



**Minutes of Part 1 of the Election Board Meeting and the
Extraordinary General Meeting of
The British Horse Society
held at the Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire
at 2 pm on Thursday, 17th June 2010**

Present:	Dr PD Wadey - Vice-Chairman Mr ID Maclellan - Treasurer
Board Members in Attendance:	Mrs C Aldridge, Mrs C Broad FBHS, Mrs S Bucks, Mrs C Casey, Mr D Kerry, Mr R Milton, Mrs M Norrie, Mr M Seals, Miss M Tiffany BHSI, Miss V Whiteman
Staff in Attendance:	Mr GM Cory - Chief Executive Miss GS Evans - Director of Finance & Deputy CE Mrs A Westwood - Secretary Mrs W Gardner
Voting Members:	Miss A Coleman Mrs M Comber Mr C Precey
Apologies:	Mr J Buxton
Leave of Absence:	Mrs L Petersen

1 INTRODUCTION

The Vice-Chairman welcomed members and explained how the meeting would be conducted.

This was the first Election Board Meeting held since members decided in 2009, by an overwhelming majority, to do away with automatic Annual General Meetings. However, in a matter as important as the election of new Trustees, the Board believed it essential that voting members be invited to hear – and if they believe appropriate, challenge – the results of the election. So the first part of the Election Board Meeting was open to all voting members of the BHS.

The Vice-Chairman explained that there was an additional feature this year in that an Extraordinary General Meeting had been convened to consider and then vote upon proposals to amend the Society's Articles of Association.

2 ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

The Chief Executive announced that Mr Bob Milton, Mrs Marjory Norrie and Miss Victoria Whiteman had been elected Trustees of the Society.

Dr Wadey congratulated the new Trustees on their election.

The Election Board Meeting was then adjourned and the Extraordinary General Meeting was convened.

3 EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The Chief Executive introduced the Special Resolution in relation to amendments to the Articles of Association to allow electronic communication between the Society and its members. He explained that the proposal was that the Articles of Association of The British Horse Society be amended in accordance with the proposals set out in the Notice of this Extraordinary General Meeting. The Vice-Chairman then invited questions.

Mr Chris Precey asked whether people not on the internet would still receive papers by post. The Chief Executive assured him that they would. The resolution was proposed by Mrs Comber and seconded by Miss Tiffany.

A vote was taken and including postal votes the results were:

- Those in favour - 235
- Those against - 5
- Abstentions - 1

The resolution was therefore declared carried and the Vice-Chairman concluded the formal part of the Extraordinary General Meeting.

4 VICE-CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF 2009, DR PHIL WADEY

Dr Wadey then delivered the following address:-

"It feels almost like a temptation to fate to report nothing but success, year after year after year. The danger is that we become lulled into a false sense of ingrained infallibility. "Of course everything's going swimmingly – we're The British Horse Society and we don't do failure!" Well, we all know that "pride goeth before a fall and a haughty spirit before destruction"...

"But at the risk of making everyone yet more proud and haughty, I should present you with a few, unvarnished, facts:

- On 1st January 2009, our membership stood at 69,610.
- By 31st December, having been through one of the worst years in terms of the national economic performance for many decades, our membership had actually risen by 2% to 70,935. And as at the beginning of this month it stood at more than 71,500, maintaining its rising trend. If we compare this with the performance of some other equestrian organisations you will see that this is no mean achievement.

- As a consequence, both of our continued growth and the careful management of our resources, our financial position remains strong, with reserves of £8.2m. Our full audited accounts will go out to members in *British Horse* – incidentally, the equestrian magazine with the highest circulation of any such magazine in the UK, leaving Horse & Hound trailing in its wake.
- And it is only because the policies underlying our finances are robust that we have been able to embark, in full confidence, on our project to procure new headquarters for the Society. Now, we all know that there are two eternal verities about building projects: they always run late and they always run over budget. Well, I am very pleased to report that ours is not only on time, it is also well within budget – making this probably the first development since Stonehenge to have managed this double feat!
- Our reputation is such that we were asked by authorities in Italy to share our internationally-acclaimed examinations system with them, and we expect shortly to approve the first of many riding schools to that country. And we are now at the early stage of discussions with a major country in SE Asia with a view to doing something there.
- Let us not forget that we are, amongst other things, a campaigning organisation. In 2009 we campaigned on coastal access and access for equestrians to our forests; we established a campaign to end indiscriminate breeding; we argued strongly the case against the unthinking application of the Directive which restricts the hours which the driver of a horse lorry can spend behind the wheel; we were, and continue to be, at the forefront of the campaign to stop the imposition of the horse tax; and we led the campaign to secure amendments to the Animals Act 1971 which places an unwarrantably heavy burden on horse owners.

"But this is not all, as much of our lobbying has been done in stuffy rooms in Whitehall or at local level in Local Access Forums and other such meetings.

"Three years ago we celebrated our 60th anniversary, and there is no doubt that the patina of age, in itself, can lend dignity and authority to whatsoever it covers. (I might say that this is a proposition to which I become increasingly attracted with each passing birthday.) But there is a risk that age can induce what we might call a "slippers-and-pipe" mentality, which leads us to favour the comfortable over the exciting; the tried and tested over the innovative.

"That is why the fundamental reassessment of the Society's rationale, which started in 2009 and which culminated in the launch of the new BHS brand at Badminton at the end of April, was so important to the long term future of the Society. To borrow an analogy from motor racing, if you take your foot off the accelerator you don't maintain your position, you slow down and eventually run out of momentum altogether.

"I will not go through the formality this afternoon of giving every department, every county and every advisory committee a name-check. The success of the Society is the sum of very many discrete achievements across the piece. Everyone who has contributed – whether in a department at HQ, in a draughty committee room out in the sticks, or up to their knees in mud in the middle of a field – is a part of our success. Not one of our achievements would have been possible without the hard work of our excellent staff and the "blood, toil, tears and sweat" of the volunteers who shoulder so much of the burden.

"I have no doubt whatsoever that, if we can maintain the performance of this team of staff and volunteers, our collective pride and haughtiness will go on being burnished year after year after year."

5 QUESTIONS

Mrs Maureen Comber noticed that no mention had been made on the Society's stance on Rollkur and said there had been impressive input from the previous Chairman, Patrick Print.

The Chief Executive said the Society received emails from all around the world, including the US and Australia, as well as the UK, commenting that it was good the BHS was taking a firm stance on Rollkur. This was a good result for the Society.

There being no further business or questions, the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting.

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