

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE TRUSTEES BOARD MEETING

**HELD AT SCOPE HOUSE, HORTONWOOD 33, TELFORD, SHROPSHIRE. TF1 7EX
HELD ON THURSDAY 4th MAY 2023**

Chairman: Michael Smale (MS)

Trustees: Andrew Williamson (AW), Ben Yates (BY), Claire Jones (CJ), Jane Whittaker (JW), Jimmie Baillie (JB), John Hartley (JH), Matt Winter (MW), Sandy Pirie (SP), Wallace Gregg (WG), William Williams (WW)

In attendance: Melanie Harmitt (MH), Tom Corns (TC), John Jamieson (JJ), Michael Halliwell (MDH)

Apologies: Peter Prior (PP), David Lawson (DL), Stephen Hill (SH), Richard Thomas (RT)

Minute Taker: Hannah Williams (HW)

1.0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

1.1 Michael Smale welcomed the board members.

1.2 Michael Smale welcomed Michael Halliwell (Group Commercial Director) to his first board meeting.

1.3 There were apologies received from Peter Prior, David Lawson, Steve Hill and Richard Thomas

2.0 ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

2.1 Members for election were proposed.

2.2 Ben Yates proposed, Matt Winter seconded, and they were accepted by the board.

3.0 COMMITTEE UPDATES

3.1 FINANCE

3.11 The board were advised that the refurbishment of Scope House continued to come in on budget.

3.12 The board reviewed and approved the 2022 audited accounts.

3.13 The board were advised that the auditors had reported to them in the Finance Committee and were pleased with the accounts and had continued confidence in the processes and procedures of the business.

3.14 The board reviewed the Q1 2023 accounts which they were pleased remained positive and although there was currently a slight decrease in registrations and genomic testing this was felt to be a seasonal fluctuation.

3.2 OPERATIONS

3.21 The board discussed the issue of parentage conflicts sometimes only becoming apparent post sale and agreed for animals with outstanding parentage conflicts to be moved into a suspension outside of the herd book until the queries were resolved.

3.22 The board discussed that some members had experienced difficulties with genomic tag sample failure rates, but it seemed that sampling procedures and storage processes played a big part in this, and an information piece should go into the journal. The board however also acknowledged that the move from desiccant to liquid vials had also dramatically improved success rates.

3.23 The board discussed how better the society could engage with members particularly in promoting the clubs and agreed a refresh of the membership letters and GDPR forms to better allow data capture and club promotion to new members.

3.3 SHOW & SALE

3.31 The board were informed that the final contract had now been signed with NAEC Stoneleigh and planning for the 2023 event was now firmly underway. The board was also informed that options for the 2024 event were being gathered for review.

3.32 The board were informed that the Australian Exchange programme had been agreed to restart this year with the first young member due to be received in the UK in September. The board were advised that the management team were now looking for hosts across the UK for this young member and all offers should be passed to the Events & Marketing office.

3.33 The board agreed the udder scanning regulations for the 2023 UK Dairy Day and agreed these should be issued in due course to all breeds societies and potential exhibitors with the cattle schedule mailing.

3.4 SCIENCE

- 3.41 The board approved a change to the classification traits going forward with the removal of the mobility trait and the inclusion of front toe out instead.
- 3.42 The board approved a name change to the angularity trait to rib structure to come in line with WHFF.
- 3.43 The board were advised that the science committee had reviewed the stature trait and concluded that although this had increased by approximately 3% it was still not at a level to be recalibrated but would be regularly reviewed.

4.0 ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

- 4.1 The board agreed some minor changes to the Articles of Association to allow more flexibility surrounding trustee areas to go to the AGM for approval.

5.0 SUE COPE BURSERY

- 5.1 The trustees reviewed the applications for the 2023 Sue Cope Bursary and decided on three applicants who would receive equal monies towards their professional development.

6.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 6.1 The next Holstein UK Board Meeting will take place on Wednesday 9th August at Progress House, Telford.
- 6.2 The board agreed as per normal there would be a trustee training and update meeting and an election meeting during the 2023 Holstein UK Celebration event.