

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Beef Shorthorn Cattle Society held at noon in the Lomond Room at United Auctions, Stirling on Sunday 4th February 2018

Present: Mrs Sally Horrell (President) and approximately 55 members and friends.

The President opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, introducing Joanna Bailey as the new Breed Secretary.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Donald Biggar, Tom Martin, Erica Ivinson, David Alexander, Rob Paisley, Fraser Hugill.

2. To approve the minutes of the eighty first Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 5th February 2017

This was proposed by John Wood and seconded by Andrew Ivinson. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. To receive the Directors' Report and approve the accounts for the year ending 31st August 2017

There were no matters arising from the Directors' Report.

The President clarified that the Directors had worked extremely hard following the unforeseen separation from the Dairy Society. Pedigree Cattle Services (PCS) been appointed to undertake registrations to maintain an income stream for the Society (BSCS) in the interim and had then had to work very hard to complete a backlog of unexpected work, for which the President thanked them. The President also thanked her Directors who had helped in filling various roles during that time, including dealing with various issues over the period including fraud cases, issues with redundancies and misinformation, no control over the bank account.

Trevor Brown (TB) explained that the accounts had been produced in two halves, the first half by Roger Kelly and the second half (from c. 1st April) by PCS and BSCS accountants, involving a change in software from Sage to QuickBooks. TB reported that the accounts were very satisfactory in terms of income figures; during the year subscriptions rose by approx. 10%, commissions from levies on sales rose by nearly 50%, herd-book fees increased by almost £14,000. BSCS income was also boosted by the first full year of the licence fee from Morrisons. Overall gross income increased from £200,000 to £280,000 and whilst expenses increased through new activities these increases were far smaller, from £95,000 to £106,000. This produced a net surplus of £100,000 compared to £16,000 the previous year. The investment portfolio, managed outsource, had also performed well with a total return of 13% in dividend yield and capital gain, adding another £60,000. Overall the net worth of BSCS increased by £160,000.

TB confirmed there were minor areas in need of attention, for example gift aid which had not yet been reclaimed (representing 1% of income).

Brenda Wear questioned why the accounts had been signed off by Cathryn Williamson and not Joanna Bailey and it was explained that company accounts are signed off by the company secretary whom Cathryn was.

The merger of the Glenisla Fund into the main fund was questioned and TB clarified that this was managed in house by the Dairy Society, i.e. Roger Kelly a former employee. When BSCS took over the internal management no-one wanted to take over the management of the fund and so the Board agreed the best course of action was to merge the Glenisla fund into the

main fund. The investments have not been changed and the holdings are now in the main portfolio for no extra fee.

Andrew Ivinson questioned the increase in registration fees given the increased income. The President explained that this increased income was in part due to no salary having been paid to a Breed Secretary for the first six months, that within the profit a large proportion was due to the Morrisons income which the Board did not feel should be taken into BSCS running costs, and confirmed that there are matters arising which would may have to be covered and which, as yet, are not settled. The Board had decided to move forward in small increments rather than a large increase; there had been no increase in membership fee since 2004 and no increase in registration fees since 2012 and therefore the larger herds, who should be able to afford more, would pay incrementally more in registrations. The Board was aware that farming life is not always easy but a small increase in registrations had been necessary for these reasons.

Andrew Hall questioned why BSCS was now charging for the DNA testing for calves. The President explained that this was not a profit-making initiative but that this was a new system moving from microsatellite to SNPS to ensure traceability from sire to plate. Sire verification and genotyping was being charged for but BSCS were paying the costs for other testing. Joanna Bailey explained that the cost of testing covered up to three sires nominated at time of testing and encouraged members to list all possible sires at the time of application, rather than have a sire rejected as this would incur more cost to the member.

James Fanshawe questioned why, as a charity, BSCS had such high reserves. The President explained that little future investment had been made historically and that BSCS would have large costs going forwards to invest in projects to make up this ground, and that historically BSCS had over £100,000 in aged debtors which TB had worked hard to reduce.

The approval of the accounts was proposed by Martyn Moore and seconded by Andrew Ivinson.

The re-election of the President was proposed by Luke Anthony and seconded by Jane Landers. Sally Horrell proposed Cathryn Williamson as Vice President and this was seconded by Christopher Marler.

4. To announce the results of the elections for Directors:

The results for the following regions were as follows:

Scotland – Carey Coombs was re-elected unopposed. There were no nominations for the second vacancy.

North of England – there were two nominations, Tim Riley and Steve Johnson and Steve Johnson was the successful candidate

Wales – there was no election this time

South England – Charles Horrell was the only nomination and was re-elected.

Northern Ireland and Eire – there was one vacancy for which Richard Henning was nominated and elected unopposed.

5. To appoint Christopher Marler as an Honorary Life Member

Christopher Marler was thanked by the President for his contribution to BSCS over many years and was unanimously appointed as an Honorary Life Member.

6. To approve the increase in membership of the Society with which the Society is registered from 1,000 to 1,250

The increase was proposed by Simon Farmer and seconded by Christopher Nye.

7. AOB

Luke Anthony expressed the view that there was scepticism over the appointment of an active BSH breeder as a classifier and felt that this had put the whole scheme in to question. The President replied that this had gone in front of the Board and who had felt that providing our service providers had impartiality clauses the Board did not have an issue at present but that the situation would always be monitored. The Board was always willing to revisit issues. Andrew Ivinson questioned whether there was conflict of interest with one breeder classifying their competitors. The President explained that the process was done on a scoring process which was not objective or subjective and that on that basis the Board had felt that this was not a conflict of interest. A meeting with the classifiers had been arranged on farm to go through the process to ensure consistency and a meeting with Holstein UK was imminent.

A member asked why only members who paid were listed in the Breeders Directory in the Journal and the President explained that it was not possible to list all 800 or so members. It was agreed to look at a better geographical breakdown through the database and consider the costs of including all members.

John Thomson asked why the Journal no longer included all show results. The President explained that most shows do not send in results and have to be chased and that the results then had to be typed up but that the Society would be very happy to include all results and judges reports on the website if members sent them in Word format.

James Fanshawe asked if the Board had considered further sales in the South. The President explained the new Supported Sale initiative in detail which is a halfway house and which John Thomson confirmed worked well at Longtown.

The President raised the issue of late herd health declarations which had delayed the production of the catalogue for Stirling and requested that members send these in with entries and request pen cards in good time.

The President confirmed the Coldrochie second dispersal date as Wednesday 23rd May at Stirling.

A question was asked as to why obituaries were not included for all members and it was explained that only past presidents were included as otherwise it was difficult to draw the line. It was agreed that this would go back to the Board.

The President responded to a question on muscling in cattle and confirmed that the views in her report were her opinion and that she was referring to over-muscled cattle which was also part of Society breed standards.

Jane Landers raised the comment that the BCSC must remain a united and friendly Society and concluded by proposing that 'The Shorthorns rule' and John Thomson proposed a vote of thanks for the Chairman of the Meeting (this being the President).

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 1.10pm