

## BRITISH TOGGENBURG SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 11am on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2008 at the Jersey Cattle Building, Royal Showground, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

**Members Present:** Lynn Marshall, Charlie Peck, Sharon Owen, Peter Cox, Derek Knowles, Nick Parr, Shane Jones and Debbie Vernon

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Received from Richard Pemble, David Will, Margaret MacInnes, Enid Crook, Pat Turner
2. **Minutes of the Previous AGM:** Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Sharon Owen and seconded by Lynn Marshall. AIF
3. **Matters Arising:** Charlie clarified section 7 relating to the Election of the President - the Society rules were slightly ambiguous and it was not necessary for a candidate to be a member of the Society in order to stand for President.

Brian Perry had kindly donated a print for auction at the Plumpton conference. It had been noted at the last AGM that the proceeds would also be donated to Kids4Kids but the money was still in the BTS account. Charlie believed that the money was intended for donation elsewhere and Debbie will contact Brian to find out where he would like the money to be sent.

4. **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman, Charlie Peck, thanked all members of the committee for their continued work during the year. Despite the fall in show entries, the BTs had enjoyed a good year on the show circuit and all those present were to be congratulated for their various successes. Also worthy of mention were the Gordons Smith and Webster with their Guilden herd, David Will and Christine Baverstock. Sadly the Breed Show had been cancelled due to Bluetongue and the difficulties of livestock movements. As a Society, we need to encourage the sales of Breed Rosettes to the shows in 2009 and it was suggested that perhaps the Show Secretaries could be contacted.
5. **Secretary's Report:** As Charlie had already mentioned, this has been a difficult year. The end of 2007 saw FMD and Bluetongue

arrive and Bluetongue continued to cause problems all through the year. The new situation in Holland with a possible new strain of the virus appearing was now cause for concern. As a result, there have been fewer shows this year - some were cancelled completely and those that did take place generally had much lower entries than usual. The decision was also taken to cancel the Breed Shows due to the difficulty of moving livestock between the various Bluetongue zones. It is hoped that everything is back to normal next year!

A few top BT breeders have also taken 'retirement' or a step back from breeding and showing this year - most notably Charlie Peck, Erica Filby and Lynn Marshall. They will be sorely missed in the show ring but as they all intend to continue to be involved in various ways, they will all be seen for many years to come.

The membership of the Society continues at about the same level in previous years. Renewals are continuing to arrive and the current membership stands at 32 (including 3 new members) with many more still to renew.

Despite all the health issues, queries from people wanting goats have continued to arrive. There seems to be a general increase in goatkeeping but there are more enquiries from non-breeders for non-pedigree or household stock. The number of show homes and pedigree breeders does seem to be slowly falling. The RSPCA has recently produced a glossy booklet as an introduction to keeping goats. It is a fabulous publication and is now included in all the literature sent out to new and prospective members.

Debbie thanked the rest of the committee for their continued support throughout the year.

6. **Treasurer's Report:** Debbie Vernon gave the report as follows: I was sad to receive the resignation of Brian Perry as Treasurer in November 2008. He was a conscientious and dedicated officer and I must thank him unreservedly for all his work for the Society over the years. I took over as Acting Treasurer with Charlie Peck and Lynn Marshall also acting as signatories on the Society bank accounts.

As in previous years, I would like to thank the members of the Committee for not billing their time, telephone calls and postage costs. These all add up to a considerable amount over the year and their generosity is much appreciated.

The accounts are circulated for your information and I have kept the same format as Brian for ease of comparison. Basically, we are still solvent as a Society but income did reduce this year by £184.47; this was due to a number of factors, most notably the fall in Breed Rosette Sales (by £170.30) and in membership fees (by £140). The Breed Show for 2008 was cancelled and the fewer number of Breed Rosettes sold reflects the lack of shows and entries in general.

However, the Society hosted the BGS Autumn Conference at Plumpton College and did make a small profit of £127.75 overall. Grateful thanks must go to Richard Pemble and Charlie Peck who organised a very successful day. Thanks must also go to all those who donated raffle prizes and to Brian Perry who donated a beautiful print which was auctioned.

We are in good shape financially for the coming year and I look forward to reporting continued success at the next AGM.

If anyone requires any further detail or explanation of the figures included in the Accounts, please do not hesitate to contact me.

The report and balance sheets were adopted. AIF

7. **Election of Officers:** The following officers were happy to remain in their current posts:

Position	Nominee
Chairman	Charlie Peck
Vice Chairman	Lynn Marshall
Secretary	Debbie Vernon
Treasurer	Debbie Vernon
Journal Publisher	Richard Pemble
Committee	Shane Jones

There being no other nominations for these positions the above were all elected. Proposed by Shane and seconded by Lynn.

In addition, Derek Knowles was proposed as a member of the Committee - proposed by Shane and seconded by Lynn. AIF. Derek thus elected to the Committee.

8. **Male Register:** Debbie reported that the Register was currently in progress. The forms had been sent out later than usual this year and not as many had been returned. There were several offers of help from those present if assistance was required in following up information. Debbie suggested that the forms should be sent out early in the summer next year. The Male Register is more of a historical document rather than a 'stud' list but, nevertheless, it would be nice to have it published before the autumn mating season started. Peter Cox also proposed to publish a copy on the website.
9. **BGS Affiliated Society Resolution:** The conference will be held in April 2009 and resolutions must be tabled by end of Jan. Various suggestions were put forward including the publishing of show results online as soon as they are available and the listing of male kids on line.
10. **Election of President:** Ruth Tyler had been President for the past year, as elected in 2007. The position was therefore now available again for proposals. Shane proposed that Barbara Scourfield be voted in as the new President and this was seconded by Lynn Marshall. All present were in favour and Mrs Scourfield was therefore duly elected as the new President.
11. **Any Other Business:**
  - **Website:** Peter Cox reported there had been 16,763 visits during the year which was over 1000 more than the previous year. Peter confirmed that he had taken a copy of the website as at 25 October and he passed this copy to Charlie for safe-keeping. The website had originally been set up to be hosted by Peter and for him to be the contact - Peter now proposed that the hosting should be moved elsewhere for security and continuity and that other contacts should also be set up (ie. members of the committee). The cost of this would be about £20 and all the login information would be sent to Charlie. AIF.

- **Journal:** Lynn was standing down as Journal Editor - a position she had held for some years. She had enjoyed doing the Journal but had lately become extremely disappointed with the lack of articles from members - many had promised articles but they had never materialised. Richard had offered to act as both Editor and Publisher and Derek and Shane also offered to help chase people for articles. Charlie thanked Lynn for her work over the years.
- **Breed Show:** There was considerable discussion over the future of the Breed Show which continued after the meeting in the open forum with other Breed Societies. Although not very well attended, the Breed Show did not generally lose money and as there was plenty in the BT Society account, it was felt that the show should continue. Derek and Shane offered to run the BT Breed Show and they were thanked for their support. There was some concern over the date for the 2009 show as it seemed to clash with the Bristol show which was by far the largest UK show for goats.

Later discussions centred not only on the date of the Show but on the venue. Some felt that there should be a presence at the Dairy Event at Stoneleigh but as this was generally held in September, it would be too late in the season for showing males which were an intrinsic part of the Breed Show. There was also some question as to whether the Breed Show should return to the Royal Show at Stoneleigh but many members felt that when this had happened in the past, the entry fees had been very expensive and it also required animals to be on the Showground for 5 days which was too long for most people.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.45pm.