



Minute of the Annual General Meeting of the Beef Shorthorn Cattle Society held at noon in the Conference Room at United Auctions, Stirling on Sunday 2nd February 2020

Present: Mrs Cathryn Williamson (President), Charles Horton (Vice President) and approximately 60 members and friends.

Also in attendance: Morna Bell (Society accountant) Joanna Bailey (Breed Secretary)

The President opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from David Leggatt, Fraser Hugill, Richard Henning, Martin Reynolds, Luke Anthony, Maureen and Malcolm Ross, James Playfair Hannay, Allan Jackson, Caroline and John Elliott, John Wood, Rob Paisley, Erika Ivinson, Elizabeth Lang and Bob McWalters

2. To approve the minute of the eighty third Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 3rd February 2019

This was proposed by Sally Horrell and seconded by James Fanshawe. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. To receive the Directors' Report and approve the accounts for the year ending 31st August 2019

Cathryn Williamson (CW) read out the directors' report and updated on the excellent progress made by the Charolais Society (BCCS) on the backlog of DNA testing they inherited from PCS since they took over the contract on 1st July 2019.

CW announced that Steve Johnson had resigned and consequently she had appointed Tim Riley (TR) in Steve's place as Chair of the Breed Development Committee. CW then introduced TR with a brief biography.

CW further announced that training for potential younger judges had been arranged and that the Society would also be organising a members' roadshow to be kindly hosted by A&C Farms.

Charles Horton (CH) presented the accounts and reported that income had slightly increased by circa £47,000 as had expenditure, in part due to the progress made by BCCS with the backlog of DNA testing. CH further confirmed that the Society's reserves policy is to hold a minimum of two years' expenditure in reserve. He further announced that as from 1st January 2020 all first calving heifers would be genotyped and myostatin tested (at the point of the registration of their calf) at the Society's expense. This would be good use of Society resources and had been committed to for a period of three years.

John Scott questioned how the Morrisons scheme operated and it was confirmed by CH that regular meetings are held to review numbers and that a bonus is payable on kill numbers above the minimum agreed. Robin Lang complained that he had difficulty finding beef in his local stores and CH explained that Morrisons targeted supplies to key branches.

Andrew Ivinson (AI) asked if the board had considered how to manage if the Morrisons income was withdrawn and questioned why, in his mind, this was spent on

admin. Morna Bell confirmed that the Morrisons income is not spent on admin but targeted on specific breed development projects, which, should the Morrisons income no longer be forthcoming, the financial position would be further reviewed by the board. AI questioned why the expenditure on admin and accountancy consultancy had increased and MB explained and referred AI to the management fee that had decreased but noted that there had been an increase in admin and consultancy which also covered the cost of an additional member of staff to help clear the backlog which BCCS had inherited. MB further clarified that this expenditure also included both her and Ellie Doak's fees. AI also queried why advertising had gone down and JB confirmed that advertising had not been reduced but that previous costs had been incorrectly allocated by PCS and that the advertising budget had not changed.

James Fanshawe queried how much the Society anticipated would be spent on catching up with the genetic testing and asked why the Morrisons income had not previously been used to fund this testing. MB explained that Morrisons income could be spent at the Board's discretion and had been used for other projects, for example, linear classification. AI questioned how many samples were outstanding and CH confirmed that it was hoped to be up to date within a month or so.

Mark Severn and Simon Farmer asked why some pedigree certificates were now issued marked with 'not sire/dam/parentage verified' and it was explained that legal advice had been taken and following advice, where calves could not be verified, the certificates must be marked clearly as such. In answer to AI further questioning it was confirmed that female certificates are not marked as no parentage verification of females is currently required.

JF questioned why Morrisons income is not held in a separate trading subsidiary and then donated to the Charity; MB confirmed that this had in the past been raised at board level but would be further reviewed, mostly it would be dependent on the contractual conditions with Morrisons and legal opinion may be appropriate. JF suggested that a subsidiary could be set up cheaply however MB advised a fuller review would be appropriate before taking any action as certain expenditure may also need to be brought into a subsidiary and it would be appropriate to set any required subsidiary up properly which may incur costs.

The approval of the accounts was proposed by Donald Biggar OBE and seconded by Major Gibb.

4. To approve the auditors for the ensuing year:

The approval of MMG Archbold as auditors for the ensuing year was proposed by Chris Nye and seconded by John Thomson.

5. To announce the results of the elections for Directors in the following regions:

JB announced that Geoff Riby had been elected for the North of England region, Alfie Shaw elected for the Northern Ireland and Eire region, Martin Reynolds re-elected unopposed for Wales, Donald Biggar and Shona Calder re-elected unopposed for Scotland and Sally Horrell elected for the South of England and thanked all candidates for standing.



CW welcomed the new directors and thanked retiring Director David Alexander, and those who stood for all positions but were not elected on this occasion.

CW and CH were then offered as President and Vice President for a further year of office.

Caroline Ivinson reminded the meeting that even though no other nominations were received the President and Vice President should still be elected and that this item had been omitted from the agenda. The re-election of the President and Vice President was therefore proposed by Martyn Moore and seconded by the Hon. Gerald Turton.

Caroline Ivinson questioned why the Articles of Association were dated and it was confirmed that the review of the Articles is in hand with solicitors. It was further confirmed that a consultative draft would be presented to members in advance of an EGM for approval.

Mark Severn asked why his membership had not been passed at the November board meeting and CW advised that Mark should discuss this outwith the AGM and would be happy to speak to him after the meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 12.55pm.