



**Southdown Sheep Society Council meeting
Friday January 29th 2021 at 1230h
Held via conference call**

Minutes

Those present:	Sid Cook	(SC)	
	Duncan Crundwell	(DC)	President Elect
	Lindsay Dane	(LD)	
	Paul Humphrey	(PH)	
	Stephen Humphrey	(SH)	
	Jonathan Long	(JL)	Chairman
	Tim Morris	(TM)	
	Miriam Parker	(MP)	
	Michael Sprake	(MS)	
	Neil Stainthorpe	(NS)	Hon. Treasurer
Howard Wood	(HW)	Vice Chairman	
Gail Sprake	(GS)	Secretary	

<u>Agenda Item</u>
<p>1. Welcome</p> <p>The chairman welcomed all to the conference call meeting.</p>
<p>2. Apologies:</p> <p>Apologies had been received from Patrick Goldsworthy, Les Newman and Nick Page.</p>
<p>3. The chairman explained the procedure to enable a Council meeting to be called, under Article 14 (4) under the Articles of Association of the Southdown Sheep Society.</p> <p>All in agreement.</p>
<p>4. Declarations of interest</p> <p>None declared by Council members present.</p>

5. Southdown Sheep Society – Rules

Council members present considered the draft Rules that had previously been circulated.

A number of minor improvements were suggested. In addition, TM proposed that all fees be removed and published separately in annual publications. Seconded by MP, all in favour.

NS proposed the inclusion of 'breach' in Rule 19, Conduct. Seconded by TM.

On a vote: 6 in favour, 2 abstentions, 3 against.

The approval of Rules to be noted as February 1st 2021.

GS to update following comments and forward final draft to LD & JL, thereafter to Council members for final approval.

6. Southdown Sheep Society – Disciplinary Procedure

LD introduced the paper previously circulated and explained the reasoning behind the changes. Whilst the proposed document covers disciplinary and grievance procedures, it was suggested that grievances & complaints should be dealt with separately.

The Chairman made reference to the comments offered by P Goldsworthy, in absentia.

JL explained that disciplinary procedures should be dealt with from within Council, since Council members were elected by the membership and as such are protected by trustee liability insurance.

Council members were invited to offer comment.

The following comments were made:

- Conflicts of interest must be clearly managed
- Reasonable administrative and executive time costs should be considered during an appeal process
- A clear reporting process is advisable: decisions, reasons and penalty to be included in annual report ie in Flock Book
- The document should be kept as simple as possible
- Definition of 'deregistration' of sheep was clarified
- The running order of the sanctions listed should be amended

The Chairman concluded that there was broad agreement and that the comments and rewording would be taken into account and the final document circulated to Council. All in favour.

7. Matters relating to Messrs Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer

The chairman updated on the current position:

8. Any Other Business

i) Southdown Sheep Society trophies

JL stated that the possibility remains that the current proceedings could bankrupt the Society and as such the Society's assets would be included. He suggested it would be wise to consider ways, possibly in a trust format, of establishing a means of safeguarding the trophies. TM commented that the real assets of the Society are threefold: the goodwill of members, breeding records, and historical artefacts. To protect the wider interests of the Society and its assets is good governance.

TM further commented that the law surrounding trusts is complicated and it would be advisable to seek legal advice. MP suggested speaking with show societies in the first instance to learn how they deal with historic trophies. GS asked whether trophies should be revalued. The majority of trophies are currently stored in the SSS office. JL to make enquiries and report back.

ii) Communication to members

MP advised careful consideration be given as to how updated rules and Disciplinary Procedure are introduced to members. It was considered that a paper letter, signed by both Chairman and President, could be included in next mailshot when the Flock Book is posted to all members in late February.

iii) 2021 National Show

Following confirmation that the 2021 Royal Welsh Show will not take place, all agreed that there would be no National Southdown Show in 2021. It was considered possible that smaller gatherings would be feasible in the Autumn, thereby making a Field Day a possibility. The 2021 Flock Competition remains viable at present and the ongoing situation will be monitored.

The meeting closed at 1343h.