

5/4/2024 Council Meeting Summary

The CS reported that the 2024 Journal had been posted out to members during the preceding week. Council thanked the office for all their efforts dealing with this in the run up to the AGM when they are so busy. There had been a pleasing feature in the 'BoysRideToo' magazine which the office had cooperated with. The YA, as her legacy, had requested that she sponsor a bursary for a young person who had competed at the performance show - £50 per year, together with a sash, for 5 years. All trustees agreed apart from EP who abstained.

A draft Financial Statement for 2023 had been provided by Azets. It had not been finalised for a number of reasons (HMRC/accountant had been ill etc). The WPCS has employed Azets for a number of years but it was agreed that the Society would employ Azets until December 2024 but, as with all contracts, that it would seek tenders for uptake in January 2025.

The HR/Finance reported that, as of 29th February this year, registrations were up by 85 at the same point as last year, transfers were also up but memberships had declined by 216. It was noted that many members normally fulfil their memberships later in the year. A discussion that the Society should look at raising prices in line with inflation was held - to be looked at by the incoming council. It was noted that the cost of licensing a stallion, in many cases, was less than gelding a colt which is not an encouragement for owners to geld. Looking forward, the chair of Finance/HR hoped that the Society would 'break even' in 2024. This would mean that the Society could then look to provide expenditure on education- eg presentations for schools and colleges – and other activities in line with our charitable aims. A discussion on trustee expenses led to a proposal that in future any accommodation for trustees, after being agreed by the chairman, should be booked through the CS. All agreed to this proposal apart from MD and MW who abstained.

Security at both the Built Pavilion and the offices at Bronaeron had been investigated by EP. Implementing CCTV covering the office and the veranda at the pavilion, as well as inside and outside of the offices at Bronaeron, together with sound recording, was unanimously agreed. Concern was expressed on the infrastructure and fabric of both the pavilion and the offices. Going forward major decisions would have to be made.

Correspondence which had been received was extensively discussed. Council looked again at the costs of affiliation and agreed that shows that did not make their target numbers for medals would receive a 50% refund on the status fees. This would hopefully be ratified at the next council meeting.