**MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE**

**VALAIS BLACKNOSE SOCIETY**

**4th December, 2023 (Virtual meeting) 7pm**

# Draft Minutes

**Present**: Raymond Irvine (Chairman),Jamie Wood (Vice Chairman), Tom Hooper, Phil Garrod, Polly Glyde, Kate Little, Adam Kirkbride, Steve Dace, and Melissa Christie.

**In attendance**: None

**Minute No. 2023/**

**161. Apologies:** Chris Slee

**162. Confidentiality of Council Meetings:** Noted.

**163. Minutes from Meeting on 6th November 2023:** These were agreed and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Phil Garrod and seconded by Polly Glyde.

**164. Matters arising:**

1. **Confidentiality form –** The form will be ready for signature by Council members before the next meeting.
2. **Trainee judges event debrief –** The feedback on the event was positive, being considered well organised with participants saying that they had learnt a lot. The letters have gone out to explain to each participant what they need to do to qualify for the B panel of judges (one day events). Steve Dace was thanked for hosting the event as was Polly Glyde for it’s organisation.
3. **Swiss grading training update –** No reply has yet been received from the Swiss. Kate to follow up after Christmas.

It has been noted that Reni (USA) has asked one of the attendants on the last Swiss grading training course to do the grading at her event in the summer of 2024, following the Society declining the invitation given the restricted nature of the event.

[Since the meeting a letter has been received from the Upper Valais SN Sheep Breeders’ Association (Oberwalliser Schwarznasenschafzuchtverband) explaining that their course is not to be equated with expert education and participants are not recognised as experts according to the training concept of the Swiss Sheep Breeders Association. It is merely a further training course without a subject specific certificate. It is for the UK Society to determine who can be designated a grader based on a number of factors.]

The Society has become aware that a couple of members in N Ireland are considering setting up their own VBN society. However, this Society owns the society flock book database run by Grassroots on an agency basis. It was **Resolved that legal advise would be sought on any sanctions that could be imposed to safeguard the database, removing membership status and the de-registering of sheep.** Proposed by the Chairman and seconded by the Vice Chairman.

1. **Conservation Panel update –** It is hoped that the working group can meet early in the new year.
2. **BB23 Questionnaire –** The questionnaire used by Scott Starkweather of the USA National Valais Blacknose Sheep Show has been received and Jamie is to look at drawing up a short questionnaire about what future Blacknose Beauties events should look like.

**5. The Valais Times Magazine:**

* **Show results**  - Only the Royal Lancashire Show results remain outstanding
* **Articles –** The spreadsheet of articles was reviewed alongside contributors.
* **Adverts** – An Octopus message went out seeking contributions and prospective advertisers and they are coming in.
* **Publisher –** Yet to be decided but quotes are being received.
* **Publication date –** Currently anticipated as February.

**6. 2024 Elections:**

1. **Nomination form** – Kate to draw up a nomination form to accompany the invitation to stand for election in early January.
2. **Octopus message to members –** This to go out before Christmas.

**7. Welsh Regional Club Request for a Grading and a S&S Event –** Kate to write back to advise that it is hoped to hold the two day Southern Grading, Show and Sale event in Wales in 2024.

**8. NSA Scotland Invite for 2024 –** Kate to write to the Scottish Regional Club to ask if their members would participate in this event. [They have subsequently agreed to do so].

**9. Agricultural Shows in 2024 – judge nominations update** – The spreadsheet was reviewed and updated.

**10. Finance:**

1. **Bank account** – There is £41,800 in the bank at present. This is approx. £11,000 down on the beginning of the year.
2. **Stripe system –** The treasurer to investigate this.
3. **Direct debit system –** This is proving more complex than anticipated for such a small body, as the oncosts can be considerable.

**11. Eartags:**

1. **Caisley DNA ear tags – update** – The Chairman has undertaken the trial using these tags and is awaiting the results. It was agreed that the society would offer the use of these tags as an alternative to the blood samples and nasal swabs for DNA tests. Kate to do an Octopus message to all members before the beginning of the new year. Caisley tags will be purchased directly from the supplier, then sent to Grassroots for forwarding to the Neogen laboratory for testing. The results will be sent to Grassroots for recording on the pedigrees and to the breeder/owner.
2. **Upgraded chips –** Mel to research this.

**12. Online shop:**

1. **Sales update –** As expected the shop is busy ahead of Christmas.
2. **Christmas sales campaign –** for the Facebook page.

**13. Any Other Business –** None.

**14. Date of Next Meeting: 8th January 2024**