Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the APHC UK Ltd held on Sunday 15th November 2009 at lecture room AP2, Moreton Morell Equine College, Moreton Morrell, Warks.

Meeting commenced at 11:30 am – later then scheduled due to severe traffic congestion around the NEC Birmingham which delayed several members, officers, Directors. Some of the agenda items therefore not in the correct order.

Directors present: Kim Sands, Tim Keeley, Sue Feast, Helen Gough Stinton, Penny Connah.

Officers present: Company Secretary (and Chair of AGM) Richard Chamberlain; Membership Secretary and Minutes Secretary of AGM Sally Chamberlain, Shop – Janette Keeley. Web Site: Mandy Radford Collumbell.

Members present: 11  Total present : 20  Proxy votes: 4

1. Apologies for Absence: Mr & Mrs J Sillitoe, Mr & Mrs Baker, Ms A Thorne, Mr J Sutton, Ms K Kirk, Ms R Crofts, Mr B Gale, Ms S Hodgson, Ms L Rickman, Mr R Dalton

2. Matters arising from 2008 AGM: K Sands advised that most items covered in the 2008 AGM would be coming up again at this 2009 AGM. However it must be noted that Tim Keeley was actually proposed and voted in as a Director at the 2008 AGM but unfortunately this was not Minuted. A correction was put in the newsletter and the 2008 AGM Minutes will be amended accordingly.

3 Acceptance of 2008 AGM Minutes: It was agreed that these Minutes were a fair and accurate recording of the 2008 AGM with the amendment regarding Tim Keeley. Voted all in favour. No abstentions. None against. 2008 Minutes accordingly accepted and signed.

4. Election of Directors: Richard Chamberlain advised that the APHC UK had received the resignation of Mr Rob Dalton as a Director. This was due to Rob’s other commitments and work. Kim advised that she had spoken with Rob, thanked him for all his hard work within the APHC UK and confirmed that Rob and Chris would still support the APHC UK whenever possible. Rob also advised that Chris Dalton would be happy to assist APHC UK Youth members.

The following Directors were voted in for another term: Nigel Boase, Tim Keeley, Kim Sands, Sue Feast, Helen Gough Stinton, Penny Connah. The Board could co opt any other Directors during the course of the year and these would then stand for re election and be voted on at the 2010 AGM.

Kim advised that new Directors were always welcome to encourage a wider viewpoint within the APHC UK. There were two Directors meetings a year, plus the National Show. Main correspondence was via e mail.

5. Financial Report: Richard advised that although a new Treasurer had been discussed at the 2008 AGM due to his work and other commitments he had not been able to transfer the paperwork, change accountants etc. Richard simply had not had the time to explain the accounting methods although it had been his intention to do this.

Draft accounts including summary profit and loss account had been sent. These primary accounts showed a notional profit in the region of £3000.00. Thanks were given to our 2008 National Show sponsors Harrison Dairies and Morton Dairies. Richard then went through the various amounts and asked for questions afterwards. No questions arising.

Accomplishment of accounts: proposed Helen Gough Stinton. Seconded: Sue Feast. All voted in favour to accept accounts year ending 31 Jan 2009.

6 Appointment of new treasurer then raised again. Although Karyn Kirk had been nominated last year, as explained by Richard, he simply had not had the time to transfer the accounts over. Since then Mandy Radford Collumbell had indicated she would be happy to take on the role of Treasurer. After discussion it was agreed that the Board would finalise the appointment as appropriate. Voted: 13 in favour. None against. One abstention.

7. Membership report: Sally Chamberlain advised that the current adult membership stood at 205 and Youth at 27. Members signing in now get 2009/2010 membership. Standing order mandates had only been taken up by a few members although some problems had been experienced. Sally thanked all those who gave donations and sent stamps – it all helped with finances. Swayne Johnson Solicitors were thanked for covering all additional postage, extra photocopying etc. Mandy Radford Collumbell also thanked for her support.

At present the “welcome “ pack for new members consisted on APHC USA literature. There are no more car of the stickers left. Sally asked for ideas. Mandy had sourced an embroidery company and had bought along some sample embroidered discs. If the smaller disc was given out as a free welcome gift then membership fees would need to be increased. Discussion followed on how to encourage the use of the standing order – membership fees held for 3 years. Discount and free JA Allen book proposed but felt that £20 already a very reasonable amount. Felt that standing orders had only been operating for one year and take up may increase with time. To be reviewed again after three year period.

8. Merchandise/Shop report: Janette Keeley advised that she only had a few items left along with some items with other APHC UK officers. Items were only sold at the Northern and National Show – no one ordered on line. It was felt that with so many items being available throughout the internet the APHC UK shop could not compete. Janette was thanked for her continued efforts.

9. Newsletter report: Sue Feast advised that she enjoyed doing the newsletter and was now on her fifth one. Sue was always looking for contributions from members and was always available via e mail or telephone. Sue was trying to get an even balance between English and Western disciplines. Kim thanked Sue for doing a brilliant job and for continuing to upgrade and improve the NL. Sue had also produced a PR leaflet for distribution. Sally advised that the APHC USA now held most of their PR literature electronically and would be happy to send some over for the APHC UK to print and distribute. APHC USA trying to save on printing and postage costs themselves.

10. Web Site report: Mandy Radford Collumbell advised that the web site was continuing to develop and grow although there were still a couple of items which needed to be completed but this would take a bit longer. All forms were now available for download, members pictures were on the gallery, show reports available etc. However Mandy would still welcome suggestions on what else could be on the APHC UK web site. Kim thanked Mandy for a job well done and once again, like the newsletter, it had improved and enhanced the image of the APHC UK. However it needed constant attention, updating etc. It was asked if there could be a “forum” – however it was felt that this would have to be policed for content and some forums were open to abuse. Also agreed that there were other forums available outside the APHC UK which could be used. Mandy advised it would be expensive to build. Members reported that the APHC UK did have a “news” page on the web site which could be used for individual items. It was agreed that a forum page would be kept under review. Sally agreed that the web site was very good and that individual officers could now be communicated with more effectively. Communication was the key and it was important that members queries were responded to quickly.

11. Registrar’s report: Penny Connah reported that registrations were up this year. The 1st July microchip deadline increased work dramatically. Still having paperwork problems – not completed correctly, incomplete etc. Also having postal problems with passports getting lost in the post. At present APHC UK returns them normal 2nd class unless signatory has paid for signed delivery on return. Duplicate/replacement passports issued on receipt of signed Affidavit which is an extra cost to the owner. At present such passports replaced free of charge but Penny believes a charge should be made . Agreed that £15.00 charge will be levied for all replacement/duplicate passports. Discussion then followed re. mandatory or voluntary charge for signed delivery on receipt to prevent passports being lost in the post. Agreed that a mandatory additional charge of £3.50 on top of passport charge be set. APHC UK can return all passports securely. Penny advised that for new registrations processing can take 4 – 6 weeks. Change of ownership can be done within 5 day guidelines. People still leave requests for registration/passport to the very last minute and expect a three day turnaround – this does not happen. Penny laminating the front page and silhouette page to prevent tampering of passports – which immediately invalidates them. Has also put in a page in vault to sign when a colt is gelded. Sally asked if stallion owners were submitting stallion breeding report forms. Penny confirmed on the whole they were and that she checked every new foal registration against the stallion report forms.

Kim advised that the database Penny uses is at times very slow to operate and needs updating. Penny said she has another assistant – Georgia Ryle. Kim asked for clarification as Sandra Plumh also an assistant – Penny confirmed that Sandra still taking phone queries and assisting in the office however Penny is very busy with her own personal life and the registrations take up a huge amount of time.

Penny asked that the passport cover incorporate the APHC UK web site address under the logo.

12. 2009 National and Regional APHC UK shows + others: National Show: reports had already been put in the newsletter and website. Attendance down on last year. No major sponsor instead concentrated on smaller amounts and many people very generous. APHC USA sponsored the air fare and Sally met with various APHC USA officials at the 2009 World Show – there is a possibility that APHC USA may be able to assist again in 2010 but this is dependant on the grant they get from the USA government department. Need to make better use of both arenas.
Saturday. Still a struggle to get competitors into the arena on time to stop them missing classes. Lack of help a big problem – need a team for front of house i.e. rosettes, trophies, prizes. Some trophies not being collected. Thanks given to youth helpers especially Olivia Plumb. Mandy and Gail thanked for their secretarial assistance on the day – a great help. Gail has agreed to assist in 2010. Youth class age split means another Youth award required. Show jumping: to be more fun rather than pure SJ. Possible showing clinic – what judge looking for – to be held on Saturday evening prior to buffet – dependant on time. Versatility Trophy to be reworked, change of classes – to encourage more participants. Heather Julian has kindly sponsored £100 for this. Sally advised that National Show likely to make a loss in the region of £700.00. Has asked for additional APHC USA classes: Hunter in Hand and Masters Trail. Sally advised that APHC USA no longer require mandatory halter/performance classes at pointed international/delicate shows but this will not make much of a difference for the APHC UK. At the present time the APHC UK pays $25 judge fee and $2 per entry per class for all APHC USA classes.

Blodhax Blue Belle Youth Award presented to Becky Parsonage (her mum!) and Marilyn Roslanowski received award for Horsemanship class.

European Championship Show – Aachen, Germany. Tim & Janette Keeley gave a report. They attended the European Affiliate Meetings on behalf of APHC UK – Diane Rushing from USA in attendance. Austria had put a bid in for 2010 but with no one present from Austria it was agreed Germany would host again. Has to be held in October due to Austrian rules. Another meeting of European affiliates has been proposed for March 2010 - Tim happy to attend. A stronger European involvement required: own web site, translation of USA rule book, show affiliation fees – Tim advised that some European affiliates still not paying. Tim & Janette and Helen Smith /David Deptford congratulated on their successes at the European Championship show. Janette suggested Mr Rushing as an APHC USA judge for future UK National Shows.

Northern Show, Myerscough: Penny thanked for organising. Janette and Rosemary thanked for their assistance on the day. Agreed to move the 2010 show to the Sunday to try and encourage more exhibitors. Date to be agreed with WES. Halter & English ridden classes only. Sally advised show made a slight loss approx. £135.00.

13. 2010 APHC UK Shows: Date for National Show Moreton Morrell 7th and 8th August. Sally to organise UK and USA judge. More help and sponsorship required.

British Appaloosa Show: Mr Entwistle advised that western performance classes would be open to APHC UK members.

Eastern Show: Discussions were taking place for an eastern class – all classes open. Angelsey Show: Sally had written to the Angelsey County show as they now held classes for “Pure Foreign Breeds” however the Appaloosas could still not enter BAPS only. Angelsey advised they would see how many Appaloosas (APHC UK) entered the Foreign Breeds class to determine whether the Appaloosas could then be open up. Sally asked for support from members.

Three Counties: again closed to BAPS only. Asked if BAPS could write to organisers to open up. Hartpury Show 3/4 July: new show in conjunction with WES Area 6. Helen Gough attended the WES Area 6 AGM and gave a report on suggested APHC UK involvement. Agreed Sunday would be better day for APHC UK exhibitors. Sally agreed to organise. To be halter & English ridden with some classes open to BAPS horses/members. Cost for arena hire £375.00. Stabling costs being negotiated.

2010 Northern Show: Penny to contact Dee Allen, WES to get dates.

WES Championship: WES had confirmed that they were happy to hold APHC USA and BAPS halter/performance classes again even though the judge was AQAHA carded (not APHC). Brian Entwistle advised that when shows were open to both Societies then members needed to support them. (e.g. Monmouth Show poorly supported).

14: Marketing & Promotion: Kim said that the profile of the APHC UK had been enhanced due to the new web site (Mandy Randy Collumbell) and newsletter (Sue Feast). Great image to the public.

HOYS: another success. Thanks given to Penny Connah and her team. This year HOYS allowed two Appaloosas (Exbury Miss Tique) and a part bred (Starvak Yankee Doodle). Loads of interest. Visitors very complimentary. Each stable cost £160.00 for the five days but APHC UK get a £230.00 refund when stables left clean. Literature given out. Merchandise not allowed to be sold.

J A Allen “Appaloosa” breed series book: Kim was delighted to at last say that this book was published and selling well. Kim and Stephanie Woollen had met all the objectives: 3000 words and 58 photos from members. Heritage photos gave a great impression of the history of the breed. J A Allen were delighted with the overall result. Kim thanked all those behind the scenes that had also helped. Of the 500 copies that APHC UK had purchased 170 had already been sold. On books sold outside the APHC UK we received a 30 pence royalty fee per book. It was agreed that it was a wonderful promotion of the Appaloosa as a breed and Kim and Stephanie thanked and congratulated.

Kim then put forward a suggestion for another book covering English and Western disciplines but featuring Appaloosas. Concern was raised as to the financing and whether APHC UK could afford it so soon after this book. Kim advised it was a long term project and discussions still required with J A Allen. Lot of research required. Majority in favour for Kim to look into and to report back to Directors.

Stallion Directory 2010: No new directory would be issued, however a special stallion guide would be placed in the Winter newsletter. Sue also thinking of doing a feature on “outcours” stallions (i.e. TB/Arab/TH) next year.

15. Update on PSSM and Hereditary Diseases: Kim gave a brief history on this item. Since the Matter was raised at the last AGM in 2008 by a concerned member (who informed us of problems she faced with her own mare) the APHC UK has taken action in various ways over the past 12 months including relevant articles in the newsletter and on our web site to inform our members about PSSM; the fact that it is a hereditary disease, its symptoms, treatment and testing. There have also been articles in other equine press. In the summer 2009 we issued a further article which provided an update regarding the discovery of a second gene which makes symptoms much worse in a horse that has both genes. The APHC UK has raised the matter with the APHC USA who advised us that they were concerned and were monitoring the situation through their breeders committee but they could offer no particular advice or guidance at this time.

Question was : what now? Full discussion ensued. The second gene found makes the symptoms of PSSM much worse and increases the chances of carriers suffering severe symptoms however it is thought to be rare for a horse to have both genes. It was raised that a positive PSSM test was 100% however it was suggested by Sharon Nimmo that an N/N test still did not guarantee the horse did not have PSSM. Kim Sands pointed out that the accuracy rate is believed to be high with these tests and there is only a very slight chance that a horse testing negative would in fact have PSSM. Sharon Nimmo also suggested the symptoms could be resolved with correct horse management. PSSM affects most breeds – it is not solely an Appaloosa problem. However despite all the information made available so far only two cases had been reported. It is not a contagious disease so is not a DEFRA issue.

It was agreed that the APHC UK had made members fully aware of the situation, that it should be monitored but that no further action was to be taken at this time. Brian Entwistle advised that BAPS were making it mandatory as of 1st Jan 2010 that all stallions wishing to be licensed must be tested and a positive result would mean the stallion would not be licensed due to a “genetic fault”. Brian Entwistle had been informed that a stallion testing positive for PSSM could pass on the condition to 50% of its foals. All imported mares were also to be tested. The question was raised : if a stallion tested positive for PSSM could it be stopped from being used to cover mares? In Richard’s view there was nothing legally that could prevent it from being used as it may be against EU Directives however it would be hoped that the owner would be responsible and not use it. The issue remains as to what would happen to the offspring of a stallion who has not passed the stallion licence procedure.

16. Any Other Business: Tim Keeley presented the Hi Point Performance Awards:

Youth: Chris Dalton Reserve: Cheryl Hodgson
Open English: Rachael Broom Reserve: Natalie Setz
Open Western: Janette Keeley Reserve: Tim Keeley

Each winner received an APHC USA perpetual bronze trophy. All recipients received a certificate. Tim also awarded certificates to Register of Merit horses. ROM Champion awards (50 points) to Truly Amazing and Exbury Maverick. Full details to be put in newsletter. Janette stressed how important Register of Merits were. Tim also advised that if a horse testing positive for PSSM could pass on the condition to 50% of its foals. All imported mares were also to be tested. The question was raised : if a stallion tested positive for PSSM could it be stopped from being used to cover mares? In Richard’s view there was nothing legally that could prevent it from being used as it may be against EU Directives however it would be hoped that the owner would be responsible and not use it. The issue remains as to what would happen to the offspring of a stallion who has not passed the stallion licence procedure.

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European Appaloosa Championship show Germany: Janette said that this was a great show and asked for more APHC UK members to attend. Although expensive it was well worth the effort. They were judged by four USA judges. Janette advised she would be happy to assist anyone who wished to attend – give advice, what to expect, how to prepare etc.

Meeting finished at 4.00pm. Everyone thanked for attending.