

**VBSSUK AGM**

**Date**: 23 August 2019

**Venue**: H&H Borderway Mart, Carlisle, CA1 2RS

**Time**: 18:30

**Present**:

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| Andrew Polson |
| Alex & Chris Burch |
| Andrew Knowles Brown |
| Billy (on Behalf of Charlotte Weymss) |
| Cathy Barker |
| Dai Roberts |
| Elaine Boyle |
| Emily Duncan |
| Gerralt & Kerry Costello-Jones |
| Glen Blacklock |
| Heather & Julian Adam |
| Henry Duncan  Jack & Jackie Simonini |
| Jamie Wood |
| Jemma Knowles-Brown |
| Jenni McAllister |
| Jo Jacobsen |
| Katharina Hare |
| Katie Collin |
| Marc Thomas |
| Michael Boyle |
| Miles Morgan |
| Mr & Mrs Alan Watson |
| Raymond Irvine |
| Val Cartner |

**Chairman**: Raymond Irvine

Andrew Knowles-Brown will chair the meeting on behalf of Raymond Irvine

1. **Apologies**

Apologies received from Patricia Neal and Symon Jacobsen

1. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Minutes from the previous AGM have been communicated. Next year the minutes from this meeting will be sent with the next AGM agenda. As accounts are currently in progress we will send those out with the next AGM agenda also so they can be reviewed.

Andrew Knowles-Brown comments that he has nothing he wants to raise from the last set of minutes and asks if anyone feels that they do not correspond with what happened last year? All agree the previous minutes and Andrew Knowles-Brown signs off the minutes from last year.

1. **Matters Arising From Previous Minutes**

No matters arising

1. **Correspondence**

No correspondence has been received

1. **Chairman’s Report**

Raymond Irvine thanks everyone for coming and attending and expresses how the show has been tremendous the last few years. Sheep are improving. Judges coming over from Switzerland is great and having their support.

Raymond Irvine thanks everyone again for their participation as if it wasn’t for everyone coming in to the breed and pushing it forward then we wouldn’t be here today. Numbers are increasing all the time. For a new breed is fantastic. Entries for the show are up again this year and its comforting to see people so keen and enthusiastic.

Maximum points, was going to comment that they are increasing every year however this year they have been on the downside. We still have good sheep but judges appear to be more stricter this year.

Royal welsh show: Thanks to Kerry for coordinating and getting breeders in to the welsh show for class entries. Great to see everyone supporting the show.

Hopefully we get our own classes at the Royal Welsh following the class entries we have had this year.

Memberships: Memberships have increased over the past year tremendously from 55 members last year to 132 at the time of writing the AGM report. More members have signed up in the last 1-2 weeks.

Other Shows: We need to keep supporting the local shows and working to get classes for the breed.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Our year end is in August, official accounts are in progress and have not yet been completed. Accounts are produced by Armstrong Watson Accountants, Milburn House, hexham Business Park, Burn Lane, Northumberland, NE46 3RU. They will be sent out with the next notification but will be available on request and in the member area of the VBSSUK website.

We have spent money on the following over the past year:

* Stand at the Royal Highland Show, Edinburgh
* Blacknose Beauties: Majority of funds is spent on Blacknose Beauties which costs in the region of £5000.
* Royal Welsh Show Entries Contribution
* Royal Welsh Show Cup
* Merchandise (Member Packs as well as for Blacknose Beauties)
* Advertising and marketing

VBSSUKFunds

Current funds available in VBSSUK bank account as at 22nd August 2019 is: £10,549.91

Memberships

VBSSUK memberships currently sits at 132 members (as at 8th August 2019).

135% increase from 2018 membership subscriptions (2018 – 55 Members)

* 72 new members
* 60 renewed members

Andrew Knowles-Brown asks if there are any comments on the either the Chairman’s Report or Treasurer Report, to which there are no comments.

1. **Committee appointments and elections**

(Andrew Knowles-Brown)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Role** | **Person** | **Rotation** |
| Chairperson | Raymond Irvine | 1 Year |
| Vice | Jamie Wood | 3 Years |
| Secretary | Jennifer McAllister | 1 Year |
| Treasurer | Marc Thomas | Co-opted Member |
| Social Media & Advertising | Emily Duncan | 2 Years |
| Enquiries Housekeeper | Elaine Boyle | 3 Years |
| Publications | Jemma Knowles-Brown | 2 Years |
| Committee Members | Lesley Lawman | 3 Years |

As we did not get our notifications out early enough we could not offer people to carry out any nominations.

We have a rolling change of committee members and they are eligible to stand again for nomination again for they would wish.

We will run through the members who have a 1 year committee rotation and vote if you are happy for them to be voted back on to the committee. Also if there is anyone who would like to nominate or vote themselves on to the committee you will be voted on as a shadow member, then at the following committee meeting can be voted in.

Would anyone like to vote for Jenni McAllister and Raymond Irvine to be reelected?

* All vote yes.

Would anyone like to nominate themselves on to the committee?

* The following people nominated themselves to be on the committee:
* Katharina Hare
* Jo Jacobsen
* Kerry Costello-Jones

1. **AOB**

**(Member) What can we do to promote the breed but not be on the committee?**

(Raymond Irvine) Hopefully will come a time that we will get classes at the smaller and the bigger national shows.

If there are smaller shows which you would like to try and promote the breed we will support how we can, so please approach us and we will do what we can to help.

**(Katie Collin) Would like to try and replicate what Kerry has done with the welsh with the Yorkshire show.**

(Raymond Irvine) If we keep the members numbers growing we can support more shows. Happy for you to liaise with any contacts you may have and find out what options there may be available to us. Again, we are happy to support in any way we can.

**(Billy) How many are entered in the sale for tomorrow?**

(Raymond Irvine) There are over 100, however only a small number of rams have qualified to go through the ring.

Katharina Hare comments that maybe next year we make it from under a certain age can automatically go through?

Raymond Irvine responds that the first year all rams went through and didn’t sell or sold for very little money.

Glen Blacklock suggests why not put a bottom line on it and JW responds that we have to adhere to breed standards

Alan Watson asks would it look good if not many sell?

Another member comments about the sale in Ireland where all were sold, to which Kerry Costello-Jones responded yes they all sold but they were not graded, so people didn’t know the quality they were buying.

Glen Blacklock asks what about ewes which are not fully marked? JW explains its different with ewes and we don’t need to be as strict.

Alan Watson asks what if you concentrated on a certain category for which point is deducted and qualifies for sale?

Raymond Irvine responds that the thing is there are so many rams and we need to keep advertising the breed positively. Maybe we need to learn more about what should be castrated earlier to which Kerry Costello-Jones supports and that they would go in to the wether market.

Andrew Knowles-Brown agrees that we should protect the quality of the breed

Billy comments that breeders will buy the dross

Andrew Knowles-Brown replies that you are calling it dross – you still have good marks – you’re not buying through the mart you can still buy privately.

Jackie Simonini comments that people have just got to accept that we have to sell the best and liquidising the breed and accept that a sale would not go for much

Alan Watson suggest maybe we could do a sale for the premium and then have a separate sale for the ones which were not graded

Billy follows on that if they are not graded well maybe they shouldn’t be registered to which Raymond Irvine comments that well maybe that is an idea that we pursue.

AKB states that this is not something that we can resolve in this sitting but it is obviously a topic that we want to address and if all agree will close off for this evening and will take it away to be worked through by the committee and the BB committee to see how we best take forward next year.

All are in agreement.

\*\*\*Meeting Closed\*\*\*