

DMFH Ltd

Minutes of the meeting of Directors held on 29th January 2020 at Wrangaton Barn.

Present: Miss Cane (Hon. Sec), Mr Daw, Mr Goodman, , Mr Gosling MFH, Mr Grose, Mr Hardy, Mr Jennians, Mrs Johnson, Mr Lucas, Miss Michelmore (Hon Treas.), Dr Mills, Mrs Owen, Mr Peacock, Mrs Peters (Chairman), Miss Ross, Mrs Skitt, Mrs Treneer (Vice Chairman) and Mr Wookey.

Apologies: Mr Branfield, Mr Crawford, Mr Dollard and Mr Glanville

1. Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th October 2019 were agreed. Proposed by Mrs Johnson and seconded by Mr Lucas.

2. Matters Arising

Miss Ross asked for further explanation regarding the terrier men being more careful and less obvious. This is so that they attempt to keep a low profile and stay out of the way of the riders where possible which is the request the committee made to the Master. They are out and most meets there are strict guidelines in place as to what they. Mr Harding confirmed that from what he has seen that they do behave and keep a low profile. Mr Jennians raised an occasion at a Cornwood meet where the behaviour of one individual was not acceptable, this has been addressed and apologies have been made. Dr Mills stressed that the use of terrier men is an important part of hunting where if they are not used farmers will employ guns to undertake the role.

Mrs Johnson asked if the work on the point to points was progressing well. Mr Goodman confirmed that this is still the case and there would be two meets.

3. Correspondence

Mrs Peters had received an email from Polly Portwin pointing out that it is the 15 year anniversary of the Hunting Ban which coincides with the Two Brides Hunt Club meet. Devon Sabs have advertised about making a protest at the meet but we are not expecting a large turnout. Mr Gosling stated that the meet card should say 11:30 and not 11:00.

4. Finance report

Miss Michelmore referred to the estimated outcome for the current year. Subscriptions are down a little. Field daily average is at £200 cap, and anticipated the remainder of the season.

The Racing Club anticipates to be running again for this year.

Building repairs anticipated for £2k until the end of the year.

Cottage maintenance is actual expenditure for West Monksmoor which is kept separate.

Equipment running costs anticipates £3k between now and the end of the year on fuel tractor and pressure washer repairs. Cesspit bill anticipated to be £1,400 per year.

Professional fees expected for this year.

Approximate loss of £1,400 (estimates included).

Concerns raised that the money raised from hunting has greatly reduced. This is due to numbers however we do have the adjacent hunt subscribers. Visitors however do make a huge difference. Bye-days should be considered at the end of the season. Mrs Owen asked if we could host a visitor's day, however it is challenging to source hirelings. It was recognised that there is more that could be done to attract visitor packs.

Dr Mills stated that there are other Hunts who are struggling and recognised that these are challenging times.

Mrs Peters replayed the conversations she had had previously with James Bucknall at South Devon given the reduction in subscribers, amalgamation should be considered if and when the opportunity arises, however this does require both willing packs.

Agreed that all Hunt functions should be shared between the South Devon and Dartmoor.

Miss Ross suggested that a Facebook page is set up. Mr Gosling stated that the MFHA are keen that we appoint a social media officer, who would be helped by the hunting office and given the tuition necessary to move forward good news stories. Miss Ross addressed the group about the hunt having a Facebook page the South Devon and South Pool and Dart Vale have very proactive pages. Mr Gosling confirmed that he would set up a public event page to advertise shows and rides, Miss Ross and Freya Thomson should move this forward.

Mr Morgan, referred back to increasing the field money, at a recent meet of the Cotley they had 81 riders which were by invitation only. They meet at their pub and take you around their point to point and back to the pub where the field master buys a drink. Food is provided at the end of the day, there is ample parking; the whole day is about entertaining. Could we find an area of country when everyone is finished, where it is relatively dry and provide a whole packaged experience? You have to phone the field master to book a place.

The chairman informed Directors that the tractor is currently off the road and requiring repairs. Thank you to Martin Daw for the loan of his tractor to empty the muck heap trailer. Tractor must be inspected annually and has failed its last based on issues with loader. One quote has been received just short of £4k which is based on replacing everything. Another discussion is being had with Andrew Frampton to see what can be achieved to make it safe and road worthy for on a basic quote and to see whether or not this achievable, this will be sent to Lycetts to see if they would be happy for this so that it can be signed off. Mr Hardy proposed Bill Lucas seconded that the matter is left with the officers to sort out the most cost effective solution.

5. Kennel Report

Everything has been covered and is all in hand.

6. AOB

Mrs Owen raised a brief issue regarding the state of the Dalby room and asked that we ensure that the Dalby room is left as it was found.

Mr Lucas asked that our thanks are recorded to John and Sally for their hospitality this evening which has staved off hyperthermia.

Date of next meeting – Wednesday 13th May 2020.

The meeting closed.