



Minutes of the 20th Annual General Meeting
Monday 23rd January 2006

Previous Minutes – 24th January 2005

Minutes of the previous minutes were read out and agreed.
Proposed by Thomas Cole and seconded by Ian Simpson.

Secretary's Report

Apologies were made on behalf of the 2005 Secretary for not getting the 2005 minutes out earlier. The 2005 Chairperson, Freda Magill, read out the letter of resignation of the Secretary, Conor Doherty who had resigned his post in November 2005.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Brian Hunter, read out the financial summary for the year. He mentioned the finances from individual shows. In contrast to previous years, Balmoral made a loss but this was due to the one-off costs of re-silvering trophies. The annual show and sale in Cultra made a profit of £4396.91.
Brian also read-out the expenses throughout the year on the current account and the income into the Rosenberg account.

Andrew Bingham spotted a discrepancy in the gate money for Cultra. After further discussion it was realised that the profit from Cultra was in fact £6192.91. The 2005 accounts was proposed by Tom Clarke and 2nd d by Thomas Cole.

Merchandising Officer's Report

The new merchandising for 2005 sold well, in particularly the poultry lines. Takings for 2005 were up £700 on the previous year at £3565. Martin Ball and Brian Hunter were thanked by Sandra Byrne for their help with manning and transporting the shop.

Semen Flask Report

The Cattle Semen Flask report was read-out by the Chairperson Freda Magill. In the report the following straws were left in the flask:- Whitepark 2, Irish Moiled 9, Dexter 9, Kerry 1 and British White 2. There were no outstanding bills and a £250 profit was made, although this would be required for a new flask.

It was announced that John Stronge was standing down as flask curator. Sarah Creaner proposed (Vaughan Byrne 2nd d) that a letter of thanks be sent to John Stronge for his services. Valerie Eccles (2nd d Tom Clarke) thanked AI Services for their help in the distribution of straws. The suggestion of sheep flasks was also mentioned but this would have to be discussed further by the 2006 committee.

Chairperson's Report

Freda Magill welcomed Peter Titley from RBST HQ. Peter was there to give a talk on the use of rare breed sheep in the changing farm economy. Freda mentioned how the convenors and teams from the 2005 committee lead to more exposure and reach. In

addition to Balmoral and Cultra another ten shows were attended. One of the highlights of Cultra was the reduction sale by Libby McWilliam of excellent quality Irish Moileds. Cultra saw an increase in show entries, +367% Cattle, +77% Sheep, +16% Poultry and +16% Pigs. Two new trophies were introduced into the 2005 Cultra Show and Sale.

The Chairperson mentioned how the mobile shop was a valuable focal point for the Group and that the new merchandising lines did very well. The Chairperson hoped the 2006 Show and Sale would be as successful as 2005.

Election of 2006 Committee

There was no election as there were only 15 nominations for 16 posts. Tom Clarke raised the point that the new committee should be mentioned in the minutes. The 2006 committee is to be comprised thus :- Maurice Pogue, Ken Hamilton, Stefan Smyth, Walter Erwin, Clare O'Shea, Brian Hunter, Thomas Fairley, Thomas Cole, Sandra Byrne, Gavin Goodman, Daniel Boyd, Charlotte Boyd, Ross Mowbray, Evelyn Lindsay and Martin Ball.

Any other Business

Cultra. A member of the audience mentioned that Bob Huntley didn't receive his judging money. Deirdre Hilton agreed to provide Bob's address to the 2006 committee and it was agreed that Bob be sent £100 to settle. Vaughan Byrne mentioned that the face painting charge was excessive, this was explained by Fidelma Goodman that the charge related to a children's entertainer and was not just for face painting

Trailer Insurance. Sarah Creaner mentioned that there was no insurance on the merchandising trailer. The renewal was not received by anyone present and it was assumed that the renewal could have been with the previous Secretary – Conor Doherty.

It was agreed by those present that insurance should be sought for 2006.

Transport Costs. Trevor Magowan said that the 2005 costs of £670 were expensive. Vaughan Byrne mentioned that the 2004 costs were £80. Thomas Cole clarified the costs.

Accounts. Ian Simpson re-iterated that a breakdown of the 2004 accounts was still required after having been mentioned at the previous year's AGM. It was also mentioned that auditing the accounts should be considered to avoid any future misunderstandings and concerns. Olive Mercer suggested that RBST HQ could provide training for such roles as treasurer. Vaughan Byrne raised the point that auditing could prove expensive. Peter Titley mentioned the merit of a professional person scrutinising the accounts instead, and that this could be done very cheaply and indeed possibly at no expense at all.

Training. Peter Titley raised the point that it was the RBST's responsibility to support and train the support groups. He said that a communication skills workshop had been tried to get going and that study days should be sponsored by the RBST. He said that these issues would be raised at the next RBST HQ council meeting.

Merchandising Goods. Ian Simpson asked how the goods were bought for the Shop. Sandra Byrne said that the goods were bought directly by Stoneleigh and sold by the Shop.

Committee Numbers. Thomas Fairley proposed that the committee should be reduced in number from 16 to 12. Fidelma Goodman asked why the committee was 16 in number to which Sarah Creaner had said it was 16 from the inception of the NI Support Group. Herbert Lysk proposed, 2nded by Ross Mowbray that this proposal should not be agreed. This was taken to a vote. 14 were in favour of Thomas Fairley's proposal; there were 9

abstentions whilst the majority of the audience was against the proposal. Therefore it was agreed that the committee was to remain as 16 members.

Thomas Cole proposed that elections should stand for 2-3 years with staggered blocks being voted on each year. Ian Simpson said that this was allowed for in the RBST constitution. Tom Clarke suggested that these blocks of members (4 per block) should be picked.

Thomas Cole's proposal was 2nded by Hazel Lysk.

Constitution. Olive Mercer raised the need for visibility of the constitution and also the need for co-operation within the committee. Olive also pointed out the difficulties she had experienced in obtaining a copy of the constitution from RBST HQ. Hazel Lysk said that all incoming committee members should see the constitution and be briefed on their responsibilities for their role within the committee.

Respect. Thomas Cole read out a letter to the effect that all members should realise that each person making a contribution to the RBST NI Support Group has equal merit. He went on to say that it shouldn't be difficult for all members to behave in a manner that allows each member to feel that his/her input is valued. All that is required is a reasonable level of respect. He reiterated that after all the animals should come first.

Website. This went live in August 2005 – <http://ni.rbst.org.uk> . The structure is based loosely on the newsletter which at present is a quarterly publication. Classifieds are on the “back page” of the site. It was mentioned that any ads be sent to gavin@macneanfarm.com.

Publicity. Thomas Fairley questioned why there was a lack of publicity – especially regarding the Balmoral Interbreed Pig

Championship. Maurice Pogue praised the amount of publicity generated in 2005.

Cultra Officials. Jonathan Bell and Mervyn Watson (from the Ulster Folk & Transport Museum) were thanked for their support over the years in helping with the Annual Show & Sale at Cultra. Tom Clarke suggested that they be thanked by the RBST HQ and that they should be given honorary life membership. Peter Titley agreed to raise this matter at the next RBST HQ council meeting.

Open Meetings. Kenny Gracey proposed that there should be quarterly open meetings for the general membership to discuss any issues with the committee and other members. This was 2nd'd by Sandra Byrne. The 2006 committee are to discuss actual dates.

Cultra 2006. Andrew Bingham mentioned the need for the 2006 committee to contact Cultra asap in light of the building works and the effect this could have on the 2006 Show and Sale.

Peter Titley then gave his speech. Meeting was then drawn to conclusion.