

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE TRUSTEES BOARD MEETING**

**HELD AT SCOPE HOUSE, HORTONWOOD 33, TELFORD, SHROPSHIRE. TF1 7EX  
HELD ON THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2024**

**Chairman:** Steve Hill (SH)  
**Trustees:** Andrew Williamson (AW), Ben Yates (BY), Claire Jones (CJ), Dawn Coryn (DC), David Lawson (DL), Jane Whitaker (JW), Jimmie Baillie (JB), John Hartley (JH), Matt Winter (MW), Richard Thomas (RT), Sandy Pirie (SP), Wallace Patton (WP), William Williams (WW)  
**In attendance:** Melanie Harmitt (MH), Nick Helyer (NH), Michael Halliwell (MDH)  
**Apologies:** Wallace Patton (WP)  
**Minute Taker:** Hannah Williams (HW)

**1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

- 1.1 Steve Hill welcomed the board members and specifically new president Nick Helyer and new board member Iain McLean.
- 1.2 There were apologies received from Wallace Patton.

**2.0 ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

- 2.1 Members for election were proposed.
- 2.2 John Hartley proposed, Andrew Williamson seconded, and they were accepted by the board.

**3.0 COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**3.1 FINANCE**

- 3.11 The board reviewed and approved the Q2 2024 management accounts.
- 3.12 The board noted the positive Cash Position which was deemed mainly down to the completion of the Scope House renovations.
- 3.13 The board noted that the investment portfolio valuation was improving.
- 3.14 The board were advised that the sale of SBH was now in the final stages as full planning permission had now been granted.

**3.2 OPERATIONS**

- 3.21 The committee reviewed the random genomic test sample data and agreed a concerted effort should be made to increase the sample numbers.
- 3.22 The committee reviewed on farm working practices especially surrounding lone working and the potential hazards to employees. The committee understood a full review of working practices was currently being completed.
- 3.23 The committee were advised that Jane Arrell was now in appointment as Field Development Officer and was busy with new enquiries and catch ups throughout the UK.

**3.3 SHOW & SALE**

- 3.31 The committee reviewed the rules around the Premier Herd Competition and agreed that a minimum herd number of 20 Pedigree Holstein Cows should be added to the rulebook. In addition, the committee agreed that in the case of a mixed herd only the Pedigree Holstein animals should be included in any herd calculations and put in front of the judge.
- 3.32 The committee discussed the reduction of entries in certain areas for the Premier Herd Competition and agreed to investigate with members potentially reasons surrounding this.
- 3.33 The committee agreed the inclusion of Red & White animals into the Holstein Yearling class at the National Show as there was no other class for these animals to be entered into.
- 3.34 The committee agreed that although it was still very much recommended that local shows use Judges from the Holstein UK Judges lists they understood this was not always possible and agreed they would still be happy for shows to receive the Holstein set of Rosettes if requested.

**3.4 SCIENCE**

- 3.41 The committee reviewed the classification scoring of VG 2yr olds and were pleased to note that there was no increase in the numbers being awarded.

- 3.42 The committee agreed some changes to the threshold levels for the SP Awards to be implemented in January 2025. It was agreed the new rules would be updated into the membership handbook in due course.
- 3.43 The committee discussed the issue around an increasing number of animals with parentage conflicts that were still sitting as Ex-Herdbook. The board agreed to make clear to members via letter following a parentage conflict the options available, re-test, accept suggested parentage or the animal would remain unregistered.

#### **4.0 ELECTRONIC INVOICING**

- 4.1 The board agreed the move for all group companies to electronic invoicing as standard from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025. The board agreed that a charge of £2.00 per invoice would be implemented for anyone still wishing to receive paper invoices.

#### **5.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 5.1 The next Holstein UK Board Meeting will take place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at Scope House, Telford.