



**MINUTES OF THE BRITISH SHOW JUMPING ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING / HELD
AT 1.00PM ON WEDNESDAY, 31ST AUGUST 2011 IN THE INGESTRE SUITE, STAFFORDSHIRE
COUNTY SHOWGROUND, STAFFORDSHIRE.**

Directors: Michael Mac - British Showjumping Chairman
Iain Graham - Chief Executive
Tim Forrest - Treasurer
Peter Allen
Julia Biddle
David Broome, CBE
Liz Edgar
Susie Gibson
Peter Gillespie
Graham Hudson
James Loffet
Johnnie Rowallan
Harvey Smith
Alan Tredwell
Jane Twemlow
John Tuff
Clare Whitaker (Part of the meeting)

Officials: Lis Astall - President
Steve Halkett - Solicitor – (Wright Hassall)
Keith Ainsworth - Solicitor – (Wright Hassall)
Bobby Gupta - Auditor – (Murphy Salisbury)
Emma Hemmings - Auditor – (Murphy Salisbury)

88 members, staff and officials were in attendance.

Apologies were received from Katrina Moore, Andrew Black, Sara Pheasant, Kate Pheasant and Lucy Pheasant, Amanda Short and Malcolm Bewsher.

Michael Mac welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 1) To receive the Chairman's Statement and Report of the Executive Board (Directors) and the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2010.**

Michael Mac reported Great Britain has retained its place in the FEI Top Level

Nations Cup Series for 2012 after winning in Dublin and finishing in second place in Rotterdam over the weekend, taking third position on the overall leader board.

The Team for the 2011 FEI European Championships taking place in Madrid, Spain from the 13 – 18 September has been selected as follows:-

- Nick Skelton & Carlo
- John Whitaker & Peppermill
- Scott Brash & Intertoy Z
- Guy Williams & Titus II
- Ben Maher & Tripple X III

The British Pony Team won the Team Gold and Individual Gold and Bronze medals at the Pony European Championships held in Jazskowo, Poland, meanwhile at the Children, Junior & Young Rider European Championships in Comporta, Portugal, the British Children's and Young Rider Teams secured Team Bronze Medals.

Iain Graham presented a PowerPoint presentation to the meeting on National Sport incorporating details on the structure of the Boards, Committees and working parties/groups. It was reported that British Showjumping were working closely with Riding for the Disabled and had incorporated a British Showjumping National Championship and were developing jumping classifications. Regional Activity is increasing and British Showjumping are working to deliver Sport England, Sport Scotland and Welsh initiatives as well as developing relationships with National Schools Equestrian Association, universities and colleges.

Training is increasing and the Junior Academy programme is being rolled out to Areas where there is a demand. Jump Start training has been developed and promoted by the Association's Development Officers, this is an initiative funded by Sport England to promote riders not yet registered with the Association to receive training with the intention of increasing their skills and ultimately joining the Association. This has proved popular in many of the Regions. The Excel Talent Programme is currently receiving applications and will develop the selected talented horses and riders. All British Showjumping Coaches will be UKCC recognised by 2014 and the Association is also looking at developing and promoting National Occupational Standards which is an apprenticeship scheme designed at offering people working with horses a qualification.

A Health and Safety review is currently being undertaken for show jumping as a whole, including shows. British Showjumping is keen to support organizers and volunteers with guidance and record keeping.

It is the intention of British Showjumping to have an increased presence of Disciplinary stewards at competitions where full training will be given to individuals in this role. Flow Charts will be shared with all members including competitors in order that there is a clear transparent guide to discipline within British Showjumping.

The FEI have implemented a clean sport policy for all federations to come into effect from January 2012. British Showjumping has already joined into this

policy in line with our Rule Book (1st April 2011). The British Equestrian Federation are implementing the structure for the disciplines and full information of banned substances and controlled medication substances can be found at www.bef.co.uk or www.feicleansport.org

Looking ahead to the future of British Showjumping it has been agreed that a change of ownership fee for a horse will no longer be charged at full price but will be reduced to £10 per horse but this will only cover the horse until its current registration expires. An International membership, to include the FEI rider license, is being considered along with the removal of additional Grade A fees.

The Treasurer, Tim Forrest presented to the meeting an update on the 2010 Accounts. It was reported that the income for the Association had held up well in the current economic climate whereas expenditure had been cut wherever possible to find financial stability. In 2010 there were exception items of expenditure:

- CAS Case in respect of the FEI Super league teams. Although we won the case the cost of lawyers both in GB and Switzerland did cost the Association £80K.
- Horse and Country TV went into liquidation and has now reformed as H&CTV. The Associations investment came to an end at the time of Horse and Country TV going into liquidation and although British Showjumping still has investment with H&CTV it was decided to write the value down to zero.

Cash Bonds and other investments have picked up well in the last five years and the Cash Bond has been switched into a wider variety of investments. The Net loss on exceptional items amount to £170K. For the year 2010 British Showjumping ended up with a deficit. British Showjumping Investments have held up surprisingly well and currently amount to approximately £2.2M. 2011 Six monthly accounts have been published on British Showjumping's website. The half yearly Income has held up much better than anticipated despite January and February being disrupted with bad weather. The number of show days continues to increase. Board directors have kept their expenses to an absolute minimum and the half yearly accounts currently show a surplus of £123K. Tim Forrest advised if any member had any questions regarding the finances of the Association he or Charles Purser would be more than happy to discuss.

2) To reappoint the Auditors

Jane Twemlow proposed the reappointment of Murphy Salisbury as the Association's Auditors, this proposal was seconded by Tim Forrest and on a show of hands from the meeting there was a majority vote with one abstention from Jacky Wood, therefore the motion was agreed.

3) To Authorise the Directors to agree the remuneration of the Auditors

The meeting also voted on the Directors agreeing the remuneration of the Auditors, and on a show of hands a majority vote, with one abstention from Jacky Wood, saw the motion passed.

At the close of the formal business of the Annual General meeting the following items were dealt with:

4) To receive the names of those newly elected to Honorary Life Membership.

The newly elected Honorary Life Members for 2011 were:

- *John Wilde*
- *John Jacks*

Michael Mac made a presentation to John Wilde. Unfortunately John Jacks was unable to attend the AGM, therefore, arrangements will be made to make a presentation to John at a local prestigious event.

5) To receive suggestions from members

Joanne Taylor-Jones:

[Why can't members access all horses and ponies records on the website?](#)

It was explained that this is something that British Showjumping is currently looking into.

Katherine James:

[We are aware that Mike Henwood and Frank Grunnill are retiring, please could we be given more information?](#)

Iain Graham reported that British Showjumping has a HR policy regarding employees over a certain age and that is the reason for their retirement. He further reported both were continuing to be FEI Stewards.

Lia Peters:

[How are you going to look after the riders that are jumping 1.20m classes for £50? I understand you have someone in the office who is there specifically for sponsorship but I don't call sponsorship a rosette that says 'Horse and Hound' on the tail. I don't want a rosette, we want money and to be able to go home in profit at the end of a good day. You only have to look how well it runs on the continent and 99% of us want representation.](#)

Iain Graham advised that working groups had been set up to specifically look at this type of issue, it is not easy to get sponsorship and for show centres to fund prize money in the current climate. There is very little we can do if show centres cannot find sponsorship. The working groups that are being set up will represent all levels of members and we have national riders sitting on those groups to put the rider's point of view across. Michael Mac added that more finals are now being held at HOYS which will help to make our sport attractive to sponsors, it currently is subsidised by sponsors who have an active interest in the sport rather than larger commercial sponsors.

Danielle Elliott, Nottingham:

[The cost of diesel travelling to shows is extremely expensive and then when we arrive at a show to compete in a 1.15m, 1.20m or 1.25m, shows are not running Foxhunter classes or the larger classes which is so soul destroying when a class is not run, Is there not something British Showjumping can do to stop this happening? It feels like you are taking care of the lower grades and top grades but not the middle section. That's where we are struggling. Please can we address this issue?](#)

The issue of only one competitor entering a competition and jumping a double clear was raised and it was agreed this ruling would be clarified and reported back to the membership. *Afternote: At the National Sport Committee Meeting held in July 2011 it was agreed competitions with just one rider should be allowed to go ahead to allow that rider the opportunity of gaining their qualification but with the exception of not receiving any prize money.*

Michael Mac expressed his personal opinion that British Showjumping should run along the lines of the French system whereby entries have to be made 10 days before, this allows the centres to know exactly what time classes with start.

Sean Aston

More and more people are going abroad to compete as riders cannot make it pay in this country. British Showjumping should put money back into the sport for the middle range of the sport.

Diana Fairclough:

Can the Amateurs section be developed a bit more to push people up from Foxhunter to the 1.30m to encourage the step up and cut it off to those people jumping at the top level.

Iain Graham reported that a paper had been submitted to the Executive Board from Peter Gillespie to categorise riders and this is something that some of the working groups are looking into. When the question of how people were appointed to the various working groups/parties, Iain Graham advised that members have either emailed him or called him expressing their interest at becoming involved and putting something back into the sport and this is how they have become involved

Diane Duggan: Lancashire

How much are we investing in the new club membership which hasn't got a final yet and how much are we looking to get back from the membership category?

Iain Graham reported that the Association had obtained sport England funding for the roll out of the new membership category. The Association was looking at Regional Championships rather than a National Final. Club membership is targeted at people who are not yet members of British Showjumping.

Julian Mincher: Kent

In Kent you have to jump 1.20m or below because shows do not hold bigger shows.

Marjory Mcnaughton – Scotland

Will British Showjumping be changing the Junior Premier Shows in the summer? In the winter we have to attend five to qualify for the Royal International. In the summer we have to attend eight and only three qualifiers are at the weekend and the cost of travelling to these shows for one class is difficult.

Iain Graham asked Mrs McNaughton to put her request in an email and he would ensure the right working party/Committee would look at her proposal.

John Carpenter - Clwyd

John Carpenter directed his question to Michael Mac and asked if British

Showjumping was going to be revolved around centres. Why can't shows be run in fields again like it first began and British Showjumping give free affiliation fee so the show can give better prize money to competitors.

Danielle Elliott – Nottingham

We ran our Area Show three months ago in a field, hired everything from toilets to judge's boxes etc and only 17 members arrived because they wouldn't jump on grass.

Iain Graham advised that British Showjumping does try to allocate some of the summer qualifiers on grass.

Julian Mincher:

Could we not have our regional finals like Newcomers and Foxhunters with an age limit on them? Julian felt it was time this ruling was implemented as quite often you will get horses in the final that are 11 and 12 years of age.

It was reported that a working party was currently looking at this to implement a production system for young horses.

Di Fairclough

Why is the 1.20m class capped at £100 prize money and who is that benefiting?

Julia Biddle felt this would be a topic for discussion again in the future.

Ellen Blackburn

We seem to have been chasing 4 Double Clears for every class for years, maybe increase the number of Double Clears so that shows can put more shows on for competitors need.

Michael Bainbridge

As a show organiser why can't I run larger prize money classes. I would be prepared to put money in but I have got to be able to get a return on that money. It desperately needs looking at. Let us, as business people, run our business and put money back into it.

Iain Graham advised if we were to look at points across the National system and remove ourselves from the prize money that may help the situation. Michael Mac advised that Show Centres have a great knack of saying let us run our business and do as we want and then when things start going a bit wrong they come to us for help. He felt it should be a joint effort between the show organisers and British Showjumping.

Katie Pike

On the point of the 1.30m, currently a Grade A gets one points for every £50 but not for Grade C's, now I competed both my Grade C and Grade A horses in the same class, won the class on my Grade C but no points were awarded yet if I'd have won it on my Grade A I would have received points.

Liz Edgar advised Katie that her point would be discussed by the National Sport Committee and Michael Mac added that the whole issue of the Riders Ranking Points system was in the pipeline to be discussed.

Amanda Carpenter:

Can you explain a little more about the Apprenticeship programme please?

Corinne Bracken explained it is an apprenticeship in competition horse care

which runs into various different sections to complete the full apprenticeship. You can start off with what used to be an NVO or diploma with competition horse care. Riders can choose their own syllabus so people can be directed into the correct type of yard the person is working on. On top of that they do a First aid course, technical certificate which is a multiple choice paper and they also do key skills. It will be run through Haddon Training and they will handle the paperwork and registrations and Key Skills. Discussions are currently taking place with Haddon Training in terms of what British Showjumping will gain from this. Corinne Bracken invited Amanda to help with the programme.

Sally Loch:

I'm from Shropshire and we are close to some premier shows which have absolutely crucified us sometimes with our dates and nobody bothers whether you clash or not and it makes such a difference. We had a new centre open this year which is five miles down the road from another centre and they are running shows on the same date and I really think that is too much. I think it's high time that someone at British Showjumping dealt with this. It can't be that difficult to sort out the centres and the Areas and give them a date as to when they put their shows in.

Michael Mac suggested to Mrs Loch that she speak to Iain Graham after the meeting regarding the individual circumstances and he would investigate the specifics behind the clashes. Michael Mac also invited Mrs Loch to spend an afternoon with Julia Heywood in the office to see how difficult it is to stop shows clashing and the process used.

Jodie Morton:

With regard to the Amateur Classic qualifiers, can you define an amateur please? This is currently being looked at by a working party to define the definition of an Amateur.

Gemma Dennis:

I've attended four Amateur classes this year, as you know these classes are supposed to be run by a drawn order but three of the four I attended this rule was not adhered to. Not fair on other competitors.

Michael Mac agreed and IG said there will be ways of dealing with drawn orders and this will be looked at.

Majorie McNaughton:

Home Pony Internationals: Am I right in thinking they are up for tender this year? Why do we put Premier Shows on that clash with Cavan (Ireland) and are you going to give the rider a chance to say where they would like the shows?

Iain Graham advised that he did not believe the Irish calendar was taken into account when allocating our dates. There will be a tendering process by the end of the year for the Home Pony International Venues and this will be decided by a group of people who have been at the venues but we will not be going out to members to ask where they would like Home Pony International's held.

Michael Mac advised members that Iain Graham would be at Scope throughout the week and if people had individual cases or circumstances they wished to discuss, Iain would be more than happy to discuss whilst he was at the show but for the AGM please could questions be aimed at the sport in general.

David Haigh:

We used to have a system whereby shows had to submit their showdate by a certain date and if someone wanted to put a show on within a certain vicinity the office would tell you and the show had the option of saying no.

Iain Graham explained this had not stopped.

David Haigh also reported there were many rumours circulating regarding the Aldershot Jump Store. Would you like to stop the rumours and explain exactly what is going to happen with the Area Jumps?

Iain Graham advised the Area jumps will continue as they currently are. The Management Board have agreed they will maintain the service of hiring of jumps but it will not be operating from Aldershot in the future.

Clare Whitaker arrived in the meeting.

David Cole

In 2009 a proposition was put forward that all Directors Fees were going to be on the website which wasn't done, Why and who stopped it?

Tim Forrest reported we put the accounts on the internet for the half year. Doing it more frequently than that wouldn't really tell anyone anything. Half Yearly accounts will continue to be published on the website.

David reiterated it was included in the 2009 AGM Minutes that the Directors fees would be on the website.

The following extract is taken from the 2009 AGM Minutes and it was not agreed to publish the Directors Fees, it was voted on whether the Accounts should be published on the website:

2009 AGM Minutes***Charles Purser, Financial Controller***

I actually produce quarterly pre-audit accounts not monthly which Murphy Salisbury see and I would present those accounts to the Finance and Treasury Committee, the Management and ultimately the Executive Board so I provide the information. If the Board agrees to them being published then obviously they can be published. Coming back to monthly reporting I would be solely producing accounts and doing nothing else if it was monthly financial reporting up to Management Accounts. Again, the expenses for Directors the information is provided by myself to the Finance and Treasury Committee, the Executive Board and the Management Board and again could be published.

Michael Mac, Chairman

I personally don't have a problem with that at all.

At this stage of the meeting Di Cornish suggested that as most of the Executive Board was present they could, in fact, vote on whether the accounts should be published on the website. Following a vote by the Executive Board, it was unanimously agreed to publish the quarterly accounts on the Associations

website. Charles Purser explained that the accounts are produced by the 20th day of the month following the quarter end, so they wouldn't be expected to be published before then.

David Cole

I've got some bills here from British Showjumping, I've rung and been told my cheques have bounced, except I don't pay by cheque. I've paid by Credit Card, I don't have a Credit Card. I have rung so many times, I need this answering as this is not my bill.

David was asked to liaise with Charles Purser, Financial Controller, on this matter after the meeting.

Richard Tesh

I submitted 17 questions and I've had answers, some of which I'm satisfied with and some of which I'm not but I'll take this up after the meeting. I do think the interim results if it was a commercial company would be flashing 'Sell'. On the development fund the Board proposed we would use £70k to fund the Development Officers in the first quarter, that wasn't used, can you give us assurance going forward that this Development Fund won't be used for the Development Officers or is that still an option?

Tim Forrest reported that he could not give assurance as it hasn't been discussed by the Management Board. The original proposal basically funded for the first six months of their operation and that was supposed to start on 1st July 2010. It was felt we might need to fund the Development Officers for the first three months of 2011 but as it happens we made a larger surplus than we were expecting and we didn't need to do that. At this moment I see no reason why we should need to do that. The Development Fund is there for funding things of benefit to the members and the Development Officer's are there to benefit members so whether it comes out of the Development Fund or ordinary funds but his preference would be if we can afford not to use the Development fund that would be his way.

Richard Tesh

The added value of Development Officer's do not add up to funding the £300K per year ongoing value for the Development Officers. That is a fixed cost which needs to generate revenue year on year in order to be worthwhile. Are they value for money?

Alison Reynolds

I, as a grassroots member, don't fully understand what the Development Officers do and how they are going to benefit me. I don't see any evidence so far in the past year of any benefits to me, my daughter or family and just going on to David Cole's point as well, I had a similar thing recently where I received a letter saying I was in debt to the Association so I am pleased to hear that discipline is being improved upon because I think it is vastly needed.

Iain Graham asked if the debt issued had been resolved to which Mrs Reynolds said it had.

Iain advised that the Association needs to be able to support the volunteer network to help them operate efficiently.

Diana Duggan

What are the Development Officers being paid to do that wasn't being done before by volunteers? You need to listen.

Iain Graham advised that he does listen and he had listened to her before and advised Diana he would come and speak to her again.

Margaret Shaw

What is going to happen when Frank Grunnill and Mike Henwood retire? Can the Association confirm that Frank and Mike will be an integral part of the Stewards programme?

Iain Graham advised he would not confirm this. There have been discussions with both Frank and Mike and they will continue as FEI Stewards. The Association is proposing to have more volunteer stewards.

Judith Buckley

Please explain the withdrawal of funding for Area Training.

Iain Graham reported there hasn't been a withdrawal of funding. Areas that had run a training course were entitled to claim the £200 funding but it was reported that if Areas had not used their funding by a certain date the Areas that had run training were able to re-apply for another grant to put on a further training course. Iain Graham advised that budgets had not yet been set for 2012.

There being no further questions, the Chairman, Michael Mac Closed the meeting at 3.25pm.

Chairman.....Date.....