

Minutes of the 44th AGM of the British Charollais Sheep Society held on Sunday 29th May 2022 at the Lion Quays Hotel, Weston Rhyn, Oswestry, Shropshire at 4.30 pm
a Registered Charity Number 282757 Company No : 1341920

Present : Charles Sercombe – Chairman
Trustees : Cecil Thomas, Adrian Davies, Sheila Malcomson, David Sloan
Company Secretary : Carroll Barber

Together with members :

M and M Rushbrooke, M Britten, E Barber, D & M Cowan, P Curran,
J Geldard, K Malcomson, D & L Mawhinney, W McAllister, R McBratney,
C Parkinson, G Pink, L Pollard, D Roberts, V Sercombe, H Sloan, R Towers,
P Tully, A Walton,

1.0 To read the notice convening the meeting

The company secretary read out the notice of the meeting and noted that the meeting started a little late.

2.0 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Jonathan Barber, Stuart Dunkley, Amy Pedrick, Dewi Evans, Emyr Hughes, Colin Bowen, Ralph Alderson, David Norman, Robert Gregory, Geoff and Carol Watson, Russell Gray, Robert Hopper, Jamie and Sue Wild.

3.0 To approve the minutes of the 43rd Annual General meeting

The meeting agreed the minutes of the previous AGM.

4.0 To receive the report of the Chairman

CS noted that his Chairman's report used to appear in printed format in Year Book. In the new Charollais Matters publication it is now more a forward to the publication. 2021 was again a truncated year due to covid pandemic restrictions. The Society has thrived and adapted, and found ways to work digitally including the AGM in 2021. Less face to face meetings has allowed for flexibility and different ways of working. We will continue to utilise zoom but probably will hold one to one face to face in the year for the Trustees.

2021 was a good year for the breed; where shows did take place Charollais was prominent in the interbreed competitions with many victories. Sales of stock were strong with Worcester Premier and Dungannon Premier sales leading the way. In most regions sold rams well with returning buyers. Female sales in the autumn were very buoyant and a new record was set for a ewe lamb. Society is making progress and there is demand for our product.

It was a very successful year financially, which has left the Society in a strong position. Chairman said that we made a presentation to retiring CEO, Jonathan Barber at Worcester, but he would like to record his thanks to him for all his work. We are learning to work without him and changing our plans for the future and will continue with his good work.

We are continuing to build on our Young Breeders project and have now formalised the structure of the group. The group has elected joint chairman, James Danforth and Oliver Chapman who are both keen and can work together.

Council met several times during the year. They agreed a marketing and promotional plan which is now active with support from Chrissie Long, Country Girl Media. Future plans include a push on commercial aspects of the breed.

The Trustees took the decision to introduce a programme of DNA testing. There is some confusion amongst breeders over this process and we must work hard to get the message over. It is a long-term project and will benefit the breed as it progresses.

Charollais will be a good position post pandemic and with the demands and changes happening in our sector. People will have to work in different ways and our traits of easy lambing and quick growth will be vital. Signet's RamCompare results have put Charollais rams in the top rankings; and we will be building on this in our promotion.

After Worcester Sale in 2021 there was much discussion on inspection and Council tasked the Judges Committee to look into this and submit a report to them. Their conclusions were that our Breed Standard is correct and the level we are trying to work to is right. The inspector's decision will be final and for 2022 we have asked Andrew Thomas, MRCVS to inspect every sheep at the sale, with Robert Gregory assisting on communication to vendors.

Chairman put out a plea to members to try and be positive and cut out negativity. The office, regional chairmen and other officers do the best they can. Please take this message back to regions - give us your support and communicate with your Society.

6.0 To receive and if approved to adopt the Report & Financial Statement to 31st December 2021

Chairman handed over to David Sloan, Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee. DS referred the members to the printed Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021 as prepared by Argents.

DS said that the layout of the accounts were a bit different this year; in line with Charity Commission requirements.

Page 1 - DS pointed out the paragraph on Public Benefit and that our work now on DNA does tick the box of 'retaining the integrity and purity of the breed.'

Page 2 - list the trustees and changes during the year.

Page 9 - this page sets out the core activities of the Society; Donations and legacies very similar to 2020. Charitable activities - registration fees very similar to 2020 but more commission and entry fees as sales resumed. Year Book and other publications, this figure is dependent of number and level of private sale cataloguing.

Investment income is dividends received from our share portfolio and was increased from 2020.

Total income for 2021 was £174,349

Expenditure of the Society is itemised page 10, item 7 onwards.

Advertising figure of £22,419 covers photography, updating website, social media, etc and payments to CGM.

Genetic testing is the costs incurred for scrapie testing and is balanced by the income on the other side. It leaves a small margin to cover administration costs.

Sale costs of £6,947 cover inspection, cataloguing and judging expenses

There were no show costs in the year.

Support Costs - share of governance costs totals £81,078

Office expenses – £7,600 is figure paid for the office space.

Subscriptions – amounts paid to Grassroots for their system and other computer programs.

Interest payable is all card charges.

Meeting expenses are down but will go up considerably.

Total costs of raising funds is £133,766 which gives the Society an operating surplus of £40,583; this includes the sum of just over £7k which is income from share dividends. Which is a very good situation to be in.

Income up on the year just over £14k, which is encouraging.

DS then asked the meeting to go back to page 4 where all these figures are pulled together from the following pages.

The valuation gain on our investments was £28,659. So this figures is added to the operating surplus to give a net movement in funds of £69,242.

Page 5 sets out the Balance Sheet. Debtors are up on 2020; this is money due at the time of year and just depends how it has been invoiced.

Cash at bank and in hand of £106,770 includes the cash element held by Barratt & Cooke. So our total current assets come to £428,965.

Chairman thanked DS you for working through that and asked for any questions

Mr Geldard thanked DS for such a good presentation which clearly explained our finances. He pointed out that the gain on investments can go up and down, should members should be prepared for fluctuation in the valuation of shares.

Chairman confirmed that we have invested a further £40k with Barratt & Cooke this year; this will help with our annual income.

Adoption of the report and financial statement was proposed by Mr P Tully, seconded by Mr M Rushbrooke. Chairman thanked DS for taking on this role.

6.0 To confirm the appointment of new Directors and Trustees of the Company.

Chairman thanked Cecil Thomas for his work over 6 yeas and also his contribution to F&GP. He confirmed that Mr David Roberts would be taking over this role in Central England. Chairman also confirmed that Mr David Norman had been elected for a further term of office for the North of England.

Chairman also confirmed the appointment of Oliver Chapman and James Danforth as joint-chairmen of the Young Breeders group. Chairman added that the trustees are there to help and support the group and good ideas will be financially and physically supported.

7.0 To re-appoint Messrs Argents as Independent Examiners for the ensuring year and to authorise the Council of Management to fix their remuneration.

Proposed by William McAllister and seconded by Adrian Davies.

8.0 Any other business

8.01 Chairman was asked if the Welsh Ram Project had yielded any results. He responded that yes good feedback had been gathered and we are keen to revisit and

build on this project. We got some good publicity and are now rebuilding some bridges and will utilise them.

8.02 Mark Rushbrooke, on behalf of the Central Region thanked Cecil Thomas for everything he has done for the region.

9.0 Date of Next Meeting

The next AGM is due to take place in Wales. Chairman asked for feedback on the format of the event that members would like. This meeting had been cut back to one day; but would members prefer to return to a longer format. Please let us have your thoughts on what you would like, so we can decide upon the format.

Chairman closed the meeting and wished everyone an enjoyable evening.

Charles Sercombe

Chairman