



## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WILTSHIRE HORN SHEEP SOCIETY LTD

Held at The Jersey Pavilion, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire.

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2023

The President of the Society Jonathan Jeyes formally opened the meeting before handing the chair over to the Chairman of the Society Council, Mr G Morris.

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Michael Newell (00433), Gillian Swanton and Colin Shell (00845), Jennie Cook (01045 – although Trevor Cook was present), Bill Fisher (01317), Angie Hamilton (0674A), Ruhi Pugh (00674) and Jenny Grant-Parkes (00692)

### 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (17<sup>th</sup> September 2022)

The minutes had been distributed to all members before this meeting.

Barbara Banks proposed that these were a true record of the 2022 Annual General Meeting, seconded by Monika Hadfield. There being no objections at a show of hands, the minutes were accepted by the AGM and signed by the Chairman.

### 3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The most important event in this year has probably been the Coronation of our new King, Charles III but it's been completely overshadowed by our Centenary, I hope you'll all agree? The first event of that in our year has been the National Show at the Malvern Showground during the Royal Three Counties Show, where we had a tremendous show of sheep and some new competitors too. It was a great show, the weather was good. Sadly our appointed judge couldn't take up the appointment because of ill health and Stuart stood in in his place. That was followed by a very relaxing lamb barbecue on the showground. Sadly the Members' Weekend, for a few reasons, was cancelled but we've still got the Gatcombe visit on the 14<sup>th</sup> October to look forward to. The visit is "sold out" but we still have the Dinner in the evening. Have you all heard that sadly our patron, HRH won't be available but her husband, Sir Tim Laurence will be. So he'll be our guest at Stonehouse Court in Gloucestershire, just around the corner from Gatcombe, for that evening. There are still tickets available up until Monday evening, after which we need to let the caterers know the number attending. So there's still an opportunity to get tickets.

The much publicised publication is now going to come out with the flock book. This is the History of the Society, with interesting photographs and all the other things over the last hundred year. So that'll come out with the flock book next spring.

Because of all the organisation going into the Centenary, some of the usual events have been shelved this year. So we haven't run the Online Flock Competition which is a shame for those people who are geographically distant from shows and the Cutlet Competition didn't run this year either.

On the breed promotion side, we've done more advertising this year and I think Teresa's going to cover that in her report shortly. We had a stall at the Smallholders event at the Bulth Wells showground again and thank you to the Council members and Society members who supported and ran that, taking the sheep there and being there on the day. From the reports I'm getting back it wasn't that well attended, it may be a declining show, so that may get reviewed for the future years as a promotion.

What has been really good this year is the local shows and we've got a new show at Honiton in the South West which is dedicated to the breed, with Wiltshire only classes there and it did very well. I think I've counted over 12 local shows where you've all entered your sheep and promoted them on the ground. To name a few, the Royal Norfolk, the Ellingham, the Dunster, the Melpash as well as all the usual shows that fill the calendar of our Wiltshire Horn year.

Last year I reported that some DNA samples had been submitted to a masters student at Aberystwyth University. She identified the DNA of a Wiltshire on a graph, separate from some other native breeds. We haven't been party to those results but that much has been relayed to us. Some more samples have been taken this year from breeds within the flock. Most of them were taken at the National Show in June and we await the results of those. It's research into the genetics of the Wiltshire Horn which isn't costing us anything to do, so we're pursuing that with interest.

Sadly this year we've lost a familiar face from around the ringside, Jonathan's father, John Jeyes, who many of you remember round the show ring. He would have been proud seeing his son being President of the Society this year and his grandchildren so heavily involved with the Society. Another sadness is from Anglesey, Robert John Thomas sold his last sheep at the Gaerwen Show on Monday. He's retired from keeping Wiltshire Horn sheep having had many successes with the breed over the years.

On a brighter note, because it's our Centenary, because we've got our patron, Her Royal Highness Princess Anne in position, we were pleasantly surprised to receive a couple of Royal Invitations: Jonathan and Mary represented the Society at Buckingham Palace on the Royal Garden Party lawn. Further to that, we got an invitation for somebody to accompany HRH at Royal Ascot and so the Council approved Teresa and her husband Nick and they had a good time there I believe. They'll tell you all about it.

I think I've been really lucky in my term as Chair of the Wiltshire Horn Sheep Society in that there's a tremendous team behind me. Paul is a very efficient Secretary. Teresa's very good with the numbers. They work both very well together and the people we've had on Council have been diverse in their skills and keen and very helpful to me. I should thank them all. Sadly Anna's stepping down from the Council this year as she hasn't got any sheep. I'm pleased to see her here today and Mark says he's going to buy some. There's often a place coming up on Council and having different skills and geographical Council members does help with the running of the Society.

It was the Gaerwen Sale on Monday. Tremendous prices. Supporting the breed and leading up to the sale today. Sadly the numbers there are dwindling, so that will have to be discussed by next Council, whether that Society Sale goes forward. But there is interest in restarting a sale in the South West. So watch this space.

Congratulations to all of you showing his morning. There were some fantastic sheep there and great to see some new faces up in the rosettes colours. I hope you have success this afternoon at the sale, good luck with that.

The Chairman concluded his report by announcing that the Council has appointed four new Life Members of the Society to mark the Centenary. They're all members who have served on the Council over long periods, often as officers of the Society, as well as being breeders and show people. They are Veronica Brigg, Gwilym Roberts, Teresa Hodgkinson and Jonathan Jeyes.

#### **4. ADOPT THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND BALANCE SHEET**

The statement of accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 had been circulated to all members before this meeting and the Treasurer, Teresa Hodgkinson, delivered the following report.

The accounts for the year ending 31st March 2023 show a pre-tax profit of £1575, a gain of £1288 from the year to 31st March 2022.

The balance of monies in the bank accounts as at 31st March 2023 was:

Savings Account: £20,587.26 and Current Account: £17198.55.

Overall income had increased from £14,246 in 2022 to £16,294.

There was a small increase of £195 for membership subscriptions and of £50 for prefix fees, but the main increase in revenue in the year was from registration fees, rising from £5702 to £7381. Although income was boosted by 168 late registrations, and there was an increase in the actual number of registrations, the major factor was the small increase of £1 per female registration and the additional £3 for late female registrations. This small increase in fees was accepted by the majority of the membership and proved to be effective in keeping the Society in profit.

There has been a drop in income from flock book advertisements from commercial advertisers which will reduce the corporation tax liability on this income.

The corporation tax liability for the year is £43, which is due on the interest of £31 on the savings account and the revenue from the non members' flock book advertisements.

Net expenditure increased by £760.

Postage and printing costs inevitably increased but costs for Council meetings decreased due to a change of venue.

With a return to promotional events being held, the Society was represented at the RWAS Smallholding & Countryside Festival and the Malvern Sheep Event. The Society advertised in the NFU Countryside magazine for the first time with the aim of reaching out to a new smallholder readership. In the current year we have expanded our target readership by advertising in the Ark magazine with the additional benefit of valuable editorial exposure.

Now we are in our Centenary year there will inevitably be additional expenditure relating to the events held. It is fitting that the Society celebrate this once in a lifetime anniversary and there is a healthy bank balance to finance this. These additional expenses will be shown separately in the 2024 accounts.

There being no questions arising from this report, the Chairman asked if it was the meeting's decision to adopt the statement of accounts and balance sheet for the Society for the year ending 31st March 2023. The adoption was proposed by Tim Williams and seconded by Benny Thomas. The motion was accepted unanimously.

#### **5. RE-APPOINT JACKSONS OF ASCOT AS SOCIETY AUDITORS**

Jayne Jones proposed that Jacksons of Ascot should be re-appointed as the Society auditors, seconded by Monika Hadfield. A show of hands took place with all present in favour and no objections.

#### **6. APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT**

Council's nomination for President to the AGM was Stuart Brodie.

Sue White proposed Stuart Brodie as President, seconded by Gwilym Roberts; all those present in favour.

#### **7. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-PRESIDENT**

Council's nomination for Vice-President to the AGM was Tim Williams.

Teresa Hodgkinson proposed Tim Williams as Vice-President, seconded by Steve Cowle, all those present were in favour.

#### **8. CONFIRMATION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS**

There being three Council vacancies this year and having received two nominations, Mr T Williams and Mr J Bradley were confirmed again as a Council Member

#### **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business had been raised to be put in front of the AGM

There being no further business the annual general meeting closed at 12:52 pm

#### **PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES**

For the 2023 season the Iolo Owen Points Prize was awarded to Jonathan Bradley, with 113 points, in second place was Jonathan Jeyes & Family with 95 points.