs J Harris (Eriskay), R James (Dales), C Price (RBST)

Mr James welcomed all the Breed Representatives, Mrs Annie Dodd HBLB, Mr Tom Blunt RBST and Mr Christopher Price the recently appointed CEO of RBST.

- 1) Apologies were received from the Cleveland Bay Society, Clydesdale Society, Dartmoor Society, Fell Society, and Suffolk Society
- 2) Show Review

Rodger James (Dales) said the show runs well where it is at Arena UK. He said he thought it would be helpful if the individual breed championships all followed on from the classes, especially when the classes are early. Also, he felt the exhibitors welcomed being judged by the specific breed judges.

Chris Bassett (Highlands) she said how she only attended last year as an exhibitor but thought the venue was good, but the stables were a little tired. She felt the show was very well organised. Also, for the Highland Pony, Arena UK was well placed. She also agreed that the exhibitors liked having a Breed Society judge.

Judith Harris (Eriskay) said how she felt it was good to be able to get all the different Rare Breeds together in one place.

Christopher Price (RBST) said how having only taken over the position of CEO on Monday he could not really give an opinion. He said he had however spoken to Gail Sprake, Chairman of the RBST, who attended the show last year and she was very positive about it.

Victoria Clayton (Shires) said Arena UK was a good venue, everything was on site and it was well located. She was hopeful to put on some "grassroots" classes this year as she felt the novice owner was needing to be encouraged. Mr James felt this could well be accommodated.

Annie Dodd (HBLB) explained how the HBLB organisation would be continuing in the same form as they are now and would hopefully be able to continue to support the British RBYS going forward.

Barbara Stockton (Hackney) said how the Hackneys were not overly happy with the venue. The car park was very wet in 2017 and last year and it made it difficult to get exhibits into the ring clean. Outside stable lighting in the evening was poor. As the majority of the Hackney exhibitors are based in the south the venue was not well positioned for them.





Richard James concluded that it appeared that the majority of the Breed Societies were satisfied with the event, its location, format and organisation but he said however that he believed that there is always room for improvement and sometimes a makeover was good.

3) Accounts

Barbara Stockton (Treasurer) thanked the HBLB for their generous show sponsorship. She informed the meeting confirmation had just been received that the HBLB was again kindly donating £4000 for the show this year. She distributed copies of the 2018 Show accounts that showed a small surplus. Richard James said that as the show had made a surplus each year there is a satisfactory reserve to cover expenses should the show ever have to be unexpectedly cancelled.

4) Venue

Richard James said that one of the main problems was the show date that clashes with HOYS. Unfortunately alternative dates at Arena UK were not available so the 2019 show has been provisionally booked for **Saturday 5th October**, but he has been looking at possible new venues with dates towards the end of September.

A good alternative is Hartpury College in Gloucestershire which is more modern and has the facilities required excepting stables, but they would however be able to erect temporary stables at a cost of £85 - £100 per stable. The cost of the venue would be double that of Arena UK, however it would solve the problem of the distance for some but not the majority.

Richard James went around the table as to whether anyone would support moving from Arena UK, the answers were:

Dales – No

Highlands – No

Eriskay – No

Shire – No, cost prohibitive

Tom Blunt RBST – No, cost of stables would make it expensive

Hackneys – Yes

Richard James said that as the vast majority present were keen to stay at Arena UK he would confirm the booking with Arena UK.

5) Format of Classes

Richard James thought that it would improve the format of the show to have all the in-hand classes followed by the ridden and finally the championships. He said he would make the ridden rings larger, although this would depend on entries.

Chris Bassett said the Highland Pony Society wanted to encourage youngsters and had started an in-hand championships. They were hopeful that they could hold one of the championships at the RBYS.

Richard James said he would be happy to include these champions in the evening performance.





6) RBYS Championship Format

Richard James ran through the format of the championships as several new representatives were unaware of how it was run. Mr James said how each Breed Champion is given a minute to “show their animal” and that the three judges then awarded points out of 10 by holding up a card for all to see, similar to “ice dancing” judging. The points are added together and the exhibitor with the highest score is crowned RBYS champion. The three judges are well experienced horseman but not specific breed judges.

The meeting confirmed that they wished this format to continue.

7) Sponsorship

Dawn Hicketts said how without the sponsorship from HBLB the show would struggle to be viable financially. Richard James asked everyone to consider sponsors to support individual Breed Championships at say £50 per Championship.

Victoria Clayton asked if there was the possibility of having trade stands. Mr James said that trade stands are welcome but there is not a great deal of space available and they must not compete with the Arena UK retail outlets.

8) Secretariat

Richard James said now that he was getting older and also as Dawn Hicketts was retiring from the HHS Secretariat he would like to find replacements for these two positions. Dawn Hicketts asked Christopher Price if it was something the RBST would be interested in taking over the show, he said it was a little early in his term as CEO RBST to make a commitment at this time.

Mrs Dodd thanked Mr James and Mrs Hicketts for their involvement over the six years.

9) Publicity

Richard James asked if there was anyone who would be interested in taking on the role of publicity. He said he thought the website needed a little more investment to make it more user friendly. He asked if all the individual Breed Societies would ensure there was a link on their site to the RBYS site. Victoria Clayton said she would speak to Fiona Ford to see if she would be interested in taking on the role of publicity.

10) Any other business

Richard James said he had provisionally booked Hartpury College for two days in 2020 and asked if the RBST would be interested in using some of the time for other species. Tom Blunt thought end of September/October would not be a good time and there could be several complications.

Barbara Stockton said how the show needed more spectator appeal and Hartpury being an agricultural college would have students who could well be interested in watching.

Christopher Price said how he felt there is a need for something to make it interesting to the general viewing public, a difficult problem at present.





Victoria Clayton suggested Aintree could be a possible venue for the show in the future. It had all the facilities and was reasonable and local people may come. Annie Dodd said there was a good ex racehorse group in the area who could be very interested in putting something on. Richard James said he would investigate the possibility as a venue for the future.

Victoria Clayton said she would speak with the Clydesdales and Suffolk Societies to look at putting some joint heavy classes on under the heading "British Heavy Horse Grassroots". Also, she said she would speak with Ken Young from the Halloughton Shires to see if he would put a display on.

Mr James thanked everyone for their attendance and the productive meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.10 p.m

