

Meeting Minutes
Cleveland Bay Horse Society
Council Meeting
Thursday 5th June 2025
1930 BST

Present: Matthew Stonehouse (MS), Catherine Lea (CL), Claire O'Connell (CO), Norma Wilson (NW), Daniel Cracknell (DC), Sarah Kirk (SK), Elaine Keith (EK), Tierney Hill (TH), Maggie Brown (MB), Karen Wylie (KW)

Absent: N/A

Apologies: Mary Ann Reay (MAR)

General Business:

MS opened the meeting and declared it quorate. Apologies were received from MAR. No conflicts of interest were declared.

Minutes:

No amendments to the previous minutes were discussed. MS to continue to circulate the minutes for approval via email.

Accountant Change Decision:

CL reported that Peter Howard & Co charges £2,115 plus VAT, compared to a local accountant's quote of £1,800. Concerns were raised about potential member harassment of the new accountant, based on past incidents. CL emphasized the society's duty as a charity to secure the best deal. Council unanimously approved switching to the local accountant.

AGM Preparation Requirements:

CO noted that only CO, DC, and MB remain on the Council automatically; others require re-election. KW announced her retirement from the Council. Deadlines for nomination papers and member questions to be set. MS to review past AGM procedures and assist with preparations. CO to contact a banking industry candidate to serve as scrutineer for vote counting.

Shows:

Royal Windsor Stand:

EK reported that the Royal Windsor stand cost £1,800 but yielded no revenue or memberships. CO and EK noted challenges in remote management. MB highlighted the cost of attending RWHS. Concerns were raised regarding the cost benefits of the stand and their use as a promotional tool. Council debated discontinuing Yorkshire and Windsor stands unless they generate income. No final decision; further review planned.

Royal Patronage Application Status:

MS confirmed a letter was sent to the King's private secretary 10 days prior, following an earlier letter sent in March; there was no current response. NW noted that previous applications post-Queen's death also had received no replies. DC highlighted renewed Royal interest in the breed, with six Cleveland horses returning, three being maidens in foal. NW suggested telephone follow-ups due to high email volumes received by the household. EK proposed leveraging RBST channels,

given the King's patronage and environmental interests. MS to pursue telephone contact and report back.

Great Yorkshire:

EK reported strong Yorkshire show entries (31, despite an 8 AM start). Volunteers are needed for the Yorkshire stand; MS offered assistance on Tuesday. Concerns were raised about inconsistent judging and breed type recognition. MB noted spectator comments questioning whether horses were pure-bred or part-bred, prompting discussion on improving public education.

Publicity & Promotions (P&P):

Facebook Management and Membership Issues:

CO reported difficulties managing the CBHS Facebook page due to an outdated membership list. Members reported issues including unacknowledged membership processing and failed direct debits without notification. Some applicants lacked membership numbers for Facebook group access. CL committed to providing CO with an updated list and reinstating automated Grassroots reminder emails. Council discussed implementing a welcome email system, as physical welcome packs are no longer feasible. The role of the membership secretary was emphasised by TH.

Magazine and Publication Updates:

CO reported the annual magazine is nearly complete, pending two items, but delayed due to laptop water damage affecting the motherboard (hard drive is intact). Advertising fees will cover both the Breeders Directory and magazine, with advertisers paying once for dual placement. Breed information was published on time in March via the Breeders Directory, addressing prior complaints about delays.

Breed Committee:

Stallion Licensing Applications:

DC reported two stallion licensing applications (one UK, one US). SK raised concerns about vet selection for the Montana applicant due to its remote location. DC to confirm vet appointments within the week. MS to contact the UK applicant regarding outstanding fees for the license and prefix application.

Any Other Business:

Matters Arising:

N/A

Memberships for Approval:

New Member Applications:

Sarah Gibson

Ella & Helen Adams

Hannah Lydotes

- unanimously approved.

Prefix Applications:

Council approved the WJ prefix for N & CM Barratt. Another application was refused. Council encouraged using place names over existing horse names for prefixes.

Technology and Communication Issues:

Significant audio/video issues occurred with the current meeting software. MS proposed returning to Zoom, with EK offering her private Zoom subscription temporarily. The office mobile phone requires replacement due to screen damage; Council to explore repair or new contract options.

Meeting Adjourned: 21:06 PM

Next Meeting Scheduled: 17.07.25