

Minutes of an inaugural meeting held at The Glanbran Arms, Cynghordy, Dyfed on Thursday, 21st. February, 1985 to discuss the future of the Balwen breed.

Present : Mr.B.Nuttall & Miss C.Goodall (ADAS)
Messrs.R.Davies, B.Llewellyn, P.Joynson, V.Harris,
H.Williams, V.Williams, A.Williams, H.Thomas & Mr.
Thomas snr., G.Jones, I.Jones, Mr. & Mrs.T.Richards,
Lady Wagenaar, Mr.& Mrs. M.Pugh, Mr.& Mrs.T.Powell.

1. Everyone present was welcomed to the meeting. Mr.Brian Nuttall, Chief Livestock Officer A.D.A.S.(Wales) accepted an invitation to chair the meeting.

In his opening remarks he stressed the need to decide whether to go ahead during the evening and form a breed society or submit an application to the Rare Breeds Survival Trust to have the Balwen taken under its umbrella.

Proposed by Mr.Tommy Richards that a society be formed; seconded by Lady Arabella Wagenaar.

The matter was put to the vote, the decision to form a society being carried unanimously.

2. Appointment of officers &c.

Mr. Nuttall offered to invite Mr.J.W. Roberts of the RBST to the next meeting if it were felt that this might help our cause. This would be considered.

Mr. Bernard Llewellyn proposed Mr.Roger Davies as chairman of the society; seconded by Mrs.T. Richards with unanimous approval.

Mr. Tommy Richards proposed Mr.Vyvyan Harris as secretary/treasurer; seconded by Lady Arabella Wagenaar.

Messrs.Bernard Llewellyn and Tommy Richards were then proposed as two further committee members.

Lady Arabella Wagenaar asked the chairman whether Miss Christine Goodall would consider acting as honorary adviser to the society. Mr.Nuttall replied by saying that he saw no reason why one of his staff should act in this capacity and delegated the decision to Christine who graciously accepted.

3. Society standards/rules etc.

Mr. Nuttall suggested that the main objective was to establish a standard of excellence in terms which could not be misconstrued.

It was proposed that two categories of membership be applied viz: (i) Full (breeders)

(ii) Associate (those interested in furthering the breed).

On the matter of drawing up rules, Mr. Tommy Richards suggested that at the next meeting the rules of the Badger Face Society be studied as a guideline.

As far as overall objectives were concerned, the following points were discussed :-

- (i) Register of size
- (ii) Identification of rams early on
- (iii) Percentage of horned/polled rams

Item (iii) generated much debate. Mr. Tommy Richards thought that whilst the majority of rams were horned, polled rams should be accepted provided they met other more important criteria. Mr. Roger Davies stressed the need to clarify this issue from the start.

It was proposed by Lady Arabella Wagenaar that young rams be given provisional registration until their performance could be monitored. Those proving satisfactory could then be afforded full registration status.

Mr. Bernard Llewellyn thought it essential to be very choosy from the outset.

When put to the vote, eleven were in favour of accepting horned rams only, none were in favour of polled only, four hands were shown in favour of accepting either, with five abstentions.

Lady Arabella Wagenaar suggested that it be left to the committee to decide on the horn issue. Mr. Brian Nuttall then asked the committee if they could discuss this at their next meeting and bring back their decision to the next general meeting.

Mr. Roger Davies commented by saying that he considered the committee should come back with suggestions and not a hard and fast decision. (Agreed)

An agenda was then drawn up for the next general meeting as follows :-

- (i) Registration of rams
Registration of ewes
- (ii) Standard of excellence i.e. Type, markings -
draft to be brought forward.
- (iii) Society rules
- (iv) Subscriptions etc.
- (v) A.O.B.

That meeting would be called at the same venue for 8pm on Thursday 2nd. May 1985.

4. Any other business

As an upshot of the draft agenda for the next meeting, a discussion ensued over item (ii).

Where markings were concerned, it was felt that the term 'blaze' was adequate. It was further proposed that a minimum of two white socks be laid down as part of the registration criteria. Mr. Roger Davies stated that in his experience some 25% of all Balwens hadn't got four white socks.

A white belly signified an infusion of Badger Face (Torwen) blood somewhere along the line.

Lady Arabella Wagenaar asked whether a white 'bib' ought to be acceptable. Mr. Roger Davies stated that this did occur and he thought it should be an acceptable criterion.

He further thought that whilst it was necessary and indeed commendable to lay down an ideal, he wondered how closely it could be followed given the diversity of markings within the breed.

Mr. Nuttall thought that a draft standard of excellence ought perhaps to be sent out to future members so that they could come back to the next meeting with suggestions for alterations. This was noted.

Mr. Bernard Llewellyn thought it imperative that we have some sheep on display at the Welsh regional NSA Open Day which this year would be held at Pentwrch Farm, Llantrisant, on May 9th.

Vyvyan Harris said that he would endeavour to have some Balwens on display on the Ciba-Geigy stand at The Royal Welsh Show for all to see.

Lady Arabella Wagenaar had been pushing for a class to be provided at the Lampeter show during the end of August. She would pursue this and report back.

Mr. Llewellyn thought that we all now had a committed obligation to promote the breed and that no effort should be spared in this direction.

Vyvyan Harris thanked everyone for coming and proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Nuttall for chairing the meeting in such an able and interesting manner. Both Christine Goodall and Mr. Nuttall were also thanked for making the long journey from Aberystwyth that evening to further our cause.

At 10pm the chairman declared the meeting closed.