



# SUFFOLK HORSE SOCIETY

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Suffolk Horse Society held at 2.00pm on Saturday 20th April 2024 Trinity Park, Ipswich

Item	Agenda		Action																																													
	<p>Those present who signed in on the register:</p> <table><tr><td>Andrew Wager</td><td>Tegan Mould</td><td>Jayne Groom</td></tr><tr><td>Paul T Smith</td><td>Pauline Hayter</td><td>Mary Ryder-Davies</td></tr><tr><td>Sophie Keene</td><td>Dennis Hayter</td><td>Philip Ryder Davies</td></tr><tr><td>Jayne Groom</td><td>Alan Hawes</td><td>Fiona Fleming</td></tr><tr><td>George Pratt</td><td>John Fleming</td><td>J Hallett</td></tr><tr><td>Cheryl Grover</td><td>Gill Evans</td><td>Margaret Hallett</td></tr><tr><td>Susan Wager</td><td>Keith Twyman</td><td>Neil Adams</td></tr><tr><td>Bruce Langley McKim</td><td>Mary Keeble</td><td>Gail Sprake</td></tr><tr><td>David Chaplain</td><td>Chris Spalding</td><td>Hazel Chapman</td></tr><tr><td>Brad Auker</td><td>Andrea Hoskins</td><td>Frank Kinge</td></tr><tr><td>Andy Thompson</td><td>Chris Thompson</td><td>S Grimsey</td></tr><tr><td>Neil Syrett</td><td>L Archer</td><td>John Latham</td></tr><tr><td>R Pritchett</td><td>Lady Clare Euston</td><td>B Ryder Davies</td></tr><tr><td>Chris Oakley</td><td>Nigel Oakley</td><td>Amanda Hillier</td></tr><tr><td>W Kinsley</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>			Andrew Wager	Tegan Mould	Jayne Groom	Paul T Smith	Pauline Hayter	Mary Ryder-Davies	Sophie Keene	Dennis Hayter	Philip Ryder Davies	Jayne Groom	Alan Hawes	Fiona Fleming	George Pratt	John Fleming	J Hallett	Cheryl Grover	Gill Evans	Margaret Hallett	Susan Wager	Keith Twyman	Neil Adams	Bruce Langley McKim	Mary Keeble	Gail Sprake	David Chaplain	Chris Spalding	Hazel Chapman	Brad Auker	Andrea Hoskins	Frank Kinge	Andy Thompson	Chris Thompson	S Grimsey	Neil Syrett	L Archer	John Latham	R Pritchett	Lady Clare Euston	B Ryder Davies	Chris Oakley	Nigel Oakley	Amanda Hillier	W Kinsley		
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	<p>The meeting was opened by Mrs Mary Ryder Davies (MRD) the retiring President. She welcomed all the members who were attending.</p> <p>The meeting was declared quorate.</p> <p>Mrs Gail Sprake (GS) explained and clarified the voting procedure for the AGM.</p>																																															
1	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p>Were received from:</p> <p>Dale Atkinson</p> <p>Stephen Bunting</p> <p>Juliet Carter</p> <p>Charles Cooke</p> <p>Richard Dalton</p> <p>Mark Donsworth</p> <p>Andrew Fane</p> <p>Heather Fleming</p> <p>Leona Fleming</p> <p>Daniel Oakley</p>																																															



	<p>Sue Pennell Jonathan Purse</p> <p>A list of those members and friends who died in 2023 was read out by Chairman Sue Wager (SW):</p> <p>Mr David Alcock Mr Eric Revell Mrs Helen Salisbury Mrs Faith Muriel Strang Lord Philips of Sudbury Mr Ron Harding Dorothy Pearce Mr Eddie Schooler</p> <p>A minute's silence was held as a mark of respect.</p>		
2	<p><b>To receive and adopt the Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting held on April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023</b></p> <p>The minutes had been previously posted on the Suffolk Horse Society website and sent to any member who has requested a copy.</p> <p>MRD proposed that the minutes be taken as read and that they be received and approved, subject to one amendment. When MRD made her speech after election in 2023 she started with the words: "Thank you for electing me and I am honoured." She wished these words be added for historical accuracy.</p> <p>Seconded: Neil Adams Voting in the room and proxy votes = 95 Votes against = 0 Abstentions = 3</p> <p>The minutes were approved</p>		
3	<p><b>To receive the Chairman's Report for 2023</b></p> <p>SW gave the Chairman's report for 2023</p> <p><i>Ladies and gentlemen, fellow trustees, members, friends, it is my privilege to present to you the Chairman's Report, at the 2024 Annual General Meeting.</i></p> <p><i>I would like to add my own warm welcome to you all, in particular to our members who have made the journey to be with us today.</i></p> <p><i>The annual report is, necessarily, only ever a snapshot of what has been achieved in the course of the year, and so I intend to focus on some of the highlights of the year.</i></p>		



	<p><i>I took over the chairmanship of the Suffolk Horse Society following the 2023 AGM, from Mark Donsworth, whose three year term had come to an end. Whilst it has been an enjoyable position to hold, the year has been a challenging one.</i></p> <p><i>At the end of May, Jessica Ellis, one of the Society's secretary's decided to move on, and with one member of staff down in the office, the workload has been shared out between Belinda and the officers, Gail, Alan and myself. It has been very busy at times, but it has also given us all a good insight into the running of the office.</i></p> <p><i>I would like to put on record our grateful thanks to Belinda throughout this time. Belinda has been amazing having to man the office on her own, but Gail and Alan and myself have stepped up and taken on the jobs of getting banking done, learning all about assembling and getting the magazines out, hitting deadlines, and sorting the end of year grants out and getting them paid, this with the help from John Fleming our breed committee chairman.</i></p> <p><i>Gail and Alan have been incredible in the time they have had to give to the Society.</i></p> <p><i>Together the officers interviewed candidates to fill the vacant post, and we are very pleased to confirm that at last the office is now fully staffed.</i></p> <p><i>Our new secretary Liz Pardey joined us several weeks ago and I know that all our members will join with me in formally welcoming Liz into the Suffolk Horse Society 'family'.</i></p> <p><i>I would therefore like to briefly reflect on some of the events of the past year:</i></p> <p><i>In the summer, affiliated shows took place, starting with the Suffolk Horse Society Breed Show, at Woodbridge.</i></p> <p><i>We welcomed a new affiliated show to our list in 2023 - The Derbyshire County Show. This saw a nice entry forward from members further afield.</i></p> <p><i>Our summer social took place at Jimmy's Farm, and this was a very enjoyable evening, despite the rain, Jimmy's two Suffolk's also put in an appearance.</i></p> <p><i>The Spectacular in September took place at The Food Museum in Stowmarket, this was greatly supported by the horse owning members, from near and far and saw over 40 horses present in the Grand parade. We featured a number of photographs of the day in the recent Spring magazine.</i></p> <p><i>In October the Society held The Foal And Young Stock Show in the walled garden on The Euston Estate. The Young Handler championship was kindly hosted once again at Banham.</i></p> <p><i>The weather put paid to the plough day we had arranged in conjunction with Eastern Counties Heavy Horse Association, but we hope to be able to hold this later this year.</i></p> <p><i>The Annual Awards Dinner was held again at Hintlesham Golf Club in December and was well attended. This year we were delighted with the results of the successful raffle and Auction for the society; I would just like to add here our grateful thanks to all those who so generously donated</i></p>		
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	<p>items; I know several of us bid competitively for many of the items, and some of us will be heading off to enjoy the Trooping the Colour a little later in the year.</p> <p>Looking ahead to 2024, in January we embarked upon the Australian Semen Project. The Society has purchased semen from an old Suffolk bloodline in Australia in order to introduce this line back into the gene pool to reduce the inbreeding coefficient of the national herd.</p> <p>With the quarantine rules in place the stallion was on site for 28 days before collection commenced and the semen had to remain for a further 30 days more after collection, before export of the semen could take place. We had hoped for 50 doses although only 33 doses were collected in the end. The project took advice from Dr Andy Dell, and will see this semen only being offered to a maximum of eight selected mares with the most diverse genes, this year, and we plan to offer doses of semen to five more mares for the following two years. It's a very exciting project and we shall report on the progress as the year progresses.</p> <p>In March a probationary judge's day was organized by John Fleming with the Suffolk Punch Trust kindly hosting for us. This saw three judges pass through on their way to becoming Suffolk Horse Society Judges.</p> <p>Paul Smith organized three Society training days: one ridden, one braiding and in hand show preparation, and one driven day. These were all well attended.</p> <p>I must thank Cherry Grover and Nigel Oakley who are still so very keen and willing to support and promote the Society whenever asked.</p> <p>This year will see the Suffolk Horse getting back its own ridden heavy horse qualifier meaning the Suffolk Horse will be represented in the final at the Horse of the Year show in October. This Qualifier will take place at the breed show at Woodbridge, on May bank holiday. We hope to see a good entry forward on the day, I am aware that members are kindly doing their best to get entries forward to enable this qualifier to continue.</p> <p>The Suffolk Horse Society van has attended its first event of the year and will be present at events across the country promoting the breed with Belinda and Russell. Places to see the van are advertised in the magazine, and further updates will be posted on the website and social media.</p> <p>In 2023 we saw 40 foals born. The Suffolk Horse Society has 8 foals born so far in 2024 - 6 fillies, and 2 colts, and we await the safe arrival of more.</p> <p>So much of what the Society is able to achieve would not be possible without funding and stable financial backing.</p> <p>We were fortunate to once again receive a large grant from the Horse Race Betting Levy Board, and recently the Society received a substantial legacy which will enable us to fund the Australian Breeding Project over the next three years.</p> <p>I am sure I speak on behalf of us all when I say that we are very fortunate to have such a professional and willing treasurer, always on hand to advise and act for us. Thank you Alan for all the help and time you give so willingly to the Society.</p>		
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	<p><i>I would like to say a special thank Mary Ryder-Davis, for all the hard work she has put into her year as President, and for all the help and advice so willingly given from her invaluable knowledge of the society.</i></p> <p><i>Thanks also to Jayne Groom, who never says no to the Society when catering is needed at an event, and she has even provided refreshments for the meeting here today.</i></p> <p><i>And to my Vice Chairman Gail, I am not sure where to start to say thank you to her, but my year as Chair has certainly been easier with Gail there, I am not sure how she has time to fit in the Society work load, with all her other jobs, but it is said if you need a job done ask a busy person.</i></p> <p><i>In conclusion, I would like to add that we have embarked upon this year with enthusiasm: we have a competent staff team, we have a committed board of trustees and a thriving membership.</i></p> <p><i>Finally, I wish to conclude by extending sincere thanks to Belinda and Liz in the office, and to you, our members and supporters, who are passionate about our amazing Suffolk horses.</i></p> <p><i>And to my fellow Council members, who give of their time and expertise unstintingly ...and share with me the responsibility, of leading a Society that is so dear to us all.</i></p> <p><i>A sincere thank you to you all.</i></p> <p>Flowers were presented to MRD in appreciation of her work as President.</p> <p>Flowers were also presented to Belinda Rudderham who had maintained the office throughout a difficult year and to Liz Pardey who has recently joined the office.</p>		
4	<p>To receive and adopt the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.</p> <p>MRD: These have been reviewed by Independent Accountants. These were correctly posted on the Society website and sent to any member who had requested a paper copy.</p> <p>Alan Hawes (Treasurer) (AJH) presented the Annual Report.</p> <p>AJH proposed that the Annual Report &amp; Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 be taken as read and that they be received.</p> <p>Seconded: Chris Spalding  Voting in the room and proxy votes = 99  Votes against = 0  Abstentions = 2</p> <p>Annual Report and Accounts were adopted.</p>		



5	<p><b>To appoint Accountants for 2024</b></p> <p>MRD: the Council recommend that Ensors are appointed as the accountants for Suffolk Horse Society, to act as such until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting.</p> <p>Proposed: AJH</p> <p>Seconded: Neil Adams</p> <p>Voting in the room and proxy votes = 101</p> <p>Votes against = 0</p> <p>Abstentions = 1</p> <p>Ensors were appointed as accountants for 2024.</p>		
6	<p>To elect the President for 2024/2025 (Mr Neil Syrett)</p> <p>MRD: was pleased to confirm that Mr Neil Syrett has accepted the invitation to serve as Suffolk Horse Society President for 2024/2025.</p> <p>Proposed: MRD</p> <p>Seconded: Gill Evans</p> <p>Voting in the room and proxy votes = 104</p> <p>Votes against = 0</p> <p>Abstentions = 0</p> <p>Mr Neil Syrett was declared President for 2024/25</p> <p>MRD said a few words as retiring President</p> <p><i>This time last year I said how honoured I felt to be elected as President. Wearing the chain of office at events during the year and reading all the names of the Past Presidents engraved on it really did bring home to me the full realisation of that great honour.</i></p> <p><i>It has been a year of enjoyable events and I would like to thank Council members, horse owners and Society members for making that possible for me, but also the volunteers who are always ready and willing to help. These events do not just happen and I have seen when attending Committee meetings just how much work goes on behind the scenes in preparing for different occasions and competitions. The weather of course always helps or hinders This was the case with the end of season Autumn working event John Latham was hosting, which after all the planning had to be cancelled after persistent heavy rain made using the land difficult. Our Suffolk horse predecessors must have encountered that more than once when planning a day's farm work!</i></p> <p><i>All of the Committees appointed by the Council do a great deal of work in order to present the relevant facts in assisting the Council not just in planning special events and fund raising, but very importantly in carrying out the breed Society's core work in supporting breeders and horse owners in order to meet our objects and maintain our stud book. To those who Chair Committees and to those who sit on them – thank you.</i></p>		



	<p><i>They are supported by the Society's office staffed by Belinda Rudderham, who is already known to you, and by Liz Pardey whom we welcomed this year. Thank you both.</i></p> <p><i>I would also like to say "Thank you" on behalf of the members to the Society's Chairman Sue Wager who has been kept very busy with Council work, but also with her additional and very important role as Stud Book Co-ordinator ensuring that the records and entries are kept in order.</i></p> <p><i>And also "Thank you " to: Our Vice Chairman and Company Secretary Gail Sprake who has kept the Council well informed of all the rules and regulations, been involved in very many extra tasks, but especially in running a very successful fund raising Auction at the annual Dinner.</i></p> <p><i>Finally. On a personal note I would like to thank Philip and the family very much for their support during the year.</i></p> <p><b>Item 10 taken out of order:</b></p> <p><b>Presentation of the President's Award</b></p> <p><i>One of the pleasures of being President is to have the opportunity to nominate and announce the winner of the President's Annual Award at the AGM.</i></p> <p><i>The winner this year has shown huge support over the years for the Suffolk breed through that member's artistic skill and generosity of time.</i></p> <p><i>Twelve years ago she designed and sculptured the annual trophy for the Society's Supreme Champion Horse. She was also responsible for creating the Ray Hubbard award for the Suffolk Spectacular's working harness class, the Society's Yearling Trophy and the Society's Annual Achievement Award and has helped in a practical way in repairing our trophies when called upon.</i></p> <p><i>Very importantly her much sort after beautiful models have been presented to the Society by her in order to raise funds, very successfully, for the Suffolk horse.</i></p> <p><i>I am pleased to say that the member is here today and so it gives me great pleasure to announce that the winner of this year's President's Award is Mary Keeble.</i></p> <p><i>Mary please will you accept this with our very grateful thanks and appreciation for all you have done for the Suffolk Horse.</i></p> <p>MRD presented the award to: Mary Keeble for her continued support and contribution to the Society.</p> <p>MRD handed over the chain of office to Neil Syrett (NS) the incoming President.</p> <p>NS gave a short 'off the cuff' speech.</p>		
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	<p>NS said he first came to an AGM in 1988 which took place in the same room that we are all now present at the Suffolk Showground.</p> <p>The arguments remain the same as they were then; except everything is more complicated. Passports, blood sampling, regulations, grants, form filling is all adding to more work for the staff.</p> <p>His main aim is not to 'make a mess of this year'!</p>		
7	<p><b>Election of President Elect 2024/25 and President 2025/2026</b></p> <p>NS: The Council's nomination for President Elect is Mrs Jayne Groom.</p> <p>Proposed: MRD</p> <p>Seconded: Chris Spalding</p> <p>Voting in the room and proxy votes = 102</p> <p>Votes against = 0</p> <p>Abstentions = 0</p> <p>Mrs Jayne Groom was declared President Elect for 2024/25</p>		
8	<p><b>To receive the names of newly elected Councilmen</b></p> <p>NS: Four members submitted nomination papers for election to the Suffolk Horse Society Council. There were 6 vacancies so no election was required:</p> <p>Mr John Fleming</p> <p>Mrs Jayne Groom</p> <p>Mrs Gail Sprake</p> <p>Miss Sue Wager</p> <p>were duly appointed for 4 years.</p> <p>NS thanked them for standing and welcomed them back to the Suffolk Horse Society.</p>		
9	<p><b>To receive and approve the revised Articles of Association.</b></p> <p>To approve the revised Articles of Association in the form produced to the meeting, and initialed by or on behalf of the Chair for the purpose of identification, in substitution for the existing Articles of Association of the Company</p> <p>SW initialed the revised copy for identification purposes.</p> <p>NS: The revised Articles have be displayed on the website along with the proposed changes. There is a Poll Vote for this important item.</p> <p>Changes were proposed by: GS</p> <p>Seconded: Chris Spalding</p>		





	<p>Polling took place and the cards were collected for the count.</p> <p>The scrutineer formally counted all votes in the room, by post and proxy.</p> <p>Voting in the room and proxy votes = 124          Votes against = 1          Abstentions = 3</p> <p>Motion was carried and the proposed revised Articles of Association were duly adopted.</p>		
10	<p><b>Presentation of the President's Award</b></p> <p>Taken at Item 6</p>		
11	<p><b>To consider Any Other Business</b></p> <p>MRD presented flowers to Sue Wager (Chairman) and Gail Sprake (Vice Chairman and Company Secretary).</p>		
12	<p><b>Members' Questions submitted in advance</b></p> <p>No questions were received by the deadline of 13<sup>th</sup> April.</p>		
	<p>NS thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and thanked AJH for acting as Scrutineer.</p>		
	<p>The raffle was drawn and the prize winners were:          1<sup>st</sup> Mr and Mrs Gomarshall          2<sup>nd</sup> Rachael Archer          3<sup>rd</sup> Miss D Lawrence</p>		
	<p>Meeting closed at 3.02pm</p>		