

## Minutes of AQHA UK Council Meeting

Holiday Inn, Hinckley Road, Coventry, CV2 2HP

9.30 am. Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2015

### Present

Joyce Markham, David Deptford, Sheila Fitzpatrick, Julian Howard, Emma Darwood, Mike Roberts, Lucy Adams

1 **Apologies**

None

2 **Trophy**

AQHA UK has received a beautiful glass trophy from the US to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was agreed that this will be displayed at the venue holding the Breed Show and passed on to the next host each year at the end of the show.

3 **Minutes**

Correction on Emma Darwood's position as PR Officer and not Regional Officer. Amended. Agreed that minutes are otherwise correct.

4 **Youth World Cup**

a) **Applications**

Currently there are nine applications and two more are due to be handed in next weekend. There have been six applications for the under 14's group.

b) **Permits.**

All applicants will be contacted re permits for borrowing horses for clinics and shows. SF to send the letter, also to contact Oakridge as no firm reply as yet on using their horses but this may be email problem.

c) **Age limits/specifications.**

There have been some complaints regarding the age range of 14-18 from certain parents. The council discussed this at length and the original letter inviting children to apply clearly stated this age group only because child safety is paramount. LA pointed out that team members will undoubtedly have to longe horses and ride horses that may only be green broke youngsters, and this cannot be expected of younger children. Child protection is paramount. A team member age 18 can not be made to feel responsible for a much younger child, and the team is largely left alone to ride and work without the supervision of adults at all times. Parents cannot be there at all times to supervise, as it is impractical with some of the activities. Some venues have age limits for children set by the

insurance policies. It was agreed by all that the team age limits will remain as originally stated, and the AQHA states that affiliates can set their own rules. The rules will be published on the AQHA UK and WES website and Facebook page.

d) **Leadership places**

It was discussed at length with all views being considered, and was agreed that there would be Leadership places available because it would provide a most important training ground for members of the next team. Leadership places would be available from the 14-18 age range but if places became available younger members would be considered if they have attended junior clinics and competed in events during the year. However, parents/guardians/responsible adults of juniors must incur the cost their (adult and child) own travel, hotel, food, excursions, clinics and activities and must accompany the children at all times. The cost of each Leadership place is \$1100 (US). ED to draft a letter with the full rules for approval.

e) **Staff requirements Australia**

The question of how many people from the AQHA UK should travel with the squad. The Team Manager, Team Mentor and Team Coach are booked to go and it was decided that Lucy Adams in position of Mentor would also liaise with parents of those with Leadership places and non-riding team members. ED to write draft policy rules for approval.

f) **Numbers travelling**

AQHA UK will take 10 members of the squad to Australia. We are now inviting leadership places. Terms and conditions and Age requirements/limits will be made explicit to all parents/guardians and team members.

g) **Insurance – parents/responsible adults**

All parents/guardians must sign releases and sign insurance disclaimer.

h) **Insurance/Trainers/Coaches**

All coaches/mentors/trainers must be insured to teach at venues other than their own within the UK and those travelling to the competition must have full cover to teach in Australia. They must also check that they are fully covered to teach all aspects of the Western Riding Discipline.

i) **Child Protection Policy**

All coaches, mentors, trainers involved with the teams/squad must have been fully checked by the Disclosure and Barring Service (previously known as CRB). It is essential that they are up to date with all checks for the 2015-6 duration.

j) **Insurance/CRB declaration**

SF to write to all coaches/trainers to confirm their insurance and CRB is in place; coaches/trainers must put this in writing to the AQHA UK.

k) **Car hire Australia**

JH stated that insurance must be in place to ensure that AQHA UK members can drive a hire vehicle for team members if necessary to various events/clinics/activities.

l) **Selection process**

It was agreed that it is essential for all parents and participants within the squad to understand fully the selection process and all it entails. Therefore a full document will be published which will give guidelines on clinics, shows and other requirements such as behaviour, and distributed to all relevant parties.

m) **The current timetable is:**

13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> July at Clinic at Bodiam. With Lucy, Mary and Tammy Greaves.

12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> September – Clinic at Sovereign Quarter Horses.

18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>th</sup> September – Breed Show + Clinic (applicants must participate in the competition)

2<sup>nd</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> October Q15 in Aachen Germany. Attendance not compulsory but decided it would be beneficial for applicants to watch and experience a large show.

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> October (Venue TBA) Clinic. DD to find a European Judge. Mary Larcom.

November 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> – Selection Clinic. DD, Mary Larcom, Lee Rutter.

These are all compulsory clinics/shows but if a person cannot attend they must state their reasons in writing to the committee.

**2016**

5 - 7 February. DD to investigate possibility of adding a Reining clinic within Oakridge Reining Clinic.

April – DD to arrange Youth Trail Clinic with Tim Kimura

2<sup>nd</sup> May – Post Fenland Show Clinic as follow up to competing at Fenland Show.

Lucy Adams and David Deptford to investigate more US and EU clinicians.

n) **Training Standards**

David Deptford will attend clinics/shows at other venues to monitor training and progress of applicants/participants.

p) **Selection Policy.**

Due to certain applicants being unavailable for all clinics the following policy was agreed: All training dates/shows in 2015 are compulsory unless there is a valid reason in writing as to why a person cannot attend. All training dates/clinics/required shows in 2016 are mandatory without exception. This is because in 2016 training will intensify and the team-building process is essential for all involved. Parents/Guardians/Squad members will receive a full policy document with all rules and regulations.

q) **Budgets/Sponsorship**

Parents have been informed that costs will be capped at £5000. There is a draft budget from the previous YWC and it is essential to

raise £30,000 from sponsorship and fundraising efforts to cover all costs. MR to approach companies and individuals for possible sponsors/donations. JM to write to possible international contributors. Youth participants are already planning fundraising efforts and events. R O'Reilly is arranging to have wristbands printed and distributed so that these can be sold at profit, as well as other merchandise ideas. Crowd funding is also being investigated as a possible source of revenue. JM stated that there is a portion of Gift Aid, £4,000 which will be put into the YWC fund. It was suggested that the Breed Show application form should contain a £5 donation for opt-out only.

r) **Clothing**

There has been a generous offer by a member to make/design team clothing. Clothing and merchandise requirements will be discussed at a specific meeting in the near future.

s) **Tack**

JM will investigate the price of shipping tack, as well as finding out whether tack is available to hire in Australia.

5) **Breed Show**

JM, MR, JW, SD, and DD met to discuss the Breed Show on the 25<sup>th</sup> April. The Show Team is in place and arrangements have been made for the Photographer, First Aid, Team Polo Shirts, Catering, dedicated sponsor and VIP parking.

SF is to contact Tanya Rowe re information regarding the Futurity/Maturity classes so that the qualifications can either be revamped or debated whether to continue. SF will be the Championship Awards coordinator. Additional help with trophies and awards will be required for the weekend. The Youth Squad will be available to help, raise money as and when required, or when not competing. Entertainment for the Saturday evening is TBA but possibly will be a hog-roast.

6) **Marketing and PR - ED**

ED put forward suggestions for raising the profile of the AQHA UK by being seen at outside events such as Your Horse Live, Equifest, Hoys. Have the word 'association' tacked onto the logo so that it is clear there is a governing body. Agreed by all. Make more use of the website, Twitter, Instagram, You Tube and hashtags. Also to run a digital library of training and have a records archive. Possibility of a 'suggestion box' on the website for members comments and ideas. More Partner sponsors required to replace last year's main sponsor. The US have apps for the youth – investigate possibility of having this in the UK. Work with companies such as rug manufacturers to sell through the website. Ensure that members understand the rules especially with regard to points and showing. DD to raise issues as and when necessary with AQHA as ID. Possibility of all-breeds classes. Possibility of a Novice Show in the North of England. DD to investigate funding for this from the US. Discuss

member prices at next meeting but drop corporate membership. These ideas are to be investigated and discussed further at the next meeting.

7) **Quiet Storm**

The one outstanding edition remaining will take the form of the first annual journal. The quality of the paper will be slightly dropped to reduce costs substantially. There will be full show reports, lifestyle articles and advertising. JM and ED are to go to QS to negotiate the price and discuss website issues and report back.

8) **Working Groups and Sub-groups**

To be discussed at the next meeting.

9) **Expenses**

Mike Roberts raised the issue of expenses. Agreed that he has a budget of up to £250.00. Council members can claim travel expenses to meetings if they require it.

10) **Next meeting:**

23<sup>rd</sup> August 2015 9.30am Oakridge Arena, Lincolnshire.