

**Minutes of the Arab Horse Society Annual General Meeting 7 April 2013 held at the  
Bromsgrove Golf Centre, Bromsgrove at 1.00pm**

Mrs Joanne Lowe, Chairman of the Council, was in the Chair

**Members present:**

Mrs J Bridges	Miss B R Briggs	Mrs A E Brown
Mrs J Burns	Mrs M Court	Mrs A Doxey
Mrs J Evans	The Hon F B Guinness	Miss F Harper
Miss U Harper	Mrs C Hartley	Mr A Knott
Mrs C Kokta	Mr P Lowe	Mrs E Mann
Mrs T Mattocks	Mr T Mattocks	Mrs J Martin
Mrs N Meredith	Mrs L Nicholson	Mrs J Parsons
Miss J Parsons	Mrs J Phillips	Mrs S Plant
Ms S Roberts	Mrs T Sheward	Ms J Sorrenson
Mrs M Sutherland	Mrs D Whittome	Miss S Wrigglesworth

**Apologies Received from:**

Miss E G Archer	Mrs R G Archer	Mrs J Armstrong
Mr N Armstrong	Mrs C Barr	Lady Beaverbrook
Mrs CL Bennett	Mrs P Bowles	Mr N Brown
Mrs M Gaddas-Brown	Mrs T Miller-Burrage	Mrs B Cary
Ms J Clark	Mrs V Cridge	Mrs JM Crozier
Mrs R Dear	Mrs A Dixon	Miss C Doxey
Mrs B Durey	Mr S Fleming	Mrs A Green
Mrs E A Hedley	Mr G Houghton	Mrs K Houghton
Mrs P Hitchings	Mr E Jones	Mr R Jones
Mrs S Jones	Mrs Lidbury	Mrs S Little
Mr C Lowe	Miss S Mattocks	Mr A R McLeod
Mrs N Mellor	Mrs J Moffat	Mrs S Murphy
Miss S K Murray	Mr N Price	Mrs J Ratcliff
Mrs C Roebuck	Mrs C Sussex	Mrs M Sweet
Miss G Trimmingham	Mr P Upton	Mrs J Woodward
Mr E Woodward		

**1.0 To approve the notice convening the meeting**

Proposed by Mrs Evans and seconded by Mrs Bridges

**2.0 Apologies for absence**

See above

**3.0 To note the Minutes of the last AGM held 14<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

Mrs Phillips requested an amendment to 4b - it should read "Mrs Cary"; there were no further amendments and the minutes were approved.

Proposed by Mr Lowe and seconded by Ms Roberts

#### **4.0 To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the last AGM**

##### 4a. Membership

Mrs Kokta said that whilst she recognised the new Gold, Silver and Bronze membership changes that had recently been introduced she questioned the take up rates and what else the Society might do to incentivise individuals to join. She knew that other breed Societies used a variety of activities to encourage people. Mrs Lowe said that the take up had been encouraging but would be reviewed towards the year end, it is clearly a difficult economic time and the Society was seeing the impact of this. She felt the Society had tried a number of activities including an excellent seminar run at Twemlows last year (2012) which only attracted 30 people. Regional Groups had also reported at the Group's meeting (at the National Show) that trying to get attendance to events was very difficult with many cancelled; Midland Arab Group Ltd had only one individual interested in a showing clinic. Mrs Kokta said that the Arabian is so versatile there are many activities that they can undertake and she had a number of ideas. She offered to liaise with the Mrs Meredith to discuss this.

Mrs Phillips highlighted the problem that to participate within the Performance Horse and Premium Schemes an individual needed to have a minimum Silver membership which she felt was precluding a number of people. If this was offered at the entry Bronze level she felt there would be a greater take up. This was agreed and it will be taken to Council for review & consideration by the PR & M Committee for introduction in 2014.

#### **5.0 To receive the Report of Council and Audited Accounts for the year 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012**

Mrs Sheward presented a summary of the last financial year highlighting the following:

- Membership income is down and the primary concern with a reduction of £5.5K last year;
- Entries at the National Show were up and the show made a £3.5K profit;
- Gift Aid was up due to simultaneously claiming for both 2011 and 2012. Historically it has been claimed in arrears but there is no reason it cannot be claimed in the same year. Going forward it will be claimed in the year it is due;
- Funds received from interest increased slightly, by £5k;
- SB & R income increased mainly due to the Stud Directory sales;
- During the year funds were utilised from reserves including £1500 to Welfare charities, £318 on Junior members along with funds to pay for the Part bred percentage project; these funds although in reserves are required to go through the P & L and if it hadn't been for this then the Society would have broken even; and
- The Diamond Auction is treated as a creditor, with the exception of the administration charge that goes through the accounts; this is because the money does not belong to the Society and will be paid out in prize money in due course, it would therefore be wrong to show it as AHS funds and then show it as an expense going through the P & L.

Miss F Harper queried why on the late entry fees for the National Show the HOYS levy was also increased. Miss Wrigglesworth said she had raised this with the Show Director last year who agreed this was an oversight and would be corrected for 2013. It was agreed that this would be reviewed by the S & E Committee to ensure it does not occur this year.

Mrs Bridges asked what the forecast profit was for 2013. Mrs Sheward advised based on assumptions using the worse case scenario this could be a 15-20K deficit (excluding

investment income). She said that this included a drop in membership which has not yet emerged. It was now appropriate to revisit the figures to assess what was needed and what could be removed from the budget.

The Hon Mr Guinness questioned what was happening with the Passport and Database situation as the original purpose of the database was to co-ordinate information from the Passport Issuing Organisations (PIOs). Mrs Meredith replied that there were no plans for the Government to fund a National Equine Database; she had recently attended a forum where the Rt Honourable Owen Paterson, Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, stated they were looking forward to hearing the proposals being put forward by the sector. DEFRA has confirmed that there will not be a single PIO but they do want to standardise the internal contents of the passport, to make them simpler and reduce fraud; they have put a committee together made up of several PIOs to prepare some proposals.

The accounts were accepted and proposed by Mr Lowe and seconded by Mrs Plant.

#### **6.0 To approve the appointment of James Cowper as auditors to the Society**

This was agreed. Proposed by Mrs Bridges and seconded by Mrs Plant

#### **7.0 To announce the name of the Honorary President for 2013/14**

Mrs Lowe informed the meeting that Mrs Martin had been duly elected as the Honorary President for 2013/14 and had come from Cornwall to the meeting; Mrs Martin has run the Show jumping at the National Show for several years and last year included a successful dog show! Mrs Lowe presented Mrs Martin with her chain of office. Mrs Lowe thanked the past president Mrs Roebuck for all the work that she had undertaken during the past year especially whilst her husband has been very ill, although he is making a full recovery.

Mrs Martin thanked the members saying that she had not expected to be asked but felt it was a wonderful opportunity to promote the Arabian; there is nothing they can't do – they are tough, cheap to keep (not all of them!) and very versatile. Her theme for the year is to encourage people to get their Arabians out into the public arena and to try and encourage youngsters to get interested and compete.

#### **8.0 To announce the names of the new Members of Council and the names of the new Direct Elects to the committees**

Mrs Lowe announced the results of the election of directors as follows:

There were 364 votes received and 18 spoilt papers.

Elected for three years in alphabetical order: Mrs Bridges, Mrs Dixon, Mrs Meredith & Miss Wigglesworth.

Mrs Lowe continued announced the result of the election to fill the one vacancy on Stud Book & Registration which was Mrs Sussex.

Mrs Lowe continued that Shows & Events Committee had one direct elect vacancy and that this was to be filled by Mrs Armstrong. Public Relations and Membership had three vacancies but just one candidate Mrs Green.

Mrs Kokta asked what would happen about the vacancy that had recently arisen on Council. Mrs Lowe replied that this would be reviewed at the first Council meeting once

all the Committees had been allocated. At this stage it would be clear what skill set was required and an appropriate person could be co-opted agreed by all of Council.

## **9.0 To announce the name of the Honorary President Elect for 2014/15**

Mrs Lowe informed the meeting that Anne Brown had been duly elected Honorary President for 2014/15. Mrs Brown said that she was very honoured and felt she would have a hard task to follow Mrs Martin. She hoped to be able to promote the performance Arabian but would say more at the next AGM.

## **10. Other Business**

Mrs Lowe advised there were three items to cover before further questions were taken from the floor.

### 10a. Performance Horse Results 2012

Mrs Lowe thanked Mrs Brown for managing the awards and advised that the results would be available on the Shows and Events website shortly. She also thanked Mrs Brown her hard work for organising the Dubai Day parade of Premium Performance Horses. This was most successful despite it being a very cold and wet day and enjoyed by spectators and exhibitors alike.

Mrs Brown announced that Mellway Precious Rose was again the overall winner from the Part Bred section:

#### Part Bred Winners

- 1<sup>st</sup> Kay Curtis, Mellway Precious Rose, 685 - Overall Winner
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Alan Girdwood, Laguna Flame, 580
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Alan Girdwood, Ruby Shy, 575
- 4<sup>th</sup> Alan Girdwood, Carousel Dreaming, 280
- 5<sup>th</sup> Rosemary Attfield, Burfield Red Dragon, 100

Mrs Brown said that there had been a total of 31 entries in the Pure bred Section and the top 10 were as follows:

#### Pure Bred Winners

- 1<sup>st</sup> Katie & Lucy Bedwin, Elayla, 610 – Junior Rider
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lisa Adshead, Shakmari Gold, 575
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Judy Phillips, Kamillah, 555
- 4<sup>th</sup> Anne Brown, Binley Prince Salim, 522.5
- 5<sup>th</sup> Carri Ann Dark, Sovereign IV, 485 – Junior Rider
- 6<sup>th</sup> Pat Guerin, Zhiwah, 475
- 7<sup>th</sup> Ann Dark, Open all Hours, 460
- 8<sup>th</sup> Rowna Bertram, Marcus Aurelius, 455
- 9<sup>th</sup> Mary Clarke, Almina, 425
- 10<sup>th</sup> Judy Holloway, Aurontes, 405
- 32<sup>nd</sup> Sue Rich, Oakleaze Farm Czako 55

Mrs Brown highlighted Alan Girwood who achieved a total of 1435 points with three horses; Carri Ann Dark with a total of 1105 points on six horses.

In addition successful juniors included Kate Bedwin riding two horses to achieve 710 points, Harriett Williams who gained 336 points.

Mrs Brown advised that the awards would be presented to the winners at the National Show and she asked the President for 2013/14 Mrs Martin if she would like to present them. Mrs Martin accepted.

The cards for entry for 2013 are free and available from Windsor House.

#### 10b. Announcement of the winner of the Lady Anne Lytton Trophy

Mrs Lowe advised that this had been won by Master Design GA owned by Mr Rod Jones and the trophy would be presented at the National Show.

#### 10c. Winner of the caption competition in the AHS Yearbook

Mrs Lowe advised in the absence of the editor Mrs Crozier that this would be placed on the website, but there had only been one entry.

#### 10d. Updates on WAHO, ECAHO, CIAA, NaSta

WAHO: Mrs Meredith advised that the conference for 2013 was in Sao Paulo, Brazil on 11/13 November and that WAHO members would receive information shortly. The Hon Mr Guinness asked what WAHO was doing. Mrs Lowe replied that a lot of time was being taken up with the draft recommendations coming out of Europe relating to the potential harmonising of eight directives around animal regulations. This is felt to be unworkable and all animals cannot be treated the same especially as many are meat producing and horses are primarily a leisure animal.

ECAHO: Mrs Lowe advised that the ECAHO AGM had recently been held in Vienna, she had attended along with Mrs Dixon. The main points to note were that the Vice Chairman had stood down as there was a conflict of interest as he is also on the AHO Committee, a parallel body running shows in Europe offering prize money. AHO & ECAHO are trying to find a way of working together but this seems a little way off. The new Vice Chair is Anna Stojanowska. At the AGM there had been a resolution to change the constitution of ECAHO by removing the commissions (sports and registrars) and replace them with working parties. A two thirds majority was required but was not achieved so ECAHO will carry on in the existing format. ECAHO has suffered financially as a result of losing the affiliated shows in the U.A.E who had considerable prize money and under ECAHO rules had to pay 3% to them. Consequently ECAHO has made drastic cost reductions of 50% in one year to try and address the situation. The UK had raised an agenda item proposing that ECAHO introduce a Code of Conduct and a Manual of Working Procedures; this was accepted by the meeting. The Hon Mr Guinness said that the principal of ECAHO was supposed to be all embracing and it was disappointing that another organisation AHO had set up alongside. Mrs Lowe agreed but also highlighted that there were more Middle East members of ECAHO than Europeans members. Mrs Brown asked whether other "world" countries would be allowed to join. Mrs Lowe said she didn't know but this was born out of the Middle East borrowing the Blue Book to help them set up their shows which have gone on to offer substantial prize money. Ms Roberts said that both commissions should be able to work alongside each other.

Mr Knott raised concerns about the short notice given by ECAHO for the Ringmaster course that was running in Poland this weekend, which he would have liked to attend; he asked whether there were any plans for similar course to be run in the UK. Mrs Lowe said that this was the first Ringmaster course and it was primarily for Ringmasters who wanted their name to be recorded in the Blue Book and that he would still be able to be Ringmaster in the UK without completing this course. Mrs Dixon was at the course this weekend and would bring back further information on her return.

CIAA: Mrs Meredith advised there was little change on the Anglo debate. The CIAA is debating an international database but no further information is yet forthcoming – this will be a watching brief. The CIAA AGM is later this year.

NaSTa: Mrs Whittome advised that the organisation is stagnating with the performance testing the only activity which has been in decline and did not take place in 2012 as there were no entries. The AGM is due this month but no date has yet been received. Mrs Lowe commented that if it folded then it would be an opportunity to establish an AHS performance test. Ms Sorenson asked how many stallions were required to make it viable. Mrs Whittome advised just four. A key problem seems to be the penalty percentage deduction for older horses of 5 & 10%, if this could be removed it would potentially draw more horses forward. Mrs Kokta felt it would be excellent if the Society were to introduce a similar scheme if NaSTa folded. Mrs Lowe advised that it had already been discussed at SB & R along with possible variations e.g. dressage stallions might do a part test but still be graded for dressage.

#### 10e. Transfer of Ownership

Mrs Meredith reminded people that it was a legal requirement to transfer ownership within 30 days of purchase. DEFRA are becoming increasingly vigilant on this and have phoned the office on several occasions to check details. Mrs Phillips asked if information had gone to the endurance people, it appears that the Endurance Societies do not check ownership. Mrs Phillips agreed to liaise with Mrs Meredith.

#### 10f. Marathon

Mrs Meredith advised that following a clash of dates at the venue it had been necessary to cancel the 2013 Marathon but that it would return in 2014.

#### 10g. World Crabbet Convention

Mrs Lowe advised, on behalf of Mrs Sussex, that this was taking place the weekend before the National Show at Addington Manor. There were a number of activities not least of which a very interesting talk on genetics titled “The paradigm has shifted”.

#### 10h. Encouraging Youth

Mrs Bridges asked whether consideration was being given by the AHS to co-opt younger members onto some of the Committees. It was agreed that this was an excellent idea, with a minimum age requirement of 16. Mrs Lowe said that efforts were made to encourage younger members including the very successful “Master Classes” run by Mrs Cary at last year’s National Show.

#### 10i. Ridden Showing

Mrs Kokta said that having recently been involved in ridden showing as an owner she had not had a very good experience often feeling that the judging was partisan. However this was not the case at the British Arabian Championships which she thought were excellent with a vibrant atmosphere and the show organiser’s should be congratulated.

Mr Knott asked whether there were any changes to the rules given some of the problems seen last year. Miss Wrigglesworth advised that a new rule on Social Media had been brought in for judges and that this might need to be extended to Members also. In Horse and Hound this week there is a report detailing similar changes introduced by BSPS, CHAPS and BSHA who have also introduced similar rules but included members. Mrs Lowe commented that this was another reason for the ensuring all exhibitors were

required to be at least Bronze members so that we could exert some control if problems arose.

Mr Knott continued that he had attended HOYS last year and felt that all exhibitors had represented the breed very well. Mrs Lowe advised that the stand had been successful especially with our horse representing the breed Maiad who had graciously taken to five days of constant patting. Unfortunately the breed stand has to be shared with other Societies and will not be available this year. It was agreed that this was an excellent shop window with plenty of opportunity to talk to people and acquire new memberships – which had been done.

#### 10j. Premium Performance Scheme Update

Mrs Brown gave an update on the Premium Performance Scheme and drew attention to some changes to encourage younger stallions to obtain Premium status. Going forward former Merit stallions aged 10 years who have three off spring who have attained the required performance levels will be given premium status. Mrs Brown also reminded people that all Premium stallions are eligible for many awards at shows and they need to check that they are claiming the awards.

#### 10k. Letter

Mrs Mann read out a letter from Mr Upton who was unable to attend the AGM. He was disappointed about the falling attendance at AGMs and wondered why. He said he had heard that one Council Member might be “kicked out” and felt this was unacceptable and hoped that the member would stay, feeling this reflected badly on the Trustees elected by the Society. Mrs Lowe replied that this was an internal Council matter that Council were trying to resolve and it was not for public debate. Ms Roberts said that if people felt strongly about a situation that they should attend the AGM and that if they did not attend then it should be seen as a positive position.

#### 10l. PB/ AA

Mrs Bridges asked what could be done to promote the AA/ PB. Mrs Martin replied that she was doing a lot to promote them but found that there was a lot of bias in her area. She also felt that there was a lack of horsemanship and people didn't understand the Arabian. Ms Roberts said that promotion was also down to owners and cited one purebred owner who had written articles about her stallion in Horse Deals and that most of the horses her stallion covered were “non” Arab's. Mrs Whittome commented that there were a lot of PB Arabs doing very well but the AHS were unaware of them. Miss Parsons said that because of the way Weatherby's insist on only accepting their DNA testing and their microchips she had to register with them first, although this was more expensive than the AHS and then get her passport over-stamped by the AHS. She had however experienced problems recently and she agreed to discuss the issue with Mrs Meredith. Mrs Kokta said that some PB/ AA owners were not joining because they didn't get anything from it. Mrs Evans questioned if this was too expensive, Mrs Lowe and Miss Parsons agreed it wasn't as there was no membership requirement or DNA testing. Mrs Meredith said that in 2011 there were 475 registrations versus 442 last year.

#### 10m. Magazine

Mrs Brown wished to raise her disappointment at receiving the flyer with many unattributed quotes could be seen to imply that previous magazines had not been good, which was not the case. She felt it was inappropriate and very unfair on previous editors. Mrs Lowe advised that the flyer had not been seen or authorised.

## 10n. AGM

The Hon Mr Guinness asked if people liked the venue and the consensus was very positive. Miss Briggs asked why it had been on a Sunday. Mrs Lowe advised that this was because the venue was not available on the Saturday and other venues were prohibitive cost wise at nearly £500 and this was not viable for so few members. Hopefully next year it would return to a Saturday. The date of the AGM is challenging as the Annual Report and Accounts is a time consuming job to complete and this is the earliest the AGM can be held. Unfortunately some shows have also brought dates forward. There was a general discussion around dates and timings and Mrs Bridges suggested a shorter accounting year to allow the AGM to be held in January.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.35pm