

SOUTH WESTERN HEREFORD ASSOCIATION

A.G.M. 2015 MINUTES

Apologies

Jonathan Moorhouse

Richard Pike

Chairperson's Report

Chairman expressed thanks to Mike Harris for the farm walk held in July and the SWHA stand at the Melplash Show. Congratulations were given to the members who exhibited Herefords at this year's shows, the Mitchell's and Angela & Keith. Thanks to the Judges of the Herd Competition; Chris Mitchell, Katherine Bigwood and Robert Robinson. Finally, thank you to Jonathan Moorhouse and Edward Mills for their contributions to the Herefords Association Council.

Treasurer's Report

Accounts were distributed to the group. Thank you AC Moores (Rob Surley). Members were invited to question or comment upon the accounts. Arthur Jennings questioned the 2014/15 income and herd competition expenses.

ACTION – Treasurer to check the accounts and redistribute to Members.

Mike Harris - Secretary

Two teams from SWHA at the Three Counties Show. One of the SWHA teams came third and won £50 prize for Association.

PR and Marketing – SWHA banner now available for trade stands and shows.

Letter from Andrew Hughes (Council) was read out to group – should there be a breed uniform for stock-people exhibiting at shows? Members were asked for their feedback. Edward Mills clarified that a uniform was viewed favourably by other Associations. Members suggested that the uniform consists of a Hereford tie and white coat. Suggestions were also made that a Hereford badge or logo be embroidered on to white coat. Members queried the cost of this and would the cost be met by Hereford House?

Proposal was made to continue to use a white coat and Hereford tie. Agreed by group.

National Hereford Event – a stand-alone event. Any application to host the event would lead to the opportunity to attend/host the World Hereford Event in 2024.

Midlands/East Anglia seminar – TBC. Thoughts and views of the SWHA members were sought. Edward Mills suggested workshops to develop uniformity in judging – with commentary to be enhanced to provide details of positioning of cattle. Members expressed support for this workshop, especially for the younger members as part of the youth development programme. Suggestion was

made that Fiona Woolacott is keen to attend events, to meet other members. Members suggested that an open invitation was preferred, with rotation; so attendance wasn't obligatory.

Members suggested that a trainee judge may enter the judging ring with an experienced judge. Edward Mills noted that the Council didn't want to go down that route, perhaps due to time restrictions.

ACTION – Isobel Jennings to offer the opportunity to young members; those who would like the opportunity to learn how to judge.

Events

Philip and Chris Caunter (Devon) have kindly offered to host a farm walk in July 2016.

Alan Miller (Cornwall) has also kindly offered to host a farm walk, with the addition of a stock judging competition and perhaps a halter-making demonstration. Members suggested making it a 4 animal judging competition – with a commentary from a Master Judge (Les Gould or David Pascoe were suggested by group).

Beef South West – Exeter. Angela and Keith will be present. Date: 11th November 2015.

17 breed stands at show. Popularity has increased due to it being an annual event rather than on alternate years. Members confirmed its popularity/success.

Members suggested a SWHA calf show, as these animals were easier to show for the younger and inexperienced. A suggestion was made that the South West has historically struggled to support these events.

Second Member suggestion – Yearling show. No entry fee and no prizes. Good opportunity for an outing before the summer show season starts. TB test required if this took place in marketplace.

SWHA Membership – 141 current members, only 25/30 represented at AGM.

In order to increase attendance at shows and promotion of Herefords – suggestion was made to seek sponsorship.

ACTION – to approach For Farmers (and Katherine's workplace) to seek sponsorship.

Reminder was given that adverts and articles need to be submitted for the next Hereford Journal. Cost is £30 for a single page. Members to email Mike Harris if they required more details.

SWHA now has a Facebook page – Members were requested to use this online resource to advertise their animals and any cattle for sale.

The SWHA website is still active and will be updated.

Council Members Report

The Council Member expressed thanks to members for their support. The society membership has increased. In 2016 there will be an increased in cost of subscription for those member wishing to pay manually. If Members pay online, there will be no increase in fees.

DNA testing for Hypotrychosis, results will be published.

David Prothero – needs replacement.

Jonathan Moorhouse is standing down.

Michael Clark has been confirmed as next President.

Any Other Business

Hereford House has confirmed there is £500 available for publicity.

Judge for Herd Competition – Members proposed Clive Davis. Agreed by group

Second suggestion – John Williams. Agreed by group.

Members were encouraged to attend and support the Dorset County Show.

Proposal was made by Chair that Bob was to represent the SWHA at events that the Chair was unable to attend. Members agreed. Title was suggested of Vice Chair – Agreed by group.

Sally Mitchell expressed thanks to Chair for organising Fish and Chip supper and Tea & Coffee at shows.

Date and time of 2016 AGM – group were asked for their feedback. Suggestions were made that the AGM stay in Exeter area.

Suggestion was made to host AGM on 29th October 2016. Members agreed. Location to be confirmed.