

**Minutes of AQHA-UK AGM**  
**Held at 2.00pm on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2015**  
**Holiday Inn, Hinckley Road, Coventry, CV2 2HP**

**Present:**

**Joyce Markham, David Deptford, Sheila Fitzpatrick, Julian Howard, Carin Herrick, Emma Darwood, Sarah Nutt, Pat Dyke, Peter Wright, David Turner, Mick Carder, David Teideman, Ruth O'Reilly, Elizabeth Brewington**

1. **Apologies for absence.**  
Mike Roberts, Jane Roberts, Lucy Adams, Karen Coleman, Sandra Mitchell, Dorothy Coleman, Anthony Oakley, Stephanie Oakley, Emily Darvill, Sarah Deptford, Henry Deptford, Jackie Teideman, Iain McIntyre.
2. **Election Results:**  
Mike Roberts, Lucy Adams, Julian Howard and Emma Darwood duly elected to Council.
3. **Minutes of 2014 AGM.**  
The minutes were available for all present and were considered to be correct. A motion was proposed and seconded to approve the minutes and carried by the meeting.
4. **Council Report for 2014.**  
Membership is down however showing activities and other events continue to be well-supported. The AQHA International Director in the US is now Amy McLean and we wish her luck in her new role. She replaces David Avery who has been our contact for many years. Registrations and transfers of horses have increased which is very positive. Mike Roberts is now Finance Director. There was initially difficulties with the Gift Aid registration but the Accountants are now acting as the AQHA UK agents and therefore the problems have been resolved. Jemma Gunning is still dealing with passports, registration and membership however the data is still not on the website but the process of adding all the information is now underway.

- 5 **AGM Resolutions 2014.**  
a) The AQHA UK Hall of Fame for people and horses has been implemented. As this is the first year the committee has made nominations for the first recipients, however from next year the membership will be invited to make nominations supported by a statement outlining the nominees achievements. Council has nominated the first inductees who are Sarah Nutt and Priscilla Leigh. Gill Parker designed the plaque which is sponsored by David Deptford, and this will be presented at the awards evening on 2 May.  
b) Genetic Testing to promote sound breeding stock, it has been widely publicised and the AQHA UK will continue to encourage owners to have breeding stock tested.
- 6 **Breeding**  
There have been fewer foals registered this year, it is unknown if owners are choosing not to register or if breeding was lower in numbers. Three Quarter Horses have been given awards by the AQHA: Jays Smoking Story owned by David and Sarah Deptford has been awarded Open AQHA Champion; Jays Dene, owned by David and Jackie Teideman achieved an Open AQHA Superior Halter Award; and Make Me Invited, owned by Jane Wallace became the first UK owned gelding to achieve an AQHA Open Superior Halter Award. There have been many other horses who achieved Registers of Merit and congratulations go to all of the owners.
- 7 **Promotional Activities**  
Merchandise is now advertised on the website and the Journal with our members modelling the clothing. There is a new Hi-Point for non-western riding to promote Quarter Horses in non-western activities. At the British Dressage Championships David and Sarah Deptford joined Paul Hayler in the demonstration in front of a large dressage audience. Lindsay Robinson worked very hard to ensure a team of Quarter Horses were included in the New Year's Day Parade "All The Queen's Horses" section. This gained the Quarter Horse breed international and national coverage on the television and radio. Congratulations to all those that took part in all these activities.
- 8 **The Breed Show and Championships 2014**  
There were over 70 horses that took part in the Breed Show held at Bodiam this year which was a great success. Jane Muir and Jane Wallace worked tirelessly to ensure a smooth running show. Also thanks to David Teideman, Mick Carder, as well as Pat Dyke and Sarah Nutt who ran the sponsors tent. There was a clinic beforehand run by Torstein Haier and Doug Allen which was very well attended. Also thanks to David and Sue Turner of The Reining Authority for their huge donation and sponsorship. Thank you to all our other sponsors. The Breed Show will be at Horse Creek Farm this year, the final year of the first cycle of rotation. A decision will then need to be taken about the future arrangements for the show although it is likely that rotation between the venues will continue.
- 9 **International**  
The World Equestrian Games Reining event in France was attended by Team GB, comprising of Doug Allen, Francesca Sternberg, Jessica Sternberg and

Josh Collins. Josh Collins achieve 15<sup>th</sup> place in the final – an outstanding placing. Many congratulations to all who took part.

10 **Youth**

The Youth World Cup was held in Texas. The AQHA UK squad comprised of Avril Wilson, Tabitha Sternberg Allen, Isobel Le Pla, Hayley Davies and Nina Rudd. Non-riding members Emily Sands and Sophie Davis also attended along with Jane Muir. Congratulations to all, and a thank you to Jane Muir for all of her hard work behind the scenes.

11 **Non-show events**

The AQHA Horsemanship Camp was run this year by the University of Finlay, Ohio. It was well attended and a huge success. There were three days of serious training, and there is a write-up in the Journal as well. It is hoped that from 2016 there will be more than one camp per year held, Oakridge Arena have applied to be a host in the future. Lindsay Robinson and Abby Jeeves are running the Get On And Ride Scheme which is proving hugely successful. The awards on offer have been reviewed and we now give T-Shirts, Rosettes and Certificates dependent upon hours achieved.

12 **Horse Welfare**

There were two complaints about the condition of horses this year. These were because horses were delivered to yards without the new owners actually seeing them beforehand or even inspecting the environment in which they had lived. Mistakenly people believe that the AQHA UK is a regulatory body; this is not the case and we have no powers of entry, and no persons qualified to make official judgments about the condition of horses. It is therefore advised that people wishing to purchase a horse should

- a) Not buy without seeing the animal
- b) Should look carefully at the conditions in which they are kept.
- c) Should complain to the RSPCA and/or Trading Standards if there is a question about the animal's wellbeing.

13 **Administration:**

Carin Herrick is updating and completing the current database of members which will then go on line as part of the website. Julian Howard is re-writing the Articles of Association as well as the Rules and Regulations for the AQHA UK. Many thanks to them for their hard work.

14 **The Year Ahead.**

**The Breed and Championship Show 2015**

This year will see a new format for the Breed Show. There will be Four AQHA judges, three from Europe (Sylvia Jaeckle, Ricky Bordignon, Dagmar Zenker) and one from the USA who has yet to be confirmed. There will be two double-judged shows each taking one and a half days. The Grand Supreme Halter will be on one day and will be judged by all four judges. All the Grand Champions from the four shows will be in the ring to be judged. This will be excellent for the spectators as well. There will be a clinic running

on the Thursday beforehand with clinicians focusing on those Novice Amateurs who are first time entrants in the Championship classes. Joyce Markham and Ruth O'Reilly will be liaising with WES at the Championships to invite those Quarter Horse owners to take part. There was a question as to why the Show Manager is not from the UK; the reason given is that there was no one suitably qualified to run a four-judge show. The Show Manager, Juergen Von Bistram, is willing to mentor those Show Managers within the UK, who wish to observe and gain skills in managing such a technical show, which is very generous of him, and will be very valuable for the UK team.

### **Youth**

The first Open Day for the 2016 Youth World Cup to be held in Australia, took place at Sovereign Quarter Horses. Riders were invited to attend from English riding backgrounds as well as those who are members of WES. They must however become members of the AQHA UK if they wish to be considered for the team.. Nine riders participated in the Open Day and another five expressed an interest for later clinics. They used horses loaned by David and Sarah Deptford, Lucy Adams and Jo Corringham. There is also a plan to run clinics for Junior Youth ie those up and coming for future competitions. David Deptford is the Head Trainer, Mary Larcom is the Manger and Lucy Adams is the mentor.. These three will travel with the team to the competition. There was a question over why the previous management should not continue but it was explained that firstly there was no criticism about the management of the 2012 event but that this time the AQHA UK wanted greater control and wanted to do things differently. There was a late announcement from AQHA with regards to the venue and a coaching team had to put together with some urgency. At the present time there are already 14 names to put forward who wish to be included in the selection process which is a positive start for the future. Now that the team is under the control of the AQHA UK it means that the regulations for inclusion in the team can be implemented. All members who wish to be considered must attend some of the clinics, to be held at Oakridge and Bodiam as well, and must show during the year but have to compete at the Breed and Championship Show. Showing experience is essential. It was agreed that the first clinic had been a huge success and everyone is looking forward to the next ones.

### **Futurity Report.**

Tanya Rower the co-coordinator of the Futurity Scheme has not compiled the full report as yet but Joyce Markham assured the meeting that this will be done soon and the results published on the website. There were disappointing entries into futurity classes and it may be that we need to change the format of the Futurity and Maturity events.

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### **Financial Report**

- a) An apology on behalf of the accountants as the futurity and youth fund figures have been mixed up and therefore it shows an inconsistency in the figures. This will be corrected.
- b) There have been a depletion of funds of about £13,000 which is due to:
  - i) The Journal has increased in costs by £6,000 largely due to an extra Journal being published. Council intends to move to one annual

journal in the future. The costs are enormous and do not justify it continuing in its present form. There were several comments from the floor supporting this move which would revert to the original system of making the Journal an annual publication.

- ii) Subscriptions have dropped but the council is hopeful that progress and improvements being made will ensure an increase in membership in the future.
- iii) Events: There was an overall loss of events of £3,000. The programme produced for the Breed and Championship Show incurred a loss as it was not actively sold and the show made a loss. **(N.B. This loss was not accurately reported. Events did make a loss of £3000 but the Breed and Championship Show made an operating profit of £1846. The method of producing the account caused the confusion and the Breed and Championship Shows will be shown separately in the future).**
- iv) There has been a change in the qualification rules for the Breed and Championship Shows to actively encourage more members to participate. Although the Breed Show costs this year will be higher there is greater incentive for members to enter.
- v) Council recommended that the Independent Examiner for 2015 be Robert Cooper of Willis Cooper. This was proposed, seconded and agreed by the meeting.

c) Overall the financial news is not good for the year but the new ideas, incentives and planning means that confidence remains high for the forthcoming year.

d) There was a suggestion that foal registrations could come with an automatic membership for a year. Also suggestions that subscriptions could be automated through Direct Debits. However, until the database is up and running and on a secure server the association is unable to retain credit card/debit card details and implement automatic payments. However, this is hoped to be completed in the near future which will encourage members to continue their membership much more easily and efficiently. Our bank will not approve use of Direct Debit payments until the membership numbers have increased to at least 1000 members. It was suggested that the Association could produce Journal binders for the yearly Journal. The new annual Journal will contain photographs and reports from the shows as well as articles and advertising. Again it was essential to understand that the present number of issues of the Journal could not continue due to production costs. As well as the yearly Journal there will be regular newsletters to all members containing information about events and news. This would be sent via email to the majority and by post to those who request a hard copy.

16 **No Motions Received.**

17 **End of meeting.**

Joyce Markham thanked everyone for their attendance and the contributions made during the course of the meeting.

