**VALAIS BLACKNOSE BREED SOCIETY**

**DRAFT**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Mount Pleasant Hotel, Great Malvern on Saturday 10th February 2018 at 6pm**

**Present:**

Emma Collison – Secretary Kathy Giles Debbie Read

Stuart Billinghurst - Treasurer Sarah Grose Keith Read

Hayley Harris Andrew Grose Amanda Ridings

David Hodge Tom Hooper Chris Slee

Phil Garrod Dougie Little Helen Smith

Andy Giles Kate Little Paul Smith

**1. The Secretary’s Introduction**

In the absence of the Chairman, Penny Coulter-Smith, the Society’s Secretary took the chair and welcomed everyone to the 2018/19 Annual General Meeting. She gave a summary of the Society’s activities in 2017:

* The Society had welcomed quite a few new members as well as retaining many existing ones.
* The Society is now DEFRA approved and recognised by the National Sheep Association (NSA)
* Specialist Valais classes had taken place at the Devon County and Dorset County Agricultural Shows, for which sponsorship had kindly been provided by Mole Valley

Farmers. Prizes were given for champion ram, champion ewe and Champion of Champions, for which a bell is presented.

* At Devon County Show David Hodge and Julian Walters’ ram Blackertor Caesar was show champion, and their ewe hog Blackertor Cobweb was reserve champion. The Society’s Breed Champion of Champions was Emma Collison’s ewe, Gemstones Fern.
* The Royal Cornwall Show did not have a specialist class, but there was a good turnout of Valais entries in the continental classes.
* At the Dorset County Agricultural Show, Champion of Champions was Blackertor Cindylou and reserve champion was Chris Slee and Tom Hoopers’ ram Halsbury E-Type. Special mention was made of Hatty Grose aged 11 who competed alongside the adults.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Penny Coulter-Smith (Chairman), Julian Walters, Rene Snouckaert, Abby Bolt and Emma Childs.

**3. Introduction of New Society Officers**

Following the recent elections the following officers have been elected for the two years:

* Chairman – David Hodge
* Vice Chairman – Chris Slee
* Treasurer – Tom Hooper
* Secretary – Kate Little
* PR and marketing – Emma Collison

**4. The Society’s Committee**

It was proposed that the other existing members of the Society Committee be elected unopposed for the next two years. This motion was carried. The committee members are:

Penny Coulter-Smith Sarah Grose

Dougie Little Stuart Billinghurst

Abby Bolt Renee Snouckaert

Emma Childs Diana Rusbridge

**5. Minutes of 2016/17 Annual General Meeting**

The Secretary listed the items discussed at the 2016/17 AGM, which included reference to the DEFRA approval and that the Society is now the zoological registered society; registrations on Grassroots (run by Libby Henson) were up to approx 48; breed standards; show classes; the treasurer’s report and the members’ website. The minutes were agreed.

**6. Matters Arising**

There was debate about the existence of two breed societies, one based in Scotland and this one. Registration with this Society is required for showing under the Society’s rules and this Society provides the breed specification (please contact the Secretary for a copy).

**7. Treasurer’s Report**

The Treasurer presented the audited accounts for the part year 1st July 2017 to January 2018 for Valais Blacknose Sheep (UK) Ltd. The Society’s account showed a closing balance of £902.59. The Treasurer’s report was agreed.

**8. Any Other Business**

* **Future Shows:** Nantwich Show has Valais classes. It was suggested that the Cheshire Show be encouraged to do the same.
* **Dorset County Show, 1-2 Sept:** The Society’s BBQ and social will take place here and it is hoped as many members as possible come along as it is a great place to meet up with friends and fellow enthusiasts.
* **Registration Fee:**  It was proposed that the subscription fee be £40 per annum with no separate joining fee. This was agreed.

**9. Hand over to the New Chairman and other Officers**

The New Chairman thanked Emma and Penny for all their hard work in getting this Society up and running. It is a new society and it is good to meet new members at the shows and hopefully more will join. We are all here to help each other and do feel free to contact more experienced members for advice. The Chairman thanked everybody for coming and he hoped that they enjoyed their evening.

The meeting ended at 6.35pm

**Signed: ………………………………………….**

 **Chairman**

**Date: ……………………………………………..**