

Council Meeting - Minutes

25 February 2017 - 5pm at Sovereign Quarter Horses

Present:

David Deptford - International Director (DD)
Ruth O'Reilly - Administration Director (ROR)
Lucy Adams - Technical Director (LA)
Leigh Cheetham - Breed Show and Events Director (LC)
Sandra Loder - Youth Director (SL)
Frances Neil - Policy Director (FN)

Karen Coleman - Administration (KC)

1. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising not on the agenda

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record there were no matters arising on not on the agenda.

2. Appointment of the Interim Chair

On 4 February Council received an email from Nick Mason tendering his resignation with immediate effect. Council wished to thank Nick for stepping up as Chair at a difficult time for the Association and for his work during 2016. Francis Neil made it known that she would be delighted to be nominated for the post of Chair. No further nominations received.

Moved: David Deptford
Seconded: Ruth O'Reilly.

3. Council Elections 2017 - Declarations

Further to discussions at the previous meeting regarding the election of officers, an email discussion had continued in the intervening period. For the record it was noted that at the forthcoming AGM the following arrangements would stand as that these align with the Articles of Association.

Lucy Adams - standing for re-election
Ruth O'Reilly - standing for re-election
Francis Neil - was co-opted and is standing for election
Sandra Loder - was co-opted and is standing election
Leigh Cheetham - was co-opted and is standing election
David Deptford - continues in post

4. Euro Cup 2017

Lucy Adams reported that she had received correspondence and that the deadline has been brought forward to mid April. There will be five team members and two individuals

Quotations were being prepared for the team uniform and that this would be similar to that of the Youth Squad. It was noted that, all expenses with the exception of the entry fees were being covered by the team members.

LA reported that she had been approached by the Alison Bucknell from AQHA Eire who would like to work with us to enable Eire to send competitors as they have insufficient riders. Alison is suggesting we send a second-team with a combination of Irish and UK members. It was noted that this would be self funded. LA will investigate and report back at the next meeting.

5. Youth

SL reported that the Youth Introduction Day today had been a very successful. That all the riders had done really well and that the parents were very engaged and supportive. Two parents has volunteered to help with T-shirts and sponsorship.

Thirteen youth attended and all of those were between 14 and 16-year-old. The parents are very keen on the leadership places. It was noted that the standard of riding in the group is exceptionally high.

Sandra had discuss the budget and the requirement that all team members must contribute to fundraising activities both individually and as a team. SL noted that the first deposit payment of \$3000 is due in March followed by \$3,000 in July with the balance required in March 2018.

Mary Larcom and Sandra are arranging the training dates for the next 18 months and confirmed that Charlene Carter will be the Youth Coach again following the successes with the 2016 squad. Charlene will be over between June and August.

Karen Coleman stated that should individuals wish to set up monthly standing orders to spread the cost that she would be able to provide quarterly statements and that these would include sums for individual fundraising.

Sandra said that she was in the process of approaching Country Life to promote the squad and has made an approach for Lottery funding.

6. International

DD reported from the FEQHA meeting. The Euro Cup 2017 has eleven teams so far this includes amateur and youth. Our team will need to be nominated by the end of February and team member names listed by mid April. This is earlier than previously reported and would put pressure on select a team sooner than originally planned. LA would look at how we could change the planned approach. DD reported that half of the entry fees were to be paid by mid March and that there would be five individuals in a team. All riders have to compete in three classes and there will be two judges.

It was noted that the AQHA levelling update it will take two more years before AQHA change system. And, that current discussion are looking at pointing out much sooner with around one-third of the points required before pointing out of L1.

DD reported that there was much discussion regarding the changes to the Stud Book in 2018. FEQHA has put a proposal to AQHA to manage the Stud Book centrally in Europe. KC stated that this would have implications in terms of UK law and the financial impact on the Association. DD will share the FEQHA report.

DD stated that whilst the previous Chair had stated that DD should attend Convention on our behalf, DD said that he would not attend as the UK normally attend alternate years.

DD will send to a full report to Council.

7. Breed Show and Events

LC reported that she had a breed show planning meeting with Francesca Sternberg and that this was well supported. There will be a trade village and that the barn will be available for entertainment. SL confirmed that Jane Muir will be Show Secretary and will mentor Nikki Verstage and that Mick Carder will be Show Manager supported by Nick Verstage as scribe. Leigh is still to secure a commentator and ring stewards. LC displayed a new 40th anniversary show logo and this has been developed and will be used for promotional material. The photographer is yet to be engaged and alternative being sort.

It was agreed that buckles will be presented in western disciplines and that trophies will be presented in to English classes provided that these were sponsored. There will be no championship for L1, a hi-point award will be presented. The championship classes will run on Sunday and all awards presented on the same day. Garlands are being prepared for presentations and the day will be run along the lines of the European Shows. The Championship Rules will be publish on the website next week.

AQHA Horsemanship Camp will be held in Devon at the Crescent Arena and that we will be hosting five clinicians from Middle State University, Tennessee lead by Dr Holly Spooner who will be here for three days. The dates are now confirmed as 10 - 12 August. Booking will be opened shortly.

LC reported that Mick Carder had brought to her attention that all of the all of the UK Show Manager qualifications expire in January 2018. LC stated that there is currently a pilot online course available. LC will approach Mikey Kayser to see if we can run a course in the UK and we will invite those on our list and the venues to support attendance.

8. Welfare & Technical

Nothing to report

9. Administration

ROR reported that the modernisation report requires two days work to complete. As the change work has already started the report has been put on the back shelf. Once we have others in place to help the report will be completed and published on the website.

Ruth noted that the contract for the business review and administration comes to an end after the AGM enquiring what Council wish to do going forward. Ruth expressed her concerns that if we do not fill the role the Association may not continue to operate. ROR proposed that the contract be extended until the end of March 2018 to complete the change work. It was agreed to continue and that ROR and FN would discuss and agree remuneration.

KC reported that both herself and ROR had attended the latest Central Equine Database training. In the run up to go-live a three stage data validation was underway. AQHA-UK PIO required very little validation in stage one and two. Phase three threw up 68 horses with UELN errors. These have been corrected on the database and passports have been recalled to add the UELN.

KC noted that we have still not made any arrangement for file storage as previously discuss. Storage continues to be an issue and that KC would like to regain her dining room. ROR agreed to follow up on the server / secure cloud storage solutions.

10. Policy

FN reported that she had contacted the BHS Safeguarding Team who had recommended that the we hold on updating our policy until FN had attended the refresher training as there had been changes to National policy. FN will be attending the refresher in May after which the police will be updated to reflect the recent changes.

11. AGM

ROR reported that the AGM paperwork had been posted to members noting that should nominations be received the voting papers should be posted out no later than 3 March. Council reviewed the Accountants and Council Report and were satisfied that these could go forward to printing after 4 March. Nicole Cole, Accountant, Willis Cooper will present the accounts and prepare a detailed breakdown for Council. FN agreed to take the meeting as Interim Chair and Directors would present their respective reports.

12. Futurity Change Proposals

LA and DD presented ideas for updating and expanding the futurity scheme. It was agreed that there should be an increase in non ridden classes for three year olds, that there should be separate classes for amateurs and that the membership should vote on the futurity age bands.

The draft proposals would be discuss at the AGM and three proposals voted on by the membership

- To include amateur classes
- To agree if the age bands should be 3 - 5 or 4 - 5 years old for ridden classes
- To agree if rule changes cold be made by council or should they continue to be voted at the AGM

13. Passport and Membership Charges

The prices for membership, passport services and the futurity scheme were discuss. It was agreed that these should increase as they have fallen behind and need to cover overheads for example consumables, postage and workload. There is also a disparity in the pricing structure in some instances and need realigning. It was agreed to defer the pricing schedule until after the AGM.

14. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 3 May 2017, 12.30 at The Great Northern Hotel, Peterborough

Chair_____

Secretary_____

Date_____