**MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE**

**VALAIS BLACKNOSE SOCIETY**

**26th February 2024 (Virtual meeting) 7pm**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Present**: Raymond Irvine (Chairman), Jamie Wood (Vice Chairman), Polly Glyde, Kate Little, Phill Garrod, Steve Dace, and Melissa Christie.

**In attendence**: Andy Ryder and Heather Pritchard from Pedigree Livestock Services

**Minute No. 2024/**

**20. Apologies:** Tom Hooper and Chris Slee

**21. Confidentiality of Council Meetings:** Noted. New forms will be required for the

new members of the Council post election.

**22. Minutes from Meeting on 8th January 2023:** The minutes were amended in

respect of the vbns exported to N Ireland – minute no. 2024/10 to correct factual

errors. The amended minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman. Proposed

by Jamie Wood and seconded by Phil Garrod.

**23. Matters arising:**

1. **Swiss Grading Training –** Three Panel A+ judges are going for the training together with between 2-4 existing UK graders going for refresher training. Secretary to formally commission Silvan as translator for the duration and to advise trainees of the need for a hire car to visit breeds’ farms.
2. **Conservation Panel –** for discussion with the new Council
3. **Blacknose Beauties questionnaire –** work in progress.
4. **Upgraded microchips – costs –** Mel is investigating.
5. **Data being hidden on Grassroots system –** Secretary to discuss with Grassroots.

**24. Retiring members of the Council -** Chris Slee has written to the Council after the election to advise that he wishes to resign from the Council and as a Director of the ltd company. [He has subsequently advised that he will continue to judge and grade for the Society]. Tom Hooper our long standing Treasurer is retiring and Adam Kirkbride didn’t re-stand in the recent election. It was decided to send hampers to the three retiring Council members with our thanks for all their hard work on the Council.

**25. BB24 and Southern Grading, Show and Sale Events Update:** The following dates and locations have been agreed.

The N Ireland Grading Event – 25th May 2024

The Southern/Welsh one day Grading and S&S Event – 5th July 2024 at Monmouth Market

Blacknose Beauties two day Grading and S&S Event – 23rd and 24th August 2024 at Carlisle Mart

The Scottish one day Grading and S&S Event – 14th September 2024 (the latter organised by the Scottish Regional Club) at Lanark Mart. The fee for the exhibition space to be discussed.

The dates, locations and organisation of the 2025 events to be discussed at the next meeting.

**26. Judges for Agricultural Shows :** There are just a few spaces left now. The rosettes and sashes have been ordered with the new supplier. Given the cost of the Swiss bells all Royal, County and one day Show bells will have to be perpetual.

It was agreed to take six red, white and black sashes with gold tassels from the Society for the max. pointers at the Widdermarkt Grading Event as a mark of respect to the Swiss breeders.

**27. The Valais Times Magazine:** There are still a few outstanding items yet to come

in, despite the publication date being the end of March. Polly to chase yet again.

**28. Secretarial support:** The Council has decided to take on Pedigree Livestock Services to undertake the secretarial support until Jenny Russell returns from maternity leave, in order to relieve the two council members who have been covering for the last six months. There is a possibility the company could also look after the treasurer’s role now that Tom Hooper has stood down. Polly and Kate to do a Zoom meeting with Andy and Heather to sort out the arrangements.

**29. Caisley Eartags – test and trials results:** The Chairman’s results are now all successfully in. Still awaiting Jamie, Phil and Steve’s results.

**30.Vet enquiries re testicle size for VBN rams:** It is being reported by vets that the testicle size of vbns is smaller than for other upland breeds. Question that this might affect fertility. It was agreed that research should be undertaken to establish a breed average size at different ages, at the grading events this year.

**31. Proposed Zootech changes:** It appears that the new rules might result in a new breed programme being refused on the grounds that an existing programme already exists. A new breed programme to be discussed at the next meeting.

**32. N Ireland rules for showing lambs:** It was resolved to introduce a rule that all lamb classes at shows that the Society organises or sponsors should be born in the year of the show. Proposed by Steve Dace and seconded by Phil Garrod. At present Balmoral Show allows lambs born in November and December of the previous year to enter the lamb classes. Secretary to write to the Balmoral Show committee to advise.

**33. UKGLE/Fangra breed data:** It was noted that the number of rams being registered this last year has reduced slightly from 642 to 581. This trend needs to continue to prevent so many unsuitable rams being registered.

**34**. **Finance:**

1. **Bank and Paypal accounts –** The bank account stands at approx. £86k following the encouragement to rejoin the Society in January. The Paypal account is at approx. £350.
2. **Outstanding Invoices –** Approx £6k is owed to the Society in overdue invoices. The Secretary to analyse the reasons behind this and all Grassroots services should be withdrawn until outstanding invoices are paid.
3. **Showing VAT separately on invoices –** This needs to be instigated immediately to aid the quarterly VAT returns, including for the shop and event invoices.
4. **End of year accounts –** These are currently being prepared by the accountants.

**35. Any other business –**

1. Reduce calendars in the online shop by 50%
2. Jamie judging the All Ireland Show on 14th July 2024

Steve Dace and Mel Christie withdrew from the meeting at this point given their

personal interest in the item.

**36. Council Election Results:** The remaining members of the Council reviewed the independent arbitrators’ table of the results in which multiple voters’ and non members’ votes had been disqualified and noted that the following candidates were duly elected (in alphabetical order):

Tom Blackwood

Jenny Campbell

Mel Christie

Emma Collison

Steve Dace

Jackie O’Shea

In the light of the subsequent resignation of Chris Slee, it was unanimously agreed that the Council would co-opt Carla Mcleod Bunter onto the Council for one term of office.

The Secretary to send the confidentiality form and the Council Members’ Code of Conduct to the new members.

**37. Date of next meeting: 11th March 2024, 7pm**