



**Blended Meeting of the Board of Trustees held on
Wednesday 29 September 2021 at 10:00
held by Video Conference (Microsoft Teams) from the Board Room at HQ**

1. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 30 June 2021

- The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 30 June 2021 were proposed by the Chairman and agreed to be a true reflection of the meeting.

2. Matters Arising

- The document produced by the BHS pertaining to the use of indoor and covered arenas during the covid-19 pandemic had been further developed to focus on ventilation and carbon dioxide levels. A subsequent letter had been sent to Lord Benyon regarding the Society's ongoing concern about the detrimental impact of riding schools being required to close under future lockdown legislation. The letter outlined that indoor and covered arenas should not be classified as the same type of building as a gym, and that this has been demonstrated by the Society's research findings. The letter has been acknowledged, and a similar letter has also been sent to Jo Churchill MP following the recent Cabinet reshuffle.

3. Abridged Minutes of the December 2020 Board Meeting for publication

- The abridged minutes of the meeting that took place on 30 June 2021 were approved for publication on the BHS website.

4. Conflicts of Interest

- There were not any conflicts of interest declared.

5. Chief Executive's Report

- The summer months have provided tremendous opportunity for the Home Team to get back out and about, delivering activity face-to-face and in a more traditional (pre-covid) format across all of the Society's charitable objectives, as well as maintaining an efficient internal operation.
- BHS membership is holding its ground, and the Society is on course to achieve the forecast expectation.
- BRC membership is increasing slowly in-year, following a steep reduction in members during the covid-19 pandemic.
- There has been excellent lobbying activity spearheaded by the Director of Access, gaining significant engagement from Steven Barclay MP, and George Eustice MP.
- James Hick has been asked to join the Equine Infectious Disease Surveillance Oversight Committee (EIDSOC); the group of organisations responsible for overseeing the appointment and monitoring of a disease surveillance company, to replace the Animal Health Trust, which closed last year. The BHS is one of two Committee members that are not from the thoroughbred or racing sectors.
- 23 Centres are pending approval to join the Approved Centre Scheme. This is a much higher number than usual and is believed to be owing to the support given to BHS Approved Riding Schools and Centres throughout the covid-19 related lockdowns, in addition to the Business Support Manager's whose roles were introduced as part of the Approved Centre Scheme Transformation.
- The consolidated annual report has been produced and will be shared publicly online but will not be distributed in print copy.

6. Health and Safety

- Health and Safety reports were distributed in advance of the meeting and there were not any questions arising.

7. Safeguarding

- A Safeguarding report which detailed all new concerns was distributed in advance of the meeting. There were not any questions arising.

8. Information Security

- Sensitivity labels have been introduced on emails and documents across the Home Team and have worked well so far in preventing accidental data breaches.
- There have been a relatively low number of Subject Access Requests throughout the year, and that the majority of data breaches have been very low impact.
- There has been an increase in the number of requests to be forgotten, which are believed to be computer generated, rather than genuine requests.

9. Digital Strategy

- Work on various elements on the Digital Strategy is ongoing and progressing well.

10. Report from the Finance Committee

- The Vice-Chairman and Chair of the Finance Committee reported that a good year in terms of membership performance, Gift Aid, reduced travel costs, and increased education activity has allowed the Society to look at making designations out of the current year for several projects and initiatives. These were summarised for the Board and agreement was given to proceed with all.
- The Board of Trustees delegated responsibility to the Finance Committee to receive advise and make appropriate arrangements for the Society's investment holdings. Reallocations were agreed in September and are currently in progress.
- The budgeting process is in progress and the Finance Committee have seen the full timetable which is geared for scrutiny by the Finance Committee in November, followed by approval by the Board of Trustees at the December Board meeting.

11. Nomination Committee

- The Composition of the Nomination Committee for the 2022 Trustee Election was discussed and agreed. The Chairman thanked Sally McCarthy and Fran Mason for the contributions to the Committee in 2020 and 2021.
- It was agreed that the vacancies for the 2022 Trustee Election would be agreed at the December Board meeting.

12. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI)

- **Resolution:** The proposal to co-opt a Specialist EDI Trustee was approved by the Board.
- **Resolution:** The proposal to create an EDI Advisory Group was approved by the Board.

13. BHS and BHSQ Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- BHSQ is a 100% owned subsidiary of The British Horse Society, and an MoU has been drafted to detail the ways in which the two organisations will work together, and how the respective Boards and Senior Management Teams will collaborate where necessary and appropriate.

14. Any Other Business

- There were not any further matters arising for discussion.