



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE VALAIS BLACKNOSE SOCIETY

Held on line

18th September 2023

DRAFT MINUTES

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

47 Society members also attended the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence: There were none.

2. Welcome from the Chairman: The Chairman welcomed all the attendees and introduced the members of the Council. He also advised that the meeting was being recorded.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 31st March 2022: Subject to an amendment that Diane Lowry's name be added to the list of Council members present, the minutes were approved. Proposed by Mel Christie and seconded by Steve Dace. There were no matters arising.

4. 2024 Council Members Elections: Kate Little explained that the first Society elections would take place at the beginning of 2024 ie three years after the new society came into being, in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution. This requires that every year there would be an election for four places (in rotation) on the Council. However in 2024 it would be slightly different in that there were currently already two vacancies to be filled and three co-optees whose term of office is due to end before the elections. In addition, the Treasurer is standing down in

February 2024. Consequently there would be six Council places available at this election.

5. The Treasurer's Report on the accounts for the financial year 2022: The Treasurer's report had been circulated with the agenda. In summary the Society finished the year with cash reserves of £52k, following robust management of the budget. Tom Hooper, having been Treasurer for three years, and having enjoyed the role, now intended to step down.

It was resolved to agree the 2022 financial accounts. Proposed by David Hodge and seconded by Phil Garrod.

6. The Chairman's Annual Report: When the new combined Society was set up in 2021, it had joint chairmen, David Hodge and myself. David has now chosen to step down and we thank him for all his hard work and wish him the best in the future.

We have had an exciting showing and grading year and all looks promising for the future. We would like to thank and congratulate those who attended all our events, and especially to Moorahill Ingot which was BB23 supreme champion and the record sale price of £18k for Cheshire Incredible Hulk.

Society numbers have risen from 557 at the last AGM to 753 at this one and following our mission to 'increase education' about the breed and its welfare, the quality of the breed has improved, having come a long way since 2014. A task our new regional clubs have helped to deliver with their training days.

We have had 20 applicants to become new Society judges and we are hoping to send more experienced judges to Switzerland to learn about the grading process.

The members are the foundation of our Society and our Council members work hard on their behalf. My sincere thanks and appreciation to them all.

7. Any other Business: The following questions were asked and answered:

- (i) Why were members attending muted?
As so many people had attended the AGM it was to keep the background noise to a minimum so that people could hear.
- (ii) Why didn't Grassroots treat everybody equally?
Grassroots covers the whole of the UK and all animals being registered etc were treated equally
- (iii) Could we not promote the breed with more classes at agricultural shows?
If you write to us about potential shows we will contact them to ask for classes.
- (iv) The DNA testing system is clunky, can it be made better?
Phil Garrod is currently researching eartags which take a sample of the ear tissue for DNA purposes.

- (v) Grading scores are not being added to the Grassroots system or the website very quickly.
Apologised for the delay and hope to do better in future.
- (vi) The cost of DNA samples being tested is expensive.
We just charge what the Neogen laboratory charge us. We may need to renegotiate but Neogen hold all the data.
- (vii) We need longer pedigree records on the paper certificates or the Swiss bloodlines will be lost.
The certificate does only show four generations, but on the Grassroots system you can see right back.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and encouraged those who wished to be a part of the Council to put themselves forward at the next elections and be a part of a promising future for the breed.