

FRIESIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION
OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND (FHAGBI) LIMITED
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT HARBOURS HILL FARM
23 FEBRUARY 2013 AT 1400 HOURS

PRESENT: Tracey Venter
Julian Atkins
Wendy Mason-Smith
Elaine de Boer
Sarah Dobson
Linda Atkins (minutes)
Barry de Boer
Debbie Evans
Paula Gallon
Pauline Sinclair van Diemen

APOLOGIES: Julia Catling
Mary Scott Morgan
John Moon
Mervyn Moon
Wayne Saunders
Helen Sinclair
Dineke van den Bogerd

Action

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the AGM held 12 February 2011 were read to the meeting by Julian and agreed as a correct record. It was noted that the AGM to be held in 2012 had been cancelled due to snow.

RESOLVED:-

To approve the minutes of the AGM held 12 February 2011.

2. Presidents' Report

Tracey presented (and circulated copies of) her President's report noting the progress made since the AGM in 2011 and in particular the appointment of regional reps.

3. Memberships

Julian presented the membership figures on behalf of Elaine, Membership Secretary. Memberships in 2011 – 219 Full and 21 Friends; 2012 – 206 Full and 18 Friends.

4. Financial Report

Julian presented his Treasurer's report and tabled the 2011 and 2012 Annual Accounts – the 2011 accounts have been signed and filed with Companies House. The 2012 accounts were approved and signed and will be filed with Companies House. He reported on headlines for 2011 and 2012 and on the budget and targets for 2013.

RESOLVED:-

To approve the 2012 Annual Accounts.

5. Officers

Julian stood down as a Director and was then re-elected.

President – Tracey

Treasurer – Julian

Membership Secretary – Elaine (Wendy to take over for 2014)

Passport updates - Sarah

6. Regional Representatives

Appreciation was expressed to Darren and Sylvia who had stepped down as regional reps. Sarah, Lorraine Newton and Dineke van den Bogerd were welcomed as new regional reps.

South West – Lorraine

South – Dineke

Midlands – Mary

Central – Julia

North - Sarah

Scotland – Helen

Ireland – John & Mervyn

S Ireland – Wayne

Wales - vacant

7. Review of 2012

The following events were discussed:

IBOP clinic was attended by approx 12 members

Festival of Champions, Yorkshire – poorly organised

Royal Berkshire – good attendance and hope to have classes again in 2013.

Elaine thanked Pauline for making the initial contact to enable Friesian classes

Roubi 1 Roubi ride – successful despite poor weather

Your Horse Live – Appreciation was expressed to Sarah and husband and daughters, Holly and Freya for their help and to Tracey for bringing Hoitse for both days

A number of other events were cancelled due to wet weather

8. 2013 Activities

The Inspection will be held at Myrescough, near Preston on Monday 26 August with clinics and entertainment on Sunday 25 August. Scottish members have committed to a display team as part of the entertainment. The event will be publicised via Facebook.

Pre-Inspection clinics will be held in the north (Tracey) and the south (Elaine).

Sarah hopes to arrange a ride in the north.

Royal Berkshire and Your Horse Live .

9. WFHO Meeting

Tracey and Elaine reported on the WFHO meeting at which it had been agreed to increase membership for the ‘rest of the world’ from 3 to 4 (Dutch membership reducing from 30 to 29, USA – 3, Germany – 3).

The e-news letter was welcomed; the intention to publish future International Phryssos electronically was noted.

The KFPS plans to reduce costs were discussed and the introduction of the Royal Friesian Club was noted.

10. AOB

10.1 Elaine expressed appreciation to regional reps for their work in 2012

10.2 The publication of the newsletter was discussed and it was agreed to continue to use email for members who had indicated they were happy to receive it electronically.

10.3 Presentations.

The winners of the awards were announced:-

Dressage Points – Helen Sinclair

Performance Award Scheme – 1st Helen Sinclair

2nd Kay Murray

Dressage on-line – no entries

Photos – winners selected – names to be announced on Facebook

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is to be advised.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 1545 HOURS

FHAGBI
(Friesian Horse Association of GB & Ireland)

Presidents Report
Review of 2012

2012 was another very busy year for FHAGBI, not only for the Board and Committee but for our members too who have been busy extolling the virtues of Friesian horses up and down the country.

Two of our members, Helen Sinclair and Gill Bonner-Knights qualified for the Winter Dressage Championships and attracted plenty of attention, all helping to dispel the myth that the Friesian is just a ‘cart horse’.

We had a couple of changes with our regional reps with Darren Bottomley sadly stepping down from the Northern role after parting with his Friesian mare. However, the role was quickly filled by Sarah Dobson who straight away set about getting some good deals for our members with insurers and equine suppliers. Another sad farewell was to our real Friesian rep, Sylvia van der Plas who had to move back to her homeland. Her area has been temporarily covered by Julia Catling with a replacement already in the pipeline. Helen Sinclair and her Scotland members continue to show the most incredible enthusiasm and dedication and you can be sure we will be seeing a lot more of them all South of the border this year! In the absence of a South West rep, Wendy Mason-Smith took hold of the reins but will be passing them over at this years AGM to our newest committee member.

The year started with us having to make some difficult decisions about the Annual Inspections. For a number of years we held them in both England and Ireland however this was not cost effective and it was becoming increasingly difficult to get the minimum number of entries required by the KFPS. In addition it put an enormous amount of pressure on just one or two people responsible for organizing both the events and the movements of runners and inspectors, all in their spare time. We felt it was not a responsible use of our members money to keep running at a loss year on year so it was decided the inspections would take place alternate years in Ireland and England. This would allow us to support one or two other activities that would interest those members not looking to have their horses graded.

In 2011 the inspections took place in England so 2012 was to be Irelands year. With the support of our Irish reps, John & Mervyn Moon and Wayne Saunders a wonderful event was put on at the Laurel View Equestrian Centre in Templepatrick. Bauke de Boer and Marlene Moosen came over to judge and the horses were presented once again by Piet Sibma and his team. John & Mervyn Moon achieved outstanding success with their homebred horses of which a total of six achieved the prestigious Ster status which illustrates the superior quality of horse that can be produced with careful stallion selection. Overall champion however went to a beautiful mare, Renske Z imported from the Netherlands by Vinny Yeates and Clodagh Dowling.

With the 2013 inspections in mind we invited Sybren Minkema and Jolanda Schreuder over to run an IBOP clinic at Myerscough College near Preston in the Spring. The idea was to provide members with a better understanding of what the performance testing was about and how their horses would achieve the best marks. It was well attended and hopefully we will see plenty of people taking part later this year.

Attendance at events has always been a bit ‘hit and miss’ so the focus this year was on looking at ways to engage our members without them having to travel long distances for a ‘get together’. Julia Catling organized a couple of ‘online’ competitions as well as the ‘Performance Awards Scheme’, our Dressage Points Competition was run for the second year and FHAGBI were able to support a number of shows up and down the country holding classes for Friesian horses. At the beginning of August we had both in hand and ridden classes at the ‘Festival of Champions’ in Yorkshire however the highlight was our first classes at County Show level at the Royal Berkshire show. Although the entry was not huge, it was a good start and the organizers have agreed to allow them to run again in 2013.

The weather unfortunately played havoc with a couple of planned events. However, two that did go ahead were the ‘Friesian rides’ at Windsor Park and at the back end of last year at the home of one of our members, London Fashion designer, Roubi l’ Roubi who was the perfect host and put on a fabulous spread for our members despite the torrential rain!

As I reported last year, one of the ongoing challenges for FHAGBI is educating existing and potential Friesian owners about the policies and breeding goals of the KFPS. Breeding numbers in Holland have once again dropped and many of the smaller breeders are not putting their mares in foal so frequently. There is great concern at the KFPS that there will not be enough Friesians to satisfy the demand from the foreign countries in the next few years. In 2012 alone over 500 Friesians were exported to South America and the demand in Mexico, China and Russia continues to grow.

There is always a strong demand for ‘cheap’ Friesians in the UK and sadly this leads many new owners into buying unregistered Friesians or the offspring of foalbook stallions who require DNA testing in order to be registered. Time and time again the committee of FHAGBI are left to try and help the new owner sort out the paperwork, something that any responsible breeder should be doing themselves before they sell a horse on. I often hear from potential owners that have fallen in love with the breed for their looks and temperament that they are not interested in how good the bloodline of a Friesian is. If the people of Friesland had taken that view all those years ago when they set up the studbook, the Friesian horse would not be what it is today. We must never forget that we are here to safeguard the future of the Friesian by upholding the policies of the KFPS. It is our duty to discourage people from supporting those breeders / dealers who breed with foalbook stallions with complete disregard for the future of the breed, simply to produce a ‘cheap’ foal. If we do not do this the Friesian horse will very soon lose those qualities that make it a superior breed of horse.

After a year as ‘Acting’ President I was honored to take the roll on in its full capacity. Little has changed as I did and always will try and work for FHAGBI in the interests of ALL our members. I will continue to uphold the values of both our association and the KFPS and offer impartial help and assistance to anyone with an interest in the Friesian horse be they members or not. We are extremely fortunate to have a strong and knowledgeable team without whom none of these activities could happen and my personal thanks go to each and every one of them.

Tracey Venter
President